

EX LIBRIS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF GUSTAVUS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES • FOLKE BERNADOTTE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Arvonne Fraser Is One Great Lady!

Arvonne's memoir provides fascinating glimpses of 20th Century political history from an activist woman's perspective. She says what she thinks, but kindly. Her humor and righteous indignation are never mean. As part of the great generation of women who organized an effective feminist movement and made political and legislative history, she illustrates that leadership skills are honed by working with colleagues, taking risks, and thriving on challenges. The book contradicts the common perception that feminists don't like or work well with men, or have a sense of humor. This one has been married to the same man for 57 years.

~ Walter F. Mondale, former vice-president of the United States and U.S. ambassador to Japan

More than a memoir, She's No Lady is a primer for the next generation of women activists. Arvonne Fraser is a testament of how the world is changed when there is vision, compassion, and the grit to transcend institutional and national barriers. It takes us to a new level of understanding of the inextricable link between global and local, and demonstrates how one courageous woman can make a difference in the world by traversing the two. This is a must-read for anyone who thinks one person can't change the world. She's No Lady is a misnomer: Arvonne Fraser is a great lady!

~ Jill Sheffield, founder and president, Family Care International

This is a unique story of how a Minnesota farm girl, leading a traditional life as wife and mother, becomes an international feminist by recognizing that the dream of a more just world has neither cultural nor geographic boundaries. A firm believer in the rule of law democratically written and applied, Arvonne's story is about challenging convention while also respecting it. It illustrates the contribution of women inside and outside government in effecting change.

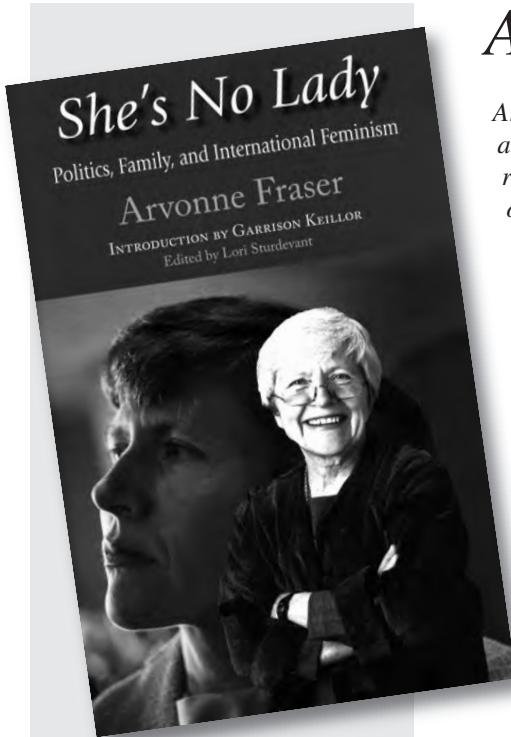
~ Nadine Strossen, president, American Civil Liberties Union, and professor of law, New York Law School

I remember so clearly seeing Arvonne Fraser in the late '50s when she and her husband visited Gustavus. I remember that they were in the old Canteen—the west side of Uhler Hall basement. And they had their children with them. I don't remember how many children—I thought it was a dozen but it probably was two or three. And I remember looking at her and wanting to ask her the question the New Hampshire woman asked Hillary Clinton—"How do you do it?"

~ Elaine Brostrom, retired director of public affairs at Gustavus and former executive director of GLA

In a clear, honest and at times vulnerable voice, Arvonne Fraser shares with us her story, and most of all, herself. She does not edit herself over the irrevocable loss of her daughters, but lets us stay with her—in and out of the grief and then ultimately back into life. Arvonne Fraser came into this world "born at home under a kerosene lamp," but she leaves us with words that inspire and definitely give us the fire to keep moving.

~ Kat Hemrich, reviewer, *Minnesota Literature*, February 2008



Please join us for brunch with Arvonne at the Edina Country Club, Wednesday, May 14. Watch for your invitation in the mail!

