

FRIENDS OF

# Florham

## IN MEMORIAM J. MICHAEL ADAMS

OCTOBER 22, 1947—JUNE 21, 2012

Dr. J. Michael Adams, Fairleigh Dickinson's beloved president, passed away on June 21 after a courageous fight with acute myeloid leukemia. His love for FDU and his desire to see the University continue the global mission he envisioned



DR. J. MICHAEL ADAMS

provided him with an incredible source of motivation and energy. Only when it became apparent that he no longer had the physical strength to serve as president, did he choose to resign.

Dr. Adams was indeed a visionary. During the 13 years of his tenure, the University rose to a position of global importance in the world of higher education. His vision for the University was closely aligned with the mission of the Friends of Florham and is best expressed in a letter we wrote and presented to him

shortly after he announced his retirement.

May 16, 2012

Dear Michael,

*Working with you and Susan to restore and preserve "Florham" has been a privilege for the Friends as well as a labor of love. When you assumed the presidency of Fairleigh Dickinson University, the Friends knew that things would be different. You and Susan understood immediately the historical and aesthetic importance of the*

*building and its surrounding grounds. You gave us the advice, the manpower and the support we needed to improve our fundraising strategies.*

*Most important, you lent your presence and prestige to our functions, both big and small.*

*You also valued our knowledge and asked for our advice*

*when changes needed to be made. During your tenure, your administration came to view this century-plus building as a positive influence on student life, one well worth the money spent on its maintenance. As a result of your interest and concern, "Florham," for many years home to only a mother and daughter, is now the College at Florham, home to hundreds of students who, on graduation, will take its inherent sense of beauty and history out into the world with them.*

*Thank you for letting us work with you.*

*With greatest affection,  
Your Friends of Florham*

The Friends of Florham miss this great man and accomplished leader. But, we are confident that building on the relationships established with Dr. Adams' support, our mission to preserve the historic aspects of the College at Florham and the University will only grow stronger.

## A TRIBUTE

The board of Friends of Florham was deeply saddened by the death of Fairleigh Dickinson University President J. Michael Adams. As a tribute to this remarkable man and outstanding leader, who always supported and encouraged the work of the Friends, the board chose to re-

(continued on page 7)



WROXTON COLLEGE

### FALL 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Friends of Florham finds that the Gilded Age holds a great deal of interest for many people in this area. That number appears to be growing. An audience of more than 70 attended Justin Martin's lecture on his recent biography of the great American landscape architect, *Genius of Place: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted*, a contributor to the design of Florham's gardens. A month later, almost the same number appeared to hear Carol Bere, Sam Convisser and Walter Cummins speak on the pictures and previously unknown information they uncovered in their research for the book, *Florham: The Lives of an American Estate*. A common question at both events was, "When is the next lecture?" I was happy to tell them that it will take place on October 21, when Carol Wallace, co-author of *To Marry an English Lord*, speaks on the marriages of American heiresses to British nobility during the Gilded Age, and the effect these unions had on American and English society. In March 2013,

the Friends of Florham lecture will feature Ulysses Dietz, Newark Museum curator and well-known author and speaker.

In addition to increased attendance at our lectures, requests for tours of the estate come more frequently. Two of our board members are now well-prepared to guide guests through the first-floor rooms open to the public, as well as the gardens. Tours must be scheduled in advance, but are well worth the wait!

Thanks to a history of excellent archivists, Friends of Florham archives are in excellent condition. All sensitive material is digitized and available in the College at Florham's digital library. However, the social sciences and history department, understanding the benefit of seeing primary sources firsthand, often sends students directly to the archives, where they are instructed on how to handle original documents. In the fall, when the renovations to the College at Florham library are complete, and the University opens

the Monninger Center for Learning and Research, the archives will have a dedicated room.

