You Are Invited: A Conversation with Madam Secretary

Diane Speare Triant ’68

“I was 59 when I began serving as U.S. Secretary of State. I thought by then that I knew all there was to know about my past, who ‘my people’ were, and the history of my native land… Others might be insecure about their identities; I was not and never had been. I knew. Only I didn’t.”

With that statement, renowned alumna Madeleine Korbel Albright fast draws readers into the story of her search for personal identity against the backdrop of the 1938 Nazi occupation of her native Czechoslovakia. She is generously sharing with a Wellesley audience the details of her book, Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948, on the morning of January 25, 2013 at Alumnae Hall. The event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library and Library Technology Services, and will benefit the former. Albright – who also served as America’s ambassador to the UN – plans to engage in a conversation encompassing questions about her book as well as queries on any other topic, including U.S. foreign policy. The volume will be for sale, with an opportunity for autographing, following the presentation.

It says much of Albright that just as she was assuming the challenges of Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton, she was also able to focus on a personal family revelation. Raised Catholic, but converting to the Episcopal faith when she married, she learned that her late parents had, in actuality, been of Jewish origin and that 20 of her relatives had died in the holocaust. Surprised but intrigued, Albright embraced the news with her usual forthrightness and action and has since returned to Prague many times to uncover additional information about her roots.

Inside Prague’s Pinkas Synagogue she saw the names of family members inscribed on the walls among 80,000 memorialized there. “I was shocked and, to be honest, embarrassed to discover that I had not known my family history better,” she says in the book’s opening pages. Prague Winter is the story of how she, indeed, came to know those ancestors better and how her immediate family escaped Prague for England during the war years. In London, her father interacted with the Czech government in exile while directing BBC broadcasts to Nazi resisters at home. In 1949 the family accepted political asylum in the U.S.

Intertwined with her family’s courageous story (which is enhanced by her own vintage photographs), Albright presents a remarkable political history of Czechoslovakia during the World War II era. Her grasp of the convoluted threads leading to Hitler’s infiltration of her homeland, and her ability to relate them in a gripping, cogent, manner showcase the prodigious attributes that underscored her selection as this country’s first female Secretary of State.

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A Message From the Co-Chair
Georgia B. Barnhill ’66

Dear Friends,

As you will read in this newsletter, we have invited Madeleine Albright, Class of 1959, to discuss and read from her newest book, *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948*. This event will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 25, 2013. Eileen Hardy, the steering committee’s co-chair, and I hope that all members of the Friends of the Library in the region will attend this event. This event, a fund-raiser to support the Library, will be open to the public. The Steering Committee hopes that the Friends will enroll new members among alumnae and others from surrounding communities.

Members of the Steering Committee are, in a way, a privileged group in relation to the College. Through our activities, we see a slice of College life that is not readily apparent to the alumnae body as a whole. For example, we receive ongoing reports about the uses of our “Innovations in Reading and Scholarship: A Library Fund for the Future.” Among recent projects funded are: 1) funding to explore with the faculty creation of an academic program in Book Studies, and 2) a workshop on zines hosted by Library & Technology Services and presented by representatives of the POC (People of Color) Zine Project on September 14th. Both are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. Other innovative projects will continue to come to our attention as faculty and staff submit new ideas for Innovations funding.

The Friends will also support the annual meeting of The Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies to be held in November on the campus. This international gathering will highlight some of the Clapp Library’s wonderful literary collections. Ruth Rogers, curator of special collections, will host a visit of the group and display some of the Library’s sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books and manuscripts. Katherine M. Ruffin will give a demonstration of hand printing on the press in the Book Arts Laboratory. The Friends support these activities as well as the keynote address by Ann Blair, Henry Charles Lea Professor of History at Harvard University. The Friends also sponsor book collecting awards and student library research awards. I hope that during this academic year, we will hear from art, music, and science librarians about their collections. Activities such as these keep the committee engaged and at work on ways to improve all the libraries at the College.

We hope to see you in January! In the meantime, we thank you for your support of the Friends of the Library. Remember to order books from Amazon through the Friends of the Library link!
MADAM SECRETARY continued from page 1

When Director of Library Collections Eileen Hardy – the newly elected co-chair of Wellesley’s Friends of the Library – happened to hear Albright discussing Prague on a television interview, an idea blossomed. “She’s a very good storyteller,” says Hardy, “and I was thinking about the Friends’ programming for the coming year at that time.”

Hardy and her co-chair, Gigi Barnhill, knew that Albright would be on campus in January for the fourth session of the Albright Institute for Global Affairs (where 40 student fellows planning public sector or diplomatic careers partake in three weeks of interdisciplinary study and intellectual exchange). They approached Joanne Murray, Co-Director of the Institute, who extended the invitation to Albright on the Friends’ behalf. Albright accepted enthusiastically.

“We were off and running,” says Hardy, who is energized and excited by Albright’s upcoming appearance. “It is exactly the type of high-profile event for the campus community, townspeople, and Boston-area college students that I’d envisioned the Friends initiating.”

