

## GELMAN NEWS

### University Schedule, September 27-October 2, 2001

by **Jack Siggins**  
*Administration*

The Vice President for Academic Affairs has agreed to allow Gelman Library to remain open September 9 – October 2, 2001, the days the University originally planned to be closed. Classes will still not be held, but Gelman will maintain normal hours and services. Normal staff work schedules will be in effect for all staff, including those in public service, technical service, LIT and administrative jobs. The one exception will be that managers and supervisors should be liberal in granting leave requests to staff who in the meantime made plans to be away those five days and cannot conveniently change them or cannot change them without incurring financial loss.

### Faculty Authors Signing Reception

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

A flyer announcing the Faculty Authors Signing Reception is attached as **Attachment A**. The event will be held on Friday, September 21, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon, in the Gelman Library's Special Collections Department, Suite 207. Featured Authors are William Chambliss and Judith L. Harris.

### Francine Henderson Appointed to New Curator Position

by **Jack Siggins**  
*University Librarian*

I am pleased to announce that Francine Henderson, formerly Head of Special Collections, assumed new duties as Gelman Library's Curator, on September 1. Officially titled the Curator for the Africana Research Center, the position's immediate mission is "to create an endowed position whose incumbent will collect resources and design services supporting Africana research at The George Washington University's Gelman Library."

Francine's first priority will be funding development, with the goals of endowing the Curator position and creating endowments to support eventual collection development. She will be working closely with our Director of Development, Jack Feldman, in her fundraising efforts. Longer-term activities will include collection development, reference and outreach, collection management and continued donor relations and fund-raising.

⇒ INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
<b>2</b>	<b>Special Collections Staff Organizes for Team Approach</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Collection Development Librarian Changes</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Marty Courtois Resumes Web Role</b>

“Information heals the lack of knowledge,” according to Francine. While discussing her new position, Francine told me, “For me, the position of Curator for Africana at The George Washington University’s Gelman Library allows for the opening and further expansion of information that will highlight the significance and importance of the role of people of African descent in shaping the integral fabric of American life and history.” She wishes her colleagues at the Library and the University to know that, “As newly named Curator for The Gelman Library Africana Research Center, I am inspired by the initiative Jack Siggins and the other administrators of The Gelman Library have taken in recognizing the need for such a center. I hope to do all I can to develop an endowment, which supports significant Africana research on the campus of The George Washington University, around the nation, and throughout the global community.”

We are still in conversations with faculty and others about the specific collecting scope for the Africana Research Center, which will be part of our Special Collections program. At least one focus will be on the African American in Washington, DC and local African Americans’ contributions to African American culture. We are especially interested in collecting research materials to support the University’s growing Africana Program.

Francine will continue to report to Caroline Long, Associate University Librarian for Collections Services. For the time being, Francine will stay in her office in Suite 207. She can still be reached by phone at x4-1363, but don’t expect her to be in much – she’s going to be “out and about” raising money!

## **Special Collections Staff Organizes for Team Approach**

by **Caroline Long**  
*Administration*

With the “departure” of Francine Henderson (from the Special Collections Head position, but not from the GLS!), an opportunity to try working as a self-managed team arose in Special Collections. Rather than fill the Head position, the department members have chosen this alternate way of working. They will evaluate their progress throughout the year and next summer we will decide how to fill the vacant librarian position.

David Anderson and La Nina Clayton have been chosen as the team’s co-leaders. You may contact them for any business involving Special Collections (La Nina at 994-8272; David at 994-7283). Other team members are Lyle Slovick, Bruce Hassell, Karen Greisman, Nancy Richards and Ed Keller as well as students currently being hired. The team will be reporting to me.

In the coming months the team will be letting us know of their experiences, especially what they learn about self-management. They plan an article in this space for early October; watch for that and subsequent reports as they learn new ways of working together in support of Gelman Library’s Mission.

## **Collection Development Librarian Changes**

by **Liz Harter**  
*Collection Development*

Some changes have occurred in the areas of collection development responsibilities for librarians beginning this academic year. The two new major changes involve education and engineering. Dan Barthell will now do collection development for Education as well as other social sciences. Cynthia Holt will add Engineering to her continuing responsibilities for the physical

sciences. Please see **Attachment B** for a complete list of all the current collection development librarians, arranged alphabetically by GW department or program. You can also find this attachment on the Gelman Library home page by clicking on "Site Index" and then selecting "Collection Development Librarians."

