

## GELMAN NEWS

### **Marifran Bustion Elected to Voyager User Group Executive Board**

by **Caroline Long**  
*Administration*

The Voyager User Group is an association of individuals and organizations having an interest in matters concerning the Voyager System and Endeavor Information Systems, Inc. (EISI). On behalf of users of Voyager, the User Group helps exchange ideas and explore issues of mutual concern, such as recommending software development priorities to EISI; moving advice and information from EISI to users and from users to EISI regarding software, hardware, networks, telecommunications and services; facilitates training for users; builds consensus among members for software enhancements; synthesizes members' input for EISI; and facilitates the exchange of information among members. Members of the User Group are institutions, which have purchased and are using Voyager.

The seven-member Executive Board, to which Marifran has been elected by the representatives of the member libraries, regulates and governs the Organization's affairs. Marifran will assume her office of Member-at-Large following the annual User Group meeting this month and will serve in this capacity for 2 years. She will be involved in planning the annual meeting and otherwise assisting the Board officers.

Please join me in congratulating Marifran on her election!

### **Staff Selected To Attend 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Two Day Paraprofessional Forum at The University of Richmond, VA**

by **Emma Mosby**  
*Administration*

Congratulations to the following staff members who were selected by the Human Resource Advisory Committee to attend the Paraprofessional Conference that will be held in Richmond, VA at the University of Richmond from May 20-May 22, 2001: Teena Bedola, Administration, Juanita Lyle, Circulation, Wendell Kellar, Periodicals, Steve Watson, CMS and Janice Wills of the Business Office. This conference, sponsored by the Virginia Library Association, is well-regarded and provides opportunities to develop team building, technical and leadership skills. Staff will share information from this conference with their departments.

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**NOMINATIONS FOR SMG  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
UNDER WAY  
(GLS *Renaissance Times*, April 17,  
2001)**

by **Alicia Miller**  
*Administration*

All members of the Gelman Library System Staff Management Group are eligible to run for an office of the SMG Steering Committee. This is the group who researches and develops ideas and activities for enhancing management skills, staff training, and communication. In working with other GLS groups and teams, this year's SMGSC has helped organize such activities as the Office of Risk Management seminar on filing accident reports, on-site QMR classes, and the recent series of staff workshops on how to conduct performance evaluations.

If you are interested in organizing similar SMG-sponsored activities, you may want to consider running for one of the four (4) offices listed below.

**The SMGSC Chair** coordinates planning, conducts meetings, notifies members of SMG activities, and represents the Staff Management Group in other library forums.

**The Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect** serves as Chair in the absence of the current Chair and serves as chair the following year.

**The SMG Archivist** distributes agendas, keeps records of SMG meeting activities, and publishes the meeting notes in the *Renaissance Times*, the Gelman Library System staff newsletter.

**The Member-at-Large** serves as a liaison between SMG and the rest of the Gelman Library System staff ensuring that their management-related issues are addressed.

To place your name on the 2001-2002 ballot, please send a GroupWise message to **NOMCOM**

with the name of the office for which you are running. To nominate other members of SMG for any of the four offices, obtain their consent and send a separate GroupWise message to **NOMCOM** with the following information:

- a. The nominee's name,
- b. The nominee's department, and
- c. The office for which s/he is running

Beginning May 1, you may also pick up a paper nomination form from any member of the SMGSC Nomination Committee: Alicia Miller in room 204, the Technology Suite; Crystal Belk in room 209, the Business Office; Francine Henderson in room 207, Special Collections; or Emma Mosby in room 201, Administration.

**Remember: The deadline for submitting SMGSC nominations is May 25.**

## **GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE**

### **Vacancy Listing**

Please see **Attachment A** for Gelman's Vacancy Listings.

## **CAMPUS MAIL**

### **Spring 2001 Open Enrollment**

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

This year's Spring 2001 Open Enrollment will begin Tuesday, April 17th and continue through Friday, May 4, 2001. A Benefits Fair will be held on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Marvin Center, Room 307, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

There is also the addition of an important new voluntary employee benefit option which will

cover expenses for a comprehensive array of defined legal services offered through an extensive network of attorneys.

(<http://www.gwu.edu/~hrs/benefits/LegalResources.pdf>)

This year's Spring Enrollment focuses on our voluntary term life insurance, retirement plan and the new voluntary legal services benefit plan. Please be reminded that the open enrollment for health insurance, voluntary dental insurance, and FlexFund is only available in the Fall Open Enrollment period.

To learn more, click on <http://www.gwu.edu/~hrs/benefits/springoe.html>.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **IT Services Short Course Schedule for April**

by **Alicia Miller**  
*Administration*

Attached, as **Attachment B** is the list of ISS short courses scheduled for April 2001. For more details and course descriptions, please visit [www.gwu.edu/~teachme](http://www.gwu.edu/~teachme).