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From Your President...

Our Gustavus Library Associates history is a story that was and is being built over time with the common thread for these many events and people being the College. If I may compare us to an oak tree, GLA has a solid trunk with many roots and numerous branches and new sprouts appearing every year. This growth cycle happens with every organization, and I am happy to report that our development over the past few months has been steady as we continue to support the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library.

In December, the St. Lucia Luncheon was a festive day of Scandinavian delights and a musical presentation by Brian Wicklund, a master fiddler, and his entire family. What a wonderful way to demonstrate the true spirit of the Gustavus community with many generations from children to grandparents enjoying a day of celebration as we honored the history of St. Lucia.

Our biennial fundraiser event, *Razzle Dazzle • A Royal Affair*, realized proceeds of over \$175,000 for the endowment fund of Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. This event has evolved over the decades through the outstanding collaborative efforts of the entire Gustavus community, including faculty, staff, administration, students, parents, alumni, friends of Gustavus, donors, underwriters, contributors, guests, and you—our members. This extensive list covers the many generations of supporters, and I wish to extend my gratitude to the entire group and in particular to Nacia Dahl and Susan Wilcox, the co-chairs of our event. Thanks to all the volunteers for their time, talents, energy, and most of all their friendships. You created a truly “Royal Evening” for our Gustavus community, and not only did we raise significant funds but we also raised many friends, which keeps our tree standing tall.

On March 8 we will host the Easter Bunny Breakfast, which has become known to some of us as the “Mini Royal Affair for the younger set.” Our story continues as GLA reaches across the ages with a morning filled with fun, so please join us whether it is to volunteer or attend. This event has added to our growth, with many of our GLA members’ children attending and then, as they become older, assisting by delivering balloons and food to the tables. Later some have attended Gustavus and even become GLA board members themselves. What a wonderful history of our organization that takes generations and time to complete, similar to the old oak tree.

As the new president, I set a personal goal of expanding the board of directors with new members who were interested in giving back to Gustavus, with the benefit of making friends and having fun. Our exciting news is that we have 15 new board members who are adding another branch to Gustavus Library Associates. Another goal of mine is to develop existing and new friendships within our Gustavus community. The main reason people get involved is “Friends” and a “Common Cause,” so please contact me or anyone on the board if you are interested in joining with GLA in developing new friendships and supporting Gustavus. We have many volunteer opportunities like the Easter Bunny Breakfast and Author Days, and everyone is welcome.

We need to partner together as we continue to grow our organization, just as our strong, solid oak tree needs nourishment. Please join me by taking steps to bring in a new member within the next few months and continue to or get involved with GLA in whatever capacity fits your schedule. Your support will ultimately lead to our growth. It will be my pleasure to work with everyone as we take these steps and become friends while supporting the Gustavus library.

One bud, one branch, and a little water is all it takes.



Deb Dankers Johnson
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This newsletter is published three times during the academic year by the Office of College Relations, Gustavus Adolphus College, under the supervision of Dean Wahlund, director of communication services and special events and executive director of GLA. For further information about Gustavus Library Associates membership and activities, contact Wahlund or Dana Lamb at 507-933-7550 or e-mail collegerelations@gustavus.edu.

Easter Bunny Breakfast Is New GLA Tradition

by Barb Larson Taylor

Some have called the Easter Bunny Breakfast “A Royal Affair for kids.” A room filled with friends and family talking and enjoying themselves . . . another great party planned by Gustavus Library Associates . . . These things are the same, yet there are some differences: The tuxedos are replaced with Easter sweaters and dresses. The Steele Family is replaced with the Teddy Bear Band. The silent auction is replaced with photos with the Easter Bunny. The roses are replaced with balloons. And the food is more kid-friendly. Yet the festive mood remains the same.

Please join Gustavus Library Associates on Saturday, March 8, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, located at 5025 Knox Avenue South, Minneapolis, for a morning filled with food and fun. Bring your camera and your teddy bear and get ready to dance to the music of the Teddy Bear Band!

Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased by contacting the Office of College Relations at Gustavus at 507-933-7520 or online at collegerelations@gustavus.edu. 📖

A Sense of Space, a Sense of Place

by Dan Mollner, head librarian

From time to time, those of us working in the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library and elsewhere at the College need to step back and look at the library as more than our office, as more than a teaching lab, as more than a public space. We need to view this building as the truly multi-use facility that it is, and foremost in that view should be the needs of our students.

Obviously, the Bernadotte Library needs to be a place of work. We expect students to conduct research, read books and journal articles, and to watch films, and we expect them to complete papers and assignments. To help them in those activities we house and make available the reference tools, paper and electronic collections, and the computers needed to work on projects. GLA has long been a tremendous support to building those research collections, and your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Beyond the collections, we need to acknowledge that individuals study and read in different ways. Some want hard chairs at a table, others soft chairs by the window. One wants bright white light, another yellow light with a more homey feel. Many students like background noise to cover distractions, as many want it as quiet as can be. As dorm rooms become increasingly places of noise and distraction, the library is needed more and more as an inviting, comfortable space conducive to learning. Additionally, since Gustavus is truly a residential campus, our library needs to be part living room as well. We need to be a place of relaxation, of exposure to culture, and of building lasting friendships. We have to be a lot of places to a lot of people.

This January my colleague Michelle Twait offered a course called “The Library as Place.” Students read about different libraries, took tours to area institutions, and had some critical discussions about the Gustavus library of today. They presented ideas for a library expansion and remodeling (which probably will take place after they have all graduated) which were full of design boards (this is a group of students who appear to have watched quite a bit of HGTV!), sample photographs, and sketches. What comes through is a place of inspiration, of comfort, of celebration of knowledge. They feel the Gustavus library should be what Deborah Goodwin of the Religion Department calls a “Temple of Learning.”

It is good to know that students feel this way about the library. We receive generally positive reviews of what we have already, but we are always happy to learn what they want their library to be. We also know we have high expectations to fill! 📖

Gustavus Library Associates COMING EVENTS SPRING 2008

Saturday, March 8, 9:30 a.m.

Easter Bunny Breakfast

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church,
Minneapolis

(Call 507-933-7550 for information;
register online at gustavus.edu/gla)

Sunday, March 9, 2 p.m.

Gustavus Music Showcase, featuring

The Gustavus Choir,
The Gustavus Wind Orchestra, and
The Gustavus Symphony Orchestra
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

(Call Orchestra Hall Box Office, 800-292-4141)

Tuesday, April 8, 7 p.m.

Rydell Professor Twin Cities Lecture:

Frans de Waal, primatologist
Great Clips IMAX Theatre

Minnesota Zoo, Apple Valley

(Visit www.zoo.org to make complimentary
reservations online.)

Wednesday, April 30

opening at 10 a.m.

MAYDAY! Peace Conference:

“Troubled Water,”

with keynote speakers

Aaron Wolf and Wenonah Hauter

Gustavus Adolphus College

(Call 507-933-7520 for information)

Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Lindau Symposium:

The Hon. David Durenberger
on health care reform

Alumni Hall

Gustavus Adolphus College

(Open to the public without charge)

Wednesday, May 14, 9:30 a.m.

GLA Author Day,

with Arvonne Fraser

Edina Country Club

(Invitation to follow; call 507-933-7550 for information)

Tuesday and Wednesday,

October 7 and 8, all day

Nobel Conference® 44:

“Who Were the First Humans?”

Lund Center Arena

Gustavus Adolphus College

(Information online at gustavus.edu/nobelconference)

A Razzle Dazzle Gallery

Saturday, October 29, 2007, was indeed a special evening for Gustavus Adolphus College. Gustavus Library Associates, celebrating its 31st year, hosted one “fancy” party at the Sheraton Hotel Bloomington, with an attendance that exceeded 1,000 guests. The gala benefit, *Razzle Dazzle*, raised a handsome \$175,000 for the endowment fund of the College’s Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library.

