

LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

S P R I N G 2 0 0 8

N E W S L E T T E R # 8 7

NANKING, THE FILM



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 31

In conjunction with Reunion Weekend: *Women of Mystery* Lisa Scottoline and Patricia Sprinkle, authors Maureen Corrigan, critic-in-residence Georgetown University

More events to come!

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There was standing room only in Gaston Hall when Ted Leonsis (C'77), the Library Associates and the Georgetown Entertainment and Media Alliance brought the documentary film *Nanking* to Georgetown University for a special screening.

The film, shown in early February, sheds light on an all-but-forgotten tragedy of World War II: the 1937 invasion of China's then-capital, Nanking, by the Japanese army. Inspired by Iris Chang's 1997 book, *The Rape of Nanking*, the documentary uses original footage, readings, and first-person memories to focus its story on a small group of unarmed Westerners who endeavored to set up a safety zone in which some 200,000 Chinese took refuge. The film won the Documentary Editing Award at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and the Humanitarian Award at the Hong Kong Film Festival.

AOL Vice Chairman emeritus and owner of the Washington Capitals Ted Leonsis produced the film with Bill Guttentag and Michael "Jake" Jacobs C'77. Following the screening he and Jacobs took the Gaston stage to talk to the audience about the film and what Leonsis calls "filmanthropy", the production of films that can raise awareness, provoke discussion, and inspire positive action.

Nanking has been playing in select theaters nationwide and will be shown on HBO/Cinemax in April and May. More about the film can be found on its official website at www.nankingthefilm.com. Leonsis's latest documentary film project, *Kicking It*, is directed by Susan Koch and Jeff Wermer. The film documents the Homeless World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa, will be shown at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival in New York City this month.

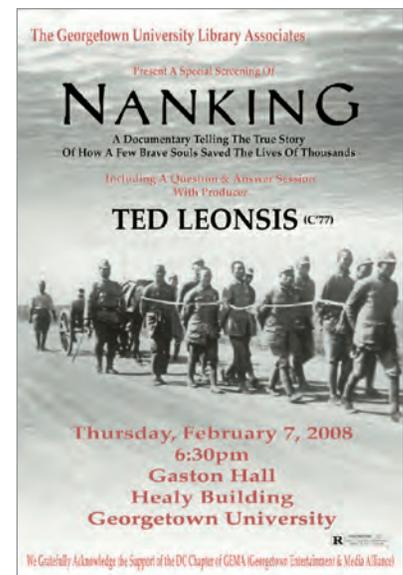


Photo by David Hagen

> Ted Leonsis C'77

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EMERGING DISCIPLINES GRANT

The Library recently received a grant of \$100,000 from The Gladys Brooks Foundation to establish “Emerging Disciplines, Emerging Experts,” an endowment fund designed to enable the acquisition of resources to advance the teaching, learning, and research agendas of the University in new areas. We hope these resources will attract experts to the University who, through their scholarship and teaching, will both create new knowledge and educate the next generation of “emerging experts.”

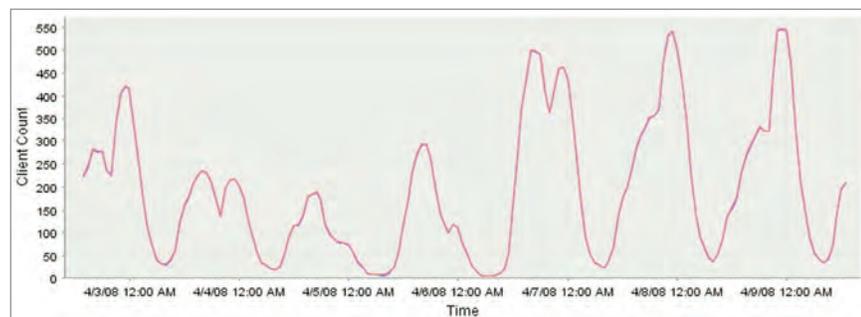
The evolving nature of scholarship requires ever-increasing flexibility from its supporting research libraries. Today, for example, an interdisciplinary area such as “global infectious diseases” implies a new approach to collection-building. Public policy, global economy, health, science and medicine all converge in this area, and publishing trends suggest that new interdisciplinary resources will be generated. Similarly, “environmental history” combines an array of disciplines in ways formerly thought to be independent.

