HEGE LIBRARY CELEBRATES THE PAST AND FUTURE VISION WITH A GALA DINNER

The beautiful Carnegie Room, known to generations of Guilfordians as a study hall, was transformed on April 17th into a beautiful dining room for “Celebrating Our Past – Envisioning Our Future” in observance of the 25th anniversary of the Hege’s transformative gift to the college, doubling the size of the library.

One hundred twenty guests gathered for a reception before dinner in the Art Gallery and the Library’s new Academic and Creative Suite, meeting students who were exhibiting their own scholarship and creativity, as well as visiting new exhibition of primary sources that inform research across the broad spectrum of Guilford’s curriculum.

At 7 o’clock we gathered in the Carnegie “Dining Room” and were welcomed enthusiastically by President Jane Fernandes, and soon we buckled down to enjoy the delicious meal prepared by the College’s dining services provider Coffee Cooperative - the Greenleaf and Academic Dean spoke on the invaluable asset that is the Friends Historical Collection in Hege Library. She told of her own experience in researching the Underground Railroad, learning from primary sources; her students’ use of the archives as a one-of-a-kind source in their own research; and the collection’s importance beyond the College, in the wider Quaker world, and to historians and genealogists far and wide. In her introduction, founding Art Gallery curator Theresa Hammond noted the outstanding gifts of art donated to the College over the past two and a half decades currently on display for the gala, including those of the founding donors. She also noted the most recent donation by Dan & Beth Mosca of fine art bindings by Monique Lailler & Don Etherington, also on display.

Adrienne Israel, Vice President for Academic Affairs and College Archivist Gwen Gosney Erickson noted the significance of these unique primary sources that inform research across the broad spectrum of Guilford’s curriculum.

The evening’s special guest speaker was Maureen Sullivan, whom you have read about in these pages over the last year. The former president of the American Library Association and a valued mentor to our library director Suzanne Bartels, Maureen worked closely with Suzanne, her staff, and the College community as a whole on the strategic planning that led to the vision of Hege Library as Academic Commons. A renowned authority on academic libraries, Maureen spoke on their vital future in our world of rapidly changing technology and the impressive planning accomplished for re-envisioning Hege Library.

In her introductory remarks, Suzanne recognized Curt and Patricia Hege, Guilford alumni and principal donors for the addition, completed 25 years ago, that bears their name. She also acknowledged the continuing significant commitment of the Friends of the Library, who made the gala celebration possible, and whose many years of dedication to and support of the Library have been essential to furthering a spirit of academic community.

Friends of the Library Clerk Anthony Blake brought the evening to conclusion with the exciting announcement of the establishment of the Hege Library Research Award, an annual award celebrating excellence in student research. To be jointly sponsored by the Guilford College Friends of the Library and the main donors to the addition, Curt and Pat Hege, two $1,000.00 awards will be given annually to honor and promote exemplary senior research theses. As a complete surprise to all, not the least to the recipients who just happened to be present at the dinner, was the presentation of the first annual awards to seniors Caleb Meriwether Godsey. The quality of the student projects on view was amazing, ranging from scientific to artistic achievement – in fact, even including a creative incorporation of both – while a student guitarist lullied all into a congenial and contented state.

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Maureen Sullivan sees bright future for Hege Library

The first speaker during the dinner was Judith Weller Harvey, who reflected on her parents Alien and Rachel Weller’s gift to the College of their private art collection, which established the Art Gallery and serves as its permanent collection. In her introduction, founding Art Gallery curator Theresa Hammond noted the outstanding gifts of art donated to the College over the past two and a half decades currently on display for the gala, including those of the founding donors. She also noted the most recent donation by Dan & Beth Mosca of fine art bindings by Monique Lailler & Don Etherington, also on display.

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GRANT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR DIGITAL “SHELF SHARING”

Guilford College has been selected to participate in the Council of Independent Colleges’ Consortium on Digital Resources for Teaching and Learning. Made possible by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the grant provides two years of full funding for Artstor’s Shared Shelf product and a portion of costs for two additional years. Grant participation requires that colleagues from two different campus areas (one of which must be a librarian) participate in Consortium workshops in Fall 2015 and 2016. The selection committee was impressed by the high quality of our proposal describing projects the Friends Historical Collection and the Art Gallery will implement using Artstor’s Shared Shelf media management tool. This grant opportunity arrived at an ideal time as we seek innovative affordable ways to improve access to resources and to collaborate with others on campus.

