One of our resident experts on Guilford during the 1940s was Elizabeth Hare Lasley (1926-2016). Elizabeth joined the Friends Historical Collection as a regular volunteer in 2007. We benefited greatly from her willingness to drive to campus from Winston-Salem twice each month for 8 years. In addition to providing a welcoming presence in our research room, Elizabeth also served as an informative resource for Guilford students. She assisted a 2008 history research project on Guilford’s oldest remaining dormitory, Elizabeth spent her adult working years as a social worker and Methodist minister’s wife in North Carolina, but remained closely tied to her Quaker heritage at Somerton Friends Meeting in Virginia. Visitors benefited from her research skills and deep knowledge of Virginia Quaker history. She also donated items from her family’s Guilford and Quaker heritage to the Friends Historical Collection over the years. The Friends Historical Collection greatly appreciates that Elizabeth’s family requested memorial contributions to the Friends Historical Collection in lieu of flowers.

IN MEMORANDUM: ELIZABETH HARE LASLEY ’47

This is a story about a gift to Guilford, a recent gift to the Hege Library. So recent in fact that the gift is still being made ready for use. It is a story of two 19th-century immigrants to America. It is a story of a grateful college community.

Andrew Carnegie and Henry Engelhard Steinway immigrated to the United States only 2 years apart, in 1848 and 1850, respectively. Carnegie came from Dunfermline, Scotland, as a 13-year-old lad; Steinway (originally spelled Steinweg) from Wolfshagen, Germany, came as a father of grown children at age 53. Both were creators. Carnegie made steel, Steinway made pianos; Carnegie made an enormous fortune, Steinway a more modest one. Andrew Carnegie endowed the Guilford College Library, and Henry Steinway’s company made the beautiful Model L Steinway grand piano that now graces the room named in Carnegie’s honor.

At our last meeting of the Friends of the Library board in October, Library Director Suzanne Bartels told us of her dream to have a grand piano in the Carnegie Room, the original reading room of the library. She envisioned expanding the use of this beautiful room to host concerts, lectures, special dinners and other events not imagined by earlier generations. A grand piano for this grand room seems just right. We discussed the task of raising the money to purchase a suitable piano, which considering the cost of a high-quality instrument, would be daunting indeed.

Not two weeks later, we received the amazing news that a donor had given us a Steinway Model L grand piano, first made by Steinway in 1923 as a “Living Room” grand. Steinway’s Model L is a fraction under 9 feet. The Model L was first made by Steinway in 1923 as a “Living Room” grand. Music Department Chair Kami Rowan is thrilled with this gift and hopes that this will enable the development of a new concert venue for piano students as well as invited artists. Evelyn Smith, Guilford’s long-time piano tuner “extraordinaire,” attests to the quality of the instrument and has managed the purchase of a new high-quality adjustable piano bench paid for by the Friends of the Library.

At the completion of the spring semester, John Johanson ’92 and Librarian Suzanne Bartels discuss plans for the Steinway.

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Not two weeks later, we received the amazing news that a donor had given us a Steinway Model L grand piano, built in 1941. The gift is given in memory of their mother by Margaret Trotter and her brothers. Mrs. Trotter is a resident of Greensboro and, this spring, there will be an inaugural concert to honor this extraordinary gift from her family. The Steinway Model L is the largest instrument in the so-called baby grand category because it is just shy of 6 feet in length. Incidentally, the great Steinway concert grand,
and serving as student organization leaders, several were in the starting lineup. In addition to excelling in athletics II era basketball team with a majority Japanese Americans recognized by Guilfordians are the images of the World War the 1940s on Sunday, March 20. Through the efforts of Japanese American students at Guilford College during Series Speaker, the Friends of the Library will be hosting of all the piano strings. While a bit more beefy than the soundboard itself, which is only about three-eighths of placed on its structure by the tension of the strings. The restoration work.

