When Wellesley Associate Professor of Chemistry David Haines describes coming upon a rare book at a Baltimore auction, his excitement is palpable: “There were ten broadsides in it, all published in London around 1660, and many appearing to be the only copies in the United States. I knew that I had to have them!”

This “thrill of the chase” is a compelling aspect of collecting books – an avocation that Haines has enjoyed for most of his adult life. His efforts garnered him first prize ($500) in the Friends of the Library’s 25th anniversary book-collecting contest. “My collection of works by and about Quakers (The Religious Society of Friends) extends to more than 10,000 items,” he explained in his entry form. “It includes books, pamphlets, manuscripts, advertisements, newspapers, prints, photographs, and a 19th century Quaker wedding quilt.” Volumes such as the 1858 Book of Meetings [of] the Society of Friends in America reflect Haines’ particular interest in the Quaker migration to this country and the group’s subsequent involvement in issues such as abolition, suffrage, and civil rights.

The contest sought collections from the college community of any variety: authors, subjects, genres, bindings, illustrations. Mary Durden ’10 (one of the four $250 winners) centered her collection on an individual: singer-songwriter Tori Amos.

“I read my first biography on Amos after listening to her music for three

The Friends of the Wellesley College Library saluted their 25th Anniversary last October at a party also celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Clapp Library building. In honor of the occasion and in keeping with our mission of support, Friends pledged $100,000 to the Library, a gift designed to allow staff and faculty to explore, in pilot trials, new technologies and their appropriateness for library acquisition. A wonderful way to start a new quarter century.
Current and former members of the Friends of the Library Steering Committee gathered in the Bracket Reading Room, Clapp Library, for a reception to wish a fond farewell to retired College Librarian Micheline Jedrey. Friends Alumna Co-Chair Dot Widmayer ’52 presented Mich with a gift of several reproductions of prints from Robert Thornton’s *Temple of Flora* in honor of her dedicated service to the Library and the Friends. Mich reported that she’s been enjoying retirement, especially lots of reading for pleasure.

**From the Library: New Course Support Fund**

*Amanda Zoellner ’03*

The Friends of Wellesley College Library provides a New Course Support fund, to be used to purchase library materials. Purchases made with these funds in 2009 include nearly one hundred different books, compact discs, films, and television shows, including the selections below.

- **Music 275, Computer Music: Synthesis Techniques and Compositional Practice**: several CD’s including *East Jesus* by Lee Ranaldo and *Hyperstring Trilogy* by Tod Machover.
- **Women & Gender Studies 121, Reading Elvis Presley and 1950s America**: video recordings of *The Wild One* and *Loving You*, as well as a CD collection of Presley’s music.
- **Cinema & Media Studies 222, Nonfiction Film: Ethics, Aesthetics, Action**: several books on documentary film, and a variety of video recordings, including the British and American versions of the television show *The Office*.

**Search Update: Head of Information Services/Library**

Provost and Dean Andrew Shennan, Chair of the Search Committee for a new head of IS/Library, reports that the position and job qualifications are still being defined. The position will soon be advertised and applicants reviewed. The committee hopes to make an appointment by the end of this academic year, such that the appointee will be on the job by July 1.
years,” Durden says. “It increased my ability to interpret her music – to fully appreciate her metaphors.” Durden’s collection extends to songbooks, tour books, and an autobiography (“a great resource for a paper I wrote about Amos’ balance between the sacred and the profane”).

Acquisitions Librarian Sarah Becker charmed the judges with her cookbook collection, particularly titles pertaining to two well-known chefs – Julia Child and Jacques Pepin – and their iconic recipes. “I chose ‘A Vegetarian Caper’ from Julia Child & More Company,” Becker says, “because I have actually made the Gateau of Crepes – layered with vegetables and cheese – and am proud to say that it came cleanly out of the baking dish!” The centerpiece of her collection? “It’s Julia and Jacques Cooking At Home, which includes the famous battle of the hamburgers: Jacques’ ‘Grilled Through Burger’ and Julia’s ‘Pan-Fried Thin Burger’ – equally delectable.”

From the Burroughs collection of John Cameron

Senior Kelly Pendergast’s passion is for books relating to mathematics. “Not textbook books,” she says, “but history of math and biographies are what interest me.” As a result, works like Charles Seife’s Zero (detailing the numeral’s problematic beginnings) stand on Pendergast’s bookshelf beside Ian Stewart’s Letters to a Young Mathematician and Amir Aczel’s The Mystery of the Aleph (examining the concept of infinity).

“If I drive by a bookstore I stop,” says Pendergast. “And nearly every time, I buy a new math book.”

For Biology Professor John Cameron, it was a fascination with a particular author – Edgar Rice Burroughs – that resulted in his cache of 78 novels of adventure and science fiction. “Burroughs is undoubtedly best remembered as the creator of the jungle adventurer, Tarzan,” Cameron says. “When I was 12 years old, I collected my first two Burroughs books from an abandoned chicken coop where my mother grew up in rural Maine. Scraping the encrusted droppings off an old box, I pulled out the original Tarzan of the Apes (1912) plus Chessmen of Mars (1922). I devoured them both!” Today, his collection is complete, save for one volume: “In 1917 Burroughs wrote an account of his family’s cross-country camping trip in a 3/4 ton Republic truck – from the perspective of the truck! Entitled ‘An Auto-Biography’, it’s his rarest book, and most collectors have never seen a copy.” No doubt, Cameron is hot on its trail.