Please refer any faculty and students with questions about Gelman book and journal holdings to the librarians in these areas.

### **Marty Courtois Resumes Web Role**

by **Gale Etschmaier**  
*Administration*

In May, Marty Courtois agreed to serve as the EIG Coordinator, and since that time he has taken a major leadership role in that group. Under Marty's direction, EIG moved the Columbian College Freshman Advisory workshop assignment to the web, began outlining a plan for introducing information literacy to The George Washington University, and worked with Bill Koffenberger from CELT to enhance Library instruction through developing competency in using Prometheus and collaborating to set up a portable laptop teaching facility.

Although Marty has made a tremendous contribution to Gelman Library in this role, after a great deal of consideration, he has asked to resume the responsibilities of Web Developer/Reference Librarian. He has agreed to continue to serve as EIG Coordinator until we are able to fill this position.

We are disbanding the search committee for a Web Developer/Reference Librarian, and the Council of Librarians will be forming a new committee for the position of EIG Coordinator/Reference Librarian. I would like to thank Marty for his contributions as EIG Coordinator, and thank the Collection Development Librarians for their flexibility in

reorganizing the collection development responsibilities to make this possible.

## **CAMPUS MAIL**

### **Columbian College of Arts & Sciences' New Associate Dean**

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences' (CCAS) Interim Dean Jean Folkerts has appointed Michael Moses as Associate Dean for graduate studies. A member of the GSPM adjunct faculty since 1999, he will oversee all the CCAS graduate programs. Michael Moses received his bachelors and Ph.D. degree from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He taught at Western Illinois University and at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand before joining the University's Department of Mathematics in the Fall of 1991.

Michael Moses' research area is Mathematical Logic. He has been published in several journals and recently has been working in Finite Model Theory, exploring the connection between linguistic and algorithmic complexity. Some of his publications include "Recursive Linear Orders with Incomplete Successivities" with R. Downey, *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society* (1991); "Serialisability in Distributed Multiprocessors" with M. Livesey in *St. Andrews Computational Science Series* (a series of technical reports); and "An Undecidable Linear Order that is n-Decidable for all n" with John Chisholm, accepted for publication in the *Notre Dame Journal of Formal* (1999).

## Travel and Entertainment Policy

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Travel and Entertainment Policy is attached as **Attachment C**. A letter from Don Boselovic, Associate Vice President for Finance about the policy is to make sure that only sensible and necessary expenditures for official business, travel and entertainment are incurred, documented and paid for by the University.

## GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

### Vacancy Listing

Please see **Attachment D** for the Gelman Library System's Vacancy Listing.

## CONFERENCES

### Society of American Archivists Annual Conference

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Mary Faith Pankin's report on attending several sessions at the Society of American Archivists Annual Conference is attached as **Attachment E**. The conference was held from August 30th – September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Society of American Archivists Conference Report

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Lyle Slovic's Conference report on the Society of American Archivists Annual Conference is attached as **Attachment G**.

## OTHER NEWS

### Workshop on Intellectual Freedom for Banned Book Week

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Information on the Workshop on Intellectual Freedom for Banned Book Week is attached as **Attachment F**. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2001 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library – Room A5.

The workshop is co-sponsored by *the District of Columbia Library Association* and *DC Center for the Book*.

**“The reflections and histories of men and women throughout the world are contained in books... America's greatness is not only recorded in books, but it is also dependent upon each and every citizen being able to utilize public libraries.**

