

Gustavus Library Associates National Advisory Board

Report to the Crown Council

April 2014

"Gustavus Library Associates promotes learning, literature, and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library at Gustavus Adolphus College."

The Gustavus Library Associates National Advisory Board met on Jan. 8, 2014 at the American Swedish Institute. During the academic year, the Board of the Gustavus Library Associates meets 4 times a year, plus convenes meetings of the Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Membership Committee and various event committees. The GLA National Advisory Board consists of the Executive Committee, plus three at large members. The primary difference between the agenda of the GLA National Advisory Board and a regular GLA Board meeting is the NAB focuses specifically on the needs of the Library and how GLA can help the Library meet its needs.

Significant Current Needs of the Library

Study Space - Persisting need exists on campus for study areas. Flexible, comfortable study and learning spaces, with improved lighting and power remains a number one goal.

Materials/Collection Support - Weeding has been taking place. The library has removed nearly 40,000 books in the last few years. Electronic resources are expensive.

Academic Alliances – The library is searching for ways to be more connected to allied services; ELL, writing center, tutors, etc.

Digital Archives – Capturing materials digitally could be expanded. Gustavus is one of few libraries in the country to have digitized its music library. This has been very positive.

Library Awareness and Understanding

Unfortunately there are misunderstandings about libraries. The GLA NAB asked Library Chair Dan Mollner to create some “Talking Points” that can be used in communications about the significance and current nature of the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. These will be printed as *Myth Busters* and distributed through various media and at GLA/Library events, aiding in an improved understanding of the current library at Gustavus.

The GLA NAB also suggested that ideas be explored to help the GLA Board and general membership learn more about the library faculty/staff, their roles, and activities in the library.

Strategic Planning/Bylaws Revision

GLA continues to devote effort on Strategic Planning Goals and an Operating Plan. The Operating Plan for Fiscal Year 2014 was reviewed by the NAB and the GLA Board. Five goals were noted on the plan:

1. Increase awareness of GLA both within and outside the organization.
2. Enhance memberships of both GLA general members and board members.
3. Support fund raising efforts
4. Develop events for members and Gustavus enthusiasts
5. Strengthen GLA's organizational structure.

A committee of the Gustavus Library Associates Board has been working this spring to update the Bylaws of the organization.

GLA Activity

On Nov. 16, 2013, GLA hosted the 18th "A Royal Affair" at the new contemporary and chic Radisson BLU hotel at the Mall of America. This event included a dynamic live auction, as well as a silent auction (using electronic bidding devices), gourmet dinner, and dancing and entertainment by the Kim Marie Fragodt Quintet. The Founder's Award was presented to Lois Allen '59 & Kelvin Miller '73. A highlight to the evening was the announcement of the library renovation plans. Over \$100,000 was raised and directed to the Gustavus Library Associates Endowment for acquisition purposes at the library at this successful and enjoyable event.

In May, GLA is proud to host the fourth Books in Bloom event at the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. Sponsored creative floral arrangements will be paired with selected library holdings, enabling visitors to enjoy the breadth and depth of the library. Over the past 3 years, this event (free and open to the public) has raised roughly \$45,000 for the Gustavus Library Associates Endowment.

Year round GLA events continue to make friends for the college, raise funds for the library and promote literary and cultural enjoyment. In the fall, GLA enjoyed the annual Membership Tea at the President's Home on campus and reached out to host a membership event at the Northland Country Club in Duluth. The Festival of St. Lucia in December featured Dave Kenny, author of the Gustavus Sesquicentennial history books. On April 16, the Spring Author Day event at the Edina Country Club featured Minneapolis author Sarah Stonich.

A second edition of the GLA cookbook, *Gustie Gourmet II*, with nearly 450 recipes, is for sale in the Book Mark. The cookbook was released at *A Royal Affair*.

Library Renovation

President Ohle announced at *A Royal Affair* that the College is developing plans to renovate the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. Gifts and pledges to Campaign Gustavus, totaling \$4.1 million have been earmarked toward this library project. The plans shared were developed in partnership with the Minneapolis-based firm Hammel Green and Abrahamson. The design has developed a twenty-first century intellectual learning commons that combines scholarly exploration, academic support, and technology. The renovation plans include construction of dynamic rooms to facilitate collaborative learning for students, a newly designed entrance, more natural light, and a gateway between the Sesquicentennial Plaza and the Johns Family Courtyard. The project also includes additional space for the Hillstrom Museum of Art to move from its current location to become a centerpiece of campus activity. The College will break ground on the project when it is fully funded.

Coordination with Advancement

Discussion continues with the Advancement Office to coordinate fundraising efforts surrounding GLA and the Library Renovation project. The “Giving to Gustavus” page on the Gustavus website now leads viewers to information on the Library Renovation, as well as GLA, giving increased visibility and opportunities for gifts to be designated. GLA understands the sensitive nature of multiple donor requests from various entities at Gustavus.

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