The crowning achievement of 2012 was the renovation of Hartman Lounge. Long overdue for renewal, the room was transformed by interior designer and board member, Suzy Moran. Hartman is in almost constant use for classes, meetings and lectures, and is, in particular, the venue for many small, but frequently formal, University dinner parties. With its completion, only one room in Hennessy Hall to which the public has access does not have a look in keeping with the style in which the mansion was built. It is that room, the Provost's Office, formerly Mr. Twombly's library and possibly the most beautiful room in the entire mansion, that we will begin working on next.

Were it not for the generous contributions from all of you, this remarkable transformation could never have taken place.

Finally, on a very sad note, on June 21, 2012, Fairleigh Dickinson University lost a great leader and the Friends of Florham lost a dear friend and enthusiastic advocate President J. Michael Adams. He will be sorely missed.

— Linda Meister

### UPCOMING EVENT

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29,**  
**Friends of Florham Gala**  
**Entertainment by "Bucky" Pizzarelli Trio**  
 Lenfell Hall, Hennessy Hall, 7–11 p.m.

## NEW PROVOST AND ASSOCIATE PROVOST JOIN FRIENDS OF FLORHAM BOARD

On July 1, Dr. Peter Woolley assumed the position of provost for the College at Florham and, as such, will also serve on the board of Friends of Florham. Professor Woolley, who holds a PhD in political science from the University of Pittsburgh, was professor of comparative politics at FDU and executive di-

rector of PublicMind™, a highly respected independent polling and research group. He has an outstanding background in political science scholarship and a remarkable record of service to the University. Among other achievements, Dr. Woolley received a Presidential Citation in 2005, the FDU Distinguished Faculty Award

for Research in 2006 and the FDU Distinguished Faculty Award for Service in 2009.



DR. PETER WOOLLEY

Also on July 1, Dr. Brian Mauro assumed the position of associate provost. For  
 (continued on page 7)

# TO MARRY AN ENGLISH LORD

## **To Marry an English Lord: Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex and Snobbery**

by Gail McColl and Carol McD. Wallace, Workman Publishing, 1989, 2012

Television viewers worldwide may be hooked on “Downton Abbey,” but they are probably unaware that *To Marry an English Lord: Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex and Snobbery*, by Gail Maccoll and Carol McD. Wallace, was one of the inspirations for this enormously popular British series. Julian Fellowes, creator of “Downton Abbey,” has said that he was reading *To Marry an English Lord* (TMEL), published initially in 1989, when approached about writing a script for the TV series, which, in turn, led to the recent reissue of the book. TMEL is an enjoyable, somewhat breezy, well-researched reference guide to the personal histories of American heiresses who went abroad in the late 19th century–early 20th century, and with their considerable fortunes married titled heirs to British estates, saving many of these historic estates from financial ruin.

The American Cora Crawley, Countess of Grantham in “Downton Abbey,” for example, would be a prototypical character in TMEL or one of the women Maccoll and McD. Wallace refer to as “buccaneers,” named after the characters in Edith Wharton’s late, unfinished novel of the same name. These women were generally members of American families with “new money,” that is, fortunes that were made after the

1860s, for example, in railroads and banking. With these new fortunes, the next step, particularly in New York, was for the wives to attempt to enter “society,” a group controlled at the time by old New York families — known as Knickerbockers — who wanted to keep it that way. No such prohibition existed in England, however, and many of these families, or more specifically, daughters, received a far more welcoming reception there. Ironically, the so-called “Pushy Mamas” (to cite the authors’ irreverent term) took their wealthy daughters to London, and occasionally Paris, and were fairly calculating in their searches for prospective, titled husbands for their daughters.

