From the Director

Robin Wagner, Director, Musselman Library

Last year, to punctuate the end of our 30th year celebrations, we asked faculty, staff and alumni to identify a College treasure housed in the library, and tell us about it. The result is a handsome volume, *Thirty Treasures, Thirty Years*. The 30 essays contained in this volume represent a wide sampling of treasures, ranging from a worn copy of the *New England Primer* to an ornate desk owned by the great naturalist and explorer, Alexander von Humbolt.

What makes something a treasure? The dictionary definition suggests wealth or the accumulation of riches, something of great worth or value. To be sure, the library owns valuable books and other items. For example, we own a copy of the *Declaration of Independence* in German, one of two known copies. But a treasure need not carry a high price tag.

Sometimes an item is valued simply because it is old. The library collection includes many antique Bibles. Our oldest, hand illuminated and printed in Venice, dates from 1475. The library also owns a 1657 copy of Euclid’s *Elements*—a book that everyone who learned geometry since 300 BC consulted. We have five different editions of Foxe’s *Book of Martyrs*, including one beautifully preserved 1684 edition and many well-worn first editions of literary works.

There is often a personal connection that confers treasured status. One contributor writes about his favorite Gettysburg professor and of discovering her novella, *Address Unknown*, in the library stacks. Forty years later he would produce it on stage. Another professor treasures the original Pennsylvania Hall drawings because he lived in Old Dorm as a student.

An item may also be treasure-worthy because of its value as a teaching tool. One professor brings her Atlantic World class to Special Collections every year to examine the Stuckenberg Map collection. Another writes about teaching with our collection of ancient Chinese ritual objects. A third treasures College

(continues on pg. 3)

Alumni Couple Establishes Summer Internship

The library is excited to announce a new internship opportunity for Gettysburg College students. Thanks to the generosity of Ron ’72 and Diane Werley Smith ’73, a full-time, 10-week summer intern experience will be available in Special Collections starting in 2012.

The intern will be introduced to a variety of archival skills such as processing collections, answering research questions, repairing and conserving books, working on digital projects, and preparing exhibits.

Diane’s interest in an internship emerged a few years ago. She toured Special Collections, picked up a copy of the newsletter, became a Friend of the Library and read about the two existing student internships. She and Ron contributed to those internships and then decided that they wanted to fund an intern themselves. They came up with the idea of a focused summer experience, without the distractions of school work and term papers.

When asked about her interest in libraries, Diane said it all started at Gettysburg
FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY
Alumni Couple Establish Summer Internship

(continued from pg. 1)

College. She began her studies in the fall of 1969 with the idea that she would major in English and teach. During her sophomore year her father lost his job and she had to find employment. She went to work in Schmucker Library, shelving books and fetching bound periodicals, which were kept in closed stacks in the library basement. "Students had to turn in a request for a magazine and I would be the one to go down in the dark, damp basement to retrieve the issues. Talk about spooky! I worried about spiders and bats and whether anyone would come down to look for me if I never returned!"

After graduation Diane married her college sweetheart, Ron, and moved to Minnesota where he was a graduate student and she rotated among a number of the University of Minnesota’s libraries—medical, forestry, fish and wildlife, plant pathology and biochemistry. "Needless to say, I was glad for the biology classes I had taken at Gettysburg!" she said.

She began her coursework in library science at Minnesota and finished at San Jose State when she and Ron relocated to California. Diane specialized in corporate librarianship; she worked at the National Semiconductor Corporation helping science and engineering employees with their information needs. "I had training in computerized data base searching, which at that time, was done by librarians," she mused. "This was before personal computers were everywhere and way before the Internet!"

With the arrival of children Diane changed focus, working in a community college library and later volunteering in school libraries. "Growing up, my little town did not have a public library," Diane reflected. "My elementary school did not have a library. It was my student assistant part-time job at Schmucker

Library that launched me into a career that I would not even have considered without that work exposure and experience."

"It was fortunate that I did not land a teaching position when I graduated," she continued. "I found my niche in the world of libraries and library research. I was able to be true to my calling to be an educator. Instead of a classroom, my venue became libraries. Instead of working with a room full of learners, I helped people one-on-one to find the information they needed for their schoolwork, for their jobs, for their lives."

