



From the Director

Friends of Musselman Library is off to a fine start! Since we issued our first newsletter in September we have fifty new friends and eight active volunteers. The volunteers have set up a book sale alcove on the main floor of the Library and keep the stock refreshed on a weekly basis.

Many of you attended our first Friends event last October. Anna Jane Moyer, librarian emeritus at Gettysburg College, entertained a nearly standing-room-only crowd with a wonderful presentation on L. Frank Baum and the *Wizard of Oz*. She brought along the library's copies of the *Oz* books and guests had the opportunity to examine the first editions up close. The evening ended with a reception of Emerald City-inspired refreshments!

Coming up this spring, the Friends will be hosting a lecture and reception on April 22 in the Lyceum, third floor of Pennsylvania Hall. Local pediatrician and Civil War researcher Bradley Hoch will offer an evening of slides and conversation about Abraham Lincoln in Pennsylvania.

Planning for the fall FOML event is already underway. Hanover, Pennsylvania resident, Nancy Leister, an avid collector of Eisenhower memorabilia, will speak on the "Human Side of Ike." Mrs. Leister, whose family knew the Eisenhowers when growing up, is lending the Library an array of keepsakes from her own personal collection.

When you stop in this spring make sure you take a look at the exhibits on the main floor and in Special Collections. Professor John Commito has lent an impressive collection of slide rules, ranging from a 2 inch tie tack to a seven-foot specimen suspended from the ceiling. You'll see slide rules in wood, bamboo, metal, paper and plastic. The display includes a circular slide rule, commissioned in 1933 by Benito Mussolini.

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ORAL HISTORY: *World War II Vets, Alumni and Local Residents Tell Their Stories*

Oral History is thriving at Gettysburg College. For the past dozen years, students in Michael Birkner's History classes have been conducting oral histories, producing transcripts and writing reflection essays about their experiences. With some exceptions, this work has been placed in Special Collections and is available to researchers.

Birkner's students have focused interviews on such topics as the 1950s at Gettysburg College; the 1960s at Gettysburg; the Henry W. A. Hanson presidency; and "Making a Life," featuring alumni, faculty members, staff and administrators. But by far, one of the most popular oral history projects involves collecting the stories of World War II veterans. The collection currently numbers more than 500 interviews and the projects are continuing.

Why Oral History? "It is a truism that so much of what matters in people's life experience never makes it into history texts," said Birkner. "Oral histories provide a grass roots perspective on monumental events, like a war, enriching and illuminating the textbook version of the World War II experience. By conducting oral histories, students learn that only a small percentage of American men ever saw combat, but that the stories of non-combatants have their own value. The same is true of the stories of men and women on the home front."

Moving ahead several decades, student interviews about Gettysburg College in the 1960s have undermined the common perception of that era as dominated by sex, drugs, and anti-war protest. "Students recognize that even in a turbulent era most individuals focus their daily lives on the everyday concerns of college students—studies, extracurricular activities, social life, and planning the for the next phase in their lives," said Birkner.

The Gettysburg College oral history project provides many insights and stories not currently in print. Similarly, the World War II collection offers a wide range of primary source material about the American experience from 1939-1945.

Special Collections welcomes gifts of oral history transcripts of individuals with a Gettysburg College connection, as well as correspondence, photos, and other objects that complement the oral histories.

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FRIENDS SPRING LECTURE AND RECEPTION

Dr. Brad Hoch to describe Lincoln in Pennsylvania

The Friends of Musselman Library are delighted to present Dr. Bradley Hoch as the speaker for our spring event on April 22. Well known in our community as a pediatrician, Dr. Hoch has recently written an extraordinary book, *The Lincoln Trail in Pennsylvania*, a superbly researched history and guide to the places where Lincoln traveled, the public appearances he made, and the speeches he delivered in the Keystone State. Many of these experiences were key moments in his public life.

In discussing the research and the work involved in writing his book, Dr. Hoch will focus on "Lincoln's 1861 Inaugural Train." Following the custom of his day, Lincoln had not campaigned in the Presidential election. To make the inaugural journey from Springfield, Illinois, to Washington, D.C., Abraham Lincoln, accompanied by his family, chose to create a grand railroad tour to forge a closer bond between the American people and himself. The train made several stops in Pennsylvania, and bystanders along the way were provided with their first glimpse of the new President upon whom they placed their hopes.

