

Florham

DR. JAMES H. FRASER: IN MEMORIAM

Twenty-four years ago, the Friends were created by Dr. James Fraser, FDU library director at Florham-Madison, and Emma Joy Dana. Now, the Friends sadly acknowledge the death of Dr. Fraser on November 25, 2013, and send our condolences to his family.

Over the years, Dr. Fraser (Jim) was an extremely knowledgeable ex-officio adviser to the Friends, an effective participant in their work, and for a few years after his retirement in January 2001, an active trustee of the board. Jim was always accessible to the Friends, ready to share his wide-ranging scholarship and knowledge — whether of books, the art and science of collecting, and, of particular importance to the Friends, his strong convictions about the necessity for historic and architectural preservation of the campus at Florham.

Dr. Fraser earned his PhD in library science at Columbia University, and came to FDU in 1970. His range of interests was wide. He built a number of valuable special collections at the Library, including a substantial number of documents and research materials accumulated from countries experiencing political turmoil. He also mounted many graphics-related exhibitions and workshops that centered on book arts and engraving, publishing related cat-

alogs — some with the assistance of Eleanor Friedl, reference librarian at Florham. Jim also authored many magnificently published books, several with an international focus, including his last book, published posthumously, *Publishing and Book Design in Latvia 1919–1940: a Re-Discovery* (Neputns Ltd., Latvia). He also had a special interest in children's literature, and was the founder and editor for several years of *Phaedrus: An International Journal of Children's Literature Research*.

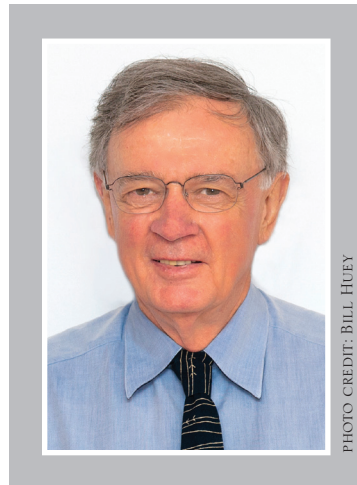


PHOTO CREDIT: BILL HUEY

Yet Jim's role as mentor and friend to newly minted and established librarians, scholars and graphic designers was also of major importance. Bridgid Burke, currently technical services and digital projects librarian, noted that Jim hired her in 1999, as head of technical services. "Jim was also one of the few people who took

an interest in my academic career and supported my graduate work. His support and insight often helped to smooth a very difficult path."

Susan Gulick, retired director of the Morristown & Morris Township Library, spoke of Jim's "vital assistance in helping her establish the Book Arts program at the Library, and providing speaker contacts for what has become a successful annual series."

Steve Heller, currently co-chair of the MFA Designer as Author and Entrepreneur Program at the School of Visual Arts, published a lengthy appreciation of Jim in *Print Magazine Online* (November 23, 2013), in which he noted that, "Jim was my mentor and enabler. I first met him when, as director of Friendship Library at Fairleigh Dickinson University, he opened its vast holdings of comics, propaganda, typography and book arts, among other scholarly riches, to me and forever changed how I engaged with design history." Heller concluded that Jim had "enabled me and others to extend their range. ... It's an understatement to call this a loss — Jim is irreplaceable."

At Florham, Jim was highly respected for his erudition, his tireless advocacy for the Li-
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SPRING 2014

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

When this newsletter is published, I hope your lawns and those of Florham will be snow-free. As a historical perspective, the winter of 1898–99 when Florham was just built was far worse; a reported 4–6 feet of snow covered the New York-New Jersey area.

Although some of our board meetings were cancelled, Friends of Florham continues to review possibilities for the preservation and improvement of the “mansion.” We added the final touches to the Provost’s Office; the window treatments are complete and enhance the elegance of what we consider the most beautiful room in the house. We are also re-

searching images of the people associated with the mansion with the idea of obtaining high-quality reproductions in oil and displaying them in the public rooms of the mansion. The board is also taking a look at the upstairs classrooms to see how they might be economically refurbished to reflect the original period of the house as well as to display the history of the University.