“Libraries have a mandate to provide their constituents with the materials they need; this grant will enable us to build and sustain collections to further Georgetown University’s research expertise. I am immensely grateful to the Gladys Brooks Foundation,” says University Librarian Artemis G. Kirk. “Their gift will make it possible for us to assist in the creation of new scholarship, working with current and future experts.”

The Gladys Brooks Foundation was created under the will of the late Gladys Brooks Thayer of New York to provide for intellectual, moral and physical welfare by establishing and supporting non-profit libraries, educational institutions, hospitals and clinics in the United States.

The Library would like to thank Georgetown University Library Board member Richard L. Hanley (C’68) for his contributions to this endeavor.

HEARTBEAT OF LAUINGER



> Georgetown University Information Services and the Library collaborated to install a new and dramatically improved wireless network in Lauinger Library over the holiday break. Using the latest standards, the new network is much faster and has many more access points distributed throughout the building. This chart shows the number of users of Lauinger Library’s newly installed wireless system over four days. The wireless network is in use at all hours, with peak use just before midnight, when there are 500+ students in Lauinger with wireless-connected laptops.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATES EVENTS

LETTERS TO A YOUNG TEACHER

The first Ellen Catherine Gstalter (C'98) Memorial Lecture featured author Jonathan Kozol discussing issues raised in his latest book, *Letters to a Young Teacher*. The book celebrates the life-altering results of the work of good teachers, against a backdrop of many controversial issues faced in today's classrooms such as mandatory test programs, the role of private corporations in education, and the problems facing urban schools in particular.

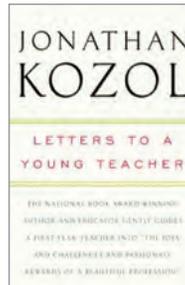
The new Gstalter endowment, established by Ellen's parents, will support an annual lecture on significant social issues in America,



Photo by David Hagen

> From left to right: Barbara, Herbert (C'65), Patty, and Steven Gstalter, Karen Gstalter Dring, Jonathan Kozol, and Artemis G. Kirk.

to honor the memory of Ellen Gstalter, C'98. *Letters to a Young Teacher* was a fitting inaugural subject to honor Ellen, who was committed to social justice and, upon graduation, joined Teach for America. She taught at Orr Elementary School in Washington D.C. for two and a half years before receiving a scholarship from Les Dames D'Escoffier to study at the Institute for Culinary Education in New York, where she received her professional chef's certificate. She was scheduled to pursue her Masters Degree of Public Health at New York University in the fall of 2004, but died in May, 2004 after fighting leukemia for three and a half years.



THUMPIN' IT

The Associates brought Georgetown Professors Jacques Berlinerblau and Michael Eric Dyson together for an energetic and thought-provoking discussion entitled *Thumpin' It: Two Perspectives on Politics and the Bible* in March. These two "public intellectuals" and distinguished faculty members at Georgetown gave individual presentations on politics and religion. Afterward, their dialogue on the stage of Gaston Hall revolved around themes and questions raised in Professor Berlinerblau's new book, *Thumpin' It: The Use and Abuse of the Bible in Today's Presidential Politics*.



Photo by David Hagen

> Michael Eric Dyson and Jacques Berlinerblau.

Jacques Berlinerblau is Associate Professor and Director of the Program for Jewish Civilization at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service. University Professor Michael Eric Dyson teaches Theology, English and African American Studies.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS

GUNLOCKE ROOM March-May

Richard Helms: A Life in Intelligence

June-August

Bookbinding Exhibit

FAIRCHILD GALLERY April-July

Revealing the Light: Mezzotint Engravings at Georgetown University

KERBS EXHIBIT AREA April-May

"Let Freedom Ring," Art and Democracy in the King Years, 1954-1968, an exhibit in conjunction with the Lannan Symposium and Festival