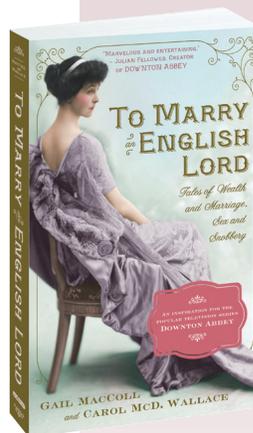
What is striking about the cover of the reissued book — and what makes it particularly relevant to Florham — is that it contains a full-length photograph of the beautiful Consuelo Vanderbilt, the niece of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly. Pushed into marriage against her will by her mother, the she-who-must-be-obeyed, Alva, wife of Florence’s brother, William K. Vanderbilt, Consuelo’s marriage to the cash-strapped Charles Spencer-Churchill, the ninth Duke of Marlborough of Blenheim Palace, became the prototype for arranged, loveless marriages. Consuelo produced the requisite “heir and the spare,” and within 10 years, divorced the Duke (or had her marriage annulled), became involved in social work and the women’s suffrage movement and remarried happily to Jacques Balsan,

a well-known French aviator and industrialist.

The organization and design of the book are particularly effective. Photographs, comments about the “players” and/or the period, relevant quotes and illustrations are placed strategically in margins throughout the book, adding context to this particular period. The authors also provide brief biographies of the American heiresses to a variety of banking, real estate, department store and railroad fortunes, who became chateleines of various stately homes throughout England and Scotland. Well-known names, for example, Drexel, Colgate, Vanderbilt, Field, Fish, Goelet, Gould and Jerome (Jennie Jerome, who married Lord Randolph Churchill, was the mother of Winston Churchill), were among some of the American heiresses who married British aristocrats. Yet not all of these marriages were successful. Consuelo Vanderbilt’s unhappy marriage may have been the most recorded (she also wrote about it in her memoir, *The Glitter and the Gold* [1952]), but some other American heiresses found themselves married to “rakes,” often alone or spending their days in some dark historic country “pile.”

In fact, this particular period of transatlantic marital alliances had a limited shelf life. A backlash in the U.S. against these unions intensified, and, probably far more important, by about 1910, America had grown in stature, developed a stronger national identity and as the authors suggest in this engaging study, “society in America became more sure of itself.” The party set in motion by the buccaneers was definitely over.

— Carol Bere



### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, Lecture**

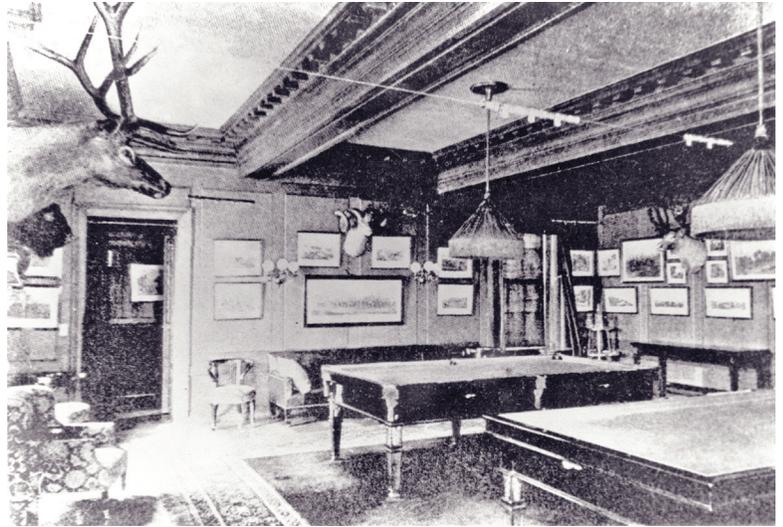
#### **Carol Wallace, Co-Author, *To Marry an English Lord: Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex and Snobbery***

One of the inspirations for PBS series “Downton Abbey”  
Lenfell Hall, Hennessy Hall, 3 p.m., \$20 at the door  
includes Reception

# HARTMAN LOUNGE RENOVATION

Hartman Lounge, Hennessy Hall, formerly the billiard room of Hamilton Twombly on the first floor of the mansion, is relatively small, with mahogany-paneled walls and moldings. One can still imagine Hamilton and his guests relaxing with brandy and cigars over a game of snooker or billiards, or both; there was one table for each game. A vintage picture hanging outside the room shows that big upholstered lamps hung down over each table, and a large cue rack occupied one corner. Elk heads mounted on each wall peered down over the players (a Stanford White touch), and the room was well supplied with stuffed chairs and a large velvet-covered sofa. A particularly memorable aspect of the room was the gauffered ceiling. This room was obviously a unique male haven, and doubtless the gentlemen felt no rush to get back to the ladies in the drawing room!