The internship, while established in Diane’s name, is also a reflection of Ron’s intellectual interests. After a long career at Intel he retired and now has time to pursue his love of history and genealogy. Diane noted his appreciation for the many source documents now available online. "He is particularly excited about your ‘GettDigital’ projects, preserving and making original source materials at the library available to researchers worldwide."

Pages From the Past

Retired College registrar and archives sleuth, Ron Couchman, stumbled upon an 1858 student publication, Stray Leaves, in Special Collections. In addition to poetry, the publication contained advice to students. Some choice bits included:
- If you intend to be a lady’s man, never join in play at ball or like exercise, else your delicate hands will become soiled and rough.
- Before visiting the sex, feminine, perfume your hair with essence of cinnamon, and if your chum has a gold watch, borrow it, as it will be a great advantage to your person.
- The true mark of a genius consist in wearing glasses, never combing your hair, not tying your tie, and torn clothes.
- To procure the good will of the Professors, buy their sons candy.
- Never visit more than one lady during your college course.
- Go to the Post Office five times during the day, taking with you several old letters and newspapers, which, on leaving the office, you should display, wherewith you may cause the people to believe you are in reality a remarkable personage.
- If you wish to get a wife before you graduate, plead sickness during a session and have frequent disputes with the Faculty, which will fully justify you in seeking a more congenial sphere of life.
Middle East Series Proves Successful

“Conflict and Resistance in the Middle East,” the reading, film and lecture series cosponsored by Musselman Library continued this spring with the emphasis shifting from Iraq to Palestine. This timely series has proven extremely popular drawing a range of participants from the campus and surrounding community.

“It has been a wonderful learning experience for everyone involved,” says Librarian Janelle Wertzberger, a program organizer. “I am delighted by the interesting discussions that have been generated and people’s desire to learn even more.”

The Palestine component of the program began on January 30th and runs until April 19th. “The Palestinian-Israeli conflict seems to be one of the most intractable in contemporary times,” explains Professor Amy Young Evrard, one of the program’s planners. “The news media bombard us with coverage of numerous parties debating certain solutions yet never finding consensus. Our events will help sort through some of this rhetoric by analyzing media coverage; examining peaceful solutions offered by scholars, NGO practitioners and civil society leaders; and exploring various Palestinian and other views of the conflict through films and books.”

The first event in late January, the film screening and discussion of “Live from Bethlehem” with the filmmaker, Professor Matt Sienkiewicz, drew over 70 attendees. Other films included “Budrus” on March 7 and “Promises” on March 22. After each screening, a faculty member led a short discussion about the film.

The two books chosen were: Hello Everybody!: One Journalist’s Search for Truth in the Middle East (also known as People Like Us: Misrepresenting the Middle East) by Joris Luyendijk and Mornings in Jenin: A Novel by Susan Abulhawa. On April 19, Abulhawa will visit campus for a public lecture and book signing. These books are available for purchase at a 15 percent discount at the College Bookstore.

In addition to the lecture by Abulhawa, there was a discussion on the “Two-State Solution” by Hussein Ibish, senior fellow at the American Task Force on Palestine on February 9. Middle East scholar and author, Stephen Zunes, visited campus on March 1 to lecture on “Civil Insurrections, U.S. Foreign Policy, and the Future of the Middle East.”

The Conflict and Resistance in the Middle East series is sponsored by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and cosponsored by Gettysburg College. For more information visit www.gettysburg.edu/library or call (717) 337-6600.

From the Director (continued from page 1)

photographs, particularly the aerial views of the athletic fields, and uses them to explore the concept of competition. Another professor sends her students on a “treasure” hunt in the library to find the “Samurai Dude,” which turns out to be a case displaying traditional Japanese armor.

In this issue you will read a related story about students in an Art and Public Policy class who were able to handle rare objects in Special Collections and curate a gallery exhibit (see pages 8-11).

Finally, some items are treasures because Gettysburg is at the heart of the story. There are many such examples in this volume: George Leo Frankenstein’s paintings of the Gettysburg Battlefield right after the war, Michael Jacobs’ battle account, Notes on the Rebel Invasion, the correspondence of Dwight D. Eisenhower, who retired here after his presidency, and famous baseball pitcher Eddie Plank’s baseball.

In compiling this volume, it was difficult to narrow the field and select just 30 treasures. Musselman Library is chock-full of remarkable books, manuscripts and objects that help us to understand our past and appreciate our present. Check out Research Reflections on page 7 where historian Timothy Shannon shares some thoughts about his favorite Musselman treasure.

