Are You Ready for a Little ‘Razzle Dazzle’?

by Mim Kagol

“We are family! Get up, everybody, and sing!
High hopes we have for the future, and our goal’s in sight!”

—Jordan Pruitt, lyricist

The irresistible rhythms, lyrics, and tune of the pop song “We Are Family” are buzzing among the ranks of Gustavus Library Associates, who are well underway in their planning for the 16th biennial A Royal Affair—and for good reason. The theme of family underlies all aspects of this festive event, a fundraiser for the College’s Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library.

In keeping with the tradition of naming honorary chairs to recognize those who have advanced the mission of GLA and the success of its benefit galas, the group has previously honored individuals, couples, and companies. This year it recognizes an entire family, the family of John and Mignette Najarian. The Najarians’ ties to A Royal Affair are legendary: John as a frequent co-host and

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From Your President . . . Synergism

A milestone…Gustavus Library Associates is now entering its fourth decade of existence. In reflecting on that achievement, one cannot help but look back and realize that the relationship between GLA and the College is that of a unique partnership that works right! There is synergy.

Webster’s defines “synergism” as “the simultaneous action of separate agencies which, together, have greater total effect than the sum of their individual effects.” It certainly applies to our partnership with the College. In 1977 GLA’s founders conceived a volunteer organization to help a financially strapped and needy library. The College in its wisdom believed in the volunteers. Gustavus has always given our volunteers the freedom to dream and to develop programs that they believed would enhance and help achieve the GLA’s mission of supporting students, faculty, and Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library.

On the sidebar of this letter you will see the names of our current board of directors. Some members have been involved since the beginning. The core group has served 20+ years. And there is a new group of younger members who are just as committed and bring a youthful vitality to our planning. I continue to be amazed by the dedication of these individuals. Year after year they contribute their time, talent, and resources with creativity and enthusiasm. They share a love for Gustavus and our library, and they celebrate the friendships they have made along the way. Each member gives in a seemingly effortless manner and yet they team up to be the work horses of this organization. If you have a chance, please join with me in thanking them for all they have given over the years in helping to make the library such a valuable resource for our students.

The second member of this partnership is Gustavus. Right from the beginning the College committed to ensuring our success by designating that a staff member would serve as a liaison between the College and GLA. For several years we’ve had the privilege of working with three exceptional staff members: Dean Wahlund, director of communication services and special events, serves as our executive director; Dana Lamb is senior administrative assistant in the Office of College Relations; and Dan Molnner is head librarian at Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. These folks have been invaluable to us, and their constant support of whatever we tackle has made all the difference in the world. It is not unusual at all for them to reach out to numerous departments on campus to enhance our programs to help make us the best we can be.

The third member of this partnership is you, our great membership. You come to our programs, you bring your friends, you actively participate in our projects, and you support the library with your dues, honorariums, and memorials. Whether you are a longtime supporter of GLA or new to making it part of your volunteer and philanthropic life, I say thank you for all you have done. Thank you for making GLA a cause you wish to support.

I am delighted to introduce you to our next president, Deb Johnson. She is a 1980 graduate of Gustavus. Deb and her husband, Corey, live in Bloomington; they have one daughter, who will graduate from high school this spring. Deb has been on the GLA board for 16+ years and I can vouch that she is a can-do kind of person. She’s packed full of enthusiasm and has great ideas for the future of GLA. She will be a wonderful leader.

I want you all to know that it has truly been a privilege and honor to serve as president of this special organization. You have all been so kind and encouraging and I know you believe as I do that the support we give to the library is not only for today’s students but for generations to come. It’s a tangible way we can all bind together to support education and do just a little bit more to make the world a better place. Today, because of wise stewardship on the part of the administration and wonderful planning on the part of the library staff, Gustavus has a library that serves its students very well. Our membership can take pride in the role we played to accomplish that goal.

I leave you with thanks and gratitude for a great two years!

Sandy

P.S. I’m looking forward to seeing many of you this summer at our planning meetings for Razzle Dazzle, our 16th Royal Affair.
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auctioneer, and Mignette with her tireless energy and her ability to enlist notable masters of ceremonies over her years of involvement with GLA.

The entertainment, too, will be a legendary family. The famous Steele family will host, entertain, serve as auctioneers, and generally shape the evening’s festivities, which also include a formal dinner, silent and live auctions of more than 800 items, and, most of all, the warmth and joy of sharing a very special evening with more than 1,000 guests, all of whom are friends of the Gustavus family.

Under the capable leadership of event co-chairs Nacia Dahl and Susan Wilcox, committees of GLA members are already busy making this magical event a reality come October 27, when the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel ballroom will be transformed into an upscale, Jazz Age speakeasy/nightclub under the décor theme “Razzle Dazzle.” Those committee members are famous for enlisting the help of non-Gustie friends, who are gratefully welcomed into the warmth of Gustavus family as they share in the fun and excitement of working for this great cause.

