

Friends of the Library **Newsletter**

Swem Library • The College of William and Mary

Fall 2003 No. 30

Circular Window Installed As Part of Renovation



The showpiece of the Swem Library renovation project, an enormous circular window was installed in the front of the building on April 15, 2003. The window duplicates the rings and spokes design of the library logo and is centered in the building prow above the main entrance. Two smaller, complimentary, rectangular windows were placed on the floor below.

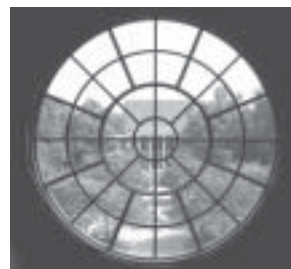
Funded by a donation from Janet ('49) and Cliff Foster of Evans, GA, the Swem Window is an adaptation of the round windows in William and Mary's historic Wren Building and symbolically links the past and the future. The College's first library was housed in the



Wren Building, the oldest academic building in continuous use in America.

The oversized window is 8 foot 4 inches in diameter and weights approximately

800 pounds. The frame is made of Honduran mahogany, a very weather-resistant wood. The window faces south and provides a view of a pedestrian intersection and a sundial that mark the center of the "new" campus. The room behind the window will be used as a library conference room.



The window's installation on the 15th marked the successful completion of a long and complicated process. The initial placement was delayed until additional structural steel could be added to the building's exterior wall to support the massive panes.

All three of the windows were received from the mill unfinished and had to be sent to a second company to have a matching stain applied. Another negotiation was necessary to coordinate the delivery of the finished windows and the installation work. Finally, four months later than originally planned, the window was positioned in its prominent spot above the front door.

Several business firms were involved in bringing the window to the library. Hanbury, Evans, Wright, Vlattas, & Co. of Norfolk, Virginia, the construction project architects,

prepared the design blueprints. Kolbe and Kolbe Millwork Company of Wausau, Wisconsin, manufactured the window. Gaston & Wyatt, Inc. of Charlottesville, Virginia, added the finishing stain and provided additional molding for the frame. East Coast Glass Systems out of Richmond, Virginia, handled the precarious job of putting the big window into place.

*Carol McAllister,
Bibliographer/Reference Librarian*



CWF and W&M Libraries Cooperate to Enhance Access to Collections

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library and the College of William and Mary Libraries have formed the Williamsburg Research Libraries Partnership. Through the partnership, the institutions now share an online catalog and an automated library management system.

Under the arrangement, Rockefeller Library installed the Sirsi Unicorn Library Management System. The Sirsi automation product has been used at the College for five years, so the equipment and expertise to run the system were in place. The Swem Library systems staff will manage the operation for the two organizations.

The merger combines resource records at the Rockefeller Library and the CW Folk Art Library with those of Swem Library, Marshall-Wythe Law Library, the Richard Bland College Library in Petersburg, VA, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Library in Gloucester, VA.

The creation of the joint database allows faculty, students, staff, and researchers throughout the country to electronically access the records of all the organizations by way of the Internet. The collections include many unique holdings, among them rare books, manuscripts, and other significant primary materials.

The combined systems will also improve circulation procedures by providing W&M affiliates with a simplified method of obtaining cards to check out CW materials and making it easier for CW employees to get cards to check out W&M library items.

The libraries' administrators praise the new partnership as an alliance that will have significant benefits for both organizations. James Horn, Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, commented, "Both the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library and the College of William and Mary Libraries consider this a wonderful opportunity to bring together the strengths of our two institutions. The

creation of a joint information system will make our resources much more readily accessible to the scholarly community, staff, students, and the general public alike. It is a relatively small investment with very large potential returns."

According to Connie Kearns McCarthy, Dean of University Libraries, "The College of William and Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation have a long established, common commitment to actively use the past to

create a better future. Such a cooperative project will benefit both organizations and position us to take advantage

of unique shared interests and potential opportunities.

The project completion date is October of 2003. You can visit the new Williamsburg Research Library Partnership website at swem.wm.edu/lion.



