President of Carnegie Corporation to Speak at Library Society Dinner

One of the world’s leading authorities on philanthropy and a premier advocate of libraries will speak at the 2008 Library Society dinner. Vartan Gregorian, current president of Carnegie Corporation of New York and former president of The New York Public Library, previously served nine years as president of Brown University.

His philanthropic accomplishments include raising $327 million to restore The New York Public Library. Later, as president of Brown, he raised $534 million in a five-year capital campaign, nearly tripling the endowment. He has also served as a philanthropic adviser to Bill Gates, Ted Turner, Ambassador Walter Annenberg and Sir Tom Hunter of Scotland. After decades of fundraising, he is now a leader in philanthropy as the head of the foundation, which continues to carry out Andrew Carnegie’s vision to foster “the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding” by building on his two major concerns: promoting international peace and advancing education.

The 2008 Library Society dinner will be held Friday, April 18, in the Grand Reading Room (Room 201) of Ellis Library.

Ellis Library Home to Medieval Manuscripts

By Alla Barbatarlo, Michael Holland, and Karen Witt, MU Libraries Special Collections and Rare Books

About 40 years ago, the University of Missouri’s Ellis Library acquired a unique and fascinating collection of 217 manuscript leaves dating from the 8th to the 15th centuries and rich in English specimens from the 10th to the 12th century. The story behind this collection is somewhat enigmatic, and the identity of the original compiler is uncertain.

Bookseller William Salloch believed the collection was started by Archbishop Tenison (1636–1715), who founded the first public library in London. The books and manuscripts belonging to this library were sold and eventually came into the possession of the manuscript collector, Sir Thomas Phillips.

Professor Milton McC. Gatch, who wrote on collecting fragments of medieval manuscripts in 17th century London, suggested that before Tenison acquired the collection, it was
Community Support Vital to Libraries

How many of us remember the first time we fell in love with old books? My first “rarity” was a biblical concordance, published in 1783. I found it in a box shoved under a Victorian settee at an antique shop. The frontispiece displayed a rather Victorian settee at an antique shop. The frontispiece displayed a rather

One of the most beautiful manuscripts in the Venerable Bele, probably dating from the 8th century. It is an extremely interesting piece written by the Anglo-Saxon monk Pergurinus in Freising (Bavaria). At the end of the verse there are two paragraphs of commentary written in a different hand of the same period. One of the most beautiful pieces of this collection is from the Canterbury Bible, from the Acts of the Apostles. By the late 12th century Bibles were often small portable books meant to be used and carried by a person. It has intricate initials: one in blue and gold depicting two birds, the other on the verso with a delicate illustration of the subject with the large initial “P.” Disciples flank the empty central space from which Christ ascends, and only His feet opened up behind the couple as they enter a town. This illustration is strongly influenced in style by Byzantine iconography.

During the past several years, the Division of Special Collections at Ellis Library has taken part in a project that unites old and new technologies to facilitate scholarship around the world. This initiative, called the Digital Scriptorium, is a searchable database that contains the manuscript holdings of 29 cultural institutions across the United States. Participants research and photograph their manuscript materials and then upload the information and images into the database. Available to teachers, students, researchers and the general public, the Digital Scriptorium fosters scholarship and enriches the growing corpus of information about Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. You can visit the Digital Scriptorium at http://mulibraries.missouri.edu/specialcollections/digital.htm.

Background information on the manuscripts was derived from research conducted by the following scholars: Milton McC. Gatch, Linda Voigts, William Salloch, and Kelli Hansen. Revised version of this article was published in Celebrating research: rare and special collections from the membership of the Association of Research Libraries / editor, Philip N. Cronenwett, Kevin Osborn, Samuel A. Street; introduction by Nicolas Barker, Washington, D.C.: Association of Research Libraries, 2007.