The condition of the keyboard is excellent. At 74 years and counting, it is very good, making it a very special companion to the well-loved and historical home in which it will live. However, as the Steinway’s next chapter in life begins in the Carnegie Room, it is deserving that this piano be brought back to a more appropriate condition of tone and musicality and care as when it was enjoyed early in its life.

By John Johanson ’92

SAVE THE DATE: GUILFORD’S WORLD WAR II JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

In anticipation of George Takei’s visit as a Bryan Series Speaker, the Friends of the Library and students are presenting a conversation and discussion about the presence of Japanese American students at Guilford College during the 1940s on Sunday, March 20. Through the efforts of the American Friends Service Committee, Guilford was one of several colleges and universities that stepped up to offer housing to Japanese college-age students who were otherwise prohibited from completing their education due to Executive Order 8086. Most recognized by Guilfordians are the images of the World War II era basketball team with a majority Japanese Americans in the starting lineup. In addition to excelling in athletics and serving as student organization leaders, several were also top of their class academically. Fumiko Takano was one of only six Guilford seniors selected for Who’s Who in American College and Universities in 1945. Edward Haribayashi used his philosophy training at Guilford to make an academic analysis of the experience his family lived through with his 1947 thesis, “Japanese-Americans: Concerning the Exodus and Its Legality.” To learn more about these nine students, campus and community reaction to their inclusion in the Guilford College community, and Guilford’s place in this larger American story.

PIANISSIMO & p.p. piano from the Carnegie Room and bring it to his workroom for a complete restoration that will take about six months. Please read the companion article by John in this issue of the newsletter describing the fascinating process of the restoration.

We are so fortunate to find ourselves in the conflux of philanthropy and artistry—the philanthropy of Margaret Trotter and Andrew Carnegie and the artistry of Henry Steinway—as we envision expanded uses for beloved spaces.

CONSTRUCTION OF COLLABORATORY IS UNDERWAY!

The Guilford College Art Gallery will present recent works by Art Department faculty in an exhibition, February 3 through March 27, 2016. A reception for the artists will be held Wednesday, February 3, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Gallery in Hege Library. The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays. The exhibit is open to the general public and admission is free.

The 2016 Art Department Faculty Exhibition is a sampling of the recent creative research undertaken by the faculty, including both traditional and nontraditional approaches to pedagogy and scholarship. All furnishings and technology will be completely flexible, and a moveable partition will allow the space to be opened for large gatherings. With the establishment of the Collaboratory, the fundamental goals for the Academic Commons vision will be realized. While a full renovation will provide the breadth and depth of physical experience we envision within a fully reimagined Hege Library, the Collaboratory will make it possible to bring all Academic Commons partners—the Honors Program, Faculty Development, and Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors—together within a centralized environment, where the collaborative journey may begin for realizing the greater goal together!

ART GALLERY MOUNTS FACULTY EXHIBITION

As a follow-up to our article in the last issue of the newsletter, we are thrilled to report that, thanks to the continuing generosity and commitment of the family of H. Curt ’56 and Patricia Shields ’57 Hege, the Teaching, Learning and Research Collaboratory is under construction on the north end of the Library’s second level. The studio is up, so one now can get a real sense of the space! Moreover, the project has special significance in that the work itself is being accomplished by the Heges’ construction company, Shields Engineering, based in Winston-Salem, and is being capably and carefully led by Ted “Bo” Kellogg ’86, company vice president and Curt and Pat’s son-in-law. We are indeed in good hands! Hopes are for completion of construction by mid-spring semester, followed by the installation of furnishings and technology, and a full launch of the Collaboratory in fall 2016.

Two uniquely aligned learning spaces, one focused on collaboration and creation, and one an experimental classroom, will support faculty and students across the curriculum, across disciplines, for creative approaches to pedagogy and scholarship. While a full renovation will provide the breadth and depth of physical experience we envision within a fully reimagined Hege Library, the Collaboratory will make it possible to bring all Academic Commons partners—the Honors Program, Faculty Development, and Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors—together within a centralized environment, where the collaborative journey may begin for realizing the greater goal together!