Save a Book!

Friends who would like to underwrite the cost of conserving items in our collections are welcome to do so. The following volumes are in need of conservation, and the estimated cost of preserving them is indicated.

- ◆ John Harris. *DESCRIPTION OF THE USES OF GLOBES AND THE ORRERY*. London 1731. This copy belonged to William Short who taught at the College from 1758-1764. Thomas Jefferson was one of his students. \$150
- ◆ Felix Anthony de Alvarado. *DIALOGOS INGLESES Y ESPANOLES*. London, 1719. This copy belonged to both Robert Dinwiddie, Virginia governor from 1751-1758 and also to Louis Hue Girardin who was appointed chair of modern languages at the College in 1803. \$150
- ◆ William Camden. *HISTORY OF THE MOST RENOWNED AND VICTORIOUS PRINCESS ELIZABETH*. London, 1675. This copy replaced one that was lost in the Wren Building fire in 1705. \$225
- ◆ Joseph Tournetfort. *A VOYAGE INTO THE LEVANT*. 3 volumes London 1741. This copy belonged to members of the Lee family who lived at "Greenspring", a plantation near Williamsburg, and later to St. George Tucker. \$450
- ◆ Anthony Benezet. *SOME HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF GUINEA*. Philadelphia, 1771. This copy belonged to Phillis Wheatley, the famous 18th-century poet and the first African American to publish a book. \$500

New Vice-Chair of the Friends Board Finds an Innovative Way to Support Swem Library

Sophie Lee '90, is the new vice-chairman of the Friends of the Library Board. Joining the board just two years ago, Sophie has already become one of the library's biggest cheerleaders.

"I joined the library board two years ago and what has surprised me most about working with the board is how involved and interested everyone is with the future growth and enrichment of Swem...we all have the same goal in mind but we come from such different backgrounds."

Ultimately, Sophie believes it is the affection that the board holds for the College that binds them to the idea of promoting and fostering Swem Library.

"I think the new addition to the building is absolutely fantastic. Swem has emerged as the place where students can work in an environment that is technologically and academically conducive to study and growth. The space has become one that William and Mary students and staff can be proud..."

Like others on the board, Sophie feels libraries are critical assets in a community.

"Where else but at a library can you find or have access to all you need to know on any given subject with people who can help you navigate through that sometimes daunting task of finding exactly what you need. Libraries are integral parts of communities. For example, my neighborhood

library has sections of Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Japanese, Hispanic and Arabic books. There are book discussions and film lectures on Asian and Hispanic films as well as American literature."

Sophie says she is proud to be able to play a role in helping the College build a campus where academic goals can be accomplished and has begun urging her friends to support their own alma maters.

"I think about what is going on with state-funded colleges and universities in Virginia today, and the difficulties these institutions are facing in such challenging financial times, and it troubles me. It makes me think – how are these schools going to promote higher education and enrich a generation when they themselves are in fiscal crisis? How can we help retain what makes these colleges so special?"

However, Sophie has done more than just discuss the funding of higher education with her friends and family. She has set-up an endowment for the library that will support it for generations to come.

"The Lee-Bracken Endowment is a collaborative effort of myself, my father – Matthew Lee, and Mary Beth Bracken – a fellow graduate. We decided that we wanted to contribute to the College. We decided that setting up an endowment that would benefit Swem would be the best way for us to give a gift that we knew would

continue beyond the initial donation. When I learned of the Information Commons at Swem it seemed like a good match. My father and I work in the Information Technology field and the idea of giving to that area and helping the library become technologically sound would be ideal. Mary Beth liked the idea of giving a gift that would keep giving and suggested pooling our money to make the endowment a reality."

Although she is a recent graduate of the College of William and Mary, Sophie has created an innovative approach to supporting the school financially that could serve as a model for other graduates and interested donors. Her unique approach to philanthropy, however, is typical of William and Mary students who graduate from the College and then choose to give back to it what they have been given. For more information about the Lee-Bracken Endowment, contact Catherine Fraser in the Swem Development office at 757-221-7779



Elaine Cline believes libraries are great gifts...