We are extremely happy to report that researchers and scholars regularly access our archives, especially the online records. And, Wendy Burden is still in contact with us and has forwarded additional documents, so our collection continues to grow. Although

maintaining and preserving buildings and gardens is a challenging and sometimes impossible task, the preservation of historic documents and information becomes easier every day.

In addition to the three new board members, whom we introduce in this issue of the newsletter, the Friends of Florham board is pleased to welcome Sandi Drucker, wife of University President Sheldon Drucker, who has agreed to serve as an honorary trustee.

Thank you so much for your continued interest and support. Our work would not be possible without your help.

—Linda Meister

WELCOME!

The board of the Friends of Florham is pleased to welcome three new board members.

Danielle Lindner earned a BA in political science and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is the founder of The London Day School™ Preschool and Kindergarten Enrichment Academies, because she saw a need for an enriching, challenging and socially engaging program for young children focusing on providing a scaffolding approach to learning and a strong character education curriculum for all students. She is the author of a book for children, *Sofia the Snail*, which is to be followed by a second book. Danielle and her husband, Steven, live nearby and have strong ties to the College at Florham.

Jennifer Johnson is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a BA in communications. She spent 12 years as a pharma-

ceutical sales representative for Novartis and Allergan until she retired last year to spend more time with her family. While at the College at Florham, she met her husband, Chris. They live in Mendham, N.J., with their two children. They return to campus frequently and always look forward to Charter Day, which they refer to as the FDU prom. Jenn considers working with the Friends of Florham an opportunity to reconnect with the University. She enjoys yoga and is training to run a 5K.

Christine Adrignolo graduated in 1993 from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a BS in biology, and in 1994, she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching. Before retiring to spend more time with her family, she worked at FDU teaching basic skills math, and also at Applied Analytical Industries in pharmaceutical sales. Christine met her husband, Adam, at FDU and they were married on July 4, 1996. The Adrignolos have three children. When not busy caring for her family, Christine enjoys sailing, swimming, skiing and traveling.

TWOMBLY TIDBIT

Twombly’s Landing

In 1896 Florence and Hamilton Twombly bought 60 acres with riparian rights beneath the Palisades and developed an “Excursion Grove,” where the poor could come for outdoor recreation. It was known as “Twombly’s Landing.” The Twomblys maintained the area for this purpose for more than 13 years, afterward deeding the maintenance to the Park Commission, which ran the site until World War II. The Twombly’s purchase was a first step in the preservation of the Palisades. While no longer a destination for summer outings, the area is still marked on trail maps.

—Linda Carrington



DANIELLE LINDNER



JENNIFER JOHNSON



CHRISTINE ADRIGNOLO



An Evening at The Mansion



VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE FDU BOARD OF TRUSTEES BOB HALLENBECK (LEFT) AND FRIENDS OF FLORHAM BOARD MEMBER CAROL KNAUFF (RIGHT) WITH THEIR SPOUSES JEFF AND SUE SMILE FOR THE CAMERA.

The 2013 Friends of Florham Gala, held on September 28, 2013, welcomed Governor Richard Codey and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey and honored FDU's new President Sheldon Drucker for his support of the renovations at Wroxton, undertaken by the Friends as a tribute to FDU's late President J. Michael Adams. Honorary Gala Co-chair Edward Hennessy presented President Drucker with a Friends of Florham resolution commending his recognition of their efforts on behalf of the University. Jasey also presented Drucker with a New Jersey State Resolution praising his regard for historic preservation.

The beautiful September weather enhanced the event, which was well attended by friends, faculty and students. After dinner, guests enjoyed dancing to the music of the David Humm Trio. Co-chairs Kathy Atencio, Dawn Dupak and Suzy Moran saw that guests enjoyed a remarkable menu, seamless service and stunning surroundings.

