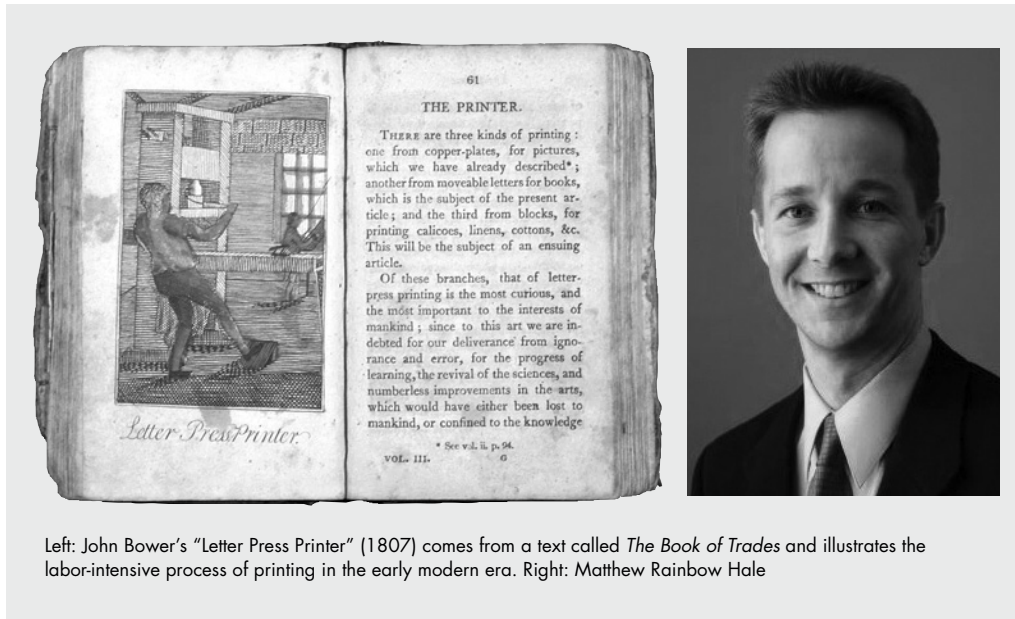


FOCUS

THE FRIENDS OF THE GOUCHER COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

The World of Books with Dr. Matthew Hale

Ann Weller Dahl '60, Vice President of the Friends of the Goucher College Library



Left: John Bower's "Letter Press Printer" (1807) comes from a text called *The Book of Trades* and illustrates the labor-intensive process of printing in the early modern era. Right: Matthew Rainbo Hale

I could inform you that Matthew Rainbo Hale, assistant professor of history, will present a lecture at the Friends of the Goucher College Library spring program. I could mention Dr. Hale's particular interest in print culture and expertise in early American history and Atlantic revolutions. I could continue by telling you that Dr. Hale was the winner of the Ralph D. Gray Prize for the best article in Volume 29 of the *Journal of the Early Republic*, and that his study of the French Revolution's impact on American political culture is forthcoming from the University of Virginia Press. You'd probably think, "Well, that's interesting," but you might not rush out the door to hear Dr. Hale's talk on April 27.

Then again, I could quote a Goucher student's review of Dr. Hale from last November, posted on the website ratemyprofessor.com:

"He is so awesome!!!!!! Extremely enthusiastic and smart. He is what every professor should be." Now wouldn't those words have you racing toward the Batza Room in the Athenaeum to hear this engaging, accomplished professor share his thoughts?

Dr. Hale has taught at Goucher since 2005. With degrees from Middlebury College and Brandeis University, he has received a number of fellowships, and, in 2008, was selected as "Outstanding Goucher Man." His topic for the April 27 program is "The World of Books in Early America." Dr. Hale describes the subject of his lecture:

"Early Americans used printed materials in ways that reflected particular cultural traditions. From Puritan notions of spirituality to Native Americans' belief in the shamanistic qualities of books, and from Benjamin Franklin's faith in newspapers to Thomas Jefferson's advocacy of natural language, a wide range of ideas about the meaning of the printed word operated in the years leading to 1776. Examining those ideas—and the practices associated with them—reveals much about the world of books in early America."

We look forward to learning more about this fascinating topic and hope that you will join the Friends of the Goucher College Library on Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the Batza Room of the Athenaeum.

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FOL
THE FRIENDS OF
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Do you need to purchase beautifully colored cards to commemorate occasions, or to use as invitations, thank-you notes, or children's gifts? Know anyone who grew up reading Nancy Patz's wonderfully warm, award-winning books and who would love to own some of their favorite illustrations?

The FOL has a wonderful new fundraising and friendraising tool: A Nancy Patz Mini-Treasury! These cards make it easy for you to make a contribution to the FOL every time you celebrate a milestone or honor someone's memory; and for each home you send it to, you will raise awareness about Goucher College and its outstanding library.