The Friends invite you to meet the contest winners and view treasures from their collections on April 20, at 4:30 in the Library Lecture Room, Margaret Clapp Library.
College Library are included in the on-line catalogue. Gone are the wooden card catalogue cases! Information storage and retrieval no longer focus solely on books and periodicals but also on databases, multimedia material, and internet connections. Information searches extend worldwide and inter-library loans are arranged electronically in minutes.

Concomitant change has come in the physical aspects of the library. The past decade has seen the complete renovation of Clapp Library and the remodeling of departmental libraries. Although the stacks remain, tables, desks, and carrels are bedecked with computers, and internet outlets for laptop use abound. The Knapp Media and Technology Center led the way, followed by renovations to the reference and reading rooms, Special Collections and Archives, rearrangements of library and information services work areas, the installation of a conservation laboratory, and the restoration of the Sanger Room.

What roles have the Friends played in these monumental changes? During these 25 years, the Steering Committee has allocated over a million dollars to help the library meet varied needs not covered by its designated budget. To give a sampling: Funding for the Conservation Lab and Sanger Room, an annual discretionary fund for the Librarian, funds to purchase library material for new faculty and new courses, funds for database acquisition and access, purchase of special multimedia works to support new areas of curricular interest, purchase of originals or facsimiles of rare literature, restoration of the Washington Press in the Book Arts Lab, special cameras for Special Collections and Archives to enable scholars to study reproductions of fragile materials, restoration/preservation of fragile materials, and money to support the cataloguing of a collection of pre-16th century manuscripts owned by the library.

To publicize Library activities, we have published a biannual newsletter, which has grown from 4 to 8 pages and now features color. In addition, we underwrote the cost of printing an illustrated catalogue, Resonance and Response, to accompany an exhibition of Wellesley’s collection of artists’ books. We have also drawn on Archives and Special Collections to obtain the illustrations for our postcard and note card series.

What has made all of this possible? Membership donations and gifts of the early members provided seed money for financial growth, and current membership donations continue to make our allocations possible. We are indebted to the more than forty volunteers who have served on our Steering Committee over the years and owe much to our Librarians, Eleanor Gustafson, Micheline Jedrey, Anne Anninger, and Ruth Rogers, who have helped us determine the ways in which we could best serve the Library. The past quarter-century has been a great beginning. We still need and value your membership, to support the important work of the Library in the coming years.

The Friends have also planned a series of excellent programs over the years. Many have featured faculty authors and poets, as well as alumnae writers. On several occasions, Ruth Rogers, Special Collections Librarian, has been able to display and talk about some of our artists’ books at Wellesley Clubs outside New England. Other programs have included specialists in the Book Arts, student and faculty poetry readings, student competitions for excellence in researching papers, lectures that highlight various exhibits and functions of the college, and most recently, an all-college book-collecting contest.
Campus jobs in the library led three recent Wellesley graduates to short-term positions with Information Services. These positions were designed to offer a wide range of experiences and professional development opportunities in the areas of library and technology.

Websites, podcasts, and multimedia: a conversation with this year’s interns immediately expands the definition of a library and the services it offers. Traditional library functions and new technology have been completely integrated so that students and faculty can move freely across platforms. Material on reserve might be a book, a video, a CD, or an e-journal. Reference librarians teach course-appropriate research methods from ancient manuscripts to modern media, so it seems appropriate that the Library interns came to their positions from very different disciplines.

Bethany Templeton, ’05 graduated with a major in Religion focusing on early Christianity. However, it was her four-year campus job in the Science Library that led her to the University of Iowa for an MA in library and information science and a graduate certification in book studies. In January 2008, the Science Library offered her a temporary job replacing her former supervisor who was retiring. She was delighted to prolong her stay with another short-term appointment. Bethany now manages print and electronic course reserves in the Science Library. We all remember using books on “two-hour reserve,” rushing to finish the assignment and return the material on time. For print material and videos, a similar system prevails, but much of the course material in the sciences is on “e-reserve” which means that it is available 24/7. However, placing something on e-reserve is not as easy as taking a book from a shelf, and it often involves issues of copyright as well as formatting and technical details.

A double major in English and Economics, Marisa Shariatdoust ’09 also held a campus job with Media Services in the library for four years. This department supports the audio visual needs of the academic program and curricular events. After graduation, she felt further work in the library would deepen her knowledge of technology “in an excellent work environment”. She currently helps to staff the Service Desk and the Help Desk as well as provides support for video e-reserves. Library work is far from lonely, and Marisa emphasizes that she and her colleagues work in teams, providing training for student workers, other IS staff, and faculty and student users.