You can purchase your own copy of Thirty Treasures, Thirty Years by completing the form at the end of this newsletter or contacting Miranda Wisor at 717-337-6604.
The library has purchased more than a dozen rare maps and illustrations of the Middle and Far East (ca. 1600s-1700s), with the help of Friends and a grant by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Shown here is a detail from a map of the Arabian Gulf covering the journeys of Scottish explorer James Bruce’s travels to discover the source of the Nile. Our copy is circa 1790 and is unique to our map collection for two reasons -- it is our only map to feature caravan routes for those travelling by camel, and at 100 words, it has the longest title in our collection:

To the King, this map containing a chart of the Arabian Gulf with its Egyptian, Ethiopian and Arabian coasts, from Suez to Bab el Mandeb, a journey through Abyssinia to Gondar, its capital, from thence to the source of the Nile, the whole of that river from its source to the Mediterranean : now first laid down from astronomical observations of all those points necessary to ascertain the form of its course, the return by Sennaar and the great desert of Nubia and Beja all laid down by actual survey with the largest and most perfect instruments now in use.

At 4 p.m., Monday, April 16, 2012 the College will dedicate a historical marker in Thaddeus Stevens’ honor by Stevens Hall on Carlisle Street in celebration of his 220th birthday. Stevens was a champion of education and equality and played an important role in the history of the College.

The dedication will be followed by a reception at Musselman Library’s patio (in case of inclement weather it will be in Weidensall Hall). This is also the official opening of a Thaddeus Stevens exhibit in Special Collections and guided tours of the exhibit will be offered.

“The items in the exhibit come from a variety of collections,” says Lisa McNamee, an exhibit organizer. “All are being displayed at Gettysburg College because Thaddeus Stevens provided the land for the central area of campus where Penn Hall stands and was also instrumental in gaining the state funding of $18,000 to erect the College’s first building.”

Friends Help Purchase Rare Maps

Exhibited items are from the collections of: Gettysburg College, Adams County Historical Society, Lancaster Historical Society, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, the Thaddeus Stevens Society, Caledonia State Park, and private collectors. Some of the more unique items include Steven’s clubfoot boot, wig (shown below), writing desk/chair, a charcoal iron stove from his Iron Furnace, and original portraits. For information on this and other Sesquicentennial events visit www.gettysburg.edu/civilwar2013.
Librarian Builds Middle East Studies Collection

In 2010, when Gettysburg College received an Andrew T. Mellon Foundation grant to establish academic programs in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (MEIS), $63,000 was appropriated to the library for material development. A librarian would need to work closely with the faculty to purchase books, subscribe to databases, and provide access to Arabic/ Middle East satellite television broadcasts. Jeremy Garskof, acquisitions assistant, was the perfect person for the job.

Garskof, who is finishing a masters’ degree in library science, studied modern Arabic for four years and completed graduate coursework in Arabic calligraphy and literature. He has a minor in Middle Eastern Studies and in graduate school his secondary focus was on crypto-Judaism and Islam in Christian Spain during the Inquisition.

“I am helping select materials that enhance Arabic language acquisition among students, support curricular needs and faculty research, and promote cultural understanding and pluralism,” explains Garskof. He is working closely with Professor Abdulkareem Ramadan to develop the Arabic language collection and Professor Karen Pinto to acquire books on Afghanistan, the Indian subcontinent and Turkey (the Ottoman Empire).

Garskof is also working with vendors to acquire the database and electronic book collections. “We are considering purchasing the seminal works, such as the Encyclopedia of Islam and Encyclopedia Islamica,” he says. “We are also working with antiquarian book and ephemera dealers to procure rare and primary source materials.”

He has also been asked to help review options for Arabic television, which will support students’ language skills and cultural exposure by giving them access movies and dramas, music, and news programming.

This acquisition project will run through 2014.

Later, in the wee hours during finals week, students took a break from studying to transform the “G” into a smiley face! (Photo by Jim Hale.)

Librarians Lina Terjesen ’06 and Kayla Lenkner ’08 won the College’s “G” challenge by creating an orange and blue Post-It note mosaic G in the Harner Room Window in Musselman Library. (Photo by Miranda Wisor ’12.)
Spring Exhibits

This semester’s main floor exhibits celebrate international culture and student studies abroad in the Middle East and Latin America. There are photographs and memorabilia from students who recently studied in the Middle East and in Nicaragua. In addition, the International Club has an exhibit focusing on Latin America. Assorted photographs reflecting the “Colors of Singapore” continue as the stairwell exhibit.

