

Chronicle

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Distinguished poet Rosanna Warren to address Friends

Distinguished poet Rosanna Warren, assistant professor of English and of modern foreign languages and literatures at Boston University, will address the Friends of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library at their annual dinner, Monday, January 23, at the Stadium Club. Warren is the daughter of the great Fugitive poet, the late Robert Penn Warren, and the late novelist Eleanor Clark.

The event will begin with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Warren will speak after dinner. Invitations to all Friends are being mailed in December.

A member of the faculty of Boston University since 1982, Warren is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Yale University. She received the master of arts degree from Johns Hopkins University (the Writing Seminars). An artist and a poet, Warren also studied with the New York Studio School (Paris Program), Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and the Accademia delle Belle Arti, Rome. She has been a poetry consultant and contributing editor at the *Partisan Review* since 1985.

Warren was visiting assistant professor in the Boston University Professors Program and Department of English from 1982-1988. In 1981-82, she was assistant professor of English at Vanderbilt, teaching courses in poetry, fiction, and poetry-writing.

Warren is a member of the Modern Language Association executive committee, representing the Classical Studies and Modern Literature Discussion Group. She coordinates Comparative Studies in Literature and the Arts and the Translations seminars for the University Professors Program at Boston University.

Warren has won a number of awards recently.



Rosanna Warren

She received the Witter Bynner Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Lila Wallace Readers' Digest Award in 1994. Her accomplishments also have been recognized by the American Academy of Poets (the Lamont Poetry Prize in 1993 and the Lavan Younger Poets Prize in 1992). She received the Ingram Merrill Grant for Poetry twice, in 1983 and 1993.

Her poems have appeared in twenty-seven journals including *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic Monthly*, and in eleven anthologies. She is the author of three poetry volumes: *Stained Glass* (1993), *Each Leaf Shines Separate* (1984), and *Snow Day* (1981). Her published critical prose includes essays on the works of poets, writers, and painters. Forthcoming from Oxford University Press is her verse translation of Euripides' play, *The Suppliants*, which was presented at Stanford University and at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C., in 1992.

Warren currently is working on a literary biography of Max Jacob for Simon & Schuster. A Jewish painter and poet and close friend of Picasso, Jacob converted to Catholicism and later died in a German Nazi camp.



*Shirley Hallblade presents
Vanderbilt women's basketball
coach Jim Foster with a literary
T-shirt, following his remarks to
the Heard Library Society.*

Books and basketball

Vanderbilt women's basketball coach Jim Foster has had a love affair with books since he was in Vietnam. Books helped him cope then, and they help him decompress at the end of every intensely competitive basketball season now.

Foster spoke of his love for books at a Heard Library Society breakfast in October. A voracious reader, he finds relaxation in mysteries during the basketball season, and histories and biographies on his more relaxed summer break.

Foster sees himself as a teacher. His student-athletes play basketball at "the best school in the best athletic conference in America." He makes sure that a copy of Kipling's poem "If" is pasted on the inside of their lockers, and their team notebooks are full of articles Foster clips from the six-to-eight newspapers he reads daily when traveling with the team. More than 95 percent of his players graduate on time, and that has been true since his coaching career began. Many have gone on to become coaches, passing on the Vanderbilt student-athlete philosophy to other generations of players.

The team is rapidly gaining fans, with atten-

dance up 400 percent in the last three years. They have compiled enviable win-loss records and were ranked number one in the nation at the end of the 1992-93 season. That same year, they won the Southeastern Conference tournament and went to the NCAA "Final Four."

In addition to their work in the classroom and on the court, the team has broadened its concern to children living in the Edgehill Homes, a housing project not far from campus. They are sponsoring a book drive for a library at the Edgehill Community Center, and Foster is asking the Heard Society and other members of the community to support the drive.

Foster also is sponsoring a "Coach's Corner" for school children this year. At every home game, thirty seats will be set aside for youngsters who have made the honor roll, had perfect attendance records, or have improved one letter-grade during the past grading period. Before each game, players DeeAnn Bryan and Danielle Louis will talk to the students about the value of academics and education.

The sound of music

Elizabeth Birdwell Leach of St. Louis and her brother, Allen Birdwell of Tampa, have recently made an extraordinary gift of sound recordings to the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library. The materials once belonged to their late father, Beauregard F. Birdwell, a 1958 Peabody graduate.