Amidst flags waving, bands playing, and crowds cheering, we will see, through the author's eyes, the Lincoln glimpsed by nineteenth-century Pennsylvanians. It is fitting that Dr. Hoch has chosen these moments to share with us as

it was as a railway passenger that Lincoln most frequently experienced Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hoch recently discussed his book on NBC in Philadelphia and PBS in State College on Lincoln's birthday and on the Pennsylvania cable network on Presidents' Day.

Join us in welcoming Dr. Hoch, a Friend of Musselman Library, on Monday evening, April 22, in the Lyceum of Pennsylvania Hall at 7:00 p.m. The Lyceum is on the third floor and can be accessed by elevator. It is especially appropriate for us to be meeting there as that room housed the College library when Mr. Lincoln came to town in 1863! Refreshments reminiscent of those found on the Lincoln family's table will be served. Come...and bring your friends!



NEW FRIENDS OFFICE

Friends of Musselman Library has a new office. Stop by and see us in ROOM 002 on the ground floor. The phone number is 337-6887. You can also reach the office by emailing to Friends of Musselman Library at foml@gettysburg.edu

Intern Learns the Ropes in Archives

Kevin Luy, a junior history major from Bainbridge, Pennsylvania has been selected as the Esther Kenyon Fortenbaugh intern for 2002. As the Fortenbaugh intern Kevin will work in the Archives and Special Collections Department this spring, assisting librarian and archivist, Karen Drickamer, with a number of projects and learning about archival practice.

Kevin's big project will be working with a collection of letters of George W. Beidelman, Company C, 71st Pennsylvania (The California Regiment). The collection consists of 46 detailed letters written by Beidelman during the war and letters by other soldiers to George. There is another series of prewar letters to Beidelman and his family. Highlights include letters from the Battle of Ball's Bluff, the Battle of Fredericksburg, and from the hospital on "the bloody field of Gettysburg."

"The project I chose falls within a period of history, which I will probably spend a career studying," commented Luy. "Nineteenth Century American History fascinates me. I guess, as a young man attempting to find my place in the world—trying to define who I am as a person—I am intrigued by a country struggling with the same uncertainty."

The Fortenbaugh internship is named in honor of Esther Kenyon Fortenbaugh '46, and given by her husband Robert Fortenbaugh '44, to celebrate his wife's lifelong interest in libraries. The internship makes it possible for one Gettysburg

College student to gain practical experience in archives, research and conservation. Established in the fall of 2000, the first Fortenbaugh intern was Meredith Bartron, a history major from Latham, New York, who worked on a project commemorating the history of science at Gettysburg. This exhibit is on display throughout 2002 in Special Collections.

Kevin hopes to become a college history professor and mentioned that "after a couple semesters here I discovered that researching and writing papers was not a chore but a joy." He said, "teaching must be in my genes" since both his parents work in the public schools. He reflected on the benefit of this internship in reaching that goal. "I view this internship as a phenomenal chance to prepare myself for the years of schooling I will need to reach my goal. The project we have decided on involves describing and cataloging a new collection. To do so, I will have to think and organize the way an archivist would. Looking ahead to a life of delving into primary sources, I believe that learning to think like an archivist will be a beneficial tool."

In addition to majoring in history, Kevin has a minor in classics and hopes to minor in religion as well. He enjoys writing and is an editor of the new and forthcoming *Gettysburg History Journal*, a periodical devoted to the work of undergraduate history students. When not involved in historical pursuits, Kevin is past president and current member of the Ultimate Frisbee Team at Gettysburg College.

A FRIEND'S GIFT: *The Homer T. Rosenberger Center for the Study of Pennsylvania History*

Last fall, the College marked the opening of its new Special Collections and Archives, located on the fourth floor of Musselman Library. This facility includes a 24-seat research room, exhibition space, a state-of-the-art processing room, and ample storage space. The creation of this facility was made possible in part because of a gift from the estate of Homer T. Rosenberger, longtime resident of "Rose Hill" in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

The library thanks Dr. Rosenberger's family—his daughters Arley Jane Furringer and Lucretia Myers and wife Jean Rosenberger. The following are the remarks of Michael Birkner, Professor of History, at the Dedication of the new facility, Gettysburg College, Sept. 28, 2001

This is a day I've long dreamed of. As someone who loves rifling around in dead people's mail and handling old objects, Special Collections libraries have always been among my favorite places. At Gettysburg, we have a venerable tradition of collecting interesting, rare, and valuable documents, maps, and other treasures. Some of those items are on display at this very moment, others now readily available as needed.

