

# AMONG FRIENDS

Winter 2012

a newsletter for the members of the Friends of the Duke University Libraries

## DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### We'll take the remainder

Did you know you can actually get paid for making a gift to the Libraries? Charitable remainder trusts offer a way for donors to set up a trust, receive payments and leave the remainder to the Libraries. Setting up a charitable remainder trust can be easy with the help of Duke's Office of Gift Planning (<http://giving.duke.edu/giftplanning/>). Our experts can help you determine if this giving vehicle is right for you. Basically, a charitable remainder trust (CRT) allows a donor to set up a trust, which will benefit you (or another person) through a specified annual distribution for a specific period of time. This type of trust benefits Duke Libraries when the remainder of the trust is given to Duke Libraries after annual distributions end. You may choose to restrict your support to a special fund or project in the Libraries or ask that your gift be used wherever it is needed most. CRTs can be a nice way to plan your future support of the Libraries. Phil Buchanan, Assistant Vice President, Gift Planning, describes CRTs in this fun video ([http://ondemand.duke.edu/video/30303/unwrapping\\_gifts\\_charitable\\_re](http://ondemand.duke.edu/video/30303/unwrapping_gifts_charitable_re)).



### Special Invitation to visit the National Archives

On June 6, Duke Libraries and the Duke Alumni Association will host a tour and reception at the National Archives. If you have never visited the Archives, or even if you have, you don't want to miss the rare opportunity to meet David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States (and former Duke University Librarian) and gain behind-the-scenes access to the vaults, where you will be able to view some of the Archives' greatest treasures. A reception is planned after the tour. If you are interested, be sure to save the date. We will send additional information to alumni living in the DC area this spring.

### Duke loses a true friend

On January 25, 2012, Mary Semans passed away at age 91. She was the granddaughter of Benjamin Duke and great-granddaughter of Washington Duke, for whom Duke University is named. Mrs. Semans was the principal link to Duke's founding generation. As a teenager she moved from Manhattan to Durham to live with her grandmother, Sarah P. Duke. When she was 15, she enrolled at Duke, and the rest is history.

She will be greatly missed on a campus where her presence was a constant as she attended events and gatherings throughout the year. Mrs. Semans had a special relationship with the Friends of the Libraries. She was the longest serving chair of the Friends of the Libraries Executive Committee from 1952 until 1964. While she was chair, she graciously hosted committee meetings at her home.

In 2010, she attended our Friends Annual Dinner to help commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the group she helped nurture. The image accompanying this article shows Mary Duke Biddle Trent (later Semans) pictured with Libraries Director Benjamin Powell at a Friends of the Libraries Annual Dinner on May 5, 1952.

For in depth coverage of her life, visit: <http://today.duke.edu/2012/01/marysemans>.



### Partners make it better

Study breaks that are held for students during exams have become more exciting recently, especially if you are a stressed out student who just needs a little boost to get through one more night of studying. The Friends are glad to partner with the Duke Campus Club, Duke Annual Fund, Office of Student Health Nutrition Services and Saladelia Café to provide an amazing array of goodies, from instant oatmeal to chocolate chip cookies to coffee to oranges. It's all free for the taking while it lasts in the lobbies of Lilly and Perkins Libraries on selected evenings during exams.

These student-focused events began several years ago at the suggestion of a student member of the Friends Executive Committee and have grown with the addition of new partners. Macey Colvin, Friends Executive Committee member, heads up the study breaks. She also serves on the board of the Campus Club and had the idea of encouraging fellow Campus Club members to bake for students. Macey summed it up by sharing that the "Campus Club Bakers are now forty strong! We are very proud of our wonderful Duke students and love baking for them. The students are surprised, excited, appreciative, very polite, and totally adorable! It is a delight for the Campus Club to be involved in the Duke Student Study Break."

While the Campus Club Bakers warm up their ovens and make sure students have their fill of beautiful homemade cookies, campus nutritionists help by providing healthy snack choices, and the Duke Annual Fund and Saladelia Cafe ensure students are well caffeinated for a long night of studying.

It is a special and somewhat unexpected event for students, one that is made exponentially better through partnerships. Thank you, partners!

### Friends fund fellowship

The Friends of the Duke University Libraries Executive Committee is proud to sponsor a summer research fellowship in partnership with Trinity College. The award will be given to students who use library resources to conduct their research. It was important for the Executive Committee to support these awards because "we feel strongly about promoting students doing research in the Libraries and applaud Trinity's desire to partner with us" shared Kathy World, chair of the Friends Executive Committee.

If you know a student who may be interested in applying for the Friends award, please encourage them to check the guidelines (<http://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/programs/dsrf>).



### And the winner is....

Friends of the Libraries partner with Duke's Gothic Bookshop to hold a book collectors contest open to all undergraduate and graduate students every other year. In 2011, the contest took place in the lobby of Perkins Library. Students, staff, faculty and members of the community all attended and had a chance to talk with the collectors. Mitch Fraas and Orion Neal, both Ph.D. candidates in history, tied for first place in the graduate category. Jacob Golan, a freshman majoring in Earth and Ocean Sciences, won the undergraduate category. As winners of the Duke University contest, students are eligible to enter the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest in Washington, D.C. Mitch decided to represent Duke at the National contest. The extra effort paid off! Mitch won the contest with his collection of Anglo-American legal printing from 1702 to the present.

