The 100th anniversary of the Margaret Clapp Library was celebrated on October 21st with a birthday cake, speeches, gifts, laughter and a “family” party. It was a gala time to honor the structure that has been and is the intellectual heart of the college. A festive banner welcomed visitors entering the foyer through the main door where they found the exhibition mounted by Ian Graham and Ruth Rogers commemorating the “first 100 years.” Included were archival documents relating to the building’s origins, architectural plans for the 1909 building, a collection of artifacts and equipment demonstrating the changing technology of acquisitions, cataloguing and access to library materials, a tribute to Wellesley College Librarians of the past 100 years, and photographs of the Library over time. Also highlighted was the history of the Book Arts Laboratory and a tribute to the early donors to Special Collections.

President H. Kim Bottomly spoke briefly of the early history of the core building and offered a toast to the future of the Clapp Library. Carole Wedge, President of the architectural firm of Shepley Bullfinch Richardson Abbot extended greetings and remarked on her firm’s pride in their long association with the College. SBRA was originally Shepley Rutan & Coolidge, the architects of the 1909 library and the designers of three renovation projects that have been undertaken since the building was opened. Ms. Wedge was followed by Dorothea Widmayer, who brought greetings from The Friends of the Library, and then by Micheline Jedrey, retiring College Librarian and V.P. for Information Services, who shared fond memories.

Graphic designer was unveiling the stunning result at the library’s centennial celebration on October 21st. Hidy’s first step in the complicated design process had been to take out his camera. “After touring the entire library, there was no debate about where to take the photographs,” he says. “The upper windows looking over the lake, with the curved outer buttresses, and the comfortable modernist furniture were obviously prized by the students and staff alike. The trees, lake, architecture, furniture, and student reading made a very complex combination of subjects. The challenge was to show it all clearly without distracting attention from the central subject—the student with the book.”

Hidy uploaded his 250 digital images (which included two student models) into a Macintosh workstation at his Merrimac studio, and began tracing outlines, cropping, filling in with color, and experimenting with typography. He used a digital tablet and stylus for his drawing, producing...
Celebrations and sad goodbyes have engaged us all during the past few months. Our recent celebrations of the Library centennial and the silver anniversary of the Friends are reported in these pages. Our spring issue will honor the contributions of the Friends group over the past 25 years as this issue is full to overflowing. Thanks to many of you we are reaching our goal for the centennial gift and would welcome more memberships and renewals.

Sadly we have said goodbye to many on the Library and Information Services Staff. Last June, Micheline Jedrey hosted a gala farewell party for those retiring, many after long years of faithful service to the college. Those who retired are Elyse Astley, John Babington, Justine Crowley, Jacqueline Fitzpatrick, Carolyn Hasgill, Nancy Karis, Irene Laursen, Claire Loranz, Rhonda MacFarland, Barbara Rida and Wilma Slaight. We thank them for their dedication and wish them well in their retirement.

Finally we must say goodbye to our wonderful librarian, Micheline Jedrey, who retires after 22 years of commitment to Wellesley and “her library home.” Thank you Mich. We send all good wishes for many years to come.

Sitting at the reference desk, I am privileged with a unique vantage point from which to watch people as they enter the Margaret Clapp Library for the first time. They wander up the steps, past the statues of the Lemnian Athena and the Hesta Giustiniani, and through the bronze doors depicting Sapienta and Caritas. Without fail, their eyes are drawn up as they step first into the sleek two storied lobby, and then into the elegant Crozier Reference Room with its vaulted ceiling, fireplace and original molding. They often walk around the room admiring the portraits of Wellesley’s past presidents who somehow seem to smile down at the students, busily working at computers. This blending of historic architecture with thoroughly modern technology is obviously appealing not only to those visiting Clapp Library, but also to the students, faculty, and staff who regularly fill the building. They come here to work on multimedia projects in the Knapp Media & Technology Center, to look up a thesis in the Archives, to view an artist’s book in Special Collections, to print in the Book Arts Lab, or just to curl up in a chair along the west wing windows to watch snow falling around Lake Waban.