Our family embrace is wide: we welcome you! Maybe you want to be a guest for the evening, or to host a table for your own family and friends, or to participate in the online auction preview of more than 100 items in the event you cannot attend, or to be a financial contributor helping to underwrite the costs of the gala, or to be a contributor of an auction item; or to work behind the scenes in preparation for the event. However you wish to participate, the legendary open arms of the Gustie spirit beckon you to join the fun and get involved.

We urge you to remember that when you support Gustavus Library Associates and this fundraising event, you are supporting the young men and women of the College who are being prepared for lives of leadership and service in our society. Your generous involvement and contributions, through events like A Royal Affair, help to sustain the College’s excellence and to nurture a mature understanding of faith and values. Just as those values surround and sustain individual families, they are at work for those who support our college and its students.

Please mark your calendar now for Razzle Dazzle • A Royal Affair on Saturday, October 27, 2007. Then check the sidebar for the contact you can make to become involved. We want you to join our family! 🎉
Author Tells the Truth of Living at 2007 Spring Author Day  by Jan Prehn

With eloquence, honesty, humor, and gratitude, Matthew Sanford shares his story. He pulls back the curtain on what it means to survive devastating trauma. His candid and powerful message about the endurance of the human spirit and the body that houses it was shared with the students and public at Gustavus Adolphus College on April 18 and 19 and with those attending Gustavus Library Associates’ Spring Author Day at Edina Country Club on April 20.

Matthew Sanford is a visionary, philosopher, teacher, writer, husband, parent, and founder of the nonprofit organization Mind Body Solutions. He is also the author of a book titled Waking: A Memoir of Trauma and Transcendence, published in 2006. At age thirteen he survived a car accident that took the life of his father and sister. While his mother and brother escaped unharmed, he was left with multiple injuries including a spinal cord injury paralyzing him from the waist down. As the book’s cover states, “By turns agonizingly personal, philosophical, and heartbreakingly honest, this groundbreaking memoir takes the reader inside the body, heart, and mind of a boy whose world has been shattered.”

He tells his story not to tell about himself. The story that set him to writing his memoir is a story of life and death traveling side by side. He is not afraid of his own sadness. He says, “I don’t mind having my heart exposed. We are all suffering. Life is hard. It’s not just my story. Mine is more extreme, happening more rapidly. It is all of our stories. It’s just the truth of living. It’s about how well we listen to our bodies. My mind can’t be as present in my body as your mind can be. That’s my injury. We are all disabled. As we age over time we are all going to be moving away from our bodies and losing abilities.”

Sanford, who now teaches yoga at the Courage Center in Minneapolis, specializing in adapting it for people living with disabilities, repeatedly reminded us we are not paying attention to our mind-body connection. Often we disassociate our mind from our body, seeing injury as only physical and not a mind-body relationship in constant change. He sees the medical model and rehabilitation model fixated on reversal rather than everything being a mind-body problem on some level.

Early in his rehabilitation Sanford felt he was being directed to learn to compensate and “drag” his body through life. His body was being treated as an object to overcome and that made his treatment worse. It caused a split between his mind and his body, which he describes as having a big syringe and injecting SILENCE into his mind-body connection. The title of his book comes from his experience in healing and WAKING up to this realization. His experience tells him that the silence within us can be experienced energetically as a nourishing sap. He also notes that he has never seen anyone truly become more aware of his or her body without becoming more compassionate.

He told his audiences that we must have patience and allow for stillness. He says he had to study to be whole. He would like to see the health care system more connected to mind and body to help people learn to care for themselves. He sees doctors as tools and argues that we must learn how to use them. After many years, when he finally started believing in his own experience, he said, “On some level I got visited by GRACE, and I’ve been working to get my feet under it.”
Gustavus Adolphus College has selected *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World* by Tracy Kidder as its “Reading in Common” book for 2007–08. A non-fiction narrative, the book follows Farmer from his work at Harvard University to work across the globe in Haiti, Russia, and other countries. The book’s title comes from a Haitian proverb, “Beyond mountains there are mountains”—meaning when one problem is solved another one is presented.

This is the eighth year of the Reading in Common program at Gustavus. All first-year students are expected to read the chosen book during the summer and then meet with faculty members and upperclass students during New Student Orientation to discuss it. New Student Orientation is also loosely based around the themes found in the book.

Kidder is a Vietnam veteran and an award-winning author. He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1982, both for his book *The Soul of a New Machine*. In 1989 Kidder was awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, given annually to the book that best represents the values for which Kennedy stood. Kidder’s other works include *House*, *Among Schoolchildren*, and *Home Town*.

Books for the Reading in Common program are chosen based on their literary quality, reading manageability, interdisciplinary nature, and the author’s availability for a campus appearance. Kidder will be visiting Gustavus on Sept. 27 to speak about the book.