Since 1964, this former gem has been one of the busiest rooms on campus. As a result, its furnishings and window treatments were tattered and stained, and renovating the room has been on the Friends of Florham “to-do” list for some years. Finally, with the help of generous donations from its



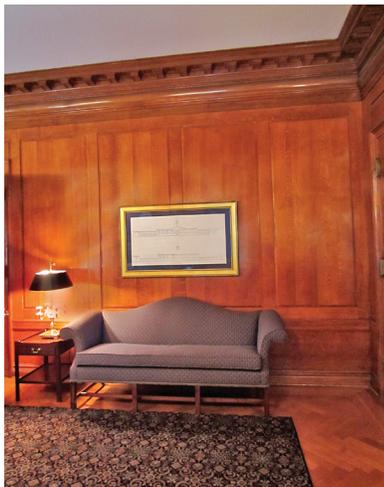
BILLIARD ROOM NOW HARTMAN LOUNGE

members, the Friends completed the redecoration. Visitors to the University's Charter Day festivities found the elegant new blue-and-red striped draperies, new Chippendale-style sofas and a Persian-style carpet in place. The same carpet — chosen for durability and attractiveness — was also laid in the adjacent Walter Savage Room and in connecting hallways leading to the entrance to the Great Hall, unifying all of these rooms.

The herringbone floors, a quintessential element in McKim, Mead and White's work, were left partially uncovered so that they can still be appreciated. The 48 meeting chairs were also re-

upholstered in easy to maintain navy “pleather.” Brass lamps at the side of the sofas were polished to a luminous shine. Interior designer Suzy Moran had copies of the McKim, Mead & White and Frederick Law Olmsted drawings re-matted in navy to further enhance the color scheme. While the room no longer reflects its original Gilded-Age elegance — although the McKim, Mead & White and Olmsted drawings certainly call attention to the history of the room — it is now an appropriate place for lectures and small dinners; the perfect place for future “global citizens” to meet and converse.

— Linda Meister



REDECORATED HARTMAN LOUNGE



# DEBUT OF FLORHAM: THE LIVES OF AN AMERICAN ESTATE

In 2010, Susan Adams, wife of then-President J. Michael Adams and honorary board member of Friends of Florham pointed out that there was no definitive book on Florham and its transition to one of the campuses of Fairleigh Dickinson University. Board members Carol Bere and Sam Convissor took on the research and writing task along with Dr. Walter Cummins, FDU professor emeritus of English and former longtime editor of *The Literary Review* journal, published at FDU. In December 2011, *Florham: The Lives of an American Estate*, was published.

On April 29, more than 50 members of Friends, among them many Fairleigh Dickinson alumni, listened to the authors describe the process of merging letters and ledgers, anecdotes



THE ALUMNI GROUP, FRONT ROW: CLARA BONDINELL '65; LILY LEE KWONG '64 AND PAT MORAN '63 (FROM LEFT); AND BACK ROW: NORMA LEWIS ELDRIDGE '65, BEV KLEIN HECHT '65 AND GENE HECHT '65 (FROM LEFT)

and photographs into a historical account spanning 115 years. With the help of a slide show edited by Brigid Burke, the University's technical services and digital projects librarian, Carol Bere explained several previ-

ously unknown photographs that they uncovered in the course of their research. Needless to say, this book could not have been written without the trove of materials donated in recent years by the Burden family (the Twombly's daughter, Florence, married William A.M. Burden).

After the presentation, the three authors sold and signed their books. Attendees also enjoyed a tour of the first floor of the mansion (Hennessy Hall) and gardens given by board member Linda Carrington. Several members of the class of 1964 and 1965 gave themselves their own tour: they had great fun finding their old bedrooms on the third floor!



