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Beacons of Learning

Lauinger Library celebrated its 40th anniversary and the launch of R. Emmett Curran’s three-volume A History of Georgetown University with an event in October, in conjunction with the Georgetown University Press. Beacons of Learning: Georgetown University and Lauinger Library featured Professors R. Emmett Curran, John J. Glavin and Provost James J. O’Donnell, each of whom brought their unique thoughts on Lauinger and its place on the Georgetown campus. University President John J. DeGioia, who wrote the foreword to Emmett Curran’s History, introduced the program and discussed how the book traced Georgetown’s rise from a small college on the Potomac to a global research university. He described the Library as the heart of the Academy and recalled his own undergraduate days spent studying in Lauinger’s Pierce Reading Room, where he now stood.

John Glavin talked about Lauinger Library as a “built space,” and acknowledged at the outset that while some saw it as one of the most distinguished examples of brutalist architecture in the second half of the 20th century, others saw it less favorably. He went on to talk about the “closets” (spaces for secluded study) that are the carrels around the perimeter of the building, and their ability to create for scholars a magical place, a small space that is the antithesis of an office and a place for reflection. Scholarship, he said, flourishes in a room that no one owns.  

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This Newsletter is issued four times a year. It is distributed to all Library Associates, members of ARL, the Georgetown University Board of Directors, Board of Regents, Board of Governors and selected others.

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FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Transformations

Many libraries closed over Labor Day weekend, but Lauinger Library stayed open for study and even for “The Party at Club Lau,” the Library’s gala celebration to welcome back our students. For the fourth consecutive year, we transformed the Pierce Reading Room into a festively-appointed area with alcohol-free socializing, dancing, and food. Our gate count tells us that about 2,000 students attended. Lines to enter the Party reached Healy Circle until one a.m.

Lauinger Library has seen many other transformations since the iconic building opened in 1970. Lauinger Library is still a place to share collections, resources, services, and staff expertise. Despite some people’s expectations to the contrary, our circulation of print materials continues to grow. But we do now spend much of our collection budget on digital resources, and many of those are licensed, not purchased outright. What began as a building with books is now a physical and virtual meeting place for people and ideas.

We belong to various consortia and groups in order to maximize purchasing power, leverage negotiating strengths with vendors, and learn from each other about major issues affecting our institutions. One such group is the online listserv called Liblicense. What began as a forum primarily for digital collections librarians has transformed into a lively discussion medium with publishers, scholars, librarians, lawyers, academics and interested others about scholarly communications in the 21st century.

After 40 years, Lauinger Library is nearly out of space to house all our research materials. Over a decade ago continued on page 4
The Library Welcomes Sem Sutter

Dr. Sem Sutter joined the Georgetown University Library as our new Head of Collection Development this November.

Sem C. Sutter comes to Georgetown from the University of Chicago where he has served as Assistant Director for Collections since 1999 after working in Special Collections and over a decade as Bibliographer for Modern Literatures. During his tenure as Assistant Director he has continued to function as Bibliographer for Germanic Literatures and he looks forward to being a hands-on bibliographer at Georgetown in addition to his administrative assignment. At Chicago he has chaired the committees for collection development, digital collections, and public services.

After a double B.A. from Goshen College in history and religion, Sem earned degrees in European history (A.M. and Ph.D.) and library science (A.M.) from the University of Chicago. His dissertation examined religious pluralism and toleration in a 17th-century North German town, but as a librarian he has turned his scholarly attention to the fate of European libraries, archives, and private collections during and after the Third Reich and World War II. He has presented the results of his archival research at conferences in Cambridge, Vienna, Strasbourg, Hannover, and Liberec (Czech Republic), lectured widely in American library venues, and published numerous articles and book chapters in European and American publications.

John Buschman, Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Resources and Services, says, “In Sem Sutter, the Georgetown University Library is gaining someone with deep expertise from an internationally-recognized research library. I look forward to Sem’s contributions to our efforts to assess and shape our collections with data and to knit together our print, electronic, and various special collections.”

