

## GELMAN NEWS

### Gelman Library Showcases its Africana Collection

by **Caroline Long**  
*Administration*

In celebration of Black History Month and to highlight our new Africana Research Center initiative, Gelman Library presents: *Showcasing Africana: Treasures from the Special Collections Department of Gelman Library*. The exhibition explores the African American experience at The George Washington University, as well as in Foggy Bottom, Washington, D.C., and the United States through Africana rare books, photographs, manuscripts, March on Washington memorabilia, D.C. political memorabilia, and items from the University Archives. Visit the exhibit to learn more about slavery in Washington, D.C., prominent African American Washingtonians, African American residents' experiences in Washington, D.C., local politics, and some of the important marches on Washington.

Cipperly Good, a GW first-year Museum Studies graduate student, designed the exhibit under the tutelage of Francine I. Henderson, Africana Curator. Feedback about the exhibit can be directed to [cipperly@gwu.edu](mailto:cipperly@gwu.edu). Visit the exhibit in The Gelman Library's Special Collections, Suite 207, Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from **February 5 through April 19, 2002**.

### Student Art Show Reception

by **Corrie Bouma**  
*Gelman Library Student Liaison*

A reception celebrating the First Annual Student Art Show will be held next Friday, March 1st, in the first floor 24-hour reading room. The event will begin at 5pm and will end at 7pm. Everyone is invited to meet the artists who are in the show and participate in some conversation over light refreshments! Please contact Corrie with any questions or comments at (202) 994-2937. Hope to see you there!

## GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

### Vacancy Listing

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

⇒ INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
2	New Staff at Eckles Library
2	Summary of WRLC Library Director's Meeting of February 8, 2002
3	Literary History

## **MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS** **NEWS**

### **New Staff at Eckles Library**

by **Melody Molinoff**  
*MVC*

We want to welcome the newest addition to our staff here at Eckles Library! Frank Janicki joined the Eckles Library team on February 4<sup>th</sup> as the Evening Circulation Supervisor. Frank comes to us from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was the Evening Circulation Supervisor of the Hunt Library. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh in Religious Studies and the History and Philosophy of Science. When away from campus, Frank enjoys spending time with his dogs, various woodworking crafts, and the collection and study of swords and knives.

## **WRLC UPDATE**

### **Summary of WRLC Library Director's Meeting of February 8, 2002**

by **Lizanne Payne**  
*WRLC Executive Director*

#### **Software evaluations for virtual reference and digital library gateway**

The Reference and Digital Library committees (respectively) are nearing the end of the software evaluation process and WRLC expects to have recommendations for each of these initiatives in time for the next meeting of the WRLC Library Directors (scheduled for March 8). The current FY'02 operating budget contains funds sufficient to purchase the virtual reference software, and it is hoped that a trial project can begin this spring. The digital library gateway system is being

proposed for the FY'03 budget and implementation cycle.

#### **Digital Collections Production Center (DCPC)**

WRLC is working on reconfiguring the former "book repair room" for use as the DCPC, with work areas for three staff (Manager Allison Zhang, plus the metadata indexer and scanning technician who are yet to be hired). Orientation meetings are scheduled with special collections staff at Catholic and George Washington, to begin planning for conversion of their collections identified in the proposal. Library directors suggested that WRLC hold an open house in the spring to announce the new facility once its physical reconfiguration is complete.

#### **Visit from Georgetown Staff**

A large group from Georgetown visited WRLC on January 16, including new University Librarian Artemis Kirk, several staff from Lauinger Library, the directors of the law and medical libraries, the associate vice president and the associate director of university information services. The meeting was intended primarily to introduce Georgetown staff to WRLC and its programs and facilities. Lizanne reported to the WRLC Library Directors that she is continuing to work on options for possible GU membership in WRLC, to be discussed with WRLC Library Directors in upcoming meetings in the hope of presenting a mutually-agreeable proposal to the WRLC Board at the end of April.

#### **Prototype Consortium Course Catalog**

WRLC has been working with the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area (CUWMA) to develop a shared course catalog to support the cross-registration program. Don Gourley has developed a preliminary prototype to show the proof-of-concept.