DR. WALTER CUMMINS SPEAKS ABOUT THE FLORHAM BOOK

## ORDER THE BOOK

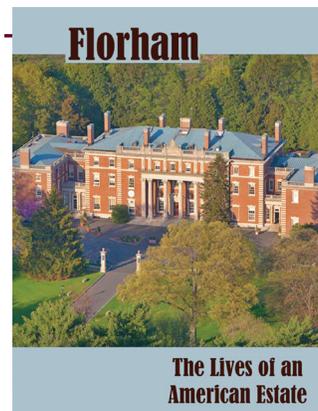
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## JUSTIN MARTIN LECTURE A MAJOR SUCCESS

Speaking to a “standing-room only” crowd at the Friends March 18 lecture, Justin Martin, author of the recently published biography, *Genius of Place: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted*, guided us through the life of the original landscape architect, his early days in Connecticut, his youthful search for excitement on the high seas and his work as a journalist and publisher. Martin also spoke about Olmsted’s career as an early and highly successful landscape architect, which included a period where he; his stepson, John Charles Olmsted; and the Olmsted firm, in general, were instrumental in developing the significant landscape design for the College at Florham.

The lecture, one of the most successful events sponsored by Friends, was also a perfect introduction for their recently published book, *Florham: The Lives of an American Estate*. The book was released in December and includes many photographs (some of which were shown by Martin), and interesting, not previously seen, letters regarding Olmsted and his work at Florham.

Showing photographs that helped to weave the years of Olmsted’s well-known work on New York’s Central Park, the Chicago World’s Fair, the “White City” in 1893, together with massive projects in Boston, the U.S. Capitol Grounds in Washington, D.C., to his highly regarded work at Stanford University, among other notable projects, Martin was able to keep the capacity crowd on the edge of its collective chairs. Photographs, accompanied by Martin’s vivid descriptions, for example, of Olmsted’s trip to China and his frightening experiences on the high seas, and his commentary on Olmsted’s relationships with his indulgent and loving father, his brother and friends and his marriage relatively late in life to his brother’s widowed wife, demonstrated the humanity as well as complexity of the man to the engaged audience.

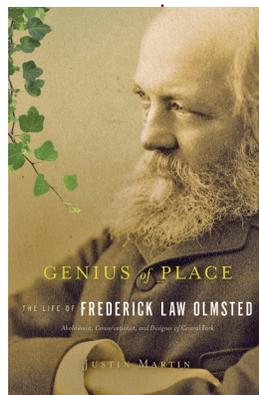
Reviews of Martin’s biography praised the passion that he

brought to his study of Olmsted, and he displayed this passion as he spoke lovingly of all of Olmsted’s heartbreaks, his many failures as a farmer and a journalist and, of course, of his many triumphs that resulted in his well-earned reputation as America’s “landscape architect.” Olmsted basically created a new career path, that of the landscape architect, that is so relevant today. Listening to Martin speak about Olmsted provided the audience with the opportunity to travel with Martin as he detailed the history and significance of the architectural triumphs that have made Olmsted, and particularly his work, exciting places to visit and wonderful places in which to work, play and, in the case of the College at Florham, an ideal place in which to study. For Friends of Florham, Martin’s talk provided another reason why we are doing what we are doing — essentially working to preserve and keep the campus and the Mansion (Hennessy Hall) historically accurate.

— Samuel Convissor



JUSTIN MARTIN



## NEW BOARD MEMBER FOR FRIENDS OF FLORHAM

Elizabeth R. “Beth” Hennessy recently joined the board of Friends of Florham. Beth’s background is in early childhood education. She was executive assistant to the chief operating officer of Connecticut School of Broadcasting National as well as its community relations liaison.



ELIZABETH R. “BETH” HENNESSY

Beth’s nonprofit experience includes positions with several organizations, most recently, the Tri-County Scholarship Fund. She also raised funds for Arthritis Community Care, Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches, the American Cancer Society, The American Heart Association, The American Red Cross and Alzheimer’s Community Care. Her activities in the Morris County, N.J., area include co-chairing the Morris Museum

Golf Outing and assisting with its Gala Committee. She was in the Leadership Morris Class of 2011.

