the humanities. The Library benefits from the income of more than two hundred endowed gifts, and it also receives generous donations annually, both of library materials and of funds to support the immediate purchase of printed works and electronic resources that the Library would otherwise be unable to acquire.

**BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art, the cornerstone of the arts and culture at Bowdoin, reopened recently after a four-year renovation and expansion to better house and display its renowned collection. One of the earliest collegiate art collections in the nation, it came into being through the 1811 bequest of James Bowdoin III of 70 European paintings and a portfolio of 140 master drawings. Over the years, the collection has been expanded through the generosity of the Bowdoin family, alumni, and friends, and now numbers more than 17,000 objects, including paintings, sculpture, works on paper, decorative arts, and artifacts from prehistory to the present from civilizations around the world.

The Museum’s landmark Walker Art Building was commissioned for the College by Harriet and Sophia Walker in honor of their uncle, a Boston businessman who had supported the creation of the first small art gallery at Bowdoin in the mid-nineteenth century. The Walker sisters, encyclopedic collectors and supporters of art education, stipulated that the building be used exclusively for art purposes. Designed by Charles Follen McKim of McKim, Mead and White, the building was completed in 1894 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its brick, limestone, and granite façade is based on Renaissance prototypes, with a dramatically shadowed loggia flanked by large lion sculptures upon which generations of Brunswick children have been photographed.

The antiquities collections contain over 1,800 Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Byzantine objects and constitute one of the most comprehensive compilations of ancient art in any small college museum. European art includes paintings, illustrated manuscripts, sculptures, and decorative arts. Among twelve European Renaissance and Baroque paintings given in 1961 by the Kress Foundation is a panel depicting nymphs pursued by a youth that recently has been attributed to the young Fra Angelico. The works on paper collections of prints, drawings, and photographs is large and varied, numbering more than 8,000 works and representing artists from Rembrandt and Rubens through Callot, Goya, and Manet to Picasso and Warhol.

The Museum’s American collection includes an important grouping of colonial and Federal portraits, with, for example, seven major paintings by Gilbert Stuart, including the famous presidential portraits of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, together with other works by Robert Feke, John Copley, Thomas Sully and Joseph Blackburn. Among other notable works are the murals commissioned by McKim to decorate the Museum’s rotunda by the four leading painters of the American Renaissance: Elihu Vedder, Kenyon Cox, Abbott Thayer, and John LaFarge. The collection also includes works by significant nineteenth- and twentieth-century artists such as Mary Cassatt, Thomas Eakins, John Sloan, Rockwell Kent, Marsden Hartley, and Andrew Wyeth, and an archive of memorabilia from Winslow Homer’s Maine studio.

Non-western materials range from Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Southeast Asian prints, ink paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts to modest but distinguished holdings of African, Pacific, Pre-Columbian, and Native American artifacts.
The recent renovation expanded galleries, a seminar room, and other program spaces, and improved art storage facilities. The restored Museum retains the building’s iconic architectural features and provides state-of-the-art climate control and mechanical systems. A new, dramatic glass and bronze entry pavilion houses a glass elevator and “floating” steel staircase, while a rear addition to the building features an expansive glass curtain wall behind which the Museum has installed its five celebrated ancient Assyrian relief sculptures.

The Museum, open to the public at no charge, is a teaching facility, with the core of its mission to keep its rich collections within immediate reach of Bowdoin students, faculty, scholars, and art lovers. Its active emphasis on the study of original objects as an integral part of the Bowdoin curriculum makes the Museum the ultimate cross-disciplinary and multicultural enterprise. Although online resources are no substitute for an actual visit, the collections can be searched and information on Museum programs and publications found on the Web site at www.bowdoin.edu/art-museum.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Bowdoin places a strong emphasis on the role of technology in the academic program and understands the vital importance of coherent and well-coordinated information systems. The CIO leads an IT Division that designs, develops, deploys, and supports all of Bowdoin’s academic and administrative systems.

IT staff work with faculty to enhance their teaching and research with innovative uses of technology in their classrooms, labs, or online. They provide technical, design, editorial, and project development opportunities for faculty and monitor trends in educational technology, such as new techniques introduced by online education, the impact of technology on student learning, and the evolving architectural standards for classrooms, educational products, and resources. The creation of podcasts and digital videos is commonplace.

Additionally, IT staff provide secure personal e-mail accounts; gigabit Ethernet and wireless Internet access in all residence rooms, offices, and public areas; video conferencing capability; cable television; VoIP telephone systems; and voice mail. They also provide a full-time Help Desk that supports Macintosh, Windows, or Linux computers and includes a student-run Help Desk, plus a number of site-licensed software such as Microsoft Office Professional, ESRI’s ArcGIS, and other specialized academic and administrative applications.

In addition to sixteen academic department computer labs, there are nine public labs and more than two hundred publicly available computers. The labs are fully equipped with Macintosh, Windows, or Linux computers.

JOSEPH MCKEEN CENTER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Jointly administered by the offices of the Dean of Student Affairs and the Dean for Academic Affairs, the McKeen Center for the Common Good connects members of the Bowdoin community to local, national, and international communities, providing opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to apply their talents, passions, and academic pursuits for the benefit of society through public engagement. The work of the Center in the context of the College’s commitment to the common good is described in more detail on pages 298–99.