Elaine Cline '68 is the assistant director of the District of Columbia Public Library in Washington and one of the newest members of the Swem Friends of the Library Board. Elaine worked at Swem Library when she was a student at William and Mary and says this influenced her decision to go to library school after graduation. Elaine believes that libraries are great gifts.

"I think libraries of all kinds are one of the great contributions to America...they are such a democratizing tool and they level the playing field for access to information. *Ralph Nader's interest in helping to revitalize the DC Public Library after reading about the poor condition of our buildings is an illustration of the importance that Americans place on their libraries.* "

She sees Swem and libraries like it as places where conversations take place.

"When Swem first opened, Wednesday nights were "date nights, so if you didn't have a date on Wednesdays, that's where you studied, both males and females. Libraries on campuses have always served that social function. Conversations can also take place there between faculty and students. It's a place where everybody goes. You can have a conversation with someone who wrote a book 300 years ago, or someone who wrote a magazine article a month ago. This conversation paradigm is well-known among librarians and frequently quoted."

She met her husband, Bob, during her sophomore year at William and Mary when they were both orientation leaders. They married after graduation in June. There is also a William and Mary tradition in Elaine's family. Her older sister, *Fredna Fuquay '64*, attended the College as well.

Elaine has also worked for academic libraries, and while she enjoys working with public libraries, she misses talking with college students.

"My big deprivation right now is the lack of college students. I think if you're a librarian your real job is providing library services even if you're working in administration in a public library. I really enjoyed interacting with college students."

Like many William and Mary graduates, Elaine feels the College is special. She especially liked the small class sizes and particularly remembers eight or ten of her fellow students sitting around a table in a classroom with a professor reading the biography of Malcolm X,

something she feels was an incredible educational experience. She said many of her classmates are still very good friends.

She was drawn to the library board because of her love for libraries and because of her belief that a good library is crucial to the success of a college. She said a library enriches students and faculty, especially younger faculty who are under a great deal of pressure to research and publish.

"I have always kept up with Swem...not everyone understands that gifts to the library are enduring and come back to you 100 fold. It's not a black hole that just warehouses information, and today libraries are asked to perform both traditional roles and provide access to information technology, which is a double whammy..."

Elaine has two daughters. Melissa is a foreign service officer in Lagos, Nigeria, and Julia is an attorney living in San Diego. Julia met her husband at a library, which seems appropriate considering Elaine's love for them.



From the Dean

The beginning of an academic year brings excitement, new energy, and of course, new faces to campus. The staff of Swem Library is eager to welcome you and assist you with the challenges of a new academic year. It is exciting to be in the final phase of our major construction project, which began in the spring of 1999. However, this year will still be a year of change for the library. As the year progresses, renovated floors of the old building will become available, starting with the third floor in the fall. Additionally, over the winter recess, all of the books will be moved to their permanent location in the stacks on the second and third floors. Then, in spring 2004, the first floor Information Commons will open. The second and third floors will have bright pleasant spaces for study, "wired" group studies, and workstations distributed throughout the floors. We will also continue to offer our popular laptop check-out service, increasing the loan period from two hours to four hours.

For our public programs this year, we will begin with a new Swem Speakers Series. Speaker Newt Gingrich will be our first lecturer. He is the co-author of *Gettysburg, a Civil War novel*. He will speak Saturday, September 20th. Details will be forthcoming. Then on Thursday, November 20th, we will welcome Gail Paster, named Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library in July 2002. Dr. Paster is a Shakespeare scholar who has spent many years as a Folger researcher and who will talk about the treasures of the Library.

Finally, as we complete the renovation, we will open exhibit space in the rotundas on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors. We will have well-designed exhibit cases to showcase collections, highlight student projects and artwork, and feature traveling exhibits.

Come share our excitement as we open our new space. As we move our collections and services to their new locations, we invite your comments and suggestions. We want our new space to serve you well. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Connie Kearns McCarthy, Dean,
University Libraries*