For Eileen Hardy, growing up in a small central Massachusetts town and frequenting its 19th century stone library was more than a pastime. “Reading was like breathing; natural and essential,” she says. She soon outgrew the children’s room, seeking out the adult collection. One year she checked out fiction volumes solely by their width, relishing *Gone With the Wind* as a 12-year-old!

Hardy’s early love for the library translated into her first paid work in high school as a public library page. “They let me do every job in the place,” she says, “from re-shelving to typing up catalog cards, making book repairs, and even weeding out the collection!” Fast forward to 2012 (after holding library positions at Boston University and Brown), and Hardy, as Director of Library Collections at Wellesley, now oversees a wide array of library operations, including collection management, acquisitions, conservation, library systems, archives, and special collections.

Q: How did you decide to enter the library sciences field? [Hardy holds an MLS from Rutgers.]
A: I was the cliched future-librarian/bookish-kid – and a history nerd to boot. During my college summers I worked at Old Sturbridge Village. I liked to hang around and listen to the education staff interpret the historic buildings. As a history major at Emmanuel, I loved writing research papers – assembling the research documents was almost as much fun for me as writing the paper! The library seemed to marry my twin interests in history and research.

Q: In your 27 years at Wellesley, what significant changes have you seen in library services?
A: The most profound changes have come from the emergence of digital communication and publishing. In the days when print predominated, students and faculty had to come to the library to use the reference, document, and reserve collections; to check out books and to make photocopies. Once we began subscribing to electronic journals, our patrons could access them at anytime from anywhere via Internet service. The emphasis began to shift from acquiring needed resources to providing access to them. Electronic resources have permitted the library to offer a wider range of materials than would ever have been feasible (or affordable) in print. Today, we provide access to over 62,000 e-journals, 450,000 e-books and 40,000 electronic government publications. Library spaces are used differently now, too. Courses increasingly involve group work and collaborative projects. As we have renovated, we have also increased the number of group spaces.

Q: Describe an exciting current project/innovation.
A: We have just begun digitizing material from the Archives and Special Collections – unique resources that researchers previously had to come to Wellesley to use. Once digitized, we can make them freely accessible to scholars worldwide. “Hidden” collections [uncatalogued materials, thereby invisible to the patron] are also a priority. At the moment we are cataloging a collection of 19th century books illustrated by British caricaturist and graphic artist George Cruikshank.
A Message From the Co-Chair  

Eileen Hardy, Director of Library Collections

Dear Friends,

It’s a pleasure to write my first Message to you as the new staff Co-Chair of the Friends Steering Committee to update you on activity in the Library.

This year our collections digitization program took off, starting with the launch of the Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive online repository (as reported in the fall issue of the Newsletter). On Valentine’s Day we opened the online Browning Collection, (http://www.wellesley.edu/Browning), the digital version of one of the centerpieces of our Special Collections. It was a heady time at the library, with reporters from around the country and around the world making contact. The response was impressive: on day #1 the site logged over 660,000 page views by more than 10,000 visitors; by the end of the first week, over 22,000 visitors from more than 10 countries had viewed nearly 1.3M pages. While we all enjoyed our fifteen minutes of fame, in the intervening days we find even greater satisfaction in having made this valuable resource available - without charge - to students and researchers around the world.

In another project, a portion of the correspondence of 19th-century American painter Anne Whitney with her art world contemporaries, which is housed in the Archives, has been digitized to form a database that will be used by Assoc. Prof. Jacqueline Marie Musacchio and her students in a fall 2012 art history seminar. The team working with Prof. Musacchio includes, Lia Dawly, ’12. Thanks to support from the Friends of the Library annual fund, Lia will be able to attend an undergraduate Digital Humanities symposium at Bryn Mawr and Haverford later this spring, bringing home what she learns to help with the design of the database and the course.

We have also begun to reach out in more targeted and explicit ways to the College community to help us to plan for the future of Library & Technology Services (LTS). Early in the spring semester, we surveyed the community on their use of ebooks, a format that the Library has made available in increasing numbers in recent years. Since acceptance of ebooks in the academic setting is generally considered to be slower than in the popular/retail market, we want to get a baseline sense of the acceptance and use of ebooks at Wellesley. We look to the results, when analyzed, to help us to plan for further ebook (and print) acquisitions. We’ll report back on the findings in the fall.

Assessment on a wider scale follows in a series of events sponsored by LTS in a symposium series entitled “Liberal Arts Learning in the Digital Age.” The symposium will extend through the spring semester. Early events will focus on technology supports needed in the academic disciplines of the future: teaching technology in the sciences, digital humanities, digital media in the fine arts, and quantitative social sciences. The Friends are encouraged to participate in the symposium events: you can find out more on a blog at this address: https://blogs.wellesley.edu/symposium/. We’ll report on the findings of these discussions as well in a future issue.