More photos grace the Browsing Room walls where the top entries from the College’s 2011 Photo of the Day contest are featured.

“I took this picture while on tour with the Gettysburg College Choir in Nicaragua. We were at Las Tias, and before singing for them, a bunch of the girls who attended the after school program danced for us. The dresses they wore were stunning.” Jenny Carrington ’12, Photo of the Day finalist

Library to Host National Exhibit of Lincoln in 2013

Musselman Library is one of 50 libraries nationwide selected to host the American Library Association’s traveling exhibit “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War.” It will open in late February 2013 for a six week run. The exhibit examines how President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War—the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties.

“We are honored to have been chosen to host this exhibit, especially as Gettysburg commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg next year,” says Library Director Robin Wagner.

The exhibit is composed of informative panels featuring photographic reproductions of original documents, including a draft of Lincoln’s first inaugural speech, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment. The library will offer related exhibits and programs. All events will be free and open to the public. Watch for more information in our next newsletter.

Young Women’s Leadership Conference

Librarians recently hosted another successful Young Women’s Leadership Conference, mixing fun and facts for Adams County seventh graders. “Weird and gross” items from Special Collections are always a big hit, as was getting to make their own bookmarks. In this photo students enjoy a library trivia game supervised by staffer Gale Baker. They learned about everything from the banning of books to “there are more public libraries than McDonalds.”
By Timothy Shannon, Department of History

Gettysburg is of course famous for the American Civil War, and it is not surprising that many of Musselman Library’s treasures are associated with that conflict. But to an early American historian such as myself, the Civil War is barely removed from current events. So when I arrived at Gettysburg College in 1996, I went digging in Special Collections to find something else I could use with my students.

To my delight, I found that the College had two touchstones of early American literature at my disposal: Poor Richard’s Almanack (editions from 1753 and 1759) and the New-England Primer (editions from 1805 and 1807). These items, however, were in extremely fragile condition, and I knew that repeated use of them by students would reduce them to tatters. Thanks to the efforts of staff in Special Collections and Instructional Technology, I was able to create a web site that featured scanned images of the items, page by page. My students in History 341: Colonial America have been working with them ever since.

The New England Primer was the most widely used textbook for teaching children their letters and their catechism in early America. Historians estimate that over six million copies of it were printed between 1690 and 1850. Despite its geographically specific name, it found its way throughout the colonies and nation, a testament to the shared Protestant culture of this era. And make no mistake, the New England Primer was all about being a good Protestant. Why else did a child need to learn to read, if not to study and comprehend the Bible? Even the woodcuts and rhyming couplets used to teach the alphabet drove home fundamental tenets of the faith:

A: In Adam’s fall, We sinned all
B: Thy life to mend, This Book [the Bible] attend
I: Job feels the rod, Yet blesses God

And my favorite:
F: The idle Fool, Is whipt at School

Students can begin to comprehend a strange but also oddly familiar world by spending some time flipping through these pages. The praises and admonitions dealt out in “Description of a Good Boy,” “Description of a Bad Boy,” “The Good Girl,” and “The Naughty Girls” have their modern equivalents in the pages of Highlights magazine, although I doubt that that modern bastion of children’s literature chastises its wayward readers by calling them “blockheads” and “saucy sluts.” The best part of the 1807 edition of the New England Primer that we have in Special Collections, however, is this bit of marginalia written in a careful hand:

Nancy Butler’s Primer
Steal not this Book, for Fear of Shame
For hear [sic] you see the owners name
Steal not this Book my honest Friend
For fear the gallows will be Your end
And in God’s Judgment he will say
Where is that Book You stole away

Wherever Nancy Butler is now, I hope she knows that her New England Primer is in good hands.

Excerpt from Thirty Treasures, Thirty Years: Stories from the Musselman Library Collection.
Special Collections helped students combine their study of art and history into an interesting exhibit in the College’s Schmucker Art Gallery last fall, as well as a Friends-sponsored lecture this spring.

Students in a new course, “Art and Public Policy,” were to investigate how social, ethical and political issues impacted art in the 19th - 21st centuries. “Public policies frequently affect the creation and presentation of artwork, and artists produce works that transform the social world,” explains their professor and Schmucker Art Gallery Director Shannon Egan.