The cards are based on the Nancy Patz Special Collection, donated to Goucher College in 2006, which documents the professional life and art career of Baltimore-based author and illustrator Nancy Patz. Her endowed gift preserves and makes available her original resources and supports programming, exhibits, teaching, and research using the collection.

Always generous to her alma mater, Nancy Patz has donated her award-winning illustrations as the covers of this series of notecards to benefit the FOL. She has met with Friends Board members to suggest which of her many illustrations would be most suitable, and has chosen eight that would be appropriate for a variety of occasions and uses, from such books as *Pumpernickel Tickle and Mean Green Cheese*, *Moses Supposes His Toes Are Roses* and *Seven Other Silly Old Rhymes*, *Gina Farina* and *the Prince of Mintz*, and five other titles.

Printed on white 4.5" x 6.25" card stock and paired with a mailing envelope, these contribution cards with their brightly colored cover illustrations are sold in packets of eight for \$10. The inside of each card is blank for your personal message, and the back of the card has an attribution to the referenced book, a special acknowledgement of Ms. Patz and the Nancy Patz Special Collection, and the logos of the FOL and of Goucher College.

With her abiding appreciation of the Friends and its advocacy of the college library, Nancy Patz exemplifies alumnae/i support of Goucher College. Her contribution will benefit the entire Goucher community.

To purchase packages of A Nancy Patz Mini-Treasury, please contact Peter McCarthy, assistant to the college librarian, at (410) 337-6362 or peter.mccarthy@goucher.edu.



Walter Dean Myers Comes to Goucher

By Kate Dannals '09



Critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author Walter Dean Myers presented his lecture, "Scribble, Scribble, Scribble: A Life in Books" to a packed Forum on March 24. The enthusiastic audience included hundreds of visitors, as well as Goucher students, alumnae/i, faculty, and staff.

Myers is the author of more than 85 books for young adults and children, including *Sunrise Over Fallujah*, *Monster*, *Scorpions*, and *Slam!* His work spans many genres and formats, including poetry, nonfiction, picture books, and young-adult novels. His work has earned him two Newberry Honors, five Coretta Scott King Awards, and an American Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Myers found his love of reading at a young age. In his profile for teenreads.com he writes, "Books took me, not so much to foreign lands and fanciful adventures, but to a place within myself that I have been exploring ever since." Myers' work stems from his personal experiences and has helped to transform the image of African Americans in young adult and children's literature.

The program was sponsored by the Judith Evans, Nancy Patz, and Isabelle Kellogg Thomas Funds, the Friends of the Goucher College Library, and the Kratz Center for Creative Writing. Myers' appearance marked the first event of the Athenaeum Library Series, which provides an open community forum for occasional programs on topics related to libraries, books, and reading.

What Is the Maryland Digital Library?

By Barbara Snead, Collection Management Librarian, Current Chair of the MDL Content Working Group

Just over 10 years ago, libraries entered uncharted territory with the emergence of electronic resources. Administrators of Maryland's academic libraries showed foresight in joining forces to maximize their purchasing power—imagine a Costco for library resources—launching the Maryland Digital Library (MDL) with official recognition from the Maryland Higher Education Commission and nearly a million dollars in state support.

Today, more than 50 institutions of higher learning, comprising most of Maryland's public universities, independent colleges, and community colleges, hold memberships in MDL, which serves more than 300,000 students. Alas, the state funding dried up in 2002, yet the consortium has proven so valuable that its members agreed to support the administrative functions from their individual library budgets.

How can we measure the success of this endeavor? Cost savings are difficult to quantify, largely because many resources did not exist 10 years ago. However, tracking seven titles to which Goucher subscribed directly in 2001 shows that the 2010 costs for those titles purchased through MDL decreased by 20 percent, an incredible drop during a period otherwise marked by rising prices. More noticeable are the greater number and types of resources that an MDL membership affords.

Beginning with a core of 10 databases and one e-book collection, offerings have expanded to more than 200 products, including online journals, streaming audio and video, multiple e-book collections, and specialized databases covering many disciplines. A rotating committee of librarians representing each type of institution evaluates products and commu-

nicates information on new resources, trial periods, pricing, and renewal procedures to the membership.

What lies ahead? MDL's governing body ambitiously plans to broaden the scope of shared activities. This year, the membership implemented two new initiatives: the **shared journals project** guarantees the retention (and lending) of print journals among members, thus allowing libraries to save space by withdrawing physical volumes; and the **expedited interlibrary loan service** provides rapid delivery among participants who share the cost of a courier van service. Clearly, the Goucher College Library has benefited immensely from its membership in the Maryland Digital Library.

From the College Librarian

By Nancy Magnuson

We've had one staff departure since I last wrote. Access Service Librarian Susan Ezell, a cheerful presence overseeing the library's front desk, has resigned after serving in that position since 2001.