2012 Student Library Research Awards

The Friends of the Library have donated funds establishing an award to recognize outstanding library research papers or projects by undergraduates in any discipline. In this age of electronic information, research has become a more complicated process. Sources may be in paper or microfilm, on the Web, or in other electronic formats. Evaluating these sources takes increasing time and effort. This award was created to reward those students who take the time to develop a thoughtful, methodical, and scholarly approach to the research needed for their papers and projects, as well as to encourage students to develop good research techniques.

From the thirteen entries, three awards and one honorable mention were presented to the following students:

- 300-level award ($750): Claire McRee ’12 for her ARTH 350 paper, “Mobilizing Fashion: Nationalism and Utopia in George Barbier’s Falbalas et Fanfreluches.”
  Supporting faculty: Patricia Berman.

- 100/200 level award ($300): Rebecca Rubinstein ’15 for her SPAN 242 paper, “La guerra del tiempo: Una historia del carpe diem en la literatura hispánica.”
  Supporting faculty: Elena Gascón-Vera.

- First Year Award ($300): Bianca Lin ’15 for her WRIT 125 paper, “Shakespeare’s Legacy: The Impact of Hamlet on Eugène Delacroix’s Life and Work.”
  Supporting faculty: William Cain.

- Honorable Mention: Rachel Shuen ’12 for her HIST 312 paper, “San Francisco Chinatown’s Path of Resistance: Challenging Health Measures in Federal Court During the Plague Outbreak of 1900.”
  Supporting faculty: Ryan Quintana.
This September, Library & Technology Services sponsored a program titled “Beyond ‘Meet Me at the Race Riot’: People of Color in Zines* from 1990-Today,” a multimedia presentation and panel discussion by members of the POC (People of Color) Zine Project. The POC Zine Project is a grassroots non-profit organization which aims “to make zines by people of color easy to find, share and distribute: community activism through materiality.”

The panelists spoke about their experiences as creators and as people of color in zine cultures. They also discussed histories of POC zine-making, zine distribution networks, and their own creative work. Cartoonist Suzy Exposito (a.k.a. Suzy X) showed panels from her comic zine Riot Grrrl Problems, and discussed the racial dynamics of punk rock, goth and riot grrrl subcultures.

Daniela Capistrano, the founder of the Project, provided some historical context around zine creation by people of color and discussed organizations, vendors, and networks who are supporting POC zine distribution today. Julia B read excerpts from her zine “Suburban Jamaican Fancy” (which you can read online here: http://issuu.com/poczineproject/docs/suburban-jamaican-fancy) and talked about her experiences growing up between two cultures (in suburban New Jersey and Jamaica’s north coast). New POC Zine Project member Rachel Casiano Hernández, Class of 2012, read from her recently-published work, It’s Complicated: A Zine About Race, Ethnicity, and Identity. After the presentations, panelists joined students for dinner in the Lulu.

The panelists were warmly and enthusiastically received by an audience of College students, faculty and staff, who filled Collins Cinema with lively conversation before and after the event. Some College community members came to learn about zines for the first time, while others were already fans of the form.

Enthusiasm for zines has grown at the College, as students make zines for classes in Women’s and Gender Studies, Biology, and American Studies; incorporate zines in their outreach to the community (this year, the Diversity Committee distributed a fun, informational zine at the Fall Fling); and participate in zine workshops in the Book Arts Lab. Students are borrowing zines from a small circulating collection in Clapp, and are donating their own zines to the collection, for other students to read and enjoy.

The POC Zine Project event was sponsored by the Friends of Wellesley College Library Innovations in Reading and Scholarship Fund, the departments of American Studies, Art, and Women’s and Gender Studies, and Harambee House.

* Zines are independently-produced publications, usually photocopied or printed in small runs, and are generally not made for profit.
Teaching with Books and Other Text-Technologies

Sarah Wall-Randell, Assistant Professor, English Department

Picture are (left to right): Raymond Starr (Theodora Stone Sutton Professor of Classical Studies), Katherine Ruffin (standing, Book Arts Program Director), James Kodera (Professor of Religion), Alison McIntyre (Virginia Onderdonk Professor of Philosophy), Jacqueline Musacchio (Professor of Art History), Helene Bils (Assistant Professor of French), Ian Graham (College Archivist), Katherine Grandjean (Assistant Professor of History), and David Teng Olsen (standing, Assistant Professor of Studio Art), who taught the printmaking lesson. (Photo by Ruth Rogers, Curator of Special Collections.)

This image is from a faculty seminar that took place on campus over June 4–6, 2012, entitled “Teaching with Books and Other Text-Technologies: Book History, the Book Arts, and Book Studies in the Wellesley Curriculum.” It shows Wellesley professors learning to make woodcut blocks for printmaking in the Book Arts Lab in Clapp Library.

