



WELLESLEY COLLEGE

Clapp, Jewett Art, Jewett Music, Science Center, Special Collections, Archives

Cutting Edge Microfilm Reader/Printer

Lynda Leney Leahy '66

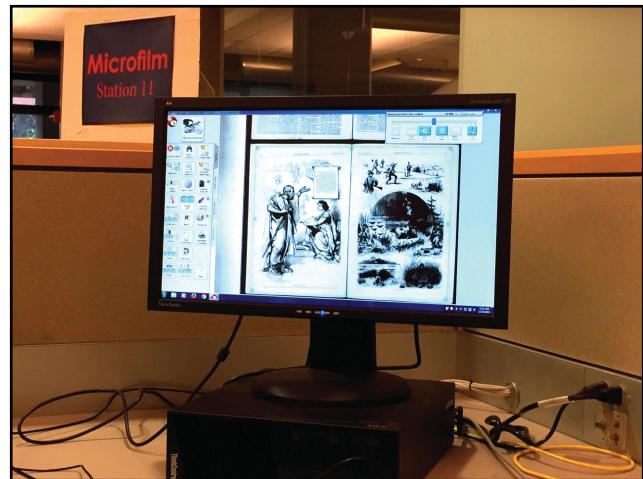
Many of us remember the old Readex “hairdryer” microfilm readers with hand cranks, poor resolution, and frequent out-of-order signs. That was then, and blessedly this most certainly is now.

The Friends recently purchased a ScanPro 3000 for the library that allows researchers to view images, scan them, print them, save them to a memory stick, email them, and/or save them as a PDF, which will allow OCR (optical character recognition that is searchable). The reader itself is deceptively compact and is connected to a computer. The image projected on the screen is much clearer than what has been available before, and the user has available sophisticated tools to clean up the original images even more. The ScanPro is very easy to use and comes with clear instructions.

Since its installation, the reader has received good use from both faculty and students. It can also be used by non-Wellesley researchers. Laura Reiner, Research and Instruction Librarian, related that an independent scholar brought in a roll of microfilm that his library had borrowed on interlibrary loan from Italy, but the library did not have a machine that he could use. He was set up on the ScanPro 3000, and with very little instruction he was able to complete his research.

Lidwien Kapteijns, Kendall/Hodder Professor of History, has been thrilled with the new ScanPro 3000.

“Thanks to this reader, I could create my own research archive (in my case about Somali history) without having to invest major resources in terms of time and money to



relocate to a city such as Washington, DC or a large research library such as those at Northwestern or Yale University to work on microform there. I would like to salute and thank the Friends for continuing to be involved with the Library in ways that make a real difference for its users.”

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"Thank You" to Friends Co-Chair, Ian Graham

In January, the Friends of the Library Steering Committee reluctantly bid farewell to its co-chair of several years, Ian Graham. Ian's collegial style coupled with his vision for the Friends' future resulted in an array of initiatives in support of the library's core mission. His colleagues will miss his openness, good humor, and creativity. Ravi Ravishanker, Wellesley's Chief Information Officer and Associate Dean for WellesleyX, released this statement upon Ian's departure:

"I am writing to let you know that Ian Graham, Director of Library Collections, has accepted the position of Associate Librarian at The John Carter Brown Library in Providence. We will miss Ian greatly, but understand the compelling pull of this exciting opportunity.

"Ian joined Wellesley 10 years ago in our Archives. Over time, he assumed the position of College Archivist and then Director of Library Collections. Those who have worked casually or closely with Ian have appreciated his inclusive and open-minded approach to projects and daily work, and ability to map diverse needs to simple solutions. He has been a tremendous colleague who has been instrumental in activities to improve our collections and access to them, including strategic planning initiatives, Open Access, creation of a digital repository, innumerable space discussions, and too many more to list here.