With support from the I.W. Foundation Center for Public Policy, Egan was able to take her students to the Gettysburg Battlefield, various Washington, DC museums and galleries. She also brought them to Special Collections. “I wanted them to work with historical objects with political significance and also to learn about exhibition design, museum studies and how to engage the public in their research,” she says.

Archivists Carolyn Sautter, Chris Ameduri and Catherine Perry prepared for the class by finding a range of primary source materials with an artistic representation of a political theme. The items covered a range of decades and formats, from a Chinese binding shoe to a Dwight Eisenhower campaign button to 1960s peace and political pins. Egan then randomly assigned each student to an artifact which they had to “contextualize historically, politically, and art-historically.”

Once completed, the art and artifacts were exhibited in the Gallery from November 19 – December 10, 2011.

This March, three of the students (Emily Francisco ’14, Francesco DeBiaisco ’12 and Molly Reynolds ’14) presented their findings at a Friends’ event.

For some, this was their first time in Special Collections, but it won’t be their last. Says Francesca DeBiaisco, “It was like going back in history, the way the articles were written and being able to touch the browning sheets of paper. Carolyn [Sautter, director of Special Collections] is so cool. She brainstormed so much with each of us and gave us so many different viewpoints that we hadn’t thought of before.”

Says Egan, “The staff gave us an incredible presentation about the care and handling of objects, preservation and conservation, and the nature and scope of the collections. This behind-the-scenes tour for the students was invaluable for their learning not only about their chosen objects and particular research interests, but also about museum studies more broadly.”
World’s Fair, Chicago 1933, Gift of Michael Hobor ’69

My eye was really drawn to the tiny futuristic logo in the lower right corner with a curving, planetary swoop, reading “1933 A Century of Progress, Chicago.” After researching more about the World’s Fair in general, I narrowed my scope to the reasons behind the decision to host in Chicago that year.

I had some preconceived notions about the era of the Great Depression, but as I began investigating, I learned more about the time period and why Chicago wanted to host this event. These exhibitions of scientific discoveries instilled a sense of pride and showed the average family how to make their lives better, save money, and more. The Fair increased public optimism during a time when people were losing jobs and it gave them hope for a better future.

Paradoxically, the pamphlet itself shows a connection with the past. It was an information supplement to the Battle of Gettysburg cyclorama located in the Fair’s Midway, which also housed more eccentric entertainment like a Freak Show and Ripley’s Odditorium. Even so, the cyclorama itself was very scientific, recreating a dramatic historic scene as a 360-degree, three-dimensional panorama.

Cycloramas were very much in fashion during the period and were a merging of art, history and a bit of technology. Paintings on huge canvases were enclosed in a rotunda, with the canvas seams obscured by props and artifacts. French artist Paul Philippoteaux illustrated the pamphlet; he was also the artist behind the Gettysburg cycloramas. He completed four versions of the battle in the 1880s; each was about 50 feet tall and longer than a football field. One of these is now here at the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Originally I wasn’t enthusiastic about the pamphlet because it didn’t look as vibrant and exciting as some of the other objects, but I’m glad it was assigned to me; I really got into it.

Emily Francisco ’14
English major with a writing concentration

Pins of Peace and Protest

1965-1975, Gift of David Mozes

I secretly hoped to be assigned the Vietnam War-era buttons because it relates to my interest in politics and 1960s culture. When I was 16, I started listening to the Beatles and had a big love affair with revolutions—civil rights, women’s and counter culture movements. I was surprised that Special Collections would own something so controversial!

As an American I felt I should know a lot about the Vietnam War, but I really didn’t know as much as I should. I looked through two boxes from this collection containing 60 other pins and a couple hundred clippings all relating to the Vietnam War. I checked out books about student demonstrations, draft resisters and the history of peace sign. From there I did a lot of research in our online databases.

(continues on pg. 10)
From a design standpoint, I like the pin with flowers and the soldier’s helmet. I also like the Adolf Eichmann “I only follow orders” pin a lot because I had never known about before and I got to learn about the comparison between Vietnam War and Nazi Germany.

After this class, I realize Special Collections has so much that students don’t know about. I would recommend they take a journey throughout the library; there is information for every interest.