Additionally, she is founding co-chair of Support Our Soldiers. She is also on the board of “The Fisher House” in West Palm Beach, Fla., where the families of soldiers can stay while their family member is in a veterans affairs hospital. The Friends of Florham are pleased to welcome Beth Hennessy to the Board.

# JACK FRITZ — ‘MAN ABOUT CAMPUS’

The Friends of Florham were saddened by the passing of John H. (Jack) Fritz last spring. He was a longtime member and supporter of the Friends. While I was a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham, Jack was moderator of the equestrian team. He was a very prominent figure in the equestrian world, as well as a professor of history. As a member of that team, I was fortunate to meet and spend time with Jack.



JACK FRITZ

During my second year at FDU, I was captain of the team. I met with Jack to introduce myself and discuss the competition schedule for the upcoming year. He

was a familiar figure around campus with his ruddy complexion and aviator-style glasses. I had heard quite a bit about him from students and was rather nervous about our first meeting. At the appointed time, I arrived in his office in the mansion. His office was as one would expect from a professor of history — small and packed to the ceiling with books.

Jack, or Professor Fritz as I knew him, was friendly and eager to talk horses. He wanted to know all about my equestrian background and all about the team, including our goals for the upcoming year. The FDU equestrian team competed in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, and Jack was a great supporter of that national organization. The

team was very competitive, and Jack was always interested and genuinely happy when we succeeded.

Jack was very involved with the United States Equestrian Team and its Olympic-caliber horses and riders, as well as many other high-profile equestrian organizations. However, you didn't have to be an Olympian for Jack to pay attention. He had a keen interest in any and all activities relating to horses, including our team. We were most fortunate to have had Jack Fritz's knowledge, advice and strong support for our efforts. Thinking back, I remember how I enjoyed our chats and how lucky I was to have known Jack and to share our mutual love of horses.

— Elaine Earlywine

## A TRIBUTE

*(continued from page 1)*

furbish Room Number 2, a bedroom suite at Fairleigh Dickinson's Wroxtton College in England. It was in this 17th-century manor house and former abbey that President Adams and his wife, Susan, spent many memorable moments. Upon its completion, Room Number 2 will be renamed and dedicated as the J. Michael Adams Presidential Suite.

The room, like the rest of the abbey has wonderful Tudor "bones."

However, it presently suffers from inappropriate furnishings and worn carpets. Interior designer and board member Suzy Moran, already familiar with the building and well acquainted with English and Irish dwellings of this scale, will develop an interior design appropriate to the period between 1668 and 1740, which is required by the building's listing on the National Register.

On the announcement of this tribute, a major portion of the money needed for this specific

project was quickly raised from generous Friends of Florham board members, FDU colleagues and personal friends of Susan and Michael Adams.

If you would like to join us in honoring the memory of this remarkable man, please contact Susan McConville, executive director of development, University advancement, at 201-692-7008 or at [mconvil@fdu.edu](mailto:mconvil@fdu.edu). The room is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012.

## PROVOSTS JOIN BOARD

*(continued from page 2)*

merly College at Florham's dean of students, Dr. Mauro holds a PhD in human development and higher education administration from Marywood University. Prior to arriving at FDU in 2009, he was dean of students at Penn State's Lehigh Valley campus. In announcing his appointment, Dr. Woolley said that Dr. Mauro has "a broad and well-informed per-

spective on what works and does not work on college campuses."

Friends of Florham welcome and look forward to working closely with Dr. Woolley and Dr. Mauro in helping to make the College at Florham an inspiration for its students and a source of pride for its alumni.



DR. BRIAN MAURO

The Friends would also like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to retired campus provost, Dr. Kenneth Greene, and former associate campus provost, Dr. Marilyn Rye, who stepped down from the board of the Friends of Florham in June. Both Ken and Marilyn served for more than 10 years, sharing their expertise and supporting our many restoration projects.





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FRIENDS OF FLORHAM

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