"Ian has also been a strategic leader and has represented Wellesley in organizations such as the Boston Library Consortium and the Oberlin Group. He has the uncanny ability to balance advocacy for the library collections with national conversations on emerging trends in academic libraries in a way that has been tremendously useful for faculty ... I am thankful to the entire Library Collections group, and especially to Ian, for the work he has done to strengthen the collections, harnessing the best aspects of technological and organizational transformation. We will soon begin a national search for a replacement. In the interim, Ray Schmidt, Director of Discovery Services, will be leading the group."

The Friends Steering Committee is pleased to welcome Ravi, himself, as its Co-Chair during this interim period, and looks forward to his insightful guidance.

Hi-Tech Meets Antiquarian in the Library

Ruth R. Rogers, Curator of Special Collections

Thanks to a gift from the Friends of the Library, Special Collections can now harness high resolution imaging technology to enhance and enlarge the classroom learning experience--literally. The new Wolf-Vision document camera, funded by the Friends, is a sleek, ceiling mounted model, giving us clear space to position extra large folios or tiny 18th century almanacs with equal care and precision. As the number of course visits to Special Collections and Archives continues to grow every year, we librarians are challenged to balance the security and preservation of valuable materials with access and opportunity for all who want to see them.

Before the acquisition of the document camera (B.D.C.), rare books and manuscripts were laid out on cradles on the seminar table, and students would have to stand and lean over the books in a huddle to try to see while the professor lectured. This may work for a small group of four or five people, but it is hardly ideal for a class of eighteen or more. Gone are the days of uploading photos of books from a camera to the laptop, then creating a slide presentation for the class. We now simply place books under the document camera while the student or professor presents; turning pages, enlarging, reducing, and freezing or rotating the frame. Because of this technology, the entire class can sit around the long seminar table in Special

Collections in comfort, while examining the minute historiated initials of a 15th-century prayer book or a massive engraving of a 19th-century description of Pompeii. Pores in parchment come to life! Proud autographs of ancient owners and their children's playful doodles on the flyleaves amaze and delight! Better still, when everyone is looking at the same large on-screen image, as if under a microscope, conversation and debate flourishes. Professor Kimberly Cassibry (Art History) enthusiastically concurs:

"Now I can take students to look at 19th century publications of archaeological sites and offer them time to look at the books individually, then turn the camera on and project a magnified image of a particular illustration to discuss in depth as a group. In this way, I can offer students a tactile encounter with historical documents, while also using them to make larger points about the history of a particular site."

The camera even has a "Screenshot" feature, for saving an image in the device's memory, which can then be used for discussion, quizzes, or for a different class. In terms of preservation, this is invaluable, because the fewer times a book has to be moved, opened flat, and re-shelved, the longer we can keep it available for future generations of Wellesley students and scholars. Thank you to all the Friends of the Library for your support.