For more than 100 years, students and faculty have made their way “to the libe” as an integral part of their Wellesley experience. Wellesley’s first library existed within College Hall. By 1897, however, the collection had grown enough to necessitate planning for a separate library building. In 1905, philanthropist Andrew Carnegie offered Wellesley College $125,000 for a new library building on the condition that she raise an equal amount for an endowment. Through creative student fundraising and a generous bequest, the money was in hand by 1907.

Pauline Durant laid the cornerstone of the new library on June 5, 1909. The library, designed in a neo-classical style by the architectural firm of Shepley Rutan & Coolidge, was to be T-shaped...
a wine-loving patron for Beardsley’s Northampton Café, and – most recently – the student reading for Clapp Library.

Hidy employs a variety of techniques to create his trademark art with a message. “In this [Wellesley] poster you see subdued, close-value colors in the surrounding picture, while the bright red and white book, and the yellow shirt, draw attention to the act of reading,” he says. “The details of architecture, furniture, trees and lake all help to identify the Margaret Clapp Library as a spectacular environment for learning.”

And the most difficult element of the design? “The student’s hair,” says Hidy. “I tried about six different hair styles before I got it right!”

Centennial Poster for Sale

Order your own deluxe inkjet printed edition (30 x 30) signed by the artist for $100 (shipping included) and support the library in its second century. Call 781-283-2872.
Centennial Celebration, October 21, 2009
memories of her “library home.” Especially exciting was the unveiling of the commissioned, celebratory poster by artist Lance Hidy.

The Friends of Wellesley College Library were also celebrating their 25th Anniversary on this occasion and they too displayed photographs of some memorable events in their past. To mark their birthday year, The Friends sponsored a “book collecting contest,” inviting all members of the college community to submit essays and bibliographies of their special collections. The winners and prizes were announced at the party. They were ($500) David Haines, (Chemistry) for his collection of books and manuscripts relating to the Society of Friends, ($250) Sarah Becker, (Library) for her collection of cookbooks, ($250) John Cameron (Biological Sciences) for his collection of the science fiction of Edgar Rice Burroughs, ($250) Mary Durden (2010) for her collection on the music and life of Tori Amos, and ($250) Kelly Pendergast (2010) for her collection on math and mathematicians. Congratulations to all of our book collectors!

In addition, to recognize and mark the 100th year of the College Library, the Friends pledged a centenary gift of $100,000. These funds, especially appropriate for the present digital age in library services, are to be used over a five year period to explore new learning and research technologies and to ascertain their usefulness for the library.

The party ended as each attendee received a copy of the Lance Hidy poster and the library resumed its normal role in the life of the College.
From the Librarian

Micheline Jedrey, Vice President for Information Services and College Librarian

In preparation for my impending retirement I have begun to review and organize my files. The prediction that there would be less paper following the adoption of e-mail and word processing does not seem to have proven true in my case. My file cabinets are filled with documents, dating back decades, about planning initiatives, technological changes, donor relationships, and personnel matters. For the archivist, and for future researchers, this is the evidence of activity, the record of a time and place. For me, these papers provide vivid glimpses of those who were past stewards of this wonderful library as well as welcome remembrances of colleagues with whom I have worked during these past 22 years.

When I interviewed for the position of College Librarian in April 1989, in my presentation I stated that “the success of an ambitious program of services and resource development depends upon the Library staff. I believe it is my responsibility as Librarian to provide an environment that allows staff to grow and to meet these challenges.” I described this environment as one in which:

- Each member of the staff has a role to play in achieving the Library’s goals and objectives—that each person has a contribution to make to the quality of our services.
- Individual growth is fostered by giving staff the authority to make decisions.
- Creativity and innovation are valued, knowing that this means that risks are taken, that new ideas require trial, and though some of these ideas may fail, many will succeed.