- Terence Cooke (1921-1983) -



## LITERARY HISTORY

Sept. 16, 1387	<b>Henry V</b> , King of England is born.
Sept. 16, 1387	Librarian at the British Museum, <b>Sir Anthony Panizzi</b> is born.
Sept. 17, 1935	Author of <i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> , <b>Ken Kesey</b> is born.
Sept. 18, 1709	Writer <b>Dr. Samuel Johnson</b> is born.
Sept. 19, 1911	English Novelist and author of <i>Lord of the Flies</i> , <b>William Golding</b> is born.
Sept. 20, 1878	Novelist <b>Upton Sinclair</b> is born.
Sept. 21, 1947	Suspense writer <b>Stephen King</b> is born.
Sept. 21, 1974	<b>Jacqueline Susann</b> , author of <i>Valley of the Dolls</i> , dies at 53 of cancer.
Sept. 22, 1991	California University makes the Dead Sea Scrolls public.
Sept. 23, 1862	<b>Abraham Lincoln's</b> Emancipation is published in Northern Newspapers.
Sept. 24, 1896	Author <b>F. Scott Fitzgerald</b> , is born in St. Paul, Minnesota.
Sept. 25, 1908	English Old Testament textual scholar, <b>Henry A. Redpath</b> dies.

Sept. 26, 1792	Philosopher, critic and bible translator, <b>Moses Mendelssohn</b> dies.
Sept. 27, 1858	Italian mathematician and founder of symbolic logic, <b>Giuseppe Peano</b> dies.
Sept. 28, 551 BC	<b>Confucius</b> is born.
Sept. 29, 1870	The St. Anthony Guild Press publishes the <i>New American Bible</i> .
Sept. 30, 1988	Author and Rabbi of Berlin, <b>Joachim Prinzke</b> dies.



### SIMPLE TIPS

*How to thrive in The Gelman Library System  
(or any other organization)*

by **Jack Siggins**  
*University Librarian*

“Worry more about implementation than strategy. It’s harder to do.”

## Something to Think About



### Taking the Long View of Setbacks

So you didn't get promoted or another co-worker got the prize project. Don't let the disappointment get the better of you. Try these tips on handling the rejection:

- Take a couple of days to process your emotions. Talk privately with a trusted confidant (preferably someone outside the organization) about your feelings.
- Ask for feedback and learn from it. Find out why you weren't the best candidate for the job. Then use that information to address whatever reason you didn't make the cut.
- Get a performance review. Sometimes we're surprised and disappointed when we're passed over because we're not aware of how the boss really perceives our abilities and career potential.
- Develop relationships with key people in the organization. Get to know the movers and shakers in the areas of business in which you're interested. Find out about what they do and ask how you can support them. When you establish relationships in which you can share some of your goals and interests, those key people can become your advocate when another project or upper-level position opens up.

Taken From:  
*Coffee Break Newsletter*  
September 18, 2001

## Something to Talk About



### When Did Higher Education Begin?

About the sixth century B.C., schools of medicine existed on the island of Cos, Greece, and there, philosophers theorized on the nature of man and the universe. The Pythagoreans (followers of the Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras, c. 580-500 B.C.) began the first schools of higher education in southern Italy, where they taught philosophy and mathematics in Greek. The great philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle carried on the Pythagoreans' tradition, as did Epicurus and Zeno in the fourth century B.C.

However, it was not until the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment (1500-1800) that modern education developed. The academies attended by great scientists and philosophers led to the founding of the first modern universities. Among those established during this period, were the French Academy of Sciences (founded in 1666) and the Academia dei Lincei in Rome, which was attended by Galileo. The scientific methods and experimentation techniques developed in these institutions of higher learning set standards of academic inquiry that remain part of higher education in the world today.

Taken from:  
*The Handy History Answer Book*  
Edited by: Rebecca Nelson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Faculty Authors Signing Reception**

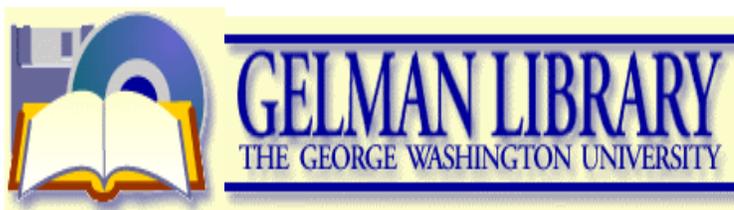
**9/21/01** Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
Special Collections Department  
Suite 207

## **RENAISSANCE TIMES**

*Renaissance Times (RT)* is the official bi-weekly newsletter of The Melvin Gelman Library at The George Washington University. *RT* is proofread by **Lana Muck** and **Valerie Emerson**. *RT* is published every other Tuesday by **Teena Bedola** in conjunction with Photocopy Services. Submissions, comments, and questions should be directed to:

*Erica Aungst, Editor*  
*The Melvin Gelman Library*  
*2130 H Street, NW - Room 201*  
*Washington, DC 20052*

Voice (202) 994-6455  
Fax (202) 463-6205  
Data [aungst@gwu.edu](mailto:aungst@gwu.edu)



## FACULTY AUTHORS SIGNING RECEPTION

Friday, September 21, 2001  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The Gelman Library  
Special Collections Department  
Suite 207

\*\*\*

Featured Authors:

*William Chambliss*  
*Professor of Sociology*  
Power, Politics & Crime

**Judith L. Harris**

Assistant Professor of English

**Atonement**

\*\*\*

The Gelman Library holds Faculty Authors Signing Receptions throughout the academic year in recognition of new books by faculty members of The George Washington University. Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the receptions and enjoy opportunities to hear faculty members discuss their research and their book's scholarly contribution within their area of study. Signed copies of new publications are added to the faculty authors collection in the Special Collections Department. For more information, call La Nina Clayton at (202) 994-7549.

## Collection Development Librarians

Collection Development Librarians in Gelman Library are responsible for developing collections to fit the needs of individual academic departments and programs. Each librarian has an assigned responsibility for a department(s) or program(s). They develop familiarity with departmental needs for Library collections and act as Library contacts to assist in planning collections to support teaching and research.

Listed below are librarians responsible for specific departments and programs. The telephone area code is 202 unless specified.

	<b>Accountancy</b>	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
<b>Africana Studies</b>		<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
<b>American Studies</b>		<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
<b>Anthropology</b>		<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
<b>Art</b>		<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
<b>Art Therapy</b>		<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
<b>Asian Studies</b>		<a href="#">Cathy Zeljak</a>	994-0124
<b>Biochemistry</b>		<a href="#">Marty Courtois</a>	994-0684
<b>Biological Sciences</b>		<a href="#">Marty Courtois</a>	994-0684
<b>Biostatistics</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>Chemistry</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>Civil/Environmental Engineering</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>Classics</b>		<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
<b>Communication</b>		<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
<b>Computer Science</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>Counseling/Human &amp; Organizational Studies</b>		<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
<b>Early Modern European Studies</b>		<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
<b>Earth and Environmental Sciences</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>East Asian Languages and Literatures</b>		<a href="#">Cathy Zeljak</a>	994-0124
<b>Economics</b>		<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
<b>Eckles Library</b>		<a href="#">Anne Emery</a>	625-4592
<b>Educational Leadership</b>		<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
<b>Electrical and Computer Engineering</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>Engineering Management and Systems Engineering</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>English and American Literature</b>		<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
<b>Environmental &amp; Resource Policy</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>European Studies</b>		<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
<b>Film Studies</b>		<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
<b>Finance</b>		<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
<b>Forensic Sciences</b>		<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
<b>Genetics</b>		<a href="#">Marty Courtois</a>	994-0684
<b>Geography</b>		<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
<b>German Languages &amp; Literatures</b>		<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
<b>Graduate School of Political Management</b>		<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
<b>Historic Preservation</b>		<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356

History	<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
Hominid Paleobiology	<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
Human Sciences	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
International Affairs	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
International Business	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
International Development Studies	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
International Trade & Investment Policy	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Judaic Studies	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
Latin American Studies	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Legislative Affairs	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Linguistics	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
Management Science	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
Marketing	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
Mathematics	<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering	<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
Middle Eastern Studies	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Mount Vernon Campus Library	<a href="#">Anne Emery</a>	625-4592
Museum Studies	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
Music	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
Naval Sciences	<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
Organization Sciences	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
Peace Studies	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Pharmacology	<a href="#">Marty Courtois</a>	994-0684
Philosophy	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
Physics	<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
Political Psychology	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Political Science	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Psychology	<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
Public Administration	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
Public Policy	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Reference	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
Religion	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
Romance Languages & Literatures	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
Russian and East European Studies	<a href="#">Cathy Zeljak</a>	994-0124
School of Media & Public Affairs	<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
Science, Technology, and Public Policy	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Security Policy Studies	<a href="#">David Ettinger</a>	994-1355
Slavic Languages and Literatures	<a href="#">Mark Yoffe</a>	994-6303
<b>SOCIOLOGY</b>	<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
Special Collections	<a href="#">La Nina Clayton</a>	994-7549
Speech and Hearing Science	<a href="#">Marty Courtois</a>	994-0684
Statistics	<a href="#">Cynthia Holt</a>	994-1352
Strategic Management and Public Policy	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
Teacher Preparation and Special Education	<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373
Telecommunication	<a href="#">Dan Barthell</a>	994-1373