Look Who I Found in the Stacks: An Evening of Solo Performances

Good company and sterling performances were to be found in abundance at the Friends of the MU Libraries fundraising event Saturday, Nov. 3. The evening, co-sponsored by the Friends and the Life and Literature Series, began in the cast gallery of the Museum of Art and Archaeology with a reception for supporters of the Libraries and the theater department. Afterward the live performances consisted of three short plays inspired by research conducted at Ellis Library and Western Historical Manuscripts. Seventy people gathered in the Museum’s auditorium for performances by three graduate students from the theater department. Kevin Babbitt, doctoral candidate and assistant director of MU’s interactive theatre troupe, performed his one-man show, based on an unpublished interview between Arthur Unger and Otto Frank (Anne Frank’s father), Pamela J. Judd, second-year master student, gave a performance as Jane Clemens, Mark Twain’s mother. The dialogue for Mrs. Clemens’ piece was written by Mary Barile, current president of the Friends of the MU Libraries. Finally, Matt Salzberg, doctoral student, performed an interview between Arthur Unger and Joan Crawford. Co-directors for these plays were Heather Carver, an associate professor of theater, and Mary Barile.

We wish to thank Drs. Dana and Sonny Bal for their generous support allowed us to host this event in support of the MU Libraries.

compiled around 1695 by Humphrey Wanley, whose major supplier was the bookseller John Bagford (1650–1716). Professor McC. Gatch’s conclusion is based on the notion that some of the materials “can be connected circumstantially with Bagford’s professional activities.”

Interestingly, Ellis Library’s fragment no. 177 comes from a manuscript that had been in Samuel Pepys’ collection since before 1700. In light of Bagford’s role as a book supplier to Pepys, Professor Gatch assumed that Bagford removed the leaf when the entire volume fell into his hands.

Gatch noted that “as a bookseller, [Bagford] was frequently asked to make up imperfect books, and it was the custom of the book trade to collect title-pages and portions of books for this purpose.” William Blades has suggested that Bagford willfully destroyed books to supply his collections.

The earliest piece in this magnificent collection is from Orthographia of the Venerable Bede, probably dating from the 8th century. It is an extremely interesting piece written by the Anglo-Saxon monk Pergurinus in Freising (Bavaria). At the end of the verso there are two paragraphs of commentary written in a different hand of the same period. One of the most beautiful pieces of this collection is from the Canterbury Bible, from the Acts of the Apostles. By the late 12th century Bibles were often small portable books meant to be

and ankles are visible below the frame surrounded by the initial. Though the emphasis of the collection is primarily English, there also are specimens of German, French, Dutch and Italian origin. A miniature painting of the early 14th century is probably Italian. It depicts an unusual group of four people: an older man sitting, a couple and a young man with a sword. The couple is walking away from the older man with concerned, almost frightened faces. Before them is an open door, and it appears as though blue skies were
Many books in the MU Libraries are fragile, others need minor repairs, still others require extensive help if they are to survive this century. A local conservator, Jim Downey, consults with the staff to determine what repair needs to be made and to estimate the cost. Due to budgetary considerations, many of these books cannot be repaired immediately.

When a donor makes the decision to adopt a book, the MU Libraries staff will work with the donor to find a book, often finding books that are of personal interest to the donor. The conservator will then work meticulously on the detailed and time-consuming work of preserving a book. Occasionally a book cannot be repaired. In these instances, Adopt-a-Book funds will be used to digitize the material.

At press time, seven books had been repaired and several more were in the process of being repaired. As part of this program, a Web page is in development that will include “before” and “after” pictures of the adopted books along with the names of the donors. All donors who give $50 or more to this program will receive recognition on the Web site and the donation will be noted in the online catalog record of the book. Donations under $50 will be put into a general fund for book preservation.

Although the program is still young, donor response has been quite positive. Book adopters are excited to see the results of their contribution to MU Libraries. Ken Mares, who has adopted two books, stated, “I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in the Adopt-a-Book Program. The Kemper Foundation’s match is added incentive to contribute to the library in this way.” — Ken Mares

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Many books in the MU Libraries are fragile, others need minor repairs, still others require extensive help if they are to survive this century. By adopting a book, you will ensure that it gets the help it needs to remain a “friend” for years to come.

For more information, contact Sheila Voss
VossS@missouri.edu
University of Missouri, 104 Ellis Library,
Columbia MO 65201-5149
(573) 882-9168
or visit online at
http://mulibraries.missouri.edu/about/adoptabook.htm

Sponsored by The Friends of the MU Libraries
Meet the Librarian: A Talk with the New Head of the Journalism Libraries, Dorothy Carner

In order to give our supporters a better idea of what goes on inside the MU Libraries, Library Connections is debuting a special series in which librarians will answer questions about themselves and their work.

Dorothy Carner, head of the journalism libraries, joined MU Libraries on June 1, 2007.