Pictured starting upper left: *Razzle Dazzle * A Royal Affair* co-chairs Susan Wilcox '73 and Nacia Dahl '92 welcomed President Jim Peterson '64 into their conversation. The incomparable Steele Family entertained guests in the ballroom throughout the evening. Count Bernadotte (aka Bernie), a fifth-generation Australian Labradoodle, was always surrounded by loving friends. *Razzle Dazzle* guests enjoyed the dinner entrée of a superbly-prepared Delmonico pork chop with roasted garlic demi and fresh rosemary, followed by baked Alaska. During the silent auction, guests bid on items from vacation getaways to tennis lessons and fine arts masterpieces. Nearly fifty individually decorated tables displayed the 750-plus donated auction items.

Erin Wilken



Mike Wilken



Mike Wilken



Mike Wilken



Haley Barton



Mike Wilken



Meet the New College Archivist *by Edi Thorstenson*

College Archivist Jeff Jenson joined the library faculty this fall, following Michael Haeuser's retirement, in a tenure-track position that allows him to build an excellent program while knowing that the College will support his work.

"I am interested in providing access to primary resources, to creating research experiences for students and other researchers," Jenson says. "Moreover, I believe the College Archives should be a place that preserves and promotes the College's rich history through sound archival practices and the use of new technologies. I believe very strongly that archival materials, in addition to being preserved, should also be valued in substance by the institution and used to enrich people's lives and the College as a place of teaching and learning."

Jeff's number-one priority is to increase patron use. "I want to tell people what we have, before they come to the archives, because a lot of people within as well as outside the campus community are uneasy about coming to a formal environment when they are not sure if what they are looking for is going to be there. So, when we start getting materials described in the library catalog, and the archives website is more fully developed, people will have an opportunity to see what we have. And that will increase patron use."

Alumni and the general public, Jeff feels, will benefit most from the archives website, which will connect them to the school. "Some of our clientele are genealogists. The website will inform them that we have materials they can use, and, while we lack the staff to carry out research for them, they are welcome to contact us."

Students at Gustavus and other institutions' use of the archives will be connected to the online catalog, where much of their research begins. The website, however, will provide valuable information to a very broad constituency, including students and researchers. "The core of the website," Jeff explains, "will be the finding aids, which will consist of an abstract, historical notes, and an inventory for each collection. We will also have images on our website, with thorough metadata, which we, in turn, will share with Minnesota Reflections, so that the College community and public will have a 'bigger, better shopping experience.'

"Wherever I have worked, I have seen that images really connect with people. They are the most difficult things in a collection to provide access to, because one image could mean ten different things, all of which should be described by the metadata. It really depends on what someone is looking for. I would like to see our images be made more public, whether Web-based or copied and placed around campus. And, I would like for them to be connected to the College Archives, because it is so important that history is shown to have value and that it is the archives that protects and provides access to historical resources."

Another of Jeff's long-term priorities is to develop a records management program at Gustavus. With a clear understanding of the mission of a college archives, Jeff emphasizes his plan to work with all administrative offices and academic departments and committees proactively to bring their records into the archives, to process and document those records promptly, and, to provide accurate inventories to the offices, departments, and committees that generated them. This, he feels, will strengthen the relationship between the archives and those engaged in carrying out the College's mission, as well as maintain a complete record of the College's activities for future reference.

As for new frontiers, Jeff has a plan: "A big piece of my plan is to work with alumni, many of whom have gone on to achieve prominence. For example, the current Speaker of the House, Margaret Anderson Kelliher. I would love to have her papers some day. There are lots of others, all over the country and world. It would be nice to have their papers here, to attract people with interests in, say, politics. I tell students, 'When you go out and make a difference, keep us in mind!'"