Thank you to everyone who attended, to the board members who supported the event and to the gala committee who worked to create such a beautiful evening. The Friends especially appreciate the financial support of so many members of FDU's Board of Trustees whose contributions helped make the evening a financial success. Well done everyone!



WITH THE GARDENS AS A BACKDROP, FRIENDS OF FLORHAM BOARD MEMBERS ELAINE EARLYWINE (LEFT) AND KATHY ATENCIO (RIGHT) ENJOY THE EVENING WITH THEIR SPOUSES MICHAEL AND JOE.



FDU PRESIDENT SHELDON DRUCKER WELCOMES GOVERNOR RICHARD CODEY.



COLLEGE AT FLORHAM PROVOST PETER WOOLLEY THANKS THE GALA GUESTS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.



MEMBERS OF THE DRUCKER FAMILY JOIN IN THE APPLAUSE FOR GALA HONOREE SHELDON DRUCKER.



HONORARY GALA CO-CHAIR EDWARD HENNESSY (RIGHT) PRESENTS PRESIDENT DRUCKER WITH A RESOLUTION FROM THE FRIENDS OF FLORHAM COMMENDING HIM FOR RECOGNIZING THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILA JASEY (LEFT) PRESENTS PRESIDENT DRUCKER WITH A JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY. PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF FLORHAM LINDA MEISTER ENJOYS THE MOMENT!



SAM WHITE SPEAKS ON STANFORD WHITE, ARCHITECT

In November, the Friends of Florham lecture series featured Samuel White, who spoke on his book *Stanford White, Architect* (Rizzoli, 2008), which he co-authored with his wife, Elizabeth. An architect himself and a great-grandson of Stanford White (1853–1906), Mr. White offered great depth in understanding this “visionary genius” of the Gilded Age.

Offering a wonderful overview of the great architect’s career, Mr. White noted that as a young man Stanford White became the principal assistant to Henry Hobson Richardson, the preeminent American architect of the 1870s. His year-and-a-half tour of Europe set the stage for his return to New York where he joined Charles Follen McKim and William Rutherford Mead to create the single, most-influential architecture firm of their day. With the greatest cities of Europe in

mind, Stanford White believed that a city like New York warranted “great architecture” of scale to suit the growing influence and aspirations of the United States and its leading city.

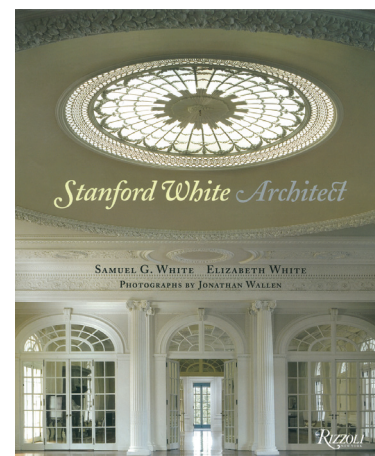
Mr. White’s excellent presentation focused the audience on the easily missed elements of Stanford White’s body of work. Indeed, unusual forms and shapes populate all of his work, but the viewer can be so struck by the whole that the details are often overlooked. The late 19th-century architect had a knack for combining disparate forms to create unusual and new designs, ones that gave weight to interior details as carefully as exterior.

Beautiful photographs of Stanford White’s public buildings, residential dwellings, social clubs and churches enriched Mr. White’s talk. In particular, he included pictures of Stanford White’s “personal

masterpieces,” Box Hill on Long Island, N.Y., and his home in Gramercy Park, N.Y.C.

Mr. White addressed his audience, appropriately enough, in the former drawing room of the “mansion” where Stanford White’s influence was key from the start, as he chose “English Baroque” for his historical inspiration at Florham. Several young architects were in the audience.

