

Friends of the Library

Newsletter

Swem Library • The College of William and Mary

Spring 2003 No. 29



From the Dean

The 2002-2003 academic year will be remem-

bered by Swem Library staff as one of the most challenging in the library's history. State budget cuts meant acquisitions and staff cuts for Swem; repairs to the older wing of the library resulted in unforeseen construction problems, further delaying the completion of the library's renovation and expansion; and one of Swem's major journal subscription agents filed for bankruptcy before placing paid subscription orders for 2003!

Nonetheless, the library staff has continued to serve students, faculty, and community patrons without interruption. Additionally, after years of being designated the "worst place to study on the William and Mary campus," an article in a February 2003 edition of the *Flat Hat* described Swem Library as the "best place to study on campus" and the "best renovation on campus."

The staff is also proud to announce the creation of several new services for library patrons. We initiated a partnership with Colonial Williamsburg to integrate our catalogs and

provide the academic world with a much enriched database. We recently implemented a new interlibrary loan service to provide users with up-to-date status of their requests and an option to receive articles in electronic format, as well.

Meanwhile, the staff is eagerly awaiting the placement of the large Wren win-

dow, the new logo of Swem Library, in the front of the building on the third floor. We believe this beautiful new

window epitomizes the goal of the renovation and expansion, which is to create a beautiful new library for a new century.

We look forward to serving you and invite you to stop by and tour our new building.

Connie Kearns McCarthy
Dean of University Libraries



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.

- ◆ Robert Knox. *AN HISTORICAL RELATION OF THE ISLAND OF CEYLON* (1681). An early account of what is now Sri Lanka. This copy replaces one that was lost in the fire in the Wren Building in 1705 which destroyed the College's first library collection. Needs a full leather binding. \$500
- ◆ James Monroe. *VIEW OF THE CONDUCT OF THE EXECUTIVE IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES* (1797). The only book written by Monroe, it is a defense of his service as Minister to France. Front cover needs to be reattached. \$225
- ◆ Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu. *THE SPIRIT OF LAWS* (1778). John Marshall's copy of this famous 18th-century work on government. Needs a full leather binding. \$400
- ◆ Mary Randolph. *THE VIRGINIA HOUSE-WIFE* (1824). This work is widely regarded as the first Southern cookbook. Needs a full leather binding. \$400

Williamsburg Account Book Acquired

In November 2002, the library acquired a manuscript account book kept in Williamsburg in 1872 and 1873 by Leonard Henley, Jr. Henley was both a storekeeper and a druggist. The 160-page volume lists not only merchandise sold in his store but also the names of individuals for whom prescriptions were filled.

Since there are no Williamsburg city directories for the 1870s, this volume now makes it possible to identify some of the people who lived here in the eighth decade of the nineteenth century.

The store stood on Duke of Gloucester Street close to where the Charlton House stands today.

Month	Date	Description	Value	Total
Sept	10 th	Pres. for Alex Preston Sr.	.30	
Do		Pres. for Miss Rosa Johnson	.40	
Dec	6 th	Pres. for Miss Brown	.75	
"	14 th	Pres. for Miss Rosa Johnson	.60	
"	16 th	Pres. for Mrs. Garrett - Prescrip.	.50	not finished
"	14 th	Pres. for Miss Brown	.75	
"	23 rd	Pres. for Miss Brown	.50	4.90
Jan	10 th	Pres. for Rosa Johnson	.50	
"	11 th	Pres. for Rosa Johnson	.30	
"	13 th	Pres. for Miss Brown	.40	
"	14 th	Pres. for Miss Brown	1.00	
"	"	Pres. for Miss Brown	.25	
"	"	Pres. for Miss Brown	.40	
"	16 th	Pres. for Miss Brown	.50	
"	29 th	Pres. 379 - Alex Preston	.75	
March	25 th	Pres. 313 - Mary Nelson	.40	
May				
June	4 th	Pres. 715 - Miss Rosa Johnson	.20	
"	"	Pres. 717 - " " "	.25	
"	5 th	Pres. 723 - " " "	.20	