Jeff brings a valuable variety of experiences in both academic and public settings to Folke Bernadotte Library. Following graduation from college, he taught middle and high school. He continued his education at Minnesota State University, Mankato, earning a master's degree in history while taking advantage of the opportunity to work in the University Archives. He went on to graduate studies in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has held positions in both public and academic libraries and archives. Before coming to Gustavus, he was the archivist for the city of Kingsport, Tenn.

Jeff enjoys running and spending time with his family in the outdoors. He and his wife, Tiffany, have two children, Ayden, 6, and Annalise, 2. They make their home in North Mankato. 🐾



Steve Waldhauser

"A big piece of my plan is to work with alumni, many of whom have gone on to achieve prominence. For example, the current Speaker of the House, Margaret Anderson Kelliher. I would love to have her papers some day. There are lots of others, all over the country and world. It would be nice to have their papers here, to attract people with interests in, say, politics. I tell students, 'When you go out and make a difference, keep us in mind!'"

CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP
IN GUSTAVUS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Gustavus Library Associates is a friends-of-the-college organization dedicated to the support and advancement of Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College. The 2008 membership year is June 1, 2007, to May 31, 2008. To date, there are 380 active memberships in Gustavus Library Associates. New members this year include . . .

Scott and Kari Anderson
Eagan, MN

Timothy and Sandra Bloomquist
Cambridge, MN

Robert and Judy Douglas
St. Peter, MN

Ric and Kerry Dressen
Edina, MN

Laura Gustafson
Edina, MN

Craig and Kate Halvorson
Lake City, MN

Matthew and Andrea Lieser
St. Paul, MN

Kevin and Michelle Lund
St. Peter, MN

Peter and Marlys McDevitt
Lakeville, MN

Dan and Lynn McGinty
Shoreview, MN

James and Patricia McPherson
Princeton, NJ

Sarah Monson
Madelia, MN

Eric and Maryellen Trehus
Maiden Rock, WI

David and Anne Viljaste
Edina, MN

Paige Wilcox
Minneapolis, MN

Book Reviews:

The Windows of Brimnes:

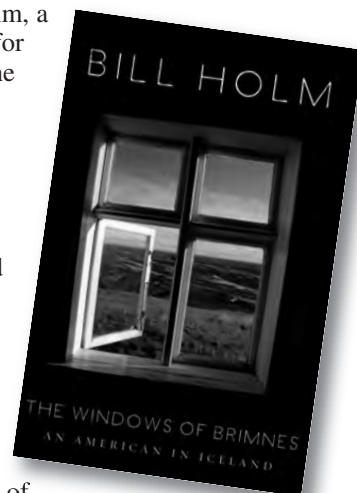
An American in Iceland, by Bill Holm (Milkweed Editions, 2007)

Reviewed by Elaine Brostrom

From the “windows of Brimnes” in Hofsós, Iceland, Bill Holm, a 1965 graduate of Gustavus, writes of his love and concern for both his ancestral homeland, Iceland, and America, which he calls “my home, my citizenship, my burden.” Holm grew up in Minneota, Minnesota, the only child of Icelandic immigrants. He came to know Iceland as an adult, living now in his home in Brimnes for part of each year and teaching at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota.

The fjords of Iceland, the birds, and even the lava fields described by Holm speak to a love of the landscape of his ancestral home. But Holm also holds dear the beauty of the Minnesota prairie, which surely was to his Icelandic immigrant family so very strange. They, unlike Holm, didn’t have the luxury of enjoying both landscapes in the same calendar year.

