

**Gustavus Library Associates National Advisory Board**  
**Report to the Crown Council**  
April 2013

The Gustavus Library Associates National Advisory Board has met twice (November and March) during this academic year, 2012-2013. The enthusiasm of the group continues to focus on learning about the vision and various needs of the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library and ways GLA can help move these forward. The relationship between the library staff and GLA is strong and mutually respectful, and communication is positive. Of primary focus this past year is to investigate the potential for a library expansion.

**The Evolution of the Library**

The Library staff has studied the usage of students to help determine how the Library is used and how students would like to use the space.

- The lower level of the library is used for group work
  - The lower level needs more modular and movable furniture.
  - Students like big tables and need power outlets.
- The main floor is more social and gathering spaces
- The upper floor is for quiet individual studying
  - Students on the upper floor still like to sit in a study carrel.
  - The original 1970s study carrels cannot accommodate a laptop and book, so are not very practical.

**Lower Level Redesign**

During the past year, the GLA NAB, in conversation with senior library staff, have focused on the desire for a lower level redesign. The Library recently withdrew many bound periodicals that were outdated on the lower level. It will take the student staff the rest of the year to shift the remaining items while also fixing any irregularities. GLA Board is willing to help in this process if needed.

The shifting of this space further propels the thinking that the lower level could be reconfigured and refurbished to more closely match student needs.

- There was strong interest in helping the Library move forward on a redesign of the lower level
- The goal is to seek successful project solutions that will offer flexibility, and be careful not to do anything that will need to be redone
- This would not involve the creation of or movement of current walls
- This would involve buying new furniture and reconfiguring the shelves

## **Other Design Ideas**

In addition to the lower level redesign, several other ideas have come forward.

- A coffee shop
  - The Library staff has explored a self-service machine with good quality coffee; current facility has a problem with the location of the plumbing
  - A coffee shop may attract faculty and staff to the library
- A proposed 24/7 study space could allow the rest of the building to be closed while still giving students a places to work
- Discussions have occurred about moving the Hillstrom Museum of Art to an expanded library area
- Discussions are happening on campus about creating a “student success” hub that could be housed in an expanded library that would be the home for the Writing Center, Academic Advising, Multi-Language Learners, etc.

## **Recent NAB Activity**

Since the November meeting of the GLA NAB there was a meeting with Sheryl Johnson, Bert Ledder, Dean Wahlund, Barbara Fister, Barb Larson Taylor, Tom Young, and President Ohle.

It was reiterated that if it was not for GLA engaging people with the Library, the College would probably not be in a position to even consider raising money for a Library expansion. At this meeting Tom and President Ohle advised the group that:

- Profits from “A Royal Affair” should continue to go to the endowment
- The College was not expecting to take any money raised at this event for building projects
- The College was not expecting GLA to raise a certain amount of money, although expected the event to at least break even
- If there is an announcement about gifts that will result in a library expansion, it would be ideal to announce this at “A Royal Affair”

## **Library Remodel vs. Expansion**

- The Library has identified that a major renovation and expansion is needed
- The building is very functional, it may look like a 1970s building but does not function like a 1970s building
- If the funds cannot be raised for a major building project, the focus would be to remodel the lower level to accommodate a need for more group study space
- A few gifts have been made toward such a project, but nothing to the level of breaking ground
- Advancement is visiting several people identified with capacity and potential interest

## **Future GLA Activity**

The GLA Strategic Planning Committee continues to focus on ideas for enhancing Board efficiencies and communications, expanding general membership, and incorporating visioning/planning into the GLA framework.

In May, GLA is proud to host the third Books in Bloom event at the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. Approximately 30 creative floral arrangements will be paired with selected library holdings, enabling visitors to enjoy the breadth and depth of the library. “Bloom” sponsorship goes directly to the Library Endowment.

GLA is also excited to host “A Royal Affair” on November 16, 2013 at the new Radisson BLU hotel at the Mall of America. This event will include live and silent auctions, dinner, and entertainment by the Kim Marie Fragodt Quintet. Mark your calendars for this special event. All proceeds will go to the Library Endowment.

Year round GLA events have continued to make friends for the college, raise funds for the library and promote literary and cultural enjoyment. In the fall, GLA hosted an Author Day event featuring Scandinavian crime authors in partnership with the American Swedish Institute. The Festival of St. Lucia in December was again a sell-out highlighted this year by the Scandinavian vocal group, Flickorna Fem. In April, the Spring Author Day event at the Edina Country Club features Minnesota author Peter Geye. A second edition of the Gustie Gourmet will be published for distribution fall 2013.

Submitted by:

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