June-August

Georgetown and the Olympics

LEON ROBBIN GALLERY January - April

George H. O'Connor: Georgetown's Troubadour to the Presidents

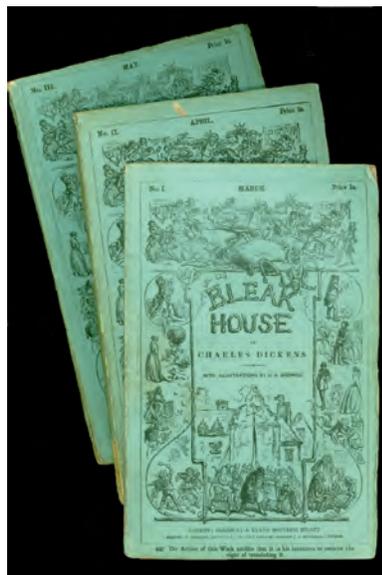


> Robert L. LeGendre (College 1922, D.D.S. 1927) sets the world broad jump record, 1924 Olympics, Paris. See the exhibit in the Kerbs Exhibit Area.

BLEAK HOUSE IN MONTHLY PARTS

One Book, a new column from the Rare Book Room

One of my greatest pleasures and best job perks is perusing the Dickens aisle in Lauinger's rare book room. Nineteenth-century literature—the time of Charles Dickens and the democratization of the novel—appeals to me most. I often consider our contemporary experiences of Dickens, in paperback reprints and recent television adaptations; I think back to my undergraduate reading of *Bleak House* in a dense Norton edition with plenty of notes and glosses. In all *Bleak House* versions, characters like Lady Dedlock, locked in her dead marriage, and Mr. Krook, the human equivalent of a tallow candle, spring to life. But how different is my reading experience from those of Dickens' time? Who read *Bleak House* first, and how did they read it? Rare book collections such as Georgetown University's Ziegler Dickens Collection can help answer those questions and contextualize past and present reading experiences. The collection, a gift of Mary Ziegler Fockler, contains over two thousand items collected by Arnold U. Ziegler. Included are Dickens' first editions, volumes from Dickens' own library, critical studies of his work, original illustrations, and a large amount of supporting research material. Among the first editions are several of Dickens' novels in their original monthly parts.



In many respects, nineteenth-century part work began and ended with Dickens. Serialized publication existed before him, and Dickens himself read penny dreadfuls like *The Terrible Register* as a child; however, the real success story of part work began with *The Pickwick Papers*. In the mid-1830s, popular illustrator Robert Seymour had an idea to publish monthly illustrations of sporting engravings, and Chapman and Hall employed young Charles Dickens to write the supplemental text. Dickens had already had some success with his *Sketches by Boz*, but *Pickwick* gave him enough money to get married. *Pickwick* had an unsuccessful beginning, though, and Seymour shot himself after the second number. Suddenly, Dickens became the creative force behind the publication, and in complete role reversal, found new illustrators to complement his text. Sales picked up by the fifth number, and novels published in monthly parts—for one shilling a part—became an established mode for the rest of Dickens' life.

By the time of *Bleak House* (originally published in twenty monthly parts between 1852 and 1853), almost twenty years had passed since *Pickwick*. Dickens was in the middle of his career and had changed publishers from Chapman and Hall to Bradbury and Evans. The ever-increasing

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REVEALING THE LIGHT

A new exhibit, *Revealing the Light: Mezzotint Engravings at Georgetown University*, opened in Lauinger Library's Fairchild Gallery this April. Over 25 mezzotints are on display, ranging from the early nineteenth century to the present. Also included is the volume from Diderot's *Encyclopédie* (Neufchâtel, 1765) containing diagrams explaining the mezzotint process. Visitors will also be able to see examples of the tools and plates used in the fabrication of mezzotints.

Creating a mezzotint is an arduous and exacting process that enables the artist to capture shades and tones of light and dark, as contrasted with the crisp sharp lines associated with engravings and etchings. In mezzotint, the entire surface of a metal plate is first covered with a multitude of pin-sized pits that enables the plate to hold ink. If the print were pulled at this point, the result would be a rich, velvety black throughout. To create the image, a smooth metal tool called a burnisher is rubbed over the plate to smooth desired areas of the pitted surface, where light will be revealed when the print is pulled. Mezzotint's unique tonal qualities, which are ideally suited to capture painterly effects, enabled the reproduction and distribution of popular paintings and portraits in the seventeenth century. As photography and inexpensive printing processes replaced mezzotint for replicative purposes in the later nineteenth century, the medium began to be

used for its own expressive potential in independently conceived works not derived from oil paintings.