**Gustavus Library Associates Coming Events 2007**

- **Monday, September 24**
  - 10:30–noon: Fall Membership Tea
    - President’s Home
    - Gustavus Adolphus College

- **Tuesday and Wednesday, October 2 and 3**
  - 43rd Nobel Conference
    - “Heating Up: The Energy Debate”
    - Opening at 9:30 a.m. (All day)
    - Lund Center Arena, Gustavus Adolphus College
    - (Call 507/933-7520 for reservations)

- **Saturday, October 27 – 5:30 p.m.**
  - Razzle Dazzle • A Royal Affair
    - Sheraton Hotel
    - Bloomington, Minnesota
    - (Details and invitation to follow)

- **Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 30, December 1 and 2**
  - 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.
    - Christ Chapel
    - Gustavus Adolphus College
    - (Ticket order forms available in August)

- **Thursday, December 6 – 11 a.m.**
  - St. Lucia Luncheon
    - featuring Brian Wicklund ’87, guest artist
    - Alumni Hall
    - Gustavus Adolphus College
    - (Invitation will be mailed)
Biblioprofiles—a new installment

by Dan Mollner, head librarian

Editor’s note: Continuing a series begun a few years ago, Dan Mollner introduces the four newest members of the Folke Bernadotte Memorial library faculty and staff.

The keeper of the passwords and the keys to so many of our scholarly resources since joining us in the fall of 2005 is Amy Fry, electronic resources librarian. In addition to participating in our reference and instruction programs, Amy coordinates the subscriptions and licenses for the many library databases we provide to the campus community. She has played a major role in re-imaging the library website and in creating our Web-based study guides, and she chaired the committee which plans the purchase and improvement of the library computing facilities. But don’t be fooled! Amy is not all wires and gigabytes. She is pursuing a second master’s degree in art history to add to her B.A. from Oberlin College and her M.S. from the University of Illinois.

The not always-so-quiet public spaces of the library are kept up and running by a number of behind-the-scenes computing systems. The catalog, the circulation system, the interlibrary loan, and others that help make access to library collections so easy are coordinated by our newly named systems librarian, Julie Moberg Gilbert. She too participates in our reference and instruction programs. A 1999 Gustavus graduate who holds master’s degrees from Dominican University and St. John’s University School of Theology and Seminary, Julie has held several short-term positions at the Gustavus library. She most recently served as a librarian at the St. Peter Public Library. Julie has a great appreciation for the outdoors and a special fondness for Lake Superior’s North Shore.

You think you’ve got stacks of magazines around the house? Journals and magazines with titles from A to Z flow in and out of Sarah Sanford Munson’s periodicals office. As serials manager for the library since September 2005, Sarah arguably receives more mail than anyone else on campus. She coordinates the library paper journal subscriptions, and she has worked at tracking our electronic journals as well. Sarah also contributes to the library Web and space committees. A 2003 Gustavus graduate, Sarah is currently pursuing a master’s degree in anthropology, a field of long-standing interest. If the roads were safe enough, she would ride her bicycle from Madelia to work everyday—that enthusiasm and energy impresses us all!

A quiet force emanates from the technical services department, and her name is Sonja Roiger Timmerman. Sonja is also Gustavus graduate, class of 1998 (we must have made library work here look pretty good in the late ’90s!), and she has a master’s degree from the University of North Texas. She joined us in 2005 as collections manager, with responsibility for keeping order in the book stacks and for maintaining our electronic reserve system—articles and chapters for class—available to enrolled students anywhere there is an Internet connection. She’s got an eye for Web design and an eye for copyright violation, which are both good things for our library. A faculty member recently told me that Sonja’s “hard work makes me a better teacher, and I think that is something worth noting.” So do we!
Carol Menk, St. Peter, a founding member of Gustavus Library Associates, has been named the 2007 winner of the St. Peter Women Celebrating Women – Moving History Forward Award. The award is sponsored annually by the *St. Peter Herald* and was presented by Peggy Carlson, publisher of the newspaper and also a GLA member.

Menk has been a leader throughout her life in areas of community service and civic involvement. Meals on Wheels, Red Cross blood drives, and Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) programs, among several others in St. Peter, have all benefited from her leadership.

In the founding months of Gustavus Library Associates during 1977 and 1978, Carol wrote a proposed constitution for the organization and subsequently served on membership, governance, and fundraising committees of the GLA board.

The award dinner was held at the Jackson Campus Center at Gustavus. Guest speaker at the dinner was GLA member Ann Burkhardt.

Congratulations and thanks to Carol Menk, St. Peter’s Women Celebrating Women Award winner for 2007!
My Annual Membership Gift to GUSTAVUS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

GUSTAVUS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES provides significant support for acquisitions and special programs that help Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the College. Members receive the GLA newsletter (published three times a year), invitations to GLA-sponsored cultural and social events, and other privileges. Annual memberships are for the academic year (June 1–May 31). Keep your membership current—we have big plans!

2007–2008 Membership Categories:
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