### More Behind the Veil

As the Libraries and iTunes U introduced one hundred digitized transcripts and interviews documenting African American life in the Jim Crow South, national and local press took note. The collection can be accessed online by visiting a new Duke Libraries webpage (<http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/behindtheveil/>) or the iTunes Store site. In addition to being featured online, the project has received timely coverage on several public radio shows. Tell Me More broadcast a special program in November, and the Mike Dyson Show and The State of Things with Frank Stasio featured the collection in December.

The project has also had a very real-world impact, as you can read in this story from Duke Today about a woman who was surprised to rediscover her father's voice five years after he died. (<http://today.duke.edu/2012/01/btvchism>)

This amazing resource is now available to those who visit the Special Collections Reading Room in Rubenstein Library, as well as anyone with an internet connection.



Join us on facebook: [facebook.com/dukelibraries](https://www.facebook.com/dukelibraries) or search for Perkins Bostock Library

# Recommended by a Friend...

## *Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman*

Robert K. Massie

Random House Publishing Group, 2011

Along with others, I have long maintained that Irving Stone was the quintessential writer of well-documented and engaging historical biographies; now, comes a possible usurper: Mr. Massie with his *Catherine the Great*, and what a tale tracing a minor Prussian noble's attainment of the longest female ruler as Empress and Autocrat of all the Russians. It's a kaleidoscopic account of the intrigues and beguilements in her life—astoundingly captivating.

Get the book (Kindle does NOT do justice), bring in provisions, and select the most comfortable reading location for a several-day journey—a most engaging read! This book is a sensual, educational, recoiling, exciting, and totally mesmerizing masterpiece. I am on my way to the Gothic Bookstore to order his other five books; *Alexander the Great* got the Pulitzer Prize for biography. That says it all; I'll wager that *Catherine the Great* follows.

—Jim Harper T '59

## *Old Filth*

Jane Gardam

Europa, 2006

This novel is a terrific read, especially if you are interested in British history. Don't be put off by the title, an acronym for "Failed in London, Try Hong Kong," the nickname of Sir Edward Feathers, QC. The story revolves around Edward's life, spanning the last years of the British Empire, from the 1930s to Hong Kong when it was still a colony. He was born in Malaya where his father was a Colonial administrator. His mother died soon after Edward was born and his father sent him to England at the age of five to board with a family in Wales. He never saw his father again. From this book I learned about "Raj Orphans"—children who were sent home at a young age to avoid the health problems in the tropics. Edward's childhood was miserable but he survived and became a successful barrister and judge in Hong Kong (hence his nickname.) He also married well and there is a companion volume about his wife called *"The Man with the Wooden Hat."* So if you enjoy *"Old Filth"* you can look forward to another book about the same characters, but from another point of view.

The book's narrative alternates between Sir Edward, now in his 80s, retired in Dorset, England, and scenes from his earlier life. Putting the story together is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle, but Jane Gardam is such a brilliant and witty writer that I could hardly put it down. The characters are vivid and fascinating and their experiences sufficiently out of the ordinary without being unbelievable that it holds your attention throughout. For example, Edward's World War II assignment is to guard the Dowager Queen Mary, and his best friend is a Chinese dwarf. It's like being at a dinner party with really interesting witty people.

—Margaret Brill, Librarian for Britain/Ireland, Canada, Australasia and World History

## *The Hidden Reality*

Brian Greene

Knopf, 2011

The question "What is the nature of reality?" fascinates us and has produced answers ranging from Plato's cave to the TV show *Fringe*. Brian Greene—serious physicist/ science popularizer (books and television)—presents the Multiverse ("parallel universes") view of the problem using scintillating analogies and pictorials, relegating the mathematical underpinning to endnotes. The book is scientifically comprehensive, yet contains sufficient philosophical speculation to hold the attention of the non-technical reader from beginning to end: a must read for those with an interest in the latest theories of Cosmology.

Yet it has a disturbing undercurrent, expressed in both the book's title and the first sentence of the Preface: "... when it comes to revealing the true nature of reality, *common* [italics added] experience is deceptive." Later Greene recounts an undergraduate conversation he had with a philosopher about Ultimate Reality. If that professor's subject had been religion or German literature, the conversation might have turned from the truth of mathematics to Gnosticism or Faust, and what quests for arcana reveal about the quester. This book is worthwhile and tells you what The Cleverest Kid in the Room thinks about the problem. However, if you want to know what The Smartest Kid in the Room thinks, read *Cycles of Time* by Roger Penrose (but be prepared for heavy doses of college level physics and math in both the text and notes).

—Mark Kearney G' 69



## Heroes and Villains: The Library Party

Once again, the Duke Libraries have teamed up with the Duke Marketing Club to organize the biggest social event on campus. Bringing together students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other members of the Duke community, Heroes & Villains: The Library Party promises to be a night of graphic fun, drawing inspiration from the Libraries' vast collection of comic books. The event takes place Friday, February 24, from 9:00 p.m. to midnight, in Perkins Library and the von der Heyden Pavilion. Admission is free, and the entire Duke community is invited—including you!

The Libraries and Marketing Club have also organized a series of lectures leading up to the event on comic book history, comic collecting, and the artistry of comics. If you can't make the party, join us for one of these talks. You can even meet Edwin Murray, one of the two Murray brothers who donated their incredible collection of comics to the Libraries, giving Duke one of the largest institutional collections of comics in the world.

Durham North Carolina 27708-0197  
Box 90197

DUKE UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARIES

NonProfit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Durham, N.C.  
Permit No. 60