Our grant application proposed to explore Shared Shelf’s potential for two specific projects, one audio and one visual, in the Friends Historical Collection and the Art Gallery. This two-pronged approach will serve as model pilots for other potential campus partners, improve access to unique digital materials held at Guilford, and offer opportunities for faculty and students to engage more fully with our resources. The Friends Historical Collection will focus on using Shared Shelf to provide access to recent oral history audio interviews documenting Guilford’s integration in 1962 and the experiences of early African American faculty and students. The Art Gallery will focus on access to images documenting its Asian collections and connecting the permanent art collection to key themes taught in Guilford’s art history courses.

This grant provides essential funding for us to implement a much needed digital management solution. By using Shared Shelf, it is anticipated that other institutions and individuals beyond Guilford will have greater opportunity to discover our unique collections. It also provides an opportunity for us to bring newly emerging digital projects initiated by Guilford’s faculty into the Shared Shelf environment. Conversations are already underway with faculty in a variety of disciplines and several administrative offices about ways they might also utilize Shared Shelf. It is exciting to consider the many new opportunities made possible through this grant.

FOIL ANNUAL GIVING INSPIRING FOR THE VISION FOR EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN EFFORT

The momentum of annual giving to the Friends of the Library Annual Fund is increasing as excitement heightens over the progress of future planning for Hege Library! We are so grateful! Over $500,000.00 was raised in gifts and pledges over the last year, more than doubling fundraising expectations. In the upcoming year, the Library seeks to raise additional funds, as part of the College’s Vision for Excellence Campaign, to establish adjoining collaboration and experimental classroom spaces on its second level, bringing us one step closer to realizing the vision for the Academic Commons. The Teaching, Learning, and Research Collaboratory will make it possible to welcome into the Library Faculty Development, Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors, and the Honors Program as vital partners and collaborators for the enrichment of Guilford’s unique educational experience.

We will be introducing a new dynamic into the Library with the creation of these two spaces, where students, faculty, librarians, technologists, and academic support professionals can begin working together to explore the potential of collaboration and to inspire creativity and innovation.

The Library is the recipient of a federally funded grant to engage over the course of the upcoming year in developing a comprehensive technology plan that will support the Academic Commons vision. The grant, awarded in the amount of $29,920.00, is made possible by funding from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

The technology plan will be developed to support an informed, efficient, and fiscally responsible approach to the design of an enhanced and technology-enriched library learning environment, supporting creativity, innovation, and experimentation. It is especially welcome as the College furthers exploration of digital pedagogy and scholarship through The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant awarded last fall. The Library will be advised throughout this effort by Eugene Spencer, a nationally recognized consultant to higher education information technology and library communities. Spencer came highly recommended by Library strategic planning consultant Maureen Sullivan. He focuses on areas of organizational effectiveness, organizational design, leadership development, work redesign, quality customer service, collaborative planning between IT and library organizations, and synergies between people, information and technology. He currently is the Chief Information Officer at Ursinus College, which like Guilford is a small, residential liberal arts college experiencing similar developmental and organizational change within the areas of library and information technology services. His consultancy role will be vital to the community building aspects of the project.

ART GALLERY SUMMER AND FALL OFFERINGS

Art Gallery Director and Curator Terry Hammond has announced the upcoming shows in the Guilford College Art Gallery at Hege Library. Through October, wood-fired ceramics by Seagrove, NC, potter Daniel Johnson, and fine art bindings by Monique Lalier and Don Etherington, will be on exhibit in the Robert C. Ketner vitrines. With the start of the fall semester, and in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the opening of Guilford College Art Gallery on October 18, 1990, selected works from the permanent collection will recreate the Gallery’s inaugural exhibition. In November, the Art Faculty Biennial will be mounted, featuring recent creations by Guilford art faculty, and introducing the paintings of the art department’s newest member, Antoine Williams, to the community. In the Ketner Vitrines, portraits of courageous Americans, both historical and contemporary, will be displayed in an exhibit called “Americans Who Tell The Truth.” Part of a state-wide touring exhibition of more than 50 portraits by artist Robert Shetterly, the show is being presented in Greensboro in partnership with the International Civil Rights Museum and will run through mid-February.

LIBRARY AWARDED GRANT TO SUPPORT A COMPREHENSIVE TECHNOLOGY PLAN FOR THE ACADEMIC COMMONS

As Guilford builds upon its impressive legacy in forging new paths to meet the needs of 21st century learners and leaders, Hege Library’s role is a vital one. Its future holds the potential for institutionally transforming impact. We are seeking funding in the amount of $250,000.00 to make these spaces a reality. In the year ahead, please consider being a part of laying a new cornerstone and making Guilford’s library the heart of a vibrant community of scholarly and creative activity!