Francesca DeBiaso ’12
Art history major

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**Pins of Peace and Protest** (continued from pg. 9)

I was really soaking in everything from what I was reading. I wondered what I would have been going through had I been a student at that time. I feel a camaraderie with them.

The nine pins selected illustrate that the strongest messages can be conveyed in the smallest ways. These were mass-produced by grassroots organizations and freely distributed or sold for small change. The peace sign, of course, is a singular and iconic image of the counterculture movement and is the ultimate symbol for love, camaraderie and utopian ideas. It gave a cohesive image to this huge movement that was blossoming.

From a design standpoint, I like the pin with flowers and the soldier’s helmet. I also like the Adolf Eichmann “I only follow orders” pin a lot because I had never known about before and I got to learn about the comparison between Vietnam War and Nazi Germany.

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Francesca DeBiaso ’12
Art history major

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**Be a Cadet Nurse WWII Poster**

1944, illustrated by Jon Whitcomb (1906-1988), Janet Hancock Maharay Fund

I have a specific interest in the point where the political meets the art world. Because of my experiences at Gettysburg I had been looking for a way to study political and social topics while remaining a steadfast art history major. The art we studied in class drew me to question the idea of American identity and the way we as a nation choose to remember history, as well as the consequences for artists who critique contemporary society.

This is a World War II-era recruitment poster, printed in 1944 by the U.S. Office of War Information. It shows two versions of the same woman, one in a gray winter outfit issued to cadet nurse trainees; the other a white field uniform. In both, she makes nursing look quite glamorous.

I was surprised but then a little discouraged by what I learned from researching the poster. The reading I did reported the many instances of women’s direct and extremely marginalized positions in the U.S. military. The propagandistic aspect of this poster didn’t surprise me as much, but did reinforce the belief that U.S. citizens (and citizens of any country) need to be able to recognize and analyze information given to us by way of persuasive advertising.

Visual propaganda exists in every generation, and shapes many of American culture’s values. The WWII period seems more present to me now, but I also realize more clearly how my generation can feel such disconnect with our grandparents or even our parents in our understanding of government and American society. Just within that one generation, the government’s “official” view on the female role changed (very intentionally) constantly, from Rosie the Riveter to entertainment for the troupes, to the cadet nurse featured on the poster and back to the housewife.

Researching this poster affected me as a young woman in contemporary American society. On a normal day, you don’t give much thought to the countless images which shape society’s interpretation of a successful woman or man. Reading about the direct manipulation of women’s roles and expectations during the World War II era made me, if anything, more suspicious of those slogans and visual representations we casually use to describe success in the United States.

Molly Reynolds ’14
Art history major
The political cartoon was actually my first choice, so I was very excited to get this assignment. Aside from paint, cartooning is big interest of mine. In fact my senior show will be a sort of self-portrait comic book.

Learning the history of the artist Thomas Nast was really exciting because he is considered the father of American political cartoons. He used his talent and convictions to inform the public of the issues of the day through caricatures and informative cartoons. You always learn about what happened leading up to the Civil War, but never much about what happened afterwards, so gaining insight into matters that the U.S. faced after the war was really interesting.

I selected two of his works published in December 1879 issues of Harper’s Weekly, a magazine that had been in print prior to the Civil War. “Borrowed Plumes” (pictured here) depicted the political career of Roscoe Conkling, illustrating him as a jackdaw with various feathers from other birds. This was an attack on his ambitions to advance through the political career hierarchy. The other cartoon “Stranger Things Have Happened” addressed an issue between the republicans and democrats debating whether “green backs” or “gold standard” should be used as the basis for currency.

Josiah Adlon '12
Studio art major, sociology minor

This year some student bibliophiles came together to create “Book House,” a “themed” house that is part of the College’s Residence Life program. Theme housing is awarded to a group of students who share a common interest and would like to live together in one of the smaller houses that the campus owns. Would-be residents propose a theme, agree to host some related community programs, and do some philanthropic projects.

 Appropriately enough, the group’s advisors are librarians Janelle Wertzberger and Kerri Odess-Harnish. The two stay in contact with the group and work with them on their programs. Last fall the students raised $360 when they held a book sale at Musselman Library to benefit the Adams County Literary Council (left). This spring they pulled some of their favorite books from the library stacks and put together a main floor display of recommended reading for patrons.
Musselman Library recently helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Woman’s General League (1911-1995), the first women-only organization at Gettysburg College. Alumni members and their guests visited campus to witness the League’s addition to the College Benefactors Wall (which recognizes gifts of $1 million). They also learned more about the group’s history by hearing lectures and visiting Special Collections to look through the League’s photographs, meeting minutes, scrapbooks, “Golden Books” (honoring specific members) and other ephemera.