We have been participating, with several Maryland libraries in "Books Into Film," a Maryland Humanities Council-funded project led at Goucher by Collection Management Librarian Barbara Snead. Our fall program was *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf, with discussion led by professors Shirley Peroutka and Nsenga Burton. Thanks to the Friends, copies of the book were available to readers. April 14 will bring a showing of *Brick Lane*, led by professor Flo Martin. See more at <http://www.loyola.edu/library/booksintofilm> or check the "Books into Film" Facebook page.

In another reading initiative aided by the Friends, the library collaborated with the Chaplain, Athletics, and several other departments to sponsor a campus read of *Outcasts United*, the "One Maryland One Book" selection for 2010-11, which sparked lively discussions at several sessions attended by students, faculty, and staff early in the semester.

Mark Twain has been in the news with a recent biography. Goucher's outstanding Oberdorfer Twain collection is featured in a major exhibition in Special Collections & Archives. Please stop by to see it in the Brownlee and Beth Corrin exhibition gallery case (pictured) on the upper level of the Athenaeum.

The library has other exhibits, too, in seven cases throughout the building. Acquisitions Coordinator Sharon Hartmann brings a great deal of creativity to these eye-catching displays that promote awareness of library collections. Among current exhibits are commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and of the Loeb Classical Library, the photography of James Van der Zee, and the visit of Walter Dean Myers. Another case honors the late Goucher faculty member Gairdner Moment. Our larger case, the gift of Sandy Ostrovsky '68 Gordon and Lee Gordon, currently features an exhibit on recycling, with examples from fields such as folk art, bookmaking, and architecture.

Early in March, I was privileged to be part of a team, with Provost Marc Roy and profes-



sors Erica Fraser and Tina Sheller, selected to participate in the Council of Independent Colleges workshop "Information Fluency in History." Our mission was to develop a plan for improving how history students learn to do research—we look forward to putting our ideas into action this spring.

In February, the Athenaeum played a new role as the campus suffered a weeklong partial power outage. In a sudden flurry of activity, much of our library space was turned over to a variety of college offices. The library staff enjoyed introducing the space to a new audience—Instruction Librarian Jim Huff even prepared a follow-up information sheet inviting the "Athenaeum refugees" to return more often.

The Afro, the Sun, and the History of Baltimore

By Tina Hirsch Sheller '74, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Historic Preservation

For a number of years, I have been teaching the course “Baltimore as Town and City.” My students are required to write a research paper, typically on a topic of their own interest related to the city’s history. Because my own scholarly interests center on early Baltimore, I usually encourage students to choose a topic from either that era or from the period of Baltimore’s dynamic growth in the 19th century.

When I offered the course in the fall of 2010, however, I pointed student research in a different direction. Earlier that summer, Nancy Magnuson informed me that the Friends of the Goucher College Library had purchased digitized, fully searchable versions of both the *Baltimore Afro-American* and the *Baltimore Sun* for the library. This generous gift by the Friends, together with my own interest in investigating 20th-century Baltimore, led me to change the course’s research. I instructed students to explore a topic in the history of 20th-century Baltimore, encouraging them

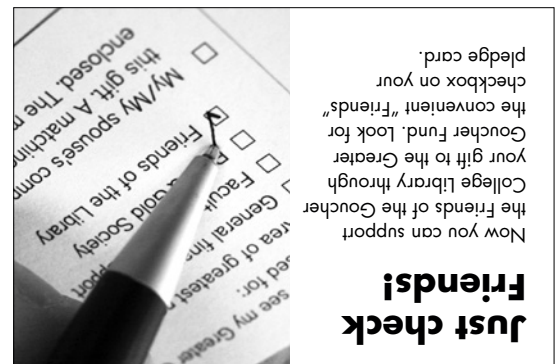
to focus their attention on the experience of African Americans. I explained that this history was largely unwritten, and I challenged them to begin the process of bringing this little-known history to light.

A number of students in the class took up the challenge. One researched the inferior health care resources available to African Americans and the high incidence of tuberculosis in the black community during the first half of the 20th century. Another compared newspaper coverage of the Negro Leagues in the *Afro* and *Sun*, focusing his attention on press accounts of Jackie Robinson’s signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers. A third student searched the black-and-white press for coverage of flamboyant black boxer Jack Johnson, whose career punctured widely held stereotypes of black inferiority. Still other students explored the histories of African-American education and entertainment in segregated Baltimore.

Overall, the students’ findings proved stunning to them. When they compared press accounts in the *Sun* and the *Afro*, they discovered the separate and unequal world occupied by African Americans in Jim Crow Baltimore. This was a world that they had learned about in lectures and books; however, the opportunity to discover that world for themselves through the lens of contemporary newspapers gave them a new and invaluable level of historical understanding, one that only primary sources can provide.

The gift of the *Baltimore Afro-American* and the *Baltimore Sun* by the Friends of the Goucher College Library has already proven its enormous value. It has significantly enhanced research opportunities for members of the Goucher community, and we are truly grateful.

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