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

**GUNLOCKE ROOM**
October—February
Visions of Georgetown: A Selection of Photographs and Illustrations from Robert Emmett Curran’s A History of Georgetown University

**FAIRCHILD GALLERY**
November—March
Evolution Through Color: The Art of Paul Reed, 1938-2010

**KERBS EXHIBIT AREA**
November—December
Voices of Diversity: Francophone Literature at Lauinger Library

**LEON ROBBIN GALLERY**
October—April
William Grant Still: An American Musician

Detail from Cross Section Drawing of Georgetown’s Observatory, Circa 1850s. On display in the Gunlocke Room.
Transformations, continued

we began to rent space in the Washington Research Library Consortium's off-campus collections facility in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, to alleviate our shelving crunch. (These offsite materials remain in our catalog and can be recalled for patrons within 24 hours.) Soon after joining, we recognized the benefits that full membership in the Consortium could provide to our users. What began as a simple rental agreement was transformed into a shared opportunity for collections management, library discovery tools, digital servers, and, of course, reciprocal borrowing. Today, the eight-member Consortium is a model of cooperative and collaborative planning, and recently celebrated the opening of a new high-density shared collection management facility from which all members may benefit.

After 40 years Lauinger is going strong. We expect to continue our transformations for the next 40 years, in ways we may not even be able to imagine today.

--AGK

The Reluctant Fundamentalist

Georgetown University’s First-Year Student Academic Workshop anticipates freshman academic careers by asking all students to read a book by an internationally acclaimed author before they even arrive on campus. The Workshop, funded by Frederick Marino (SLL ’68) and family, brings the author of the selected book to the campus early in the fall semester to speak to students and faculty, who then form discussion groups to address questions and issues raised by their reading of the book. This year’s selection was Mohsin Hamid’s novel The Reluctant Fundamentalist, which made the short list for the prestigious Man Booker Prize in 2007. An exhibition in the Kerbs Exhibit Area of Lauinger Library accompanied and highlighted this year’s Workshop.

The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2007) is a stylistic tour de force. At a cafe in Lahore, a bearded Pakistani man converses with an uneasy American stranger. As dusk deepens to night, he begins the tale that has brought them to this fateful encounter. Changez (the Urdu name for Genghis) has been living the “American dream” as a Princeton graduate and employee of an elite valuation firm. His budding romance with the elegant and lovely Erica promises entry into Manhattan society, when the events of September 11, 2001 confront Changez with an identity crisis, unearthing allegiances more fundamental than money, power, and maybe even love.

Louis Reith (Humanities/Rare Book Cataloger), assisted by Christen Runge (Assistant Curator, Art Collection) and Karen O’Connell (Preservation and Rare Books Librarian), chose artistic and literary materials from the Library’s collections to illustrate major characters, themes, and events of the novel. George Jo Mess’s aquatint engraving of Princeton’s Stanhope Hall (1946), Werner Drewes’s woodcut, Echo of Greece (1985), and Ralph Fabri’s etching, Americana (1948), set the stage for Art Spiegelman’s haunting New Yorker cover of September 24, 2001, with the twin towers of New York’s World Trade Center barely visible against a looming black void.

Much more about the Workshop and this year’s book and author can be found online at http://provost.georgetown.edu/initiatives/firstyear/nav/about/.

--LR
EVENTS

Friday Music Series
William Grant Still (1895-1978) was an American composer born in Mississippi and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. His compositions combined blues and spirituals with more traditional European genres to bring folk music to a wider audience than the local churches and communities where he found it.

This September the Library again joined the Department of Performing Arts in sponsoring the first of their Friday Music Series events. *Chamber Works of William Grant Still* featured narration by Professors Anthony R. DelDonna and Rufus Jones and music performed by the Kemper Road String Quartet. Featured Still works included Little Folk Suites Nos. 1-6, Prince and the Mermaid Suite, and Lyric for String Quartet.

The audience was invited back to Lauinger Library for a reception after the concert and to view the companion exhibition *William Grant Still: An American Musician* in the Leon Robbin Gallery, which can be seen through March 11, 2011.

Upcoming Events

December 2
Library Associates Holiday Party
Copley Formal Lounge
Copley Hall
Georgetown University

February 10
The Science of Chocolate
Copley Formal Lounge
Copley Hall
Georgetown University

April 7
A Reading by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward P. Jones
The Ellen Catherine Gmolde C’98 Memorial Lecture
McShain Lounge
McCarthy Hall
Georgetown University

More events to come!
Portraits in Piety

Readers of this Newsletter will know that the Library was fortunate to acquire an extraordinary collection of lives of women saints, women religious and women of piety last year. The collection contains more than 1,000 volumes printed between 1520 and the mid-20th century, many of them written by Jesuits, mostly in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French.