#### **Web resources database using CORC**

Bruce Hulse reported on a meeting with Claire Dygert of American University, at which they discussed the difficulty of using OCLC's CORC system to create a database of web resources. Because CORC stores the records in MARC format, even the simpler Dublin Core records entered by WRLC librarians are converted to MARC and then require significant editing to remove or correct tag data. This results in a very labor-intensive process and represents a new effort that is not currently supported by staff assignments in the libraries.

It also became clear that there were actually two goals being attempted through the web resources project: a database, which could be searched simultaneously with the OPAC, and an improved method for creating and maintaining Internet pathfinders. Bruce recommended that WRLC and the member libraries not pursue further development of the web resources database using CORC, and instead focus on designing a simpler mechanism to support pathfinder development, for which staff time is already being allocated in the libraries. The library directors concurred with this recommendation and WRLC will begin to investigate some options.

### Proposed WRLC operating budget for FY'03

Lizanne distributed the first draft of the proposed FY 2003 WRLC operating budget, and outlined three items of note:

- The budget contains expenditures and grant revenues for the Digital Collections Production Center in FY'02 (revised), FY'03, and a small amount in FY'04.
- The budget shows about \$275,000 in general operating reserves accumulated over the past 15 years of operations, and recommends creating a new "computer systems reserve" fund using monies expended in previous years for the 1997 Voyager purchase (a 5-year loan that will

be paid off in FY'02). WRLC recommends using part of this fund in FY'03 to acquire a digital library gateway system, with part banked for a future replacement of Voyager (probably in FY'06 or later).

- The proposed budget assumes that the revenues provided by member fees would be capped at the FY'02 rate. If the member fee formula remains the same as last year, WRLC members would face no increase in member fees.

She will provide a final proposed budget for the March 8 meeting, and will distribute the budget proposal after that to the WRLC treasurers for review prior to the spring meeting of the WRLC Board of Directors (scheduled for April 30).

## LITERARY HISTORY

Feb. 17, 1776	<b>Edward Gibbon's</b> first volume of <i>History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire</i> is published.
Feb. 17, 1913	<b>Joaquin Miller</b> , an American poet of the Old West, dies in Oakland, California.
Feb. 18, 1678	<i>The Pilgrim's of Progress</i> by <b>John Bunyan</b> is published.
Feb. 18, 1859	Popular Yiddish classical author, <b>Sholem Aleichem</b> is born in Pereyaslav, Ukraine.
Feb. 19, 1932	<b>William Faulkner</b> completes work on <i>Light in August</i> in Oxford, Mississippi.
Feb. 19, 1937	Author of <i>Anaconda</i> , which portrays realistic, philosophical, and symbolic battles between the nonpoisonous anaconda and the poisonous viper, <b>Horacio Quiroga</b> , dies in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Feb. 20, 1895	Former slave, speaker, writer and consultant to President Lincoln, <b>Frederick Douglass</b> , dies in Washington, DC.
Feb. 20, 1950	<b>Daly Thomas</b> arrives in New York for his first series of American poetry readings.
Feb. 21, 1903	<b>Anais Nin</b> , author of numerous Diaries and other erotica is born in Nevilly, France.
Feb. 21, 1925	The first issue of <i>The New Yorker</i> is published.
Feb. 22, 1732	<b>George Washington</b> is born in Bridges Creek, Virginia.
Feb. 22, 1911	African American poet <b>Frances Ellen Watkins Harper</b> dies in Baltimore, Maryland.
Feb. 23, 1821	<b>John Keats</b> dies at age 25 of tuberculosis in a small room above the Spanish Steps in Rome.
Feb. 24, 1852	<b>George Moore</b> , Irish novelist and poet, is born in Ballyglass, County Mayo.
Feb. 25, 1904	<i>Riders to the Sea</i> by <b>John Millington Synge</b> opens at the Irish National Theatre Society; the audience is so moved that there is no applause.
Feb. 25, 1917	Novelist <b>Anthony Burgess</b> , most famous for his work, <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> , is born in Manchester, England.
Feb. 25, 1983	At age 71, <b>Tennessee Williams</b> dies in New York leaving \$10 million to the University of the South.

