Director of Library Services and Instructional Technology, Suzanne Bartels, is launching a library strategic planning initiative this year that will extend throughout the spring semester. It began on January 15th with a day-long Library staff retreat. Facilitating and guiding this effort is Maureen Sullivan, a widely recognized leader and educator in the library profession. “We feel most fortunate in this,” notes Bartels, “as Maureen’s leadership and vision are highly respected in the academic library profession, and her appreciative inquiry approach to strategic planning is especially compatible with Guilford values. In fact, Maureen has done work at Pendle Hill, so she is very much looking forward to engaging with the Guilford community.”

The aim of the initiative is to develop a strategic plan through a results-oriented process that will be short-term, productive, and focused on achieving critical goals for Library Services and Instructional Technology. The plan will be developed within the larger framework of the College’s two related strategic long-range plans (SLRP I and II), and will clearly articulate the Library’s contribution to the achievement of institutional aspirations and goals, with particular emphasis on SLRP II. In light of the Library’s new responsibilities for instructional technology, careful consideration also will be given to the College’s strategic plan for information technology. Central to the planning will be the re-envisioning of the Library as an academic commons, a cultural and intellectual center for the campus, supporting collaboration, creativity, and innovation in teaching and learning.

Maureen Sullivan is the immediate past president of the American Library Association and on the faculty of Simmons College. She has held several other leadership positions in the American Library Association, including president of two of its divisions, the Library Leadership and Management Association and the Association of College and Research Libraries. From January to June of 2013, she was the Interim Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College.

Not incidentally, the Library’s strategic planning initiative coincides with the 25th anniversary of the addition to Hege Library, named after its principle donors, H. Curt ’56 and Patricia S. ’57 Hege. Curt and Pat Hege, the Friends of the Library, Guilford alumni, and a host of others, through their generosity and belief in the centrality of the Library to the Guilford learning experience, will be gratified to know that the space created in 1989 will serve the College well into the future and accommodate the re-envisioning of the Hege Library as a new and exciting 21st century academic center that exemplifies Guilford’s unique and innovative approach to liberal arts education. The Library’s strategic plan will articulate that vision, as well as an implementation plan. Engaging the Friends of the Library as partners in realizing this bright and exciting future will be central to its success!
One of Guilford’s treasures is the College Art Gallery, located in the Hege Library. Founding Director and Curator Terry Hammond has announced the exhibitions planned for the spring semester. In the Main Gallery will be an exhibition of Guilford’s own Adele Wayman, the H. Curt and Patricia S. Hege Professor of Art, in celebration of her 40 years at Guilford. Adele Wayman: A Retrospective will be open from February 17 to May 16, 2014.

The Robert C. Ketner Exhibition Area, a popular exhibit space, comprising the glass display cases outside the Main Gallery, will be showing the work of three artists in addition to Adele Wayman. Ceramic sculptures by Aaron Wilcox, Bundles; and from the Permanent Collection, Josef Albers; and in celebration of the 2014 National Black History Month theme of Civil Rights in America, Ben Shahn and Billy Morrow Jackson, Protest Portfolios.

As a unique component of Hege Library, the Friends Historical Collection is included in the library’s strategic planning process but is also benefiting from additional review. Prior to the library’s decision to embark on a planning process, Friends Historical Collection Librarian Gwen Gosney Erickson submitted a study leave proposal for Spring 2014. Gwen, a library staff member since 1995, is currently serving her fourteenth year as Friends Historical Collection Librarian and College Archivist. With the imminent completion of several major digital projects and the many changes and opportunities facing archives today, the time seemed right for Gwen to have an opportunity to get some time and space to evaluate what has been accomplished and what directions are most beneficial for the future of special collection and archives at Guilford College.

Expectations and demands on special collections and archives have grown and there are new pressures that did not even exist a decade ago. It is important to re-evaluate goals and opportunities with these things in mind. The results of Gwen’s leave will be presented in an internal report. A modified form of the report may be appropriate for publication and portions of it will likely appear in future issues of this newsletter.

Realizing that it is difficult to find time to reflect and evaluate while in the midst of everything, Gwen is taking her leave abroad. She is serving as Friend in Residence at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England, for the majority of the leave period. Her duties there include providing assistance to their programs as an active member of their “Worship and Welcome” team and opportunities to interact with Woodbrooke’s well regarded faculty and students. Before her time at Woodbrooke, Gwen is presenting a session on the Friends Historical Collection at an American Library Association pre-conference workshop in Philadelphia. She will return to the United States in time to participate in several other key workshops and conferences in June before returning to the College full-time on July 1.

Students and visitors will continue to have access to the Friends Historical Collection during Gwen’s absence. Archives Associate Liz Cook is overseeing daily operations along with part-time assistance from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Archives Assistant, Beth Saunders, and veteran student workers Grace Ethier and Emma Rountree. Gwen’s leave would not be possible without the continuing dedication and expert assistance of Liz, and having Beth and these capably trained students in place to provide support this spring.

Clockwise from top: Rock Castle Creek, Virginia by Adele Wayman; The Sovereign Scarecrow by Billy Morrow Jackson; Bundles by Aaron Wilcox; Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney by Ben Shahn