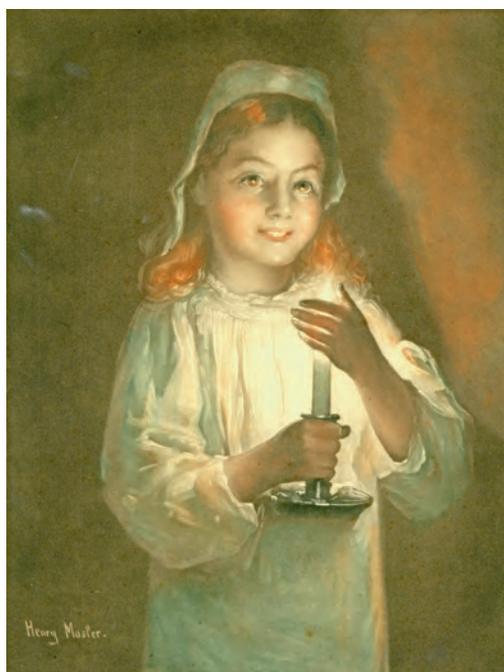
The exhibition begins with an eighteenth-century portrait of Sir William Johnson, Major General of the British Forces in America and an ancestor of the donor of Riggs Library. The mezzotint process is introduced along the north wall of the Gallery, with a display of tools and a copper plate and featuring nineteenth-century prints by David Lucas and John Martin. Twentieth century and contemporary artists include Robert Kipniss, Craig McPherson, Joseph Pennell, and Reynold Weidenaar, among others.

The exhibition also features works by master mezzotint artist Frederick Mershimer, one of the world's foremost living practitioners of the medium. Georgetown University holds the largest institutional collection of Mershimer's work. Mershimer visited

Georgetown University in early April to give a demonstration of mezzotint engraving and for a special reception in Lauinger Library celebrating the publication of his *catalogue raisonné*, published by Stone + Press. The reception was co-hosted by the Library and the Washington Print Club.

See all images and text from the exhibit online at www.library.georgetown.edu/dept/speccoll/guac/mezzotints_08.

--LW&CR



> S. Arlent Edwards, *Good Night*, 1896.

INFREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

from the desk of the University Archivist

Is there a memorial on campus dedicated to all Georgetown students and alumni who lost their lives in World War I?

There was one. On June 16, 1919, the University, as part of its commencement ceremonies, dedicated 54 trees to alumni who had lost their lives in the service of their country during World War I. The trees, Lombardy poplars, were planted by the senior class close to the area now occupied by the Harbin Field/Multi Sport Facility. Raymond H. Reiss, B.S. 1919, gave the ceremony's opening address: *We, the graduating class of 1919, are assembled here today to give fitting testimony to the memory of fifty-four of Georgetown's sons. Many are the valiant deeds that Georgetown's sons have performed. These fifty-four have, however, eclipsed all the others in their devotion to God, their country, their Alma Mater. They have performed deeds which no material tribute can adequately appreciate; in memory alone, that spiritual organ, can we find any proportional thanksgiving. It is in the memory of these fifty-four men, Georgetown patriots, who made the supreme sacrifice, that these trees are reverently dedicated.*

By the middle of August 1919, 53 trees were thriving but one had died. Before that tree could be replaced, however, the University learned that one of the alumni who had been reported as killed in action, Joseph T. Kelleher, was alive. So only 53 memorial trees were, in fact, needed.

In 1927, the trees were moved to a spot behind what is now the White-Gravenor Building. None survive today. An exhibit in the Library's Gunlocke Room this winter, *From the Hilltop to the Marne*, commemorated the 88th anniversary of the conclusion of World War I.

When was the first Senior Class gift given and what was it?