Can you tell us a little about your background and experience and why you came to MU?

Thank you, I'm very excited and happy to be at the University of Missouri. I am a Missouri native, returning from Austin, Texas, where I served as business bibliographer/reference librarian for the last 13 years. Since my family had spent time in Columbia while my husband earned his PhD, we had always thought that we might like to return one day. My husband, always appreciative of the assistance that he received from the library and his "business librarian," June Deweese, was a "Friend of the University of Missouri Libraries."

One summer day in 2006, I was surfing the MU Web site and happened onto the journalism library Web site and noticed an opening for a journalism librarian. I couldn't stop thinking about the possibility of not only coming back to Columbia and the University, but also having the opportunity to help design and open a new library that would support the research and teaching of the oldest and best journalism school in the world. I decided to go for it, and I couldn't be happier.

What vision do you bring for the Journalism Library? The Journalism Library will strive to be the nexus for journalism information using innovative technologies and providing the highest quality of customer service to local, state and global scholars, students, practitioners and citizens.

Can you describe the new library facility for us a little bit and what you see as the role of the library in the new Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute? The new Frank Lee Martin Journalism Library will occupy most of the first and second floors of what used to be the Sociology Building, but will now be the south wing of the institute. Collaborative space and new technologies will be prevalent in the new library. There will be fewer static computer spaces, so we will be providing laptops and other devices for checkout and use wherever they may be needed in the library. We hope that it will be a new destination for learning, creating and collaborating on the MU campus.

IN MEMORIAM

James Ronald Pinkerton, 74, of Columbia, passed away July 8, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Midge; their son Steven, and his wife, Audrey, of Stockton, Calif.; daughter Kathy Baker of El Dorado Hills, Calif.; and six grandchildren. Dr. Pinkerton came to the University of Missouri in 1963 with a joint appointment in the School of Business and Public Administration and the Department of Rural Sociology. His areas of concentration were the community, demography and ecology. In 1995, Dr. Pinkerton was an honorary research fellow in sociology at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Dr. and Mrs. Pinkerton joined the Library Society at its inception and became members of the Friends of MU Libraries in 1992.

Elizabeth “Betty” Parrigon, 75, of Columbia, passed away July 16, 2007. She was survived by her husband, Perry Parrigon, and a brother, Jesse Ellington. Mrs. Parrigon was an associate professor of law and law librarian at the University of Missouri before opening a law practice in Columbia. Mrs. Parrigon was a strong supporter of the libraries, serving as a member of the Friends of MU Libraries.

Ellis Library Open House

Adrienne Arden, Library Information Specialist II, works on balloon animals at the Ellis Library Opening Open House. Approximately 600 attendees enjoyed library tours and family activities in Ellis Library on Homecoming morning.

Alumni Mingle in Manhattan

Thirty-one alumni and friends of MU attended an event on Oct. 17, 2007, to showcase the MU Libraries. Hosted by the MU Libraries, Carolyn Reid and Mark Funk, the event was held at Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York City. Reid and Funk, faculty members at the Weill Medical College, both earned master’s degrees from the University of Missouri School of Library and Information Science. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Powers spoke about his experiences at Ellis Library. The event was sponsored by the New York Chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association. The MU Libraries plan on hosting similar events throughout the country.

Calendar of Events

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HONOR with BOOKS

Celebrate a special occasion.
Honor a friend, family member or favorite professor. Acknowledge an accomplishment. An MU Libraries Honor with Books donation is the perfect way to provide a lasting tribute to special people in your life.

For as little as $100, you can honor the person of your choice. Every $100 increment funds the acquisition of one new book selected by an MU Libraries’ subject specialist. Names of the honoree and the donor will appear on a bookplate inside the book’s front cover and in the computer display of the Libraries’ online catalog. We will endeavor to fulfill any preference regarding subject matter for books purchased. All gifts are tax-deductible, and notification of gifts can be sent to the honoree or the honoree’s family.

Help strengthen the collections of the MU Libraries. Make a gift to the Honor with Books program.

For more information, call Gena Scott at 573-882-6371, e-mail scottgl@missouri.edu or write to Honor with Books, 104 Ellis Library, Columbia, MO 65201-5149.

Your participation in our Honor with Books program enables the MU Libraries to meet the ever-increasing demands placed on Missouri’s largest public research University.