This October the Library Associates, the Special Collections Research Center and professors from various related disciplines presented Portraits in Piety: Women Saints and Women Religious for the Annual Casey-McIlvane Memorial Lecture. The symposium celebrated and illuminated the collection, which will make available to researchers a host of rare volumes, many of which were only located in Europe before now and all of which will enrich researchers’ knowledge of the everyday lives and extraordinary deeds of women of faith.

The panel, moderated by Professor of Spanish Barbara Mujica, featured papers by Amy Leonard, Associate Professor of History; Laura Benedetti, Chair of the Department of Italian and Laura and Gaetano De Sole Professor of Contemporary Italian Literature; Deborah Lesko Baker, Professor of French; and Gillian Ahlgren, Professor of Theology at Xavier University. Each professor brought a different perspective to the study of women of faith. Teresa of Avila’s Interior Castle, nuns of Reformation Germany, the ambiguity of the meaning of separation or enclosure of nuns, the 16th-century Venetian writer Lucrezia Marinelli, and a recently “rediscovered” poetess from 15th-century Toulouse were only some of the subjects touched on in the many-faceted symposium.

A companion exhibition, curated by Professor Mujica, was featured in the Gunlocke Room this fall. The entire program can be viewed online at http://tinyurl.com/3yy7vh1.

The Symposium aims to present important issues of scholarship to faculty and staff at Georgetown and develops timely topics for discussion and debate.

HISTORIA DI SANTA BENEDETTA VERGINE ROMANA

ANTONIO GALLONIO. HISTORIA DELLE SANTE VERGINI ROMANE. ROME, 1591.
Beacons of Learning

Emmett Curran talked about the extraordinary resources available in the University Archives, and their contributions to his *History*. He mentioned, among other resources, student registers back to 1790, Presidential records, diaries, Treasurer’s accounts, faculty and alumni files, student newspapers, yearbooks, the Archives of the Maryland Province and the Roman Archives of the Society of Jesus. The illustrations for the *History* came largely from Special Collections, and were photographed or scanned in the Library’s New Media Center.

Provost O’Donnell spoke from the perspective of a future participant in the celebration of Lauinger’s 100th anniversary in 2070, where once scarce information is a waterfall, and librarians are the guardians who protect us from the chaos of that waterfall as pathfinders and “spiritual gurus” for the use of information. Librarians are those who throw stuff away, and keep stuff, not just physically but also virtually. They get rid of what we don’t need, can’t want and shouldn’t use. They preserve what is unique and what is special. Their role expands as the waterfall expands.

The entire program can viewed online at [http://explore.georgetown.edu/news/?ID=53643](http://explore.georgetown.edu/news/?ID=53643).

Through February 2011, the companion exhibition in the Gunlocke Reading Room *Visions of Georgetown: A Selection of Photographs and Illustrations from Robert Emmett Curran’s “A History of Georgetown University”* showcases over 200 years of Georgetown history. Through a variety of photographs and illustrations featured in Curran’s three-volume work, the exhibition documents Georgetown’s evolution from an academy within the American Catholic community of the Revolutionary War era to an internationally recognized research university.
The Georgetown University Library Associates are a group of Georgetown alumni, parents and friends dedicated to helping the Library shape the creation of knowledge, conserve culture for posterity and transform learning and research. To learn more, contact us at 202-687-7446 or visit us at: library.georgetown.edu/associates

The Library Associates would like to thank Elisa Anderson and Debbie Farris of the Georgetown University Office of Advancement for creating a new look for the Library Associates Newsletter.

“Just Before Thanksgiving”

This year’s holiday card from the Library featured a plate hand-painted by Mrs. D. Harry (Mary Amaryllis) Hammer (1848-1934), well-known Chicago socialite and art collector. China painting was a popular ladies’ pastime from the Civil War era into the 1920s.

Mrs. Hammer, wife of a prominent Chicago lawyer, was an active figure in Chicago society and civic affairs. She was also a collector of myriad types of art, including etchings, cartoons, posters, brass, and textiles.

There are several other plates in this set from the Art Collection, all more traditionally decorated. Only this one features mosquitoes with bayonets and a fleeing family of alarmed but well-dressed turkeys.