**Bookends**

**Board Members**

- President: Julie Kraft
- Vice-President/Secretary: Kate Browning
- Treasurer: Mary Frances Hallet
- Book Nook: Dennis Austin
- Historian/Hospitality: Patrice Baur
- Jesuit Community: Rev. Philip G. Steele, S. J.
- Literary & Special Events: Gentry Holbert
- Members-at-Large: Beverly Brill, Bob Handley, Dr. Pat Harrison, Joan Siegwald
- Membership: Tracy Parman
- Publications: Dr. Barbara Nolan, Dr. Alice Bahr
- Publicity: Greta Sharp
- Student Representative: Shawn-Patrick Hynes

**Annual Dinner: May 12th, 2016**

A special invitation from the Friends to celebrate the sixth and final series of *Downton Abbey*, highlighting, of course, the show’s library. What better place to inhale history, reflect, and also find solace, inspiration, and treasures.

To secure your reservation make a check out to Friends of Spring Hill College Library and mail by May 6th to Audrey Patterson, 3763 Old Shell Rd., Unit B, Mobile, AL 36608.

**Cost: $50 per person**

6:30 p.m. – open bar/silent auction
7:30 p.m. – dinner/wine/dessert

**The Book Nook: A Community Outreach**

For more than twenty years the Book Nook has provided reading material for charities and nursing homes. Your book donations support not only Burke Library but the community.

This year, two special volunteers widened that reach. When the USA Catholic Student Center went digital, its library came to the Book Nook.

This January, Mary Frances Hallet donated the Center’s books to the library at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Semmes.

When a Mobile City Metro Jail inmate asked the Book Nook for reading materials, Maurice Bonner made the appropriate contacts and then sent about 200 books: sci-fi, westerns, action thrillers, non-fiction, and religious items. This program will be ongoing, with the chaplain contacting Mr. Bonner when more items are needed. To extend this work, Maurice intends to reach officials at the Atmore Prison Facility and Mount Meigs for approval/procedures on forwarding books.

Being a Badger, and a graduate of Spring Hill College, Maurice sees Reading/Literacy as a ministry. He operates the Cleveland Smith Ministries GED/Adult Literacy Program, accredited and supported by "Good Will Easter Seals." Maurice knows the school cannot provide everyone with a GED diploma, but he hopes “with the help of the Lord (Phil 4:13) [to] try to reach as many as possible.” The program is available to all adults, even those on probation, as well as those who have been released from the system. For more information call Mr. Bonner (251.300.7099) or Francine Reese (251.300.9552).

Mary Frances Hallett  Maurice Bonner
Most of the professional career of John Franklin Murray, S.J. was spent teaching literature. But in his early years at Spring Hill College, Murray was also engrossed in two of his favorite hobbies—astronomy and music.

Father Murray founded the Spring Hill College Scholastic choir in 1937, directing it and the College glee club for many years. He played the piano and organ, and was involved in the design of an early pipe organ for St. Joseph Chapel. Father Murray also served for a time on the Mobile Symphony Board.

While we don’t know with certainty when Murray penned his lyrics for the alma mater, evidence from the Spring Hill College Archives suggests a date sometime in the middle or late 1930’s. The reference to the College motto, *In colle exaltatus fons sapientiae* (a spring of wisdom lifted up on the hill), is unmistakably clear in the opening line of Murray’s noble hymn.

By the time I arrived on the Hill in 1994, the alma mater had long fallen from use. I can’t recall whether it was a group of interested students or the office of Student Academic Services driving rekindled interest in the alma mater, but in 1998, I became involved in the effort to revive its singing at important academic events.

A problem became immediately apparent. There is not one, single Spring Hill College alma mater. In fact, sources in the College Archives give two different melodies for Murray’s lyrics. And while it is tempting to credit Murray with both words and music, the only real evidence we have for the composer of any of the music for either version lies in the initials “C. E. S.” found on a mimeograph copy of a handwritten page. To further complicate the matter, the melody of the version composed by C. E. S. bears only faint resemblance to the one in current use.