#### **BOOK QUOTE**

**“To read a book for the first time is to make an acquaintance with a new friend; to read it for a second time is to meet an old one.”**

- Anonymous, Chinese saying -

## **CONFERENCES**

### **Private Collectors and Special Collections in Library**

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Attached as **Attachment C**. Francine Henderson and Mary Faith Pankin's report on the Private Collectors and Special Collections in Library program at the Library of Congress on April 4, 2001.

*What a place to be in is an old library! It seems as though all the souls of all the writers, that have bequeathed their labours to these Bodleians, were reposing here, as in some dormitory, or middle state. I do not want to handle, to profane the leaves, their winding-sheets. I could as soon dislodge a shade. I seem to inhale learning, walking amid their foliage; and the odour of their old moth-scented coverings is fragrant as the first bloom of those scintial apples, which grew amid the happy orchard.*

*Charles Lamb*



## **ANDREA STEWART'S SCHEDULE**

Monday, April 16, 2001	Human Resources 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17, 2001	No Schedule
Wednesday, April 18, 2001	No schedule
Thursday, April 19, 2001	Human Resources 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday, April 20, 2001	Human Resources 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Exhibit - *Africana Women at the Dawn of the New Millennium***

**1/24/01** Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Charles Sumner School Museum – Farragut  
**Through** North Metro Station – 1201 17<sup>th</sup> St., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 442-6060  
**6/21/01**

**Event - Friends of the GW Libraries Annual Dinner**

Wednesday, April 18, 2001 – 6:00 p.m. reception at GW Mount Vernon Alumnae House; 7:00 p.m. Dinner at GW Mount Vernon Post Hall. Speaker: Kenneth R. Bowling, “The ‘Coming Out’ of Peter Charles L’Enfant.” Call (202) 994-6455 for information.

**Event - Friends of the GW Libraries Counterculture Lecture Series: “Heavy Metal Music”**

Monday, April 23, 2001 – 6:00 p.m. Gelman Library – Room 202  
 Call (202) 994-6455 for information.

**Exhibit - Special Collections Dance Exhibit Reception**

April 26, 2001 - 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
 Gelman Library Special Collections Department – Room 207  
 Call (202) 994-7549 for more information.

**Event - Café Gelman**

April 26, 2001 - 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – The Gelman Library 24-hour Reading Room. Call (202) 994-6455 for more information.

**Event - The Gelman Library Senior Corner Unveiling**

April 30, 2001. 4:30 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Side.

## THIS WEEK IN LITERARY HISTORY

April 15, 1755	<i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> by <b>Samuel Johnson</b> is published.
April 15, 1843	<b>Henry James</b> , born in New York.
April 16, 1994	<b>Ralph Ellison</b> , author of <i>The Invisible Man</i> , dies in New York.
April 17, 1897	<b>Thornton Wilder</b> , born in Madison, Wisconsin.

April 18, 1817	Philosopher, literary critic, and common-law husband of George Eliot, <b>George Henry Lewes</b> is born in London.
April 19, 1824	At age 36, on Easter Sunday, George, the sixth <b>Lord Byron</b> dies.
April 20, 1859	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> ' first volume by <b>Charles Dickens</b> is published.
April 20, 1912	<b>Bram Stoker</b> , author of <i>Dracula</i> dies.
April 21, 1910	<b>Mark Twain</b> (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) dies in Redding, Connecticut at age 75.

## Private Collectors and Special Collections in Libraries

by Francine Henderson and Mary Faith Pankin  
*Special Collections*      *Collection Management*

On April 4, 2001, Francine Henderson and Mary Faith Pankin attended this program at the Library of Congress. It included speakers and a panel of librarians, dealers, and collectors. Below are some impressions we gained from the day.

William Reese, founder of his own book dealership, spoke on "What have You Done for me Lately? Collectors and Institutions in the Modern World." He prefaced his remarks with an anecdote, which although unusual, showed how complex relationships between donors and libraries could be. A donor gave a large collection of books to an institution and thus gained an honorary curatorial position, which allowed him free access to the stacks. Later the librarians discovered that he has gradually stealing back his own gift, apparently in order to have the fun (and tax deductions) of giving his collection all over again to another repository!

More seriously, Reese mentioned some constraints on the donor-library relationship currently. As income tax rates move lower, donors may have less incentive to donate their collections to non-profit organizations. If estate taxes disappear, even bequests may dwindle also. Scarcity of important "high spots" creates resentment by collectors against libraries, since vast donor gifts and library collecting in the last half century have depleted the supply of many previously available titles. This scarcity drives up prices. Previously, collectors could count on the "recycling" of titles in the book trade, especially on the death of important collectors.