The collection of classical music includes some 1,142 compact discs, 1,075 LPs, and 445 cassettes. The composers range from the Baroque to the Twentieth Century periods. More recent composers, such as Leonard Bernstein, Charles Ives, Prokofiev, Bartók, Stravinsky, and Berg, are represented in the collection, in addition to well-known, old masters like Handel, Brahms, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven.

Birdwell had a passion for classical music. He

began his collection as a student and continued adding to it throughout his life. Elizabeth Leach says her father not only collected music, but he also wrote music, played the cello, and painted. Birdwell served as coordinator of computer science for the St. Louis public schools and worked at the Gateway Institute of Technology. However, every Saturday he would visit Webster Records, a small music store specializing in classical music. He wanted everyone who visited him to share the joy he experienced from listening to music.

"Our father's life, so influenced by music, has come full circle now," Leach says. "I hope materials from his collection can inspire in students the same great love he had for music. He would like that very much."



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Hollender donates western Americana collection

At a time when America is striving wholeheartedly toward the technological future, it is refreshing to revert to the days when the new frontier meant land out west rather than cyberspace. A glimpse of this historical period can be had through the recent acquisition of 130 books written by Charles King, popular U.S. Army novelist of the nineteenth century.

The volumes have been donated to the Rare Book Collection of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library by Dr. Marc H. Hollender, professor of psychiatry, emeritus, who has collected them since his youth. A native of Wisconsin, Hollender is a longtime supporter of the Library and a member of the Heard Library Society. This is the fourth collection he has given the Library. The others include a collection of World War II maps and the Owen Wister Collection, given in 1986, and the Mark Twain Collection, given in 1979.

Hollender's current gift consists of forty-five titles, which were printed at different times and under various bindings, making them an exceptional research tool for scholars of that period. King's stories are based on personal experience during seventy years of active military service. Born on October 12, 1844, King began his military career at the age of twelve, when he became a marker in the Milwaukee Light Guard. President Abraham Lincoln later appointed King to West Point, from which he graduated in 1866. He went on to join Light Battery D, First Artillery in New Orleans on Reconstruction duty. He was promoted to first lieutenant in 1870 before being transferred to the Fifth Cavalry. King fought Apaches at Diamond Butte and Black Mesa, Arizona Territory, and was severely wounded at Sunset Pass. He was promoted to captain in 1879 before retiring due to complications of his battle wound.

Upon retirement, King joined the University of Wisconsin as a professor of military science and tactics and remained a member of the Wisconsin National Guard. It was at this time that he began his career as a novelist, signing as "Captain Charles King," "Captain Charles King, U.S.A.," and finally "General Charles King." He rose

through the ranks, eventually being commissioned brigadier general of volunteers and commanding a brigade in the early battles of the Philippine Insurrection.

King remained active in military affairs through World War I, and continued to write and publish books, short stories, and articles about western America. Included in the collection are his most popular works, *An Apache Princess*, *A Daughter of the Sioux*, *Between the Lines*, and *The General's Double*. His writing is lauded for its portrayal of battles with "Indians" (sic).

King's stories resemble the Civil War westerns of yesteryear. He wrote of courageous and charming generals, brave yet graceful ladies, and exotic, fearless "Indians" engaging in vengeful battles of love and war. In *A Daughter of the Sioux*, King foretells of an ensuing battle to be fought between the soldiers of Fort Frayne and the Sioux tribe:

Women with straining eyes gazed at the lonely courier, and then fearfully scanned the ridge line between him and the northward sky; praying with white lips for his safety; dreading with sinking hearts that at any moment those savage riders should come darting over the divide and swooping down upon their helpless prey. Men with eyes that snapped and fists that clinched, or fingers that seemed twitching with mad desire to clasp pistol butt or sabre hilt, or loud barking carbine, ran in sheer nervous frenzy up and down the bluffs, staring only at Blake's far distant riders, swinging their hats and waving them on, praying only for another sight of the Sioux in front of the envied seven, and craving with all their soldier hearts to share in the fight almost sure to follow.

Charles King's works are valuable as a reference on the roots of American culture, and they embody the essence of western Americana. For this reason, a collection such as this is highly sought after among historians, scholars, and anyone interested in learning more about military life on the western frontier in the nineteenth century.



Make a Difference. Be a Friend.

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