<b>Theatre and Dance</b>	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
<b>Tourism and Hospitality Management</b>	<a href="#">Shmuel Ben-Gad</a>	994-1353
<b>Women's Studies</b>	<a href="#">Liz Harter</a>	994-1356
<b>University Archives</b>	<a href="#">David Anderson</a>	994-7283
<b>University Professors</b>	<a href="#">Caroline Long</a>	994-1317
<b>Virginia Campus Library</b>	<a href="#">Doug Carroll</a>	703-726-8230

## Society of American Archivists Annual Conference

*by*

### Mary Faith Pankin

Collections Management Services

Along with several other Gelman staff members, I attended several sessions at this conference, August 30-September 1. Below are some comments about some that are of general interest.

The plenary session speaker was GW's own Dr. Gene D. Cohen, director of the Center on Aging, Health, and Humanities. His talk was "When Biography is as Important as Biology in the Overall Approach to Alzheimer's Disease." He discussed two projects designed to help both the Alzheimer's patients and their families. In one approach, volunteers help the family create a video using familiar pictures, objects, etc. This helps the family to remember the patient when well. Watching the video with the patient enhances communication during family visits. The information also increases the staff knowledge of the personal histories and increases their interest in the patient.

Another project produces a board game, with pictures of people, places, pets, and special occasions, both generalized (such as presidents or other well known people) and entirely personal. On the backs of the scanned pictures are questions that volunteers or family members can ask to help patients to remember and to provide an emotional lift and bond. Dr. Cohen gave the moving example of how he used these methods with his father, who had been a sailor in the 1930s. Using pictures of him in uniform, and of ships, he was able to help his father remember some of his past and help his father to recognize him.

On a less heart-warming note was the session, "Ghosts in the Archival Closet: Controversial Data, Ethical Quandaries." Both speakers discussed the now discredited "science" of eugenics, loosely defined as the application of genetics to improve the human race by eliminating "defects" and selecting approved traits. Dr. Martin Levitt of the American Philosophical Society showed examples of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory web site on the history of eugenics in the United States (<http://vector.cshl.org/eugenics/>). The site includes documents and photographs. In order to provide context, there are many essays, and also warnings that people will be offended by the underlying racism and prejudices shown. The site designers removed all names from the documents and pictures, since some of the people shown as bad examples ("feeble-minded," disabled in some way, sexually "perverse",

or otherwise “undesirable”) could still be alive. In fact, one of the advisors, a professor who has researched the movement (in vogue roughly the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) was horrified to see one of his relatives pictured as “defective.”

Dr. Paul Lombardo, a professor at the University of Virginia, has written extensively on the eugenics movement. He pointed out that many repositories, especially those at universities, contain papers of “big guns” in eugenics. Some unexpected names turn up: the Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes (remember his “Three generations of imbeciles are enough”), Alexander Graham Bell (his wish to prevent deafness such as that which affected his wife), and Joseph De Jarnett (long time superintendent of Western State Hospital in Staunton, Virginia and moving force behind the 1924 Virginia law that resulted in the forced sterilization of thousands of disabled, mentally ill, or merely impoverished Virginians --- into the 1960s or 1970s).

Chillingly, Dr. Lombardo quoted a proponent of eugenics in the 1930s as comparing the U.S. unfavorably as not as “progressive” in this area as --- Nazi Germany. Because of the evil consequences of this way of thinking, universities are often content not to publicize papers of leading citizens that show their belief in eugenics.