With best regards,

Eileen Hardy
Director of Library Collections
Q: As staff co-chair of the Steering Committee, what is your vision for the Friends of the Library?
A: The Friends provides an important link to alums and to those who care about the library ... I want to ensure that members feel “in touch” with our ever-changing library. This is a place where print and digital coexist and where we think about ebook portability at the same time that we posit the centrality of “Book Studies” to a liberal arts education. This is a place where new services are developing, combining the expertise of library research specialists with that of instructional technology professionals to support the evolving learning needs of students and the teaching needs of faculty. I’d like for the Friends to learn more about what we’re doing, and to meet more members of the community who work together to support excellence at Wellesley.

Friends of the Library Bookbinding Workshop

Genevieve Goldleaf ’12, student employee in the Book Arts Lab

This year’s Friends of the Library annual workshop, held in the Book Arts Lab on Saturday, March 3, and led by program director Katherine Ruffin, focused on exposed spine hardcover journals, a form of bookbinding in which the sewing that connects the groupings of pages is never covered.

Each participant sewed a blank journal, composed of nine groupings, called signatures or sections, of four pieces of paper folded in half. Each book had seventy-two pages in all.

Using a herringbone stitch over linen tapes provided stability to the binding: the herringbone pattern linked each signature to the stitching below, and tapes underneath the stitching help connect all the signatures to each other and ultimately to the cover of the journal as well.

Once all the signatures were sewn together, we covered book board with deaccessioned United States Geological Survey maps; the minutiae of their topography and highways looked almost abstract, out of geographical context. All of the paper and boards used in each journal, including the maps, were cut with the same grain alignment: the fibers are lined up in the same direction, which allows each component of the book to move and settle over time in harmony. Finally, in a high-stakes moment, the covered boards were glued directly onto the first and last pages in each journal.

This article first appeared on the Library’s LTS Rare blog. Workshop photos were taken by Hannah Stevens, MLIS Student at Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, intern in the Archives, Wellesley College, Spring 2012.
On Friday, March 30, the Friends of the Library, with assistance from the Center for Work and Service, sponsored their spring program “Careers in Library and Information Science.” The event, held in the Brackett Reading Room, was well attended, with over 60 students, alumnae, and staff present.

In response to increasing student interest, staff members of Library and Technology Services designed the program to allow Wellesley students and alumnae to learn more about possible careers within the library and information science fields, including job types, required skills, and educational paths.

The event started with a buffet lunch and the chance for attendees to speak informally with staff about their specializations within the Wellesley College Library. This was followed at 12:30 by a panel discussion composed of four recent alumnae who are all working in the field.

Conversation after the panel was lively, with students asking questions and actively networking with alumnae. Much of the staff effort that went into making the event a success is still useful and accessible through our Google site, where anyone can search graduate study and other educational opportunities in the field.

Thanks to Diane Speare Triant ’68 for the event photos.

Thanks to Ruth Rogers, Curator of Special Collections, for her leadership in organizing the event!
Digital Collections Librarian Jenifer Bartle and Systems Librarian Kara Hart, pictured with alumna panelist Bethany Templeton Klem ’05 (center), represented their specialties.

In addition to current students, several recent Wellesley alumnae attended the event.

Steve Smith, Manager of Collections Management and Preservation, and Deborah Lenares, Manager of Library Acquisitions and Resource Sharing, were among Library staff available to answer questions.

View the Careers in Library and Information Science resource page online:
https://sites.google.com/a/wellesley.edu/lis-careers/program-materials
Since its inception in 1972, the Wellesley College Archives has successfully built a collection documenting the history of Wellesley College, including official College records as well as supplementary materials documenting the lives of students, faculty, and administrators. Over 40 years, that collection has grown to over 9,000 linear feet, and includes such varied materials as photographs, artwork, jewelry, publications, maps, architectural plans and models, audio, video, memorabilia, and many others. The vast majority of the collection consists of paper records.

Following the model of many peer institutions, the Archives expanded its collecting policy to include personal and professional papers that document the experiences of alumnae. The current collecting policy, found on the Archives’ web site, states: “The Wellesley College Archives collects the records of administrative and institutional offices, academic departments and programs, and student organizations. The Archives collects supplemental materials when they document the history of Wellesley College. The Archives collects the papers of alumnae and faculty when those papers support the academic mission of Wellesley College.”

While the ink was still drying on this change, the Archives began discussions with Lorraine O’Grady ’55. O’Grady had majored in economics and minored in Spanish literature while at Wellesley. By 1980, after working in careers as varied as government employee and rock critic for the Village Voice, she had focused her passion and energy as a visual artist. When the Archives began discussion with her about the disposition of her papers, she had recently been named in the 2010 Whitney Biennial. She showed (as she continues to show) no sign of slowing down in her artistic output.