Christina Pong, ’09 says she grew up surrounded by computers, thanks to her Dad’s business. Her college major was Media Arts and Sciences, a combined major which, according to the catalog, “focuses on media production that balances artistic sensibility with analytical reasoning within the rich tradition of the liberal arts environment”. During college, Christina worked at the Computing Help Desk and was a Knapp summer intern, helping to design websites. Web design remains her primary focus. Christina is a member of the launch team for the new College website and is helping to train users for the transition. She also preps podcasts (i.e. removes the um’s and ah’s) for itunes.wellesley.edu which enables the download of recent campus lectures, and designs and creates video for the new What Wellesley’s Reading site, http://www.wellesley.edu/wwr/.

Library functions have changed, but one is left with the impression that one of the Wellesley College Libraries’ greatest strengths is still the people who work there. The array of technology would be meaningless without the many people who say “let me help you”.

Visit What Wellesley’s Reading to hear Professor Nancy Kolodny and other faculty talk about their favorite books. Each week a new book is introduced.
Without a doubt, Wellesley women are women who will read. We read to educate ourselves on new topics, to broaden our understanding, and, of course, we read for pleasure. The physical pleasure of reading a good book, whether fiction or non-fiction, paperback or hardcover, is something to treasure and to share. With that in mind, several members of the Friends of the Library have shared their answers to that question, “What are we reading?”

Lisa See’s *Shanghai Girls* is a real eye-opener, showcasing the ills of two cultures: pre-WWII China, during the infiltration of communism and its accompanying excesses; and WWII-era America (particularly California) and its blatant anti-Chinese sentiment. Against this backdrop, two Chinese sisters, who have made their mark as “beautiful calendar girls,” are forced to leave cosmopolitan Shanghai (“The Paris of Asia”) when their wastrel father covers his debt by selling them as war brides to shadowy suitors from Los Angeles in search of Chinese wives.

Diane Speare Triant ’68

I have enjoyed Hilary Mantel’s *Wolf Hall*, a novelized account of Thomas Cromwell’s rise to power under Henry VIII. However, I will confess that I was particularly drawn to the book not because it had just won the Man Booker Prize, but because I had recently finished a marathon read of C.J. Sansom’s mystery series set in the same time period. Any mystery fans who don’t know Matthew Shardlake, the hump-backed lawyer hero of the series, are in for a treat.

Alice Robinson ’46

Molly Campbell ’60

Brooklyn by Colm Tóibín is the best novel I read in 2009. It’s a remarkable story about a nondescript Irish immigrant, coming to New York just after World War II, whose life on the surface seems very humdrum (we’ve heard this story before). However, Tóibín writes with exceptional elegance, and the story is not really about what happens on the surface, but the underlying forces that draw us home, whatever they may be. What I especially liked is that without being preached at, we find ourselves faced with how we make choices and in the process find out who we really are.

Maud Chaplin ’56

What have you been reading?

What have you been reading? Share your favorite book with us by sending a brief explanation of why you enjoyed it to the newsletter editor at: azoellner@alum.wellesley.edu
Time to Renew?

Please use the form below and make your check payable to: Wellesley College. Mail to: Kristy Grinder, c/o Friends of Wellesley College Library, Wellesley College, Office for Resources, Green Hall 259, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481. Thank you for your continuing support!

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*Entitles Life Membership  **Entitles Durant Society Membership

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POSTCARDS

Vintage photographs from Clapp Library Archives

Set #1 - Photographs from 1880 - 1915
Set #2 - Photographs from the 1920s & 1930s
Set #3 - Photographs from the 1940s & 1950s
Set #4 - Photographs from the 1960s & 1970s
Set #5 - Photographs from the 1980s & 1990s

Each set has two postcards each of eight photos, totaling 16.
Price: $10 per set.

To print an order form and view samples visit www.wellesley.edu/Library/Friends or call 781-283-2872.

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Titles featured at recent programs sponsored by Friends of the Library and Authors on Stage are listed under Buy A Book.

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To request information from Friends of the Library:
Call 781-283-2872 or visit www.wellesley.edu/Library/Friends
Authors on Stage Celebrates 30th Year

Diane Speare Triant ’68

From its opening program in 1981, “Authors on Stage” has kept booklovers stuffing the reservations mailbox and buying first edition volumes. The popular benefit has showcased more than 200 writers, ranging from best-seller Stephen King to literary standout Sue Miller. Held each spring and fall, Authors on Stage marks its 30th year with donations to the library topping $130,000. Through the decades, town-gown audiences have seen selected Authors on Stage works rocket to prominence: Roger Fisher’s Getting to Yes has become a standard in the MBA curriculum; Dennis Lehane’s Mystic River, adapted to film, earned a “best picture” Oscar nomination; and Julia Glass’ Three Junes, won the National Book Award.

Presenters have shared numerous insights on the writing life and the writing craft. Pulitzer-Prize finalist and Wellesley native Adam Haslett – who wrote a draft of his collection You are Not a Stranger Here in Clapp Library – explained his partiality to the short-story form: “You can have an entire experience of a life captured in a single reading,” he said. “You can raise the stakes quickly and put in great emotional force which would not come out in a novel until the end.”

Such rich literary talk will no doubt keep Authors on Stage audiences packing the College Club into the 2040s!