Holm’s concern for both Iceland and America comes from his observation that the “progress” he sees in Iceland—the expansion of manufacturing, which requires massive development of hydroelectric power—has happened with minimal real public debate. This lack of debate, the absence of a voice that can raise concerns and even say “no” to short-sighted and thoughtless decisions, is Bill Holm’s concern for America as well. 📖

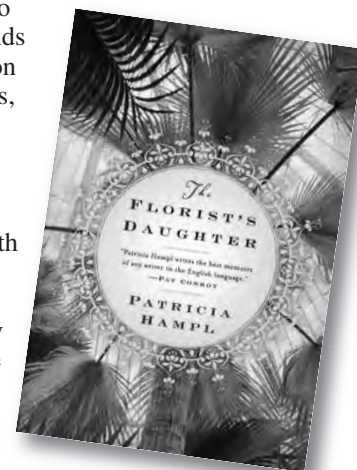


The Florist's Daughter, by Patricia Hampl (Harcourt, 2007)

Reviewed by Julie Gilbert

In this richly detailed memoir, Patricia Hampl contemplates two fundamentally human questions: what shapes us, and what binds us? During the last night of her mother’s life, Hampl reflects on the people and places of her childhood: her father’s floral business, the house on Linwood, her own studies at the University of Minnesota, her boisterous Czech aunts and hard-working Irish relatives. Her father’s love of beauty and his belief in the underlying order of the universe shapes Hampl’s worldview, as does the sometimes-competing force of her mother’s thirst for truth and precision, best exemplified by her meticulous archiving of everything Hampl wrote, including post-it notes tacked to the fridge. When she reveals to Hampl years later that what she really wanted in life was to be a writer, Hampl finds herself face-to-face with the question of what shapes us.

As a child, Hampl dreamed of living in glamorous places like New York or Paris; as an adult she lives within sight of the same cathedral dome that loomed over her childhood. “Never have had anything but a Minnesota driver’s license,” she writes. The obligations and family expectations that bind her are strikingly depicted in her father’s painting of her as a little girl forever ensconced behind the high walls of a convent garden. Readers familiar with St. Paul, especially during the mid-twentieth century, will recognize many of the places and people Hampl describes. The book will appeal to those with aging parents or grandparents, or who themselves are aging, or to anyone contemplating the choices and expectations that make up life’s small struggles and triumphs. Above all, the book explores the relationship between self and place, especially how the presumptions, expectations, and characteristics of our families continue to shape us. 📖



The View from Mount Joy, by Lorna Landvik (Ballantine, 2007)

Reviewed by Jan Michaletz

In her latest book, *The View from Mount Joy*, Lorna Landvik has given us a novel based on a sense of place. That said, she has also delivered several universal truths that are not defined by location.

The author traces Joe Andreson as he grows from a high school student in outstate Minnesota, through a transition to life in “the Cities.” Joe develops from an adolescent hockey player to a south Minneapolis grocer. The backdrop of his life is the same as that for many of us: Lake Nokomis, Lake Superior, and the vague territory we have come to know as “Lake Wobegon.” The characters are our friends—both past and present. The manipulative cheerleader, the smart independent girls, the band geeks, and the “jocks” were real for many of us.

Life’s plans are different from Joe’s plans. When he inherits a south Minneapolis grocery store, his hopes of becoming a journalist or professional hockey player are forgotten. Although he seems to be on the “receiving end” of life, Joe discovers that in spite of seeming to stand still, life revolves around him. The author effortlessly weaves characters into the fabric of the story. The interplay of good, bad, and temptation reflects the aging of the characters. Although Mount Joy is fictional, Joe and his friends sense that their “view” from it is significant and meaningful.

Fellow “boomers” will relate to the use of song titles and media references (*Love Story*, *Gunsmoke*) as markers of time. Landvik’s inclusion of music is integral to the story. Whether we played in the band or just played the radio, we can appreciate the importance of music in Joe’s life.