AUTHORS ON STAGE: 35 YEARS OF LITERARY INSIGHTS

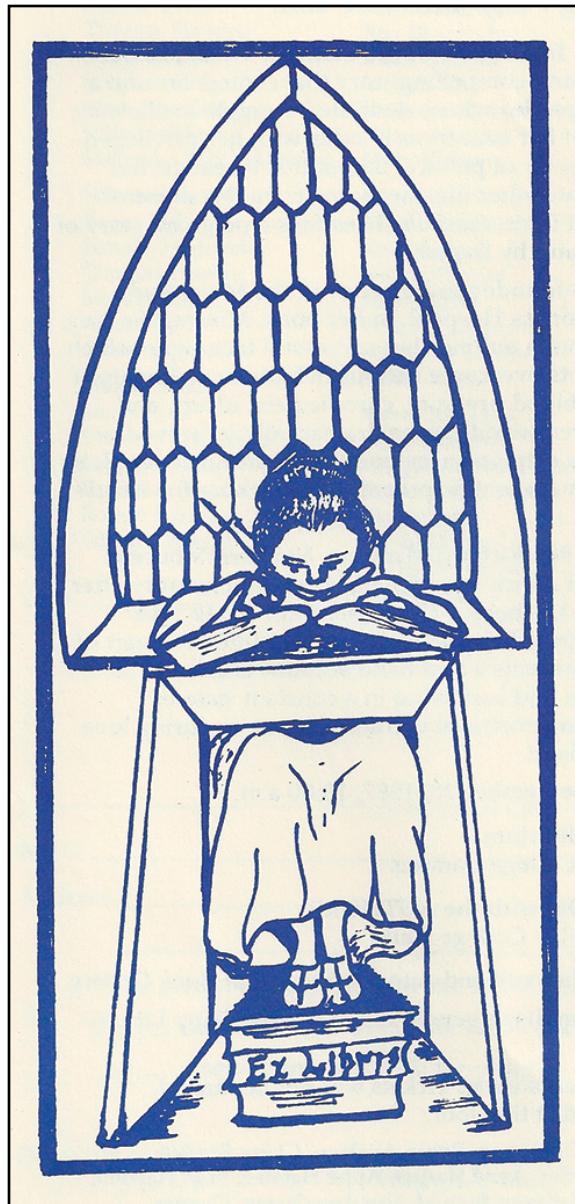
Diane Speare Triant '68

The Authors on Stage program, one of Wellesley's most anticipated literary happenings each spring and fall, is celebrating its 35th year of showcasing noteworthy writers. Sponsored by Wellesley College Alumnae of Boston, the program is a popular "town-gown" event, drawing book lovers not only from Wellesley, but from throughout Massachusetts and beyond. The Wellesley College Club provides the stage for the leading lights of the literary world, who engage and regale capacity audiences of 200 with behind-the-scenes stories of their recently published volumes.

Bibliophiles enjoy a lively morning of talks, autographing, and author-audience conversation, while the revenues from ticket and book sales go to the Wellesley College libraries for new book/media/digital acquisitions. The 1981 founder, Janice Lane Hunt '52 – an emerita member of the Friends of the Library Steering Committee – and the program's moderator, Lia Hunt Zylstra '80, find it fitting that Authors on Stage is thus a "books for books" event.

In its selection of speakers, the committee – under the chairmanship of Mary Baughman '66 – is guided by the formula of presenting "one author you do know, one author you should know, and one author you will know." As a result, the ranks of the visiting authors have included novelists (Julia Glass, Francine Prose, Arthur Golden, Gregory Maguire), biographers (Megan Marshall, Richard Rhodes), poets (Robert Pinsky, Maxine Kumin, Donald Hall), thinkers (Anne Fadiman, Stephen Jay Gould), memoirists (Alix Kates Shulman, Da Chen), mystery writers (Dennis Lehane, Robert Parker, Mary Higgins Clark), humorists (Roy Blount, Jr., Judith Martin) historians (Lincoln Paine, Tony Horwitz, James West Davidson), journalists (Ian Frazier, Marvin Kalb), unique voices (Tracy Kidder, David Macaulay), and even the prince of horror, himself, Stephen King. The opportunity to purchase books at discount with personal inscriptions is a popular feature of the event, and patrons of the earliest programs are proud owners of autographed first editions.

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The medieval scholar immersed in a book is the instantly recognizable logo of the Authors on Stage program. She was found in an early "Legenda" (Wellesley's yearbook). The figure in the original rendering was male; an early committee member who was an artist re-fashioned the "he" into a "she!"

Wilma Slaight

Lynda Leney Leahy '66

Wilma Slaight, the first Wellesley College Archivist, was a member of the Friends of the Library Steering Committee 2011-2015. She twice served on the nominating committee, but her primary service was on the Gift Shop Committee where she sold cards with Wellesley images at commencements and reunions. In the spring of 2015, Wilma retired from the Friends committee.

As a resident of Ashland, MA, she had worked for several years on a number of projects for the Framingham Public Library. When she noticed that the library's Friends group was looking for people to help with their monthly book sales, she signed up. The Framingham Friends has about 30 volunteers who work every week, usually about two hours on Friday mornings, to prepare for the sales and to stock the ongoing Book Sales Room off the library lobby. Each of the thirty volunteers is responsible for one or two subject areas and sorts incoming books to

keep the shelves stocked. Wilma enjoyed working with the group, and not long after beginning as a volunteer, she was asked to complete the term of a member of the Board who was leaving. Soon thereafter, she was named President of the Framingham Friends of the Library.