— Gary Darden



PHYLLIS CONWAY, BOARD RETIREMENT

Phyllis Conway, Friends of Florham board member for more than 20 years, has retired from her role as an active board member. In 1998, when FDU asked Friends



PHYLLIS CONWAY

of Florham to help renovate the mansion’s public rooms, Phyllis joined the late Barbara Keefauver as the designer. While searching for traces of the mansion’s original interiors, they found that only black-and-white photographs existed. Using paint scrapings and the colors of the Twombly home

in Newport, R.I., as sources, Phyllis and Barbara chose a light green from the British National Trust palette.

Next, they asked Scalaman-dré, Inc., known for its historic reproductions, to design a gold drapery fabric for Lenfell Hall and a red fabric for the Great Hall. These designs reflected the pattern of Mrs. Twombly’s draperies. Together they supervised the work of historical painter Carmine Toto. Without Phyllis’ quiet command of the historical research, and her supervision of the fabrication and installation of the draperies, and other construction details, the mansion would not be as elegant as it is today.

Phyllis’ design talents were also evident for years at the annual gala. Phyllis and her committee made the early-morning trek into the New York City flower markets to buy flowers for the beautiful centerpieces and mantel decorations. This was a huge task that saved the gala budget a great deal of money and created a beautiful setting for the galas.

Thank you, Phyllis, for your leadership in the original Lenfell Hall and Great Hall renovations, for the wonderful flower arrangements through the years, for your support of the Friends of Florham, and, for the beauty and graciousness your presence added to our events and our meetings.



FLORHAM: THE LIVES OF AN AMERICAN ESTATE

by Carol Bere, Samuel Convissor and Walter Cummins

You've driven down the long driveway and experienced the awe of seeing the McKim, Mead & White mansion appear in front of you.

You've wandered around the campus and felt the magic of the landscape created over a century ago by the great Frederick Law Olmsted.

You've wondered what stories lay behind this fabled 1,200-acre walled estate with its 110-room mansion, of the many years the elderly widow and her daughter, Ruth, lived there alone two months each spring and fall, looked after by 120 servants.

Here, for the first time, with the publication of *Florham: The Lives of An American Estate*, is the story of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly, the favorite granddaughter of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, the richest man in the world, and of Florence's financial genius husband, Hamilton McKown Twombly, of their four children, and of life at Florham, a story which is truly the American version of "Downton Abbey."

And here is the story of how this amazing Gilded Age estate set in the middle of suburbia became the College at Florham of Fairleigh Dickinson University, and of the work of the Friends of Florham in recent years in assisting the University in restoring and preserving the historic elements of the McKim, Mead & White mansion and the Olmsted landscape to their former glory, consistent with daily use by the University.

Filled with never-before-seen vintage photographs of the Twombly estate, *Florham* is a book you will enjoy and cherish. One hundred percent of the price of this book over costs will be used by the Friends of Florham for more restoration projects in and around the historic buildings and grounds of this legendary estate. So, please consider purchasing this book, and help to continue the Friends' efforts to protect and preserve this special piece of American history.

Copies of *Florham: The Lives of An American Estate* may be purchased at the College at Florham bookstore, through Amazon.com or through the Friends' website: <http://fdu.edu/fof>



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brary, and his "astounding knowledge of exactly what our collections held, and exactly what those collections lacked or needed, whether the subject was children's literature, early 20th-century Russian history, the American West, terrorism and guerilla warfare, or Eastern European poster art," said Peter Woolley, campus provost of the College at Florham. "Yet, at the same time, Jim emphasized collection and preservation not just of books, but of cultural heritage," said Woolley. More specifically, there is a beautiful painting by Abel Faivre hanging over the fireplace in the Academic Advising Offices on the first floor of the mansion (Hennessy Hall), which Jim saved and protected. And, overall, Jim "tried to protect the heritage of the Vanderbilt estate — frequently from ourselves," said Woolley.

— Carol Bere



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Join the Friends of Florham. Participate directly in our efforts to preserve the architectural history of Florham, and support our informative program series. Your support will make a difference.

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