Swem Library Crucial Part of Campaign for William and Mary

Highlighting the longstanding role private giving has played in the life of Swem Library, Dean Connie McCarthy is working to raise \$15 million in private funds during the Campaign for William and Mary. Fundraising priorities include:

Collections and Services

Swem Library provides traditional materials as well as access to electronic resources in support of William and Mary's academic mission. To keep up with demand and rising costs, the library must raise funds to provide for general collection support and to establish endowments to provide sustaining funds for journals, books, and digital resources.

Preservation

The College is truly fortunate to possess such rich and varied collections and takes seriously its role as trusted steward of these irreplace-

able artifacts. Given the breadth and depth of Swem's collections, its conservation needs are considerable. In fact, when an internationally known preservationist evaluated the library's Special Collections, he estimated that approximately 50 percent of its rare books need attention.

Technology

Each new class comes to campus more technologically savvy than the last, and every year more professors incorporate multi-media and technology into the curriculum. The renovated Swem Library will highlight technology, offering an expan-

sive "Information Commons" area dedicated to serving the IT needs of students and faculty, as well as an innovative "Media Studio" where users can explore new technologies and learn new techniques.

Special Collections

Endowments in support of Special Collections—which includes manuscripts and rare books, university archives and the Warren E. Burger Collection—will fund and enhance programs, exhibits, services, and staffing.

Swem is a library worthy of your support. To find out more, please contact Connie McCarthy at 757-221-3055.

Catherine Fraser is New Development Director

In conjunction with the formal kick-off of the Campaign for William and Mary, Swem Library has hired its first full-time development officer. Catherine Fraser, the new Director of Development, began her fundraising duties on January 2, 2003. She will work to meet the library's campaign goal of 15 million dollars, heighten the awareness of Swem and its holdings, and serve as the liaison for the Friends of the Library Board of Directors.

Development work is not new for Fraser. She comes to William and

Mary from Centenary College in Louisiana where she was the Director of Major Gifts. She began her career as an on-air reporter in commercial broadcasting and then moved into public radio broadcasting. She was the CEO of Red River Public Radio, a network of public radio stations in Shreveport, Louisiana. During that time, she was elected to serve on the National Public Radio Board of Directors, headquartered in Washington, DC, where she received extensive development training. She

has also worked for the University of Tulsa.

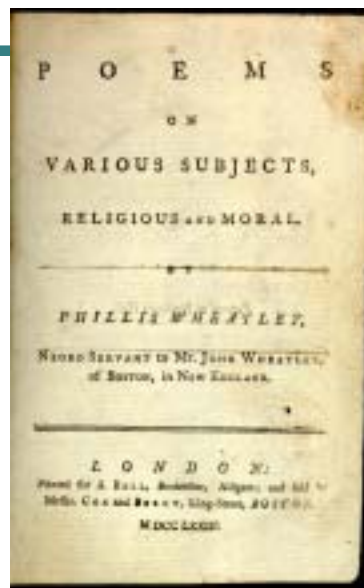
As Fraser explains, she chose to work at William and Mary for two reasons, "its proximity to Washington, DC, where I still have many friends from my NPR days, and because of Connie McCarthy. [Dean of University Libraries] I immediately liked her approach to development work and I was very impressed with her vision for the library."

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Swem Library Impacts Lives

When Barbara Pitts Miller learned that Swem Library's collection of African American artifacts included letters from former Virginia slaves asking for their freedom, as well as an original book of poetry by former slave and poet, Phillis Wheatley, she was ecstatic. Miller's mother is a retired school teacher who taught her family African American history. During the summer months, the family would take camping trips around the country where they would visit notable sites in American history. Miller says she remembers seeing the Phillis Wheatley YWCA in St. Louis, Missouri, and believes she began learning more about Wheatley at that point. She even dressed-up as the poet when her Springfield, Missouri high school, American Literature Class held a banquet honoring their favorite writers one year. Unfortunately, as the only African American student in the class, Miller had to explain Wheatley's history to her classmates.