Feb. 25, 1802	<b>Victor Hugo</b> is born in Besancon.
Feb. 25, 1848	At 29, <b>Karl Marx</b> publishes <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> in London.
Feb. 27, 1902	<b>John Steinbeck</b> is born in Salinas, California.
Feb. 28, 1916	At 72, <b>Henry James</b> dies in London.
Mar. 1, 1837	<b>William Dean Howells</b> is born in Martin's Ferry, Ohio.
Mar. 2, 1797	Fourth Earl of Oxford and author of <i>The Castle of Otranto</i> , <b>Horace Walpole</b> , dies in London at age 79.
Mar. 2, 1930	At 45, <b>D.H. Lawrence</b> dies of tuberculosis in a sanitarium in Vence, a small town in the South of France, near Antibes.
Mar. 2, 1942	Novelist <b>John Irving</b> is born in Exeter, New Hampshire.
Mar. 2, 1982	<b>Philip K. Dick</b> dies in Santa Ana, California.

## Something to Talk About



### What is the Stone Age?

What people commonly refer to as the Stone Age, is actually two ages. The Old Stone Age (began about two million years B.C. to about 10,000 B.C) and the New Stone Age (which began c. 10,000 B.C. and ended c. 2500 B.C.). It was during these periods that man used stone tools.

During the Old Stone Age, also called the Paleolithic Age, man was evolving from his apelike ancestors to modern-looking hunter-gatherers. Early modern man's progress continued to the end of the Old Stone Age, around 10,000 B.C. Then, as the Ice Age ended and the earth warmed, the hunter-gatherers again revolutionized their way of life. They opted for a more settled existence in which they could exercise greater control over their food supplies. With the coming of the New Stone Age, or Neolithic Age, man turned to agriculture.

The New Stone Age, or the Neolithic Age, brought profound changes in the development of man. Neolithic man learned to produce food rather than collect it. People were no longer dependent on hunting, fishing and gathering wild fruit and nuts for subsistence. They learned to cultivate crops, domesticate animals, make pottery, weave textiles from fiber and hair, and produce more sophisticated tools and weapons by hammering, grinding, and polishing granite, jasper, and other hard stone. More substantial houses and communities, even fortified villages, came into being, laying the foundation for the great civilization that would follow.

Near the end of the New Stone Age, craftsmen in the Middle East learned to make tools and weapons from metal. The world's earliest known

man-made copper objects – beads, pins, and awls – were fabricated in Turkey and Iran around 8000 B.C. Archaeological evidence points to copper mining in the Balkans by around 5000 B.C. From there the technology probably spread west, reaching the Alps about a thousand years later and marking the beginning of the Copper Age (4000 B.C. – 2200 B.C.).

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

*"I always tell people that I became a writer not because I went to school but because my mother took me to a library. I wanted to become a writer so I could see my name in the card catalog."*

**Sandra Cisneros**



### SIMPLE TIPS

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

"If you make a racist, sexist or off-color remark to another staff member, prepare to be disciplined."

by **Jack Siggins**  
*University Librarian*



The first few paragraphs of a January article were inadvertently printed with the February 7<sup>th</sup> article. *Computer Fundamentals*, *Windows File Management*, and *Using GMail with Webmail* are NOT being offered in February.

The Correct article is attached as **Attachment B**.

### RENAISSANCE TIMES

*Renaissance Times (RT)* is the official bi-weekly newsletter of The Melvin Gelman Library at The George Washington University. *R.T.* is proofread by **Valerie Emerson** and **Lana Muck**. *R.T.* is published every other week by **Teena Bedola**. Comments and questions should be directed to:

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### BUSINESS TIP

#### How to Stay Relevant at Work

- Take an honest look at your worth. Once a year, take a good look at your competence and skills. If they don't match what's in demand in the market, figure out how and where you need to improve. Use your evaluations to help direct you.
- Stay on top of technical skills. Make sure you're competent on basic applications and have a command of available technology (the Internet and communication devices, to name a couple) to make you more efficient. Stay abreast of technological change by reading relevant publications.
- Make skills upgrading a priority. That means accepting lifelong learning as a principle. Take classes online, go back to school or take continuing-education classes applicable to your job or the job you want.

Taken from:  
*Coffee Break*

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