Minnesota winters are meant to be spent with books. For a snow equivalent of “beach reading,” look to *The View from Mount Joy*. 📖

Run, by Ann Patchett (Harper, 2007)

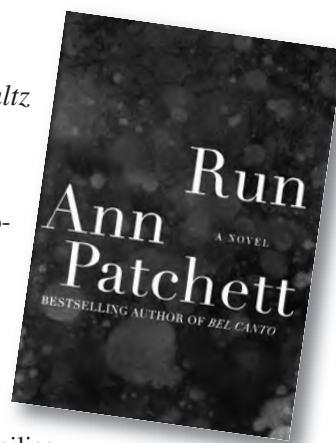
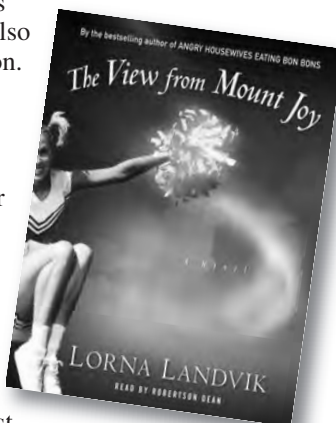
Reviewed by Judy Schultz

It’s a wintry night in Boston when a car accident brings two seemingly unrelated families together. There is the Bernard Doyle family—mother Bernadette, now dead but imprinted indelibly on the family; their son Sullivan, thought of as a ne’er-do-well, living somewhere in Africa and seldom in touch with his family; the two adopted black brothers, Tip and Teddy, purposely named for politicians in the hopes they would aspire to the political life of their father.

Juxtaposed against this white, affluent, but troubled family are Tennessee Alice Moser, a poor black woman from the not-so-far-away projects, and her 11-year-old daughter, Kenya. These two families meet suddenly when Tip and his father are arguing on the street about a political event Bernard wishes his sons to attend. Tip backs into the street, directly in the path of an oncoming car, but Tennessee, who happens to be nearby, sees the danger and, in pushing Tip out of the way, takes the brunt of the crash.

Here shines Ann Patchett’s delight in her novel writing. In her own words, “I like to bring together a group of disparate characters, throw them into an unexpected situation, and explore the consequences.” In *Run*, it only appears at first that these are disparate characters. For the reader continues to learn how intertwined the histories and fates of each of the characters are as the story unfolds.

The title and the snowy book cover have been carefully chosen. There are probably as many shades of meaning to the word “run” as there are characters. And rereading has been a delight in revealing the subtle, but important, nuances of connections between these two families. It becomes very clear how everything could have so easily turned out differently. But it doesn’t. The remaining members of the now-combined families are much happier with their lives and decisions and are unaware of mysteries revealed to the reader. The fortunate reader can forgo the need to tap them on the shoulder and explain what really happened. What is . . . is good enough. 📖



Keeping Up

Kevin Kling, 2003 Author Day guest and 1979 graduate of Gustavus, has released a new book of humorous and touching stories and reminiscences titled *The Dog Says How*, prompting a front-page feature in the *Sunday Star Tribune* in January 2008.

South of Shiloh, a new thriller by **Chuck Logan**, who was GLA’s guest at Author Day in the fall of 2006, is due out in April 2008.

Robert Alexander, Author Day speaker in the spring of 2006, continues to write about imperial Russia, with a new historical novel titled *The Romanov Bride* to be released in April 2008.

In the Wind, a new mystery by Gustavus librarian and frequent *Ex Libris* contributor **Barb Fister**, is being released by St. Martin’s Minotaur in April 2008.

Gustavus Library Associates

800 West College Avenue
Saint Peter, MN 56082

St. Lucia 2007

Sophomore Katelyn Nelson, Midlothian, Texas, was crowned St. Lucia for the 2007 Festival of St. Lucia, part of an annual Gustavus tradition dating back to 1941. She is pictured here as Chaplain Rachel Larson and the fellow sophomores in the Lucia court—from left Amara Berthelsen, Midlothian, Texas; Chelsea Koepsell, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Cathryn Nelson, Moorhead, Minn.; and Hayley O'Connell, Excelsior, Minn.—light her crown of candles.

The 2008 Festival of St. Lucia will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11. GLA is pleased to welcome storyteller Kevin Kling to entertain the Lucia Luncheon audience.