The session “Rubbernecking at Past Disasters” featured three speakers about archives that document disasters. Casey Greene of the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, Texas, explained how his archives took part in the commemoration of the January 8, 1900 hurricane that killed over 8,000 (!) people and resulted in almost \$30 million in property destruction. The archives holds over a thousand images, and over a thousand pages of letters, survivor and relief worker accounts, along with oral histories and maps of the disaster. With several years to plan, they handled details well and brought out a book that is still a brisk seller. Lessons learned were: 1. You need much advance notice. 2. You should expect a sudden media onslaught, and you need to keep a close eye on the accuracy of media reports. 3. You should keep a sense of humor. 4. You should take every opportunity to publicize your archives. Nancy Shader of the Connecticut State Library discussed the Hartford Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey circus fire of 1946. This tragedy was apparently caused by waterproofing the tent with flammable chemicals. Many people including children and entire families at this matinee perished. There were many injured as well. The state library contains police investigation files and court files (several circus officials went to prison) with sad photos of deceased children and others. Two mysteries remained: the exact origin of the fire; and the identity of #1565, an unidentified body of a little girl. A recent arson investigator ruled out the guilt of a man who had confessed to setting the fire, then recanted. A carelessly thrown cigarette was also ruled out. The official ruling changed in the 1990s from accidental to undetermined, and there it stays. In 1991 #1565 was identified; however, family members refuse dental or DNA tests, claiming that they are too traumatized still by the events. So we will never know for certain. Some survivors told their stories to an author writing a book.

Lessons learned were: 1. Create a press packet beforehand. 2. Keep all staff informed throughout planning. 3. Encourage all types of TV coverage: local, educational, C-SPAN, etc.

Deborah Osterberg of Mount Rainier National Park, discussed the small section of the park's records: the fatality files. There have been 327 fatalities since the Park's founding. As a benchmark, 4,437 people have died over the years in U.S. National Parks. Many died on Mount Rainier, some trying to climb it. The largest group, however, was a U.S. Marine transport plane crash in 1946, with 32 dead. As with many of these deaths, bodies remain entombed in the glacier. Another tragedy occurred in 1981 when a tour guide and ten climbers on the mountain were swept into a deep crevasse. Their bodies also remain on the mountain, as recovery would risk other lives. Users of the files include: authors of books and articles on climbing history, biographical researchers, relatives of the dead, students preparing school papers, and park service employees working on exhibits. Although there are only five linear feet of records now, the file will unfortunately grow with each fatality.

The session "Dancing the Continental: Harmonizing Data Content Standards for Archival Description" was unexpectedly entertaining as well as informative. The National Endowment for the Humanities has funded a project to result in one document which combines the current U.S. and Canadian standards. The practical implication is that by this time next summer all manuscript catalogers and finding aid writers will need to master a new standard, which will be somewhere between the 300 pages (!) of the Canadian standard and the 32 pages of the American standard. Three speakers discussed the project, and they each had amusing examples of the differences between Americans and Canadians. Just one example: A book published in Canada with the no-nonsense title Coping with Back Pain came out in the U.S. with the typically triumphal title Conquering Back Pain. The biggest question seems to be, will Americans agree to use (and pronounce correctly) the Canadian term of French origin for the highest level of archival description ("record groups") --- two speakers referred to it as "the f-word": fonds.

**Society of American Archivists Conference Report  
August 30-September 1**

*by*

**Lyle Slovick**  
**University Archives**

I attended a number of informative sessions and a full-day workshop at the SAA conference. The workshop was titled “Oral History: From Planning to Preservation” and was taught by Fred Calabretta of the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, CT. The agenda covered a wide range of issues, including project planning, interviewing and transcribing techniques, and equipment needs. Mr. Calabretta stressed the three “B’s” of conducting successful oral histories: 1) be prepared, 2) be professional, and 3) be nice. It was stressed that before undertaking any oral history project, a clear statement of purpose should be written, which defines the scope of the project and subject matter to be covered. In addition, time lines for expected completion of the project should be determined, as well as budget and personnel needs. A list of possible people to be interviewed must be created, along with a question list. The interviewer must be fully prepared and should do background research about the person to be interviewed and the subject matter to be discussed (akin to cramming for an exam). An oral history, to be most affective, should have long term value for researchers, and the interviewer has a critical role in framing questions and shaping the interview, since he/she is creating a historical document along with the interviewee. Oral histories document themes and topics of interest and “humanize” the historical record by including details of everyday life which are many times overlooked. But remember, for a successful outcome, you have to:

- Be prepared (make sure you have the proper equipment, know how it works, have your questions ready, and know your “stuff”)
- Be professional (explain fully the purpose of the interview and how it will be used, and get a copyright release from the interviewee)
- Be nice (appreciate the interviewee from the beginning, let them know that what they have to say has value, and thank them with a personal letter)

I attended five general sessions, and share with you my impressions of them here. “The Internet, Law, and Ethics: The Dilemmas We Face” discussed the legal aspects of putting information on web sites that may be sensitive. Wayne Metcalfe of the Genealogical Society of Utah discussed the website the Mormons have created called Family Search ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)). I stumbled across this site last spring and for those doing genealogical research it is a goldmine of information. Metcalfe said that the site contains 655 million records and had had 3.6 billion hits since it debuted in 1999. With the sheer volume of people using the site (currently 146,000 visitors daily viewing almost 2 million pages of records) ethical and legal questions arise. Since this site contains names of people from all over the world, it becomes difficult to determine which laws should be applied from which countries to regulate the flow of information. It is a subject that will have to be addressed in the years to come. For example, how do you deal with a person from Austria gaining access to information on a relative who emigrated to the United States, which is found on a website in Canada, and wanting to include it in a biography he or she is planning to publish? The waters are murky, indeed. For the Family Search site, it was decided that names of living people would not be included, even

with the expressed consent of the living, but it is not responsible for the policies of the over 100,000 other sites it links to.

Anne-Marie Schwirtlic of the National Archives of Australia discussed (on behalf of Maggie Shapley, who was unable to attend) the “Bring Them Home” project in Australia, which deals with records of aborigines forcibly removed from their families in the 1960’s. Begun in 1997 as the result of a government edict, it attempts to bring together families. To date, indexing teams have entered 180,000 names into a database which includes the surname, given name, sex, date of birth/death, and place names. It was decided not to disclose any personal information without the consent of the individuals, and relatives are given a special reference source code to access the entire file. Shapley pointed out that the project is guided by the 1993 Code of Ethics of the Australian Society of Archivists.

Jerry Hanfield, soon to be the State Archivist of Washington, discussed the issue of privacy rights, and said that the court has ruled that the dead give up their right to privacy. Yet as far as patient records go, many institutions maintain the 75-year rule for keeping the records closed, since family members may still be alive and not want to see the names of relatives appearing on the Internet. In the end, the digital age is going to be a challenge for archivists, for whom change is a hard concept to accept readily.

The session “Photograph Albums and Scrapbooks: Wherefore and Whereto?” was good. Douglas Haller of the Walter Ruether Library discussed photo albums and the various types of 19th century photographs, and showed examples of various albums during a slide presentation, including samples of “albums” from websites, commenting that CD’s, DVD’s, and Zip disks, may be the future means of creating them in a virtual format. Rebecca Johnson Melvin of the University of Delaware discussed scrapbooks, pointing out that they are good biographical source (even though they are most times not well organized) and pointing out the fascinating differences between those kept by men and those kept by women. Women have historically been the keeper of the family memory and thus have created scrapbooks to create a legacy of family and home life. Men, on the other hand, tend to keep scrapbooks as a way of documenting their public life, and fill the pages with news clippings about their career. Today, the popular “Creative Memories” scrapbooks are a pox on the scene (as Johnson Melvin suggests), and if you really want to see what makes a good scrapbook worthy of future generations, visit: [www.tulane.edu/~wclib/scrapbooks.html](http://www.tulane.edu/~wclib/scrapbooks.html).