Arranged in a quasi “glee club” style, my instincts told me that the C. E. S. version was the earlier of the two—but its melody is hopelessly pedantic—not exactly the sentiment one wishes to inspire when singing one’s alma mater. The person responsible for the second version attempted to correct this and other deficiencies. The second version retains a faint sense of familiarity with the first by borrowing a few rhythmic ideas and the final line of the first’s refrain. This improved version of the melody became the one we now sing.

But the second version was also clearly the work of an amateur musician in other ways, requiring a great many corrections to its harmonization and voicing before it could be used. So I decided to start fresh and make a completely new harmonization. As circumstances required over the next few years, I made three additional arrangements: 1) for unaccompanied choral singing, 2) for unison singing with piano (the version most frequently used), and 3) a version for brass used when the McGill-Toolen High School Band provided music for commencement. The newly-minted harmonization with its arrangement was first sung at Spring Hill College commencement in May, 1999.

For me, the alma mater as we now have it is the perfect embodiment of the idea that Spring Hill College is a wellspring—a wellspring of mission and of this wonderful place that we call our home.

**The Spring Hill College Alma Mater**

> “Like a torch upon a hilltop, flaming in the night; 
> Stands our noble Alma Mater ever blazing forth the right.”
> John Franklin Murray, S.J.

Guest article by Bret Heim

Professor Bret Heim, MM, MSLIS, is Bibliographic Instruction/Government Documents Librarian at Burke Library. He is a classical guitarist and member of the Heim Duo, whose published works include *Luigi Legnani*, Music for Flute and Guitar (CD).

(see: heimduo.org)
The book nook: a learning place

Each year, St Paul’s visual arts teacher Felicia Olds brings sophomores and juniors interested in higher level studio art in her Advanced 2D Design class to the Book Nook. Their assignment starts with selecting a book. The task: to transform it into a visual journal. There are monthly assignments, preliminary sketches, and rough drafts for future works. Students are not limited to any particular process or media.

Continuing a process started many years ago by former art teacher Beth Compton, Felicia commends the ongoing support Book Nook staff provide. “We always look forward to visiting the Book Nook every year to make our selections, and the staff is so supportive and helpful. They always have treats for the kids and it is a pleasure to work with them.”

Pictured below are just two of the stunning works resulting from an assignment that allows students free artistic exploration and experimentation.

Mobile loves a party, but what it loves equally is recognizing service to others. After more than ten years as Manager of the Book Nook, Mary Virginia Titus resigned to re-locate to California and spend time with family,

As a fitting farewell, Mary Virginia and Book Nook volunteers searched high and low and found a book Spring Hill College’s President Christopher Puto wanted. Mary Virginia presented it to him at her farewell party. What a great end and a new beginning.

The book nook: a people place

WELCOME TO OUR MOST RECENT MEMBERS

The generosity and dues of the Friends’ members make it possible for the Friends to purchase computers and software, underwrite staff development and acquire valuable materials like the last will and testament of Bishop Porter. Each new member is integral to the Friends’ success.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Demsey
Mr. and Mrs. Wildon Mareno, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Weems C. Dorn, Jr.
Ms. Patricia A. Young
JOIN THE FRIENDS OF SPRING HILL COLLEGE LIBRARY

**Membership Levels** (check one):
- Lifetime/Corporate $1,000.00
- Patron $100.00
- Family $40.00
- Individual/SHC Alumni $25.00
- SHC Student/Faculty/Staff $10.00

ALL LEVELS INCLUDE BORROWING PRIVILEGES.

Enclosed is my check for $_____________.

Mr.  Mrs.  Dr.  Ms.  
______________________________________________________________

Address:  
_______________________________________________________________________________

City:  
_______________________________  State:  __________________  Zip:  ___________________

Phone:  
_________________________  E-Mail Address:  ________________________________

Enclose check and mail to Friends of Spring Hill College Library, 4000 Dauphin Street, Mobile, AL 36608-1791. Alternatively, join online at https://badgernet.shc.edu/sslpage.aspx?pid=399