“The day was a wonderful celebration,” says Jean S. LeGros ’73, associate vice president for Alumni and Parent Relations emerita, who gave a lecture about the League’s founder Mary Stuckenberg. “The excitement of the women that day about the importance of the League’s work was palpable.”

The League disbanded in 1995 and soon after gave their archives to Special Collections. A grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission awarded in 2002 allowed Special Collections to arrange, describe, and conserve the collection. It documents the history of the League whose origins trace to 1905, when a group of women hosted a luncheon for the campus community during Commencement week. They later formed an organization to continue the tradition, which evolved into the Women’s General League. The League’s purposes were to raise funds for the College and to solidify its connections to the Lutheran Church.

Says Special Collections Archivist Chris Ameduri, “The collection offers insight into both the organization and the kinds of activities that were occurring during the Progressive Era in Pennsylvania and the nation.”

A souvenir for the League event guests was a packet of notecards that the Alumni Office created from the images Musselman Library has digitized.

This is a photograph of the League in 1927.

Attendees Dottie Held, John Zinn (whose mother was a member) and Betty Trone look at the manuscript and artifact collection of the Woman’s League Papers.

Last Thanksgiving, staffers volunteered to help serve up turkey with all the trimmings for students in the campus dining hall. Some even got into making their own Musselman aprons (created by Kayla, Meghan and Lina). Left to right: Zachary Coble, Meghan Kelly, Lisa McNamee, Lina Terjesen, Amy Ward, Kaitlyn Lyons and Susan Pinkey.
Since its launch seven years ago, “Notes at Noon,” with its live performances of opera, jazz, world music, classical and more, continues to strike a chord with library patrons!

The brainchild of Music Librarian Timothy Sestrick, Notes began as a single celebratory concert in the spring of 2005. “The library had an exhibit of music scores recently acquired from the estate of Conservatory benefactor F. William Sunderman, Sr., Class of 1919,” Sestrick explains. “I arranged for the Covington String Quartet, then in residence at the College, to play a concert of music from the exhibit.”

The audience loved not only the music but the unconventional setting and asked for more. So Notes at Noon was launched and now draws an average attendance of 60 people. “We thought that a brown-bag, noontime concert would be the best way to bring together students, faculty, staff and the off-campus community,” says Sestrick. “We also wanted to offer performances in a more casual atmosphere than you might normally find elsewhere.” Friends of Musselman Library provide beverages and dessert for those in attendance.

Musselman Library’s apse is the venue for a range of performers to showcase their skills, and with a growing Conservatory there is plenty of talent available. “Notes at Noon provides a great opportunity for the Conservatory to share performances by the students and faculty with the campus in a friendly, informal setting,” says Conservatory Director Kay Hoke.

For example, performances by students in the Sunderman Opera Studio, Opera Workshop and Night on Broadway are always popular. “These ‘preview’ performances were opportunities for literally hundreds of students to perform; each experience prepared them for the later fuller evening performances on the Majestic stage or in the Paul Recital Hall,” explains professor of voice and opera Kathleen Sasnett. “The informal, accepting atmosphere … has given our students the added confidence to perform well in other venues. This up-close and personal interaction allows for an enhanced learning experience in performance technique and artistic etiquette.”

A number of non-College performers have also appeared. “We’ve partnered with the Adams County Arts Council to bring in performers from outside of the area, such as the ethnic folk group Simple Gifts, and the Eastern European women’s vocal ensemble Svitanya,” says Sestrick. “We’ve also partnered with the Conservatory to host a Sunderman Chamber Music Series concert, featuring the New York City-based Aureole Trio. And, we’ve been fortunate to host popular local groups, including the Folkemer family, playing traditional Pennsylvania folk music, and the Irish band Tin Kettle.” The Folkemer’s band, Cormorant’s Fancy entertained with Irish dancer, Megan Blount, Class of 2014 at a Notes concert this month.
Notes at Noon concerts are often paired with special library programs. For example, in 2006 a Western-themed “Happy Trails” concert was a companion event to the library’s One Book reading series focused on the American West. In 2007, the Library had an exhibit called “Lillian Blauvelt: from Brooklyn to Buckingham Palace,” featuring memorabilia, pictures, and concert programs from the career of the early-20th century opera singer. Blauvelt’s descendents travelled from Maine to attend the Notes at Noon concert where Sassnet sang some of Blauvelt’s operatic pieces.