“Archival Practice and the Authenticity of Photographs” was another interesting session. Elisabeth Kaplan of the University of Minnesota delivered a paper on behalf of Joan Schwartz of the National Archives of Canada. It focused on two photographs of World War I that were part of a major exhibit after the war, which in 1978 were proved to be false images (one being a composite of two separate photos and the other a staged photo taken at a training center miles from the actual fighting.) They are not authentic in the true sense of the word, yet still captured a state of being and evoked great emotion in the people who viewed them over the years. This aspect of a photo *evoking* rather than *depicting* reality is an issue that must be grappled with, especially when considering the notion that photography is an expressive art form as well as the visual residue of past communication. Meaning may be in the eye of the beholder, but the misrepresentation of a photo as being something other than itself is not an acceptable alternative. Kaplan contends that authenticity denotes reliability, and validity, and truth in representation. But by what yardstick do we validate a photograph? It becomes an amalgamation of what the photo is of, and what it is about.

Wolf Buchmann from the Bundesarchiv (he came all the way from Germany folks) discussed controversial photos in an exhibit on World War II of the German invasion of Russia and Yugoslavia, accused of being faked or not depicting what they really were. Many viewers were outraged, claiming they were part of a

pattern of Soviet propaganda during the war, and there was such an outcry that the photo and captions were all checked. It was discovered that indeed some had been doctored, and claims of fakery had to be checked out seriously, which in many cases meant going to archives and checking for the original negatives, or with the photographers themselves (if they were still alive.) There was also the issue of the same photograph being described in completely different ways, which goes back to the notion that reality can be intention of photographer as much as the subject itself. In the end, the credibility of the archives was at stake, and much time and effort had to be spent addressing the legal issues involved.

“Storage and Management of Color Slides and Transparencies” discussed the technical side of managing slide, and was quite enlightening. Margaret Compton of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences discussed issues of housing and image fading, stressing the importance of keeping temperature and humidity at acceptable levels and that the collection should be surveyed to assess its physical condition and establish a baseline for future care and treatment. Susan Woodward of the Hadassah Archives talked about organizing slides that were part of a collection but neglected for many years. Since materials are of little value unless the researcher can access them, she began a project to put them in order. Since Susan is a staff of one, she hired a student intern to work one day a week to assist her (something I can relate to, since University Archives could not function without student assistants.) The slides were weeded by appearance (many in terrible condition were simply thrown away) and then weeded by content (some were put in a pile with other “What are they doing here?” images and later discarded save for a sampling), and those that had no context or description were thrown away as well. The slides were broken into subject headings and stored in slide cabinets and many of the images scanned onto CD. Now researchers will have access to a very interesting collection of images of Jewish life that previously resided in a chaotic state.

James Reilly of the Image Permanence Institute in Rochester, NY, was the final speaker on this panel. He got into many technical issues of dye fading in slides, which is unavoidable, but can be slowed perceptibly by cold storage (that means keeping them at freezer level temperatures.) He discussed the differences between Kodachrome and Ektachrome film (both of which we have in Archives) and also something known as “vinegar syndrome,” which affects a number of negatives in our collection. High humidity, he contends, is the worst thing for slides, and he directed us to the Institute’s web site, which has a lot of good information on preserving and caring for photos and slides. (<http://www.rit.edu/~661www1>)

The final session I attended was “Managing and Using Web Sites in Archives and Records Management.” Randy Jones of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center underscored the importance of designing a web site that achieves your goals; therefore it is important to have a mission statement for the web site itself. We have to realize that people searching a web site expect instant gratification, and so you must ensure that the information you put on line is accurate and that links work properly. Jones also suggests registering sites with various search engines and supports the subject indexing of sites, to make access easier to those not as savvy in navigating the Internet as others. He also made the interesting suggestion of adding your URL to your voice mail message as another way of increasing people’s awareness of your web site.

Jac Treanor of the Archdiocese of Chicago discussed the explosion of the Internet in the past 10-20 years, and how it affects all of us, pointing out that even the Vatican has a web site (since 1995.) He said that we who deal with web construction and maintenance are “content aggregators” and that the most important aspect of a site is its *content*, but also stressed that content must be available in a richer fashion for a broader audience. Library and archives sites tend to be a bit drab, and we must ask ourselves, how can we make them more marketable in order to reach a wider audience? Digitization of records is another aspect of web

design, since there is an increased demand for this kind of information online, although it brings with it the problem that the more you digitize, the more of a demand there will be to digitize more and more to match the appetite for information. As Treanor shared with the audience, people often ask him, “Isn’t everything on the Internet now?” Ah, indeed, that is the vexing problem facing our web sites and us.