I have worked to achieve this vision of a place in which all staff can thrive and learn, standing close when support and guidance are needed, standing back when independence and exploration are required. Some might question the amount of time I have committed to this work—the anniversary meetings with each staff member, meeting each finalist for a job, the ongoing organizational restructuring activities. But, for me, this investment in the staff is, and always has been, at the heart of my work as College Librarian. Fundamentally, the quality of our services is directly attributable to the people who provide these services. It has been my privilege and honor to work with an extraordinary group of staff who, each day, provide dedicated and inspired services to this community. They are the future of the Library.

You Can’t Find Everything on Google

Maud H. Chaplin, ’56, Virginia Onderdonk Professor of Philosophy, Emerita

How does one go about writing a well-researched paper? Two years ago, the Friends of the Library, acting in response to an idea by Betty Febo, research librarian, decided to offer two prizes, one for a paper at the 100 or 200-level and one at the 300-level for papers that demonstrated a thoughtful, methodical, and scholarly approach to the research needed for their papers and project. Both years we had many fine submissions, making it difficult to single out two. However, each year we found two papers that demonstrated all of the qualities above plus some highly original and unique use of sources. Last Spring, for a paper entitled “Jacobus Publicius’s Artes Orandi, Epistolandi, Memorandi: A Bibliographic Analysis,” Ran Tao, ’09, who used primary sources written in French, English, and Latin as well as oral interviews and email correspondence with the Associate Librarian at Houghton Library at Harvard, was awarded the prize at the 200 level. Her advisor characterized her research as being at the graduate level and bringing new scholarship to the field. Winner of the 300-level award, Maria Lisiakova, ’10, exhibited a novel and useful way of taking notes. Because her paper, “A Triumph of Doctrine: The Story of the Brusilov Offensive,” covered so many different topics and required research into many books focused on other events, she devised a scheme whereby information dealing with a similar topic though found in different sources was written in the same color allowing for a quick synthesis of information. An original strategy that may well serve as a useful method to future historians faced with the same problem.
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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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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- Honor a Graduate
- Celebrate a Birthday or Anniversary
- Recognize a Special Occasion
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For each $100 gift to Honor with Books, the Library will place a bookplate bearing the name of the person you are honoring, as well as your name, in a newly published book.

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

Proceeds to benefit the Wellesley College Library.
and located between College Hall and the Chapel. It would initially house 110,000 volumes. The large reading room, with elegant Renaissance reading tables, became the stem of the T and still remains as the Crozier reference room. The library entrance was contained within the cross arm of the T and overlooked Rhododendron Hollow. This arm also contained offices, an English Room, and five tiers of stacks. In the spring of 1910, a majority of the library collections were transferred to the new building from College Hall.

The library’s first addition was begun in 1915 to provide several new rooms, including a recreational reading room dedicated to Henrietta Brooks ’91, and a Treasure Room to house the college’s extensive collections of rare books, including the Ruskin Collection and the English Poetry Collection. By mid-century, the library once again needed more space. In 1956 the Shepley firm created a design doubling the size of the original library building with a new wing on the west side. Expansion was less expensive than constructing a new library. The architects successfully incorporated the four story modernist rectangular addition into the slope of the landscape so that the height of the original building was undisturbed.

The library was named after former President Margaret Clapp in 1974 while construction was underway on a third addition again designed by the same firm (by then Shepley Bullfinch Richardson and Abbott). This expansion projected the building eastward to house offices, Archives, Special Collections, a first floor reserve reading room, and further extended the stacks to the west.

The Shepley firm expertly harmonized all these expansions while respectfully referencing its design for the original building. Walking through the building today, one can simultaneously sense the forward momentum of the building as well as its reverence for the past. The exterior walls of previous buildings have been left in place to create passageways where windows once were, giving today’s visitor a sense of the building’s history and growth over time.

More recently, the entire building has been renovated and refurnished. The Knapp Media and Technology Center was created on the first floor, a state-of-the-art conservation facility was built on the fourth, and the building is now wireless-accessible throughout. Despite 100 years of growth and innovation, one thing will not change—many more generations of students will be curled up on those fantastically comfortable chairs, reading a book, an e-book on a laptop, or whatever technology comes along in the next century of the Margaret Clapp Library.