“One of the most unique performances was related to exhibits celebrating the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth,” says Sestrick. “The companion Notes at Noon concert was titled ‘A Reading for Lincoln,’ and featured actor Richard Sautter recreating a 19th century dramatic reading, accompanied by traditional music. We also had a special ‘Notes at Night’ concert featuring the local fife and drum corps playing music from the Civil War.”

Sometimes the most non-traditional events can lead to a concert, like the 2008 “International Talk like a Pirate Day” concert. The Sunderman Woodwind Quintet performed, and included a piece based on sea shanties. “It was great to see Professor Ed Stanley, the group’s oboist, decked out in a bandana and pirate gear,” says Sestrick.

Hosting music in the Library requires some special considerations. Performances are never planned during intense study periods, such as at mid-terms and finals. And the logistics can be tricky. For example, the opera previews are usually performed in costume and make-up, which means creating makeshift dressing rooms in offices and restrooms for the students.

“Fortunately, the library has its own piano,” says Sestrick. “I’m also glad that we have so much comfortable seating in the apse, which helps create the relaxed atmosphere we want.”

Meet Holley Intern Meghan Kelly

Meghan Kelly ’10 is the current Barbara Holley Intern. Kelly says being a double major in English and history meant she spent a lot of time in Musselman Library. “For me the library was a space to read, research, collaborate with peers and really get down to business. It was also, however, a great place to be if I needed a mental break from Bleak House, or writing a paper about radio propaganda during World War II since, regardless of the day or time, I was always guaranteed to find a friend to catch up with.”

During her senior year, Kelly worked for the library as a media services assistant, inventorying the DVD collection, digitizing films and assisting patrons. Up until that time she had her sights set on being a teacher, but she so enjoyed her work experience that it made her wonder about a career in library science.

After graduation she spent a year in St. Louis as an AmeriCorps volunteer working with high school students. She lived in a family-like group house with teenage girls and was responsible for overseeing their study time, coordinating with teachers and tutors, and planning enrichment activities and community service work. “While I enjoyed my year of service, it was definitely a year filled with challenges,” she explains. “I discovered that the part of my job I enjoyed most was helping the students to find information for various projects, papers and personal pursuits.”

She realized a library career would be most fulfilling. “Since my library work experience was relatively limited, the Holley Internship seemed the perfect opportunity for me to get a taste of many different aspects of working in an academic library. I hope that at the end of this internship I will have a clearer picture of what aspect of the library profession I would like to pursue.”

Meghan Kelly (right), shown with Fortenbaugh Intern Molly Troy ’11, planned the finals week study break for students that included crafts, games and lots of cupcakes.
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THIRTY YEARS:
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Excerpts from the 30 Treasures:

On the main floor of Musselman Library is a large glass case containing a magnificent suit of 16th-century Japanese armor…I proposed to my seminar a treasure hunt: “Find the ‘samurai dude’ on campus.” I provided three hints: he is three-dimensional (and therefore not to be found in the pages of a book); he could be found in a campus building; and he is not actually alive and walking around. They were to prove they had found him by taking a picture of themselves next to him...
—Dina Lowy, History

Portrait of Thaddeus Stevens

In a landscape ravaged by war, artist George Leo Frankenstein sought healing through forgetting. During his 1866 visit to Gettysburg, Frankenstein, a Civil War veteran from Ohio, carried his easel to every key geographical feature of the battlefield, including Oak Hill, not far from where the Eternal Peace Monument sits today. In this untitled painting, he captures a key Union position held on July 1, 1863.
—Peter Carmichael, Civil War Institute

“Gettysburg from McLean's Hill” by George Leo Frankenstein

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—Dina Lowy, History

Samurai Armor

Gettysburg was home to one of the greatest left-handed pitchers who ever lived—Eddie Plank... Plank was the epitome of the crafty lefty: he employed a “cross-fire” delivery that fooled hitters, worked at a deliberate pace that irritated just about everyone, and got by as much on wit as on command of his limited repertoire of pitches...
—Dave Powell, Education

Eddie Plank’s Baseball