While the Framingham and Wellesley Friends groups are different in some ways, they have things in common as well. Both have memberships, but Framingham holds ten monthly book sales as well as

maintains an ongoing sales room off the lobby that functions as a used book shop from which it derives the income. Both use their income to purchase materials for the library. Wellesley's Friends group receives requests from the library for important large purchases needed to support the curriculum or equipment that will enhance

access to information [see articles on the new document camera and microfilm reader].

Friends groups are fairly common among public libraries but much less so in academia. Framingham, as a public library, has a more diverse clientele with patrons of all ages, backgrounds, interests, and needs. It serves as a cultural asset to the community, providing a wide variety of programming – a role that Wellesley also plays. Wellesley's Friends group recruits members from the faculty, alumnae, and library and technology services staff. Any income that it receives, like

Framingham, goes toward the purchase of library equipment and/or resources that are beyond the library's allocated budget. Both Friends groups serve as a link between the library and external groups. In Wellesley's case, our alumnae; in Framingham's, their community. Wilma's experience in both Friends groups points out these similarities and differences while allowing her to bring her valuable Wellesley experience to bear on her new responsibilities.



The popular monthly book sales provide a steady income for the Framingham library.

The Mystery of the Hemenway Bronze Relief

Shortened and Reprinted from the Wellesley College Homepage

Mary Tileston Hemenway (1820–1894) was an important education reformer and advocate of physical education. She founded numerous schools in the Boston area, including the Normal School of Gymnastics, which merged with Wellesley College to become the Department of Hygiene and Physical Education in 1909. That same year, a gymnasium was donated to the College in her name. A bronze relief depicting Hemenway, created by renowned poet and sculptor Anne Whitney, hung in the gym's library. In 1984, the complex was demolished with many of its appointments auctioned off to make way for the Keohane Sports Center.

"After the destruction of the old gymnasium, the relief was largely forgotten," said Kathryn Cooperman '15, who conducted an independent study on Whitney last spring with Jacki Musacchio, department chair and professor of art history, and Carlos Dorrien, studio director and professor of studio art. She began her research in January by focusing on the eight known works at the College. But both Musacchio and Cooperman also wanted to try to locate a ninth object – the Hemenway bronze relief.

"We had archival photographs of this relief, and references in Whitney's documents, but when the gymnasium was demolished, it disappeared," said Musacchio, who has studied Anne Whitney for several years.

Whitney, who taught at the College for one semester, was an important part of intellectual and artistic circles in the Boston area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She was close to Wellesley's second president Alice Freeman and her husband George Herbert Palmer. Whitney's statue of Harriet Martineau was a key feature of College Hall and campus ritual until it was destroyed in the 1914 fire.

Musacchio called the Hemenway relief an important object in terms of Wellesley's history as well as Whitney's body of work. In an effort to locate it, she and Cooperman began assembling information from historical documents and

photographs, and following leads that took them on a search involving both current and retired staff and locations across campus.

The Archives team couldn't find any record of the relief, nor could the Davis Museum staff. Then Musacchio had a chance encounter. "I was at a Friends of the Library meeting with Wilma Slaight, the College's first Archivist, and I asked her if she knew anything about it," Musacchio said. Slaight did remember. "She immediately told me where it was stored in Archives after it had been removed from the gymnasium...it wasn't in that exact location but it was nearby, still wrapped up to protect it – more than 30 years after it had been last seen!"

"Finding this relief was so important for my project," said Cooperman, "It made scholarship about Whitney – which is so often ambiguous – more tangible, and it further

elucidated one of the main goals of my work: illustrating the connection between Anne Whitney and Wellesley College."