During the initial discussions, it quickly became apparent that O’Grady’s papers would not only be a suitable collection for the Archives, as the materials clearly supported the academic mission of the College from a number of perspectives. The collection would also be an ideal first collection for the Archives to acquire under the new policy. The papers are comprehensive, substantial, and cross the threshold between analog and digital. While O’Grady has already transferred about 30 linear feet of paper records (about 50 boxes have been shipped from New York City), we are still working on a process to transfer roughly two terabytes of digital files. O’Grady transitioned from analog to digital in 1995, so, generally speaking, the boxes that have been transferred date from the 1960s to about 1995, though some analog records are more recent.

Assistant Archivist Jane Callahan has managed the process of organizing and describing the Lorraine O’Grady papers, no small task by itself, and complicated by the need to fit the digital files into the same organizational structure as the analog materials already transferred. Callahan says, “Working closely with Ms. O’Grady while sorting and describing her personal and professional papers has been exhilarating. I look forward to the collection’s use by world-renowned scholars and Wellesley undergraduates. The Wellesley community will benefit greatly from this new acquisition.”

Despite the fact that the collection has not yet been broadcast, we’ve already fielded a number of reference questions. We expect the number of inquiries to increase significantly in the coming months as the collection is publicized.

“Wellesley’s alumnae make important contributions in many fields of research, scholarship, and creative arts,” said Eileen Hardy, Director of Library Collections. “It’s significant that Wellesley is now taking on a role in collecting, curating, and making available their papers and other documents to both current and future scholars. Clearly our decision to expand the collecting policy of the Archives came at just the right moment to be able to welcome the donation of Lorraine O’Grady’s papers; we’re thrilled to be working with her on this.”

As part of this expanded collecting effort, a new College-wide committee will begin meeting in April. This committee includes three faculty members, three administrative staff members, the Chief Information Officer, and the College Archivist. This committee will provide a forum for discussion about acquiring significant collections of alumnae papers, as well as the merits of expanding the collecting policy further.
Is it time to renew your membership?

You may use the form below and make your check payable to Wellesley College.

Mail to: Kristy Grinder, Friends of Wellesley College Library, Wellesley College, Office for Resources, Green Hall 259, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481.

Please choose a membership category:

___ Patron* $2,500  ___ Donor $250  ___ Endowment Fund
___ Benefactor $1000  ___ Sponsor $100
___ Supporter $500  ___ Contributor $50  ___ Young Alum $15 (graduates from past 5 years)

*Entitles Durant Society Membership

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________ Class, if applicable: ________________
Street Address: ______________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _____ Zip Code: _____________
Phone Number: (_____)____________ Email Address: ____________________________

Or, make your gift online at www.wellesley.edu/give, and choose “Friends of the Library” as your gift designation.

Thank you for your continuing support!

A New Look for the Friends of the Library

Beginning in Fall 2012, you’ll notice a new look to the Friends of the Library newsletter. As part of Wellesley’s new visual identity, all the Friends groups have gotten new, complementary logos that will grace stationery, marketing materials, and the newsletter template. Look for the new Friends of the library logo, along with the Wellesley W, both pictured below, on future communications.

If you’d like to learn more about Wellesley’s visual identity, including the Wellesley W, you may enjoy this video by Theodora L. and Stanley H. Feldberg Professor of Art Patricia Berman: http://vimeo.com/10090369. Professor Berman reviews the design elements of the Wellesley W and how they relate to the College. ▶

Honor with Books

A GIFT THAT CAN BE OPENED AGAIN AND AGAIN

✦ Honor a Graduate
✦ Celebrate a Birthday or Anniversary
✦ Recognize a Special Occasion
✦ Remember a Classmate

For each $100 gift to Honor with Books, the Library will place a bookplate bearing the name of the honoree, as well as your name, in a newly purchased book.

To request information from Friends of the Library:
Call 781-283-2872 or visit the Friends website: www.wellesley.edu/Library/Friends
Membership Mailing Update

You may have noticed that the Friends membership mailing, usually sent in early fall, didn’t arrive this fiscal year when it generally does. The Friends of the Library marketing materials were recently redesigned, causing the mailing to be delayed. You should have received the traditional postal mailing this winter. However, we expect that future annual membership mailings will continue to be sent in the fall.

The Friends of Wellesley College Library appreciate your annual membership contributions at any time during the year. Members help to fund important initiatives and special projects that are outside the scope of the Library’s budget. We know that students, faculty, and staff benefit from your support of the Friends.

You can use the form in this newsletter to renew your membership, or make a gift online at www.wellesley.edu/give. Thank you for your support!

Authors on Stage
Sponsored by Wellesley College Alumnae of Boston

Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Coffee 9:45 a.m., Program 10:30 a.m.

Wellesley College Club
$25 per person

Featured Authors:
Howard Frank Mosher
Christopher Tilghman,
Jean Zimmerman

Questions: AOS@wellesleyboston.org