The earliest class gift that the archivist can document was made by the Class of 1928. According to an article in *The Hoya*, December 12, 1927, it was a 90-yard stretch of board track to be placed on the Freshman Field, today the site of Lauinger Library. The article noted the advantages that such a track would bring: *Made of fir, a wood superior to the customary spruce, the straightaway will be much faster than the stretch of old track and it will be more durable . . . On the old track, sprinters had only a straightaway of 40 yards on which to practice. As most of the indoor races are nearly twice that distance, they inevitably "cracked" when they passed the 60-yard mark. But with a 90-yard practice stretch, they will be able to accustom themselves to the longer distance.*



> WWI memorial tree planting ceremony. The photo includes a reverse view of two large service flags, and, in the background, the U.S. Marine Band, which played at the ceremony. From the Georgetown University Archives.

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BLEAK HOUSE, continued

reading public was now well-accustomed to purchasing books in parts. The blue-green paper wrappers of *Pickwick* had become recognizably Dickens' color as opposed to, say, the canary yellow wrappers of Thackeray. The railway had made it possible for people to live in suburbs, and serialized fiction helped fill the enforced leisure time of commuting by train. *Bleak House* had a middle class audience, with advertisements for durables and patent medicines. All twenty parts could be had for a pound; for a guinea (one pound, one shilling), you could have them stripped of ads and bound. With little more than thirty pages an installment, Dickens controlled the pace of the narrative, and in so doing crafted the reader's experience of the story.

Although *Bleak House* had successful sales, it was not as popular in Dickens' lifetime as works like *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Its mixed critical reception is an indicator of Dickens' turn to more socially conscious and darker themes. *Bleak House* helps us understand what it must have been like to live in the midst of the lightning-fast changes of the nineteenth century, and with a relentless inundation of words, plastered everywhere. Like the Jellyby household, the world seemed to be spiraling toward chaos. We are infused with the palpable entropy of the novel. Undoubtedly, these very themes are why we read it today. And whether in paperback or in monthly parts, it resonates for us.

--KO'C

IAQs, continued

Is it true that the first scientific determination verifying the longitude of Washington, D.C., was made at Georgetown University?

Yes. In 1846, James Curley, S.J., calculated the longitude and latitude of the newly constructed Observatory on campus and, by triangulation, that of significant sites in Washington, including the White House and the Capitol. His calculations, made in collaboration with astronomers at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England and at the Naval Observatory in Washington, were based on observations of moon transits. They became accepted for the city of Washington, D.C. Decades later, after the laying of the transatlantic telegraph cable, the longitude of Washington was redetermined using telegraphic time signals. This redetermination showed Father Curley's observation of longitude to be accurate to within three tenths of a second.

Fr. Curley began teaching natural philosophy and mathematics at Georgetown in 1831. In 1841, he proposed the construction of an observatory on campus, drew up plans for it, and supervised the construction work. He taught at Georgetown until 1879 and died here on July 24, 1889. The Georgetown University Observatory—one of the first fixed astronomical observatories in the U.S.—was used by astronomers to study and map the skies until the closing of the University's Astronomy Department in 1971.

--LC



> James Curley, S.J., September 6, 1886. From the Georgetown University Archives.

SIXTH SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION SYMPOSIUM

The Georgetown Libraries held their Sixth Scholarly Communication Symposium in late March on the subject of Digital Scholarship in the University Tenure and Promotion Process. The panel of speakers was moderated by Wayne Davis, Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown, and included

- Stephen Nichols, Professor of Medieval French Literature, Johns Hopkins University,
- Martha Nell Smith, Professor of English, University of Maryland,
- Paula Petrik, Professor of History, George Mason University,
- Kent Norman, Professor of Psychology, University of Maryland.

The panel examined hesitancy and lack of ability within university departments and their research agendas to reward, accommodate, and evaluate the digital production of new knowledge and scholarly products. Of particular concern was the informal system of holding back younger researchers from committing all their energy to digital products, thus hindering prospective production of new knowledge. The potential of these new tools to transform the rigor and depth of humanities research stands in stark contrast to the conservatism of higher education's rewards system. Topics as diverse as medieval manuscript collections, female poets, historical landscapes, and the psychology of online learning and computer interactions were among examples used to illustrate the promise of and barriers to digital scholarship.



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