Former Archivist Jane Callahan and Kathryn Cooperman '15 admire the Hemenway relief. (Photo by Ping Ji, Wellesley College Communications and Public Affairs)

of her sculptures. In 2014, with funding from Friends of the Library and the McNeil Program for Studies in American Art, Musacchio and the Digital Scholarship Initiatives program launched Dear Home: The Letters of Anne Whitney, a crowd-sourced transcription site for the Wellesley community. Cooperman's virtual exhibition will be incorporated into this site.

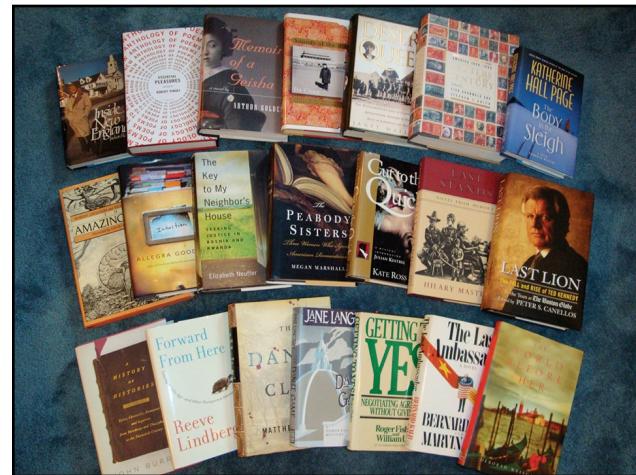
The bronze relief will remain in the Archives until an appropriate place can be found to install it in the future. Musacchio said she hopes it will serve as a way to learn more about the work of Anne Whitney and Mary Hemenway and their early connections to the College.

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Although donations from each program are in the modest \$2,000 to \$5,000 range, through the years Authors on Stage has been able to provide an impressive total of \$174,010, solely for library acquisitions. Recently, Authors on Stage has helped to fund digital subscriptions to: JSTOR; the journal "Nineteenth Century Literature;" and *The New York Times*.

The words that a nonagenarian once scribbled on her registration form sum up the essence of the program's 35-year run: "Such fun. At Authors on Stage, I'll listen and read. I'll learn something new... I'll live!"

The next Authors on Stage event is scheduled for May 4, 2016. Stay tuned for the list of authors who will be presenting.

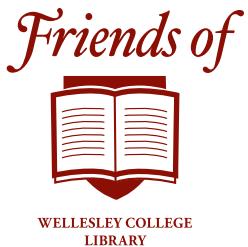


An impressive array of first editions by authors who have been featured at Authors on Stage.

2015 Student Library Research Awards

The Student Library Research Award Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Student Library Research Awards, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Award recipients demonstrated a thoughtful, methodical, and scholarly approach to research and diverse use of library resources, which contributed to their ability to produce a high quality research product. The winning entries can be viewed in the Wellesley College Digital Repository. There were 46 entries.

- ❖ Bianca Morris '17 has won the First Year Award for her WRIT 163 paper, "The Common Core: A Solution or a Burden for Disadvantaged Students?" Supporting Faculty: Ann Velenchik. \$300
- ❖ Wealth and Poverty in America.
- ❖ Leah Nugent '16 has won the 100/200-level award for her ES 299 paper, "Cleaning up and Painting up: a Cultural and Environmental History of Paintshop Pond." Supporting Faculty: Jay Turner. \$300 U.S. Environmental History.
- ❖ Carrington OBrion '15 has won the 300-level for her HIST 312 papers, "The Fourth of July is Ours': The Transformation of Independence Day in the Civil War South." Supporting Faculty: Ryan Quintana. \$750 Understanding Race in the U.S.
- ❖ Idalmis Vaquero '16 has won the Independent Study Award for her AFR 350 paper, "Fighting for Environmental Health and Justice: A Case Study of Exide Technologies in Southeast Los Angeles." Supporting Faculty: Filomina Steady. \$750.
- ❖ AnnaJoy Gillis '15 received an honorable mention for her POL2 336 paper, "When Support for Pinochet Has Not 'Desaparecido'." Supporting Faculty: Michal Ben Josef Hirsch. Transitional Justice.



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Thank you for your continuing support!