The seminar was led by Curator of Special Collections Ruth Rogers, Book Arts Program Director Katherine Ruffin, and English Department Assistant Professor Sarah Wall-Randell. Part of the new Book Studies Initiative, it was made possible by a generous grant from the Friends of the Wellesley College Library’s “Innovations in Reading and Scholarship” fund.

Here’s a description of the seminar: At our current moment in history, when texts everywhere are going digital, studying the history and future of the texts we read, and the varied media that have transmitted and will transmit them, has never been more important. The materiality of textual media, whether scroll or codex, page or pixel, can never be separated wholly from texts’ content: meaning is produced in their interaction. This seminar gathered faculty from all disciplines and ranks, both those who already had research and teaching interests in book studies, from ancient to postmodern, and/or in the “digital humanities,” and those who wanted to learn more about using Wellesley’s superb collections of rare books and artists’ books and its outstanding Book Arts Lab, to share research presentations on the role of books in their scholarship and to discuss the present and future of book studies at Wellesley.

Other participants in the seminar who are not pictured were: Alison Hickey (Associate Professor of English), Andrea Levitt (Clapp Professor of French), Eugene Marshall (Assistant Professor of Philosophy), and Ruth Rogers (Curator of Special Collections).

This article first appeared on the Library’s LTS Rare blog.
Digital Collection of Anne Whitney’s Travel Letters Supports Research and Teaching

T

hanks to generous funding from the Friends of the Library, 269 letters from the Anne Whitney Correspondence collection, held by the Wellesley College Archives, have been digitized. A digital collection of these letters has been built to support the research and teaching of Jacqueline Musacchio, Professor of Art, who is leading a Fall 2012 seminar and several independent study projects on art, tourism, and gender in late Nineteenth-century Italy.

Anne Whitney (1821-1915) was a Boston-area sculptor whose work continues to grace private collections and public areas such as the Boston Common, Harvard Square, and the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol Building. Her correspondence was donated to the Wellesley College Archives in 1944.

Earlier this year, Professor Musacchio and Ian Graham, the College Archivist, identified 269 letters of the much larger collection for digitization. These letters, written by Anne, her partner Adeline Manning, and her sister Sarah Whitney, detail her three trips to Europe between 1867 and 1876. They contain a wealth of information about her daily life, her travel and work, and the art world of the day.

Together, these letters form the core of a digital collection designed to directly support Professor Musacchio’s research and teaching. Her students have access to the original letters -- and now their high-resolution digital surrogates -- to use as primary source documents in their research on issues of gender, tourism, and Nineteenth-century Italian art and history. Having digital versions of the letters protects the originals from damage and allows global, 24/7 access.

Students in Professor Musacchio’s classes grapple with Whitney’s penmanship by transcribing her letters. They also conduct research about some of the many topics that she describes, such as her 1876 visit to the studio of Frederic Bartholdi, the French sculptor who designed the Statue of Liberty.

Professor Musacchio’s independent study students are also using tools and methods common to digital scholarship to present the information they glean from the letters. They will prepare digital timelines and maps of her travels, allowing her life and experiences to be visualized in new ways. The ultimate goal of this work will be a web-based scholarly resource for the public to use to read Whitney’s original correspondence and to learn about her life and art.
Is it time to renew your membership?

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

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

Please choose a membership category:

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___ Benefactor $1000  ___ Sponsor $100
___ Supporter $500  ___ Contributor $50  ___ Young Alum $15 (graduates from past 5 years)

*Entitles Durant Society Membership

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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!

Friends of the Library Welcomes New Steering Committee Members

Leslie Perrin Wilson, Class of 1975, is Curator of the William Munroe Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library, in Concord, Mass., and a writer on local historical and literary topics. She and her husband Michael have three daughters and two granddaughters and live in Clinton, Mass.

Mary Allen is Jean Glasscock Professor of Biological Sciences Emerita at Wellesley College and a microbiologist. She was Chair of Biological Sciences, Director of Biological Chemistry and Director of the Science Center during 41 years of classroom teaching at Wellesley. Since retiring in 2009 she has continued her research on cyanobacterial biochemistry, and the responses of the microbes to changes in their environment, with her undergraduate student colleagues (this year she is mentoring two honors students in their thesis research.) The Allen lab is currently studying biofilm formation in cyanobacteria.

Mary is a past president of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), a national professional organization that encourages research in the undergraduate environment. She enjoys traveling, cross country skiing, kayaking and reading mysteries (especially those with microbial villains) and relaxing in the New Hampshire cottage that her husband and she built of lightweight concrete.
Save the Date!

A conversation with
Madeleine Korbel Albright
author of
*Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948*

Friday, January 25, 2013
Alumnae Hall
10:00 a.m., followed by a book signing
*Books will be available for purchase.*

Proceeds will benefit the Friends of Wellesley College Library. Watch this site for details:
http://new.wellesley.edu/alumnae/libraryfriends

Co-sponsored by Library & Technology Services and the Friends of Wellesley College Library.

Madeleine Korbel Albright
Portrait by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders