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“In its library more than in any other place the story of a college is recorded: its small beginnings, its slow progress, its ultimate success.”

- Sr. Agnes Somers

The Newsletter of the Friends of the St. Scholastica Library

is for Friends
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“To reveal the manifestation of God in nature is Sister Noemi’s objective.”

- (Scriptorium, Nov. 21, 1962)

Sister Noemi Ida Weygant (1907-1995) taught photography at The College of St. Scholastica for over 35 years. Along with her calling to teach, she was an accomplished photographer, putting on many exhibits as well as authoring over a dozen books of poetry & history, many award-winning.

Three of her photographs showcasing her love of nature were purchased this past fall with Friends funds to add to our Library’s art collection.

In Sister Noemi’s own words: "My mission as a photographer is to ferret out the masterpiece. I take each picture as it comes, and exult in it, as if it was the only one in the world. And I say to the Lord, 'Thank you!' An artist is in the state of waiting, waiting for another cruise. It's something like experiencing eternity" (Cable, Feb. 15, 1978).
An Old Master Finds a New Home in the Archives

No, not Master Yoda. He would say to us: “Follow plan not you did. Your bad.” Nor Dr. Seuss, the Master of the children’s book. He would say to us: “Oh, the places you didn’t go!” No, the new resident of the archives is the 3-dimensional model of the College’s 1963 master plan. Its provenance includes a stint of solitary confinement in the dreaded “tunnels” under Tower Hall, a few jags we don’t even know about, and a brief sojourn as wall art. But now the 1963 Master is safe and here to show us the way.

Your newsletter author is in total awe of this bold vision and is back to tinkering with his time machine to go back 60 years and make it so!

Let’s look at the goodies envisioned for the College oh, so long ago.

A. Two 300 student dormitories of four levels each, including student lounges, infirmary, game, hobby, and storage areas.

B. Remodeling the existing dormitory building for conversion to classroom space.

C. A two-level student commons, comprising kitchen, student dining and lounge areas together with administrative and guest facilities to serve 600 students.

D. A three-level college library. [yeah, baby!]

E. A three-level student union building complete with gymnasion-auditorium-ballroom facilities; a bowling alley, meeting and banquet rooms.

F. A three-level classroom building comprising classrooms, lecture rooms and laboratories.

G. A science building of three levels with science lecture rooms and laboratories.

H. A fine arts building including studios and workshops for sculpture and painting; practice rooms for music and drama; and a small art gallery and performing arts theatre.

I. A convent including two two-level residence halls with an infirmary, kitchen, dining and living areas, and a sisters’ chapel with an enclosed cloister.
Holy Grail Educational Display in Library

When people hear "The Quest for the Holy Grail," Monty Python or Indiana Jones and his last crusade might spring to mind. The Holy Grail is traditionally thought to be the cup Jesus used with his disciples at the last supper, and the search for it has motivated many a knight, pilgrim, and historian. It has also inspired many authors, poets, movie makers, and artists.

Wall murals by Edwin Austin Abbey, R.A. depicting the quest of the Holy Grail from the tales of King Arthur were painted and installed in the Boston Public Library’s book delivery room from 1896 to 1901.

The College of St. Scholastica has 15 lithographs of the mural at one-quarter size that were hand-colored by Sister Salome Blais, art instructor at the College from 1914 to 1957. Most of the prints are close to 4 feet tall, and the longest one is over 10 feet in length.

According to articles in the student newspaper, Scriptorium, these are Copley prints donated at different times between the years of 1917 and 1935 by students and graduates of the College. Sister Salome started coloring them in 1934.

They originally hung in the first floor corridor of Tower Hall from 1935 until 2015 when they were refamed with UV filtering plexiglass for preservation and relocated to the third floor of the Library where they can be displayed in a manner similar to the originals in the Boston Public Library.

Now thanks to the Friends of the Library, The Quest for the Holy Grail has an educational display that can instruct students and visitors about its meaning and historical and cultural importance. The display is actually an iPad on a stand featuring an interactive app with links to art, books, and movie clips complete with headphones. The app was customized this past fall semester by three students as part of a class assignment. The stand itself locks the iPad into it for security and power supply reasons.

The next time you visit the Library, come to the third floor and stop by the display to learn more about Galahad and his quest for the Holy Grail.
“Whatever book I want to have I can get on loan from any library, while if I wanted to borrow money to buy these books I should find no one who would lend it to me.”

-Ibn Hayan, 11th century historian

The College of St. Scholastica Library Friends

Mission Statement

For over a thousand years, Benedictine have recognized the important role libraries play in fostering spiritual and intellectual growth. The Friends of the Library Community continues this tradition by supporting the College of St. Scholastica Library’s mission and providing supplemental resources for special projects and events.

Our Friends group, founded in the College’s Centennial Year to support the Library for another hundred years, gathered for its sixth annual Homecoming celebration this past fall.

And Friends, a reminder for you - you are a Friend for life, but if you feel so moved, giving to the Friends group is always an option. We use this money for special projects we otherwise would not be able to afford such as art, furniture, technology, and research resources. Just contact the Library for more information.