Until the Homer Rosenberger estate served as the catalyst for a new Special Collections facility here at Gettysburg, we had no showplace we could be especially proud of. Now we do. As a result, more of our students will be able to experience the excitement of touching, reading, working with original materials. What a bonus for them, and for their teachers, as their enthusiasm and sophistication as historians grows.

A few words about the genesis of this room, the Center for Pennsylvania Studies, and about Homer Rosenberger, respectively, are in order. On a pleasant September day just three years ago, I received a letter from Attorney William Dick in Waynesboro, asking whether Gettysburg College would be interested in running a cultural center out of Homer Rosenberger's home, Rose Hill, outside of Waynesboro. I didn't think that was a realistic project for the College, but I did know something about Homer Rosenberger, and thought there might be a way to bring the Mountain to Mohammed. And as events turned out, there was.

For starters, I knew that Homer Rosenberger was an independent scholar and collector of Pennsylvaniana. I had read some of his work, notably a long article he wrote about the niece of President James Buchanan, Harriet Lane, for the *Lancaster County Historical Society Journal*. I remembered friendly comments about Rosenberger made by my former professors Charles Glatfelter and Robert Bloom. And I thought—there might be something here.

Encouraged by Lex McMillan and by library director Robin Wagner, I went along with Robin to Waynesboro for a meeting with Attorney Dick. We explained to him that Rosenberger's collection might be best cared for by professional archivists, based at a college like Gettysburg. I added that if use of the collection was something that Homer

Rosenberger had in mind, what better way to achieve this objective than to have professionals organize it, publicize its availability, and exhibit materials from it. Attorney Dick said that sounded good to him. He made a special point of suggesting that as he and Homer Rosenberger had each attended venerable liberal arts colleges in Pennsylvania, he was entirely sympathetic to the idea of a place like Gettysburg housing the Rosenberger collection.

There were numerous steps along the way to settling the issue and building this room, but those steps were duly taken. The collection is safely here in Gettysburg, and in time will be cataloged and made available in this building. I know for certain that my students will make good use of it in projects of various kinds.

About Homer Rosenberger I will say this: there weren't many people like Homer Rosenberger. A career civil servant with a History Ph.D. from Cornell University, Rosenberger was at heart a scholar, collector, and man of letters. He collected Pennsylvaniana intensively for many years—pictures, ephemeral publications, postcards, books, articles, corporate reports, college histories and many objects of material culture as well. It is fair to say we could not readily estimate the number of pieces in the Rosenberger Collection. There are a lot, including a sundial and the logo he designed for his home at Rose Hill. Not a few of the pieces we have are writings of Homer Rosenberger himself, including a substantial history of the Pennsylvania Germans and a reflective autobiography.

Having read Rosenberger's will, there's no doubt in my mind that he wanted his collections shared with anyone interested in Pennsylvania. I think I'm making an informed guess in believing that he would be pleased to have a Homer Rosenberger Center at Gettysburg College, not least because of his long standing friendships with Rev. Frederick Weiser, '57, and Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter.

As I was preparing these remarks I thought to myself that the Rosenberger Collection really fits what we do here. We are a small enough college to truly appreciate the gift. We are a good enough institution to be careful stewards of the collection and to exploit it for scholarly purposes. The Rosenberger Center will be a much-visited place by Gettysburg College students, and indeed by many others interested in Pennsylvania History.

Building the Rosenberger Center for the Study of Pennsylvania has made it possible to expand what we do in terms of teaching, collecting, preserving, and exhibiting original materials. Students over the years have been engaged in projects relating to local history, college history, and seminary history. There will be more such projects in the future, and we'll be able to do our work better because of the vision of Homer Rosenberger and because of the generosity of his family.