Miller had worked in the College's office of planned gifts for several years, but it was not until she visited retired curator Margaret Cook that she learned the extent of Swem's treasures, and she quickly set a date to return to examine the materials in detail. She says that holding Wheatley's book of poetry in her hands was one of the most thrilling moments of her life, and she quickly called her mother to share the experience with her. It was not long before her mother was boarding a plane to Virginia to



view the artifacts for herself. Shortly thereafter, the staff located a book in the collection that had been owned by Wheatley and includes her signature on the title page.

Through her work in planned gifts, Miller hopes to work with the library staff to put together a funding proposal to ensure that the artifacts are preserved for generations to come. She believes that these remnants of history should serve as a reminder of what happened to African Americans on our shores hundreds of years ago.

Miller adds, "Wheatley's intelligence was identified by her owner who helped her to become educated. Her story proves that there were European Americans and African Americans who were willing to work together. Even though she (Wheatley) still died poor, she died free, and that's a beautiful story...and it's a true story."

Catherine Fraser, Director of Development

Friends Board Member Works to Heighten Awareness of Swem Library

Friends of the Library Board member Ron Monark compares his student years at the College to the television sitcom, *Happy Days*. “I went to college from 1957 until 1961 and it was just a great time to go to school...I have virtually all good memories of that era.”

Those good feelings for the College are evident too. Monark served seven years on the College’s Endowment Association Board, including three years as chairman. He also played a key role in his 40th reunion celebration and is co-chair of this year’s West Coast Auction.

However, Monark’s memories of the “old” Swem Library are not as positive. “My recollection is that the library was this teeny tiny, darkly-lit place...I was gone for 28 years, and when I

came back, I was very impressed with the ‘new’ building. Unfortunately, the library was older than I thought which has led to the major renovation and expansion occurring today.”

As a member of the Friends board, Monark has high aspirations for himself and the board. “First, I’d like to raise awareness of the library. It’s more important in some ways than a regular department because it impacts all departments on campus, and we need to get folks to understand its needs and to solicit support for it. We’re going into a new campaign that has ambitious goals for Swem built into it. I’d like to see us come out of this campaign with a broader base of support for the library.”

Hard work is nothing new to Monark. He comes from a very large family but

was the first person on either side of his family to attend college. He says he felt lucky to be able to get a scholarship to attend school and also felt fortunate to have a job working in the dining hall to help with other college expenses.

Monark agrees with President Tim Sullivan that a great university requires a great faculty, great students, and an excellent library. “I’ve been very impressed with the dedication the College has shown for the growth of the library, which I now believe is the intellectual center of the College.”

Monark lives in Solana Beach, California, and is president and chairman of Mitchell International. He and his wife, Deborah, have a daughter, Lauren.

Catherine Fraser, Director of Development

Development Director *continued from page 3*

Fraser has been busy since she moved into her office on the first floor of the library. She has been attending meetings with the campus development staff, introducing herself to alumni and potential donors, and traveling to fundraising events. On February 19th, she coordinated an informational session for library employees called “Making the Case for Swem.”

She was also a panel participant speaking about library fundraising techniques at a March workshop sponsored by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries in Charleston, SC. Presently, she is preparing materials for the Friends of the Library Board annual spring meeting and dinner. She is a new member of the library Publications Committee and has begun revising several of the library’s informational brochures.

When asked what she likes about her job, Fraser responded “the people—both the donors I meet and the people with whom I work. Many of the donors I’ve met through pre-

vious positions have become lifelong friends.”

Fraser is assisted by Glenda Page who provides administrative support to both the Director of Development and the library Dean. She helps to coordinate meetings and special events and manages fundraising records and donor correspondence.

Carol McAllister, Bibliographer/Reference Librarian

Friends of the Library Newsletter

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