Thanks to all who have made the opening of this facility possible. This is a great day for History at Gettysburg College



From the Director

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Also on the main floor is an exhibit, "Stones from Heaven," featuring the College's fine collection of jades. The staff is planning a special history exhibit for National Library Week in April and hopes to again host the popular student ceramic exhibition, also in April.

Remember, the library is also a great place to check out your favorite book or film, listen to a CD or read one of the more than 1,000 periodicals. Electronic books and articles are available on line if you like your reading digitally. Welcome to all new Friends of Musselman Library.

—Robin Wagner, Director

SLIDE RULES *Rule*

When does a hobby become a passion? Come and see for yourself in a special exhibit at Musselman Library, now through April 15. John Commito, Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology has lent the Library a collection of his most prized slide rules.

Slide rule? What's that? If you're of a certain age, it is what you used in high school math and chemistry class to do your homework. Electronic calculators replaced the slide rule but fortunately John Commito started collecting them. His collection ranges from the useful to the ornate, from the historic to the sublime.

Professor Commito is animated when he talks about his collecting. "I took Chemistry as a sophomore in high school in 1964. My teacher was a reservist in the Marines. He was tough. He ordered his students to bring slide rules to class, and we did. My parents bought me a fairly expensive Pickett with a brown leather case, probably for about \$15.00, and my uncle gave me his little pocket-sized Charvoz-Roos. I used them all through high school, college, and even graduate school.

In 1976 in my first job as a college professor, I bought a programmable calculator for \$450. My salary was \$12,000, so the new technology cost a lot of money. I sold my Pickett for about a dollar in a yard sale.

Now I buy slide rules in yard sales, flea markets, and antique shops. I've got almost 600 items — slide rules, similar calculating devices, instruction books, advertisements, and other nerdy stuff. Don't ask me why. I guess because none of them uses batteries or needs to be plugged into an electric outlet. They remind me of a time when life in America was simpler and more direct, when cutting edge technology cost only \$15.00 and could be used to send an astronaut into space. I appreciate useful, old things. And sometimes I appreciate doing things the hard way."



FRIENDS ADVANTAGE:

Video Checkout 24 Hours a Day

One of the benefits of a Friends membership is video and DVD checkout privileges. The library has a varied selection of feature films, foreign films, prize-winning films and documentaries. There is no charge to borrow if you are a friend and you may have media materials for three days at a time.

Interested in what's new? Check out the announcement board adjacent to the media collection on the ground floor of the library. Have a question? Stop into the Media Collections Office, also on the ground floor, and meet Nancy Johnson. She's available between 9 and 4:30 weekdays for help and advice. Nancy knows the collection inside out and can even guide you if you are looking for a particular type of film or help you remember the title of one you are forgetting.

You can check on media holdings yourself by consulting the library's online catalog, MUSCAT. Just go to the Gettysburg College homepage at www.gettysburg.edu. Click on Library in the tab bar and follow the links to MUSCAT. If you're not a friend already, consider this great reason to join. Friends may also check out CDs free of charge for seven days at a time. And best of all are the hours—24 hours per day from Sunday at 10 a.m. until Friday at 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday.

A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS from FOML

has pooled efforts and interests to assist the Library by evaluating and organizing books for sale in the alcove on the main floor or for purchase by dealers. The books are duplicates or items donated to the Library with the stipulation that they may be shared in other ways if their subject content or presentation is not compatible with the Library collection policy. Some of the items are old while others have been published more recently. We volunteers identify books that can be sold through various avenues, thereby effectively turning them into funds for purchasing items viable to the Library collection.

The Library has identified approximately 2000 books and other items to be sold. As a first step, we inventory and assess the value of the materials. This stage is a fun experience for a bibliophile, because the books are a treat to browse and because the process becomes one of discovery as some treasures may be found. We will also be creating ads for sales and listing items for auctions such as e-Bay on the internet.

We are happy to have established a flourishing book sale alcove on the main floor of the Library. Stop by to find some great bargains for 50 cents or \$1.00!

Perhaps you would like to learn along with us and would enjoy working together to help Musselman Library.

To join us in these volunteer efforts, give either Dave Moore (337-0794) or Sunni DeNicola (338-0620) a call! We have a team of five working on the project, and we need more hands. It's fun!