Librarians must now work harder to build trust. Widely-circulated talk of digitizing collections may lead potential donors to believe that libraries no longer value the "artifact," only the information contained in it, or that libraries would even destroy a book in order to digitize it (as books in the past were "guillotined" for microfilming). Or they may fear that library budgets will not support electronic resources and the proper preservation, cataloging, and maintenance of special collections. No donor wants to hear that a library sold a valuable gift in order to buy a few years of access to an online database.

Librarians must thus be creative in their approach to donors. For example, perhaps they could offer a part-gift, part-purchase arrangement over a period of years to the benefit of both. They must also look many years ahead and build up the future donor base from the student body. They should have classes about their special collections held within the library, where they can teach proper use of the items. Thus they will create an appreciation and connection that may come to fruition decades later. They must also appeal to donors for monetary gifts, for programs and processing and cataloging costs, in order to promote accessibility. Librarians should also cultivate dealers (as opposed to auction houses), who can give personal service and in some cases may be donors themselves.

A panel discussion included Selby Kiffer of Sotheby's auction house; Edmond Lincoln, a collector; Merrily Taylor, university librarian of Brown; and John Warnock, collector. Kiffer disputed the growing scarcity of important titles, saying that important finds keep showing up. Lincoln talked about his special relationship with the Wintherthur Museum library, to which he donates books on decorative arts regularly. He said that many of these books are still readily available. He developed his love of books by working there as a teenager and young man; this was a good example of a library building a long-term relationship. Ever mindful of her eminent predecessors at the ivy-league Brown, Taylor talked about the duty of librarians to pass on the past to future scholars. She suggested that donors might like to give an endowment for building collections far into the future, rather than giving money for a building which might be torn down in twenty or fifty years. She offered the perspective of the library administrator who realizes the stiff competition for funds throughout both the library and the university.

Warnock, recently CEO of Adobe, came to book collecting only in 1987, when he saw a 1570 edition of Euclid at a sale. Since his company had just gone public, he realized suddenly that he could afford to buy it. Since then he has added to his collection, and has attempted to share his collection by founding Octavo, which produces CD-ROMs of his and other rare books and manuscripts. He commented that the huge "arrears" at the Library of Congress, and other libraries, make some donors fear that their collections will never be important enough to be cataloged. They do not want their gifts to be neglected.

Taylor commented on the time challenge for the often-small staff in special collections to seek out, cultivate, and maintain cordial relationships with donors. Currently they must pursue so many other activities with little support (e.g. exhibits, digitizing, committee work within and outside the university, etc.) that there is little time for leisurely hours spent looking at their collections with potential donors.

Both collectors commented that libraries should do a better job of publicizing their wants and needs, as well as their strengths, so collectors know what repository might want their collections. Taylor remarked that the extensive retrospective conversion projects that resulted in more complete collections reflected online, could be a help in this area.

One of the keynote speakers was Alice Schreyer, Curator of Special Collections at the University of Chicago. In her presentation *Elective Affinities: Private Collectors & Special Collections in Libraries*, she reminded the audience that private collectors have been responsible for filling many of our great libraries with rich book collections and also creating rooms and buildings in which to house collections. Her presentation was a historical overview that she divided into three periods. The first was the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century followed by the post-World War period of institutional expansion and finally, the current scene. In most cases collectors' goals in placing books in libraries were to put students in contact with early books in the belief that it would enrich the students' academic development. Prior to placing collections in libraries collectors were inclined to sell them through auctions and among themselves. This early period, Schreyer considered as the Golden Age of American Book Collecting.

During the post WWII period there was research Library growth. Libraries rapidly grew and became a powerful force in acquiring rare books. Unlike the past period, public funds were used to purchase rare books and buildings to house them. An example is the Lilly Library at Indiana University, which was built using funds from a public bond issue. Rare book departments changed their names to Special Collections to denote a friendlier research environment rather than a treasure trove to be seen but not used. A number of other events took place during this period including, the revival of Friends groups, fellowship programs were initiated to stimulate collection use, exhibitions with elaborate catalogs proliferated, and undergraduate book collecting contest became prevalent.

According to Schreyer, collectors continue to shape the development of library collections, however she does pose some significant questions for both donors and libraries. Donors should concern themselves with how to leave their collections to libraries, which library is most appropriate, will the books be kept in the same condition, does the library have a good record in the area of donor relations, etc. On the other hand research libraries should ask themselves whether the proposed gift be supportive to the institution's programs or curriculum, whether the donation will add to or create strength to existing collections, stimulate new research directions, serve as a magnet for similar materials, etc. Expectations of donors and cost for preservation and accessibility are also issues which research libraries must also be aware of.

Robert Jackson, a collector from Cleveland gave a presentation entitled, *will the Collectors of Today be the Donors of Tomorrow?* Jackson began collecting in the mid 1970's and discovered he was passionate about book collecting. Included in his library are the works of Dickens, Thackeray, Eliot, O'Neil and Robert Penn Warren. As a collector he has seen major changes since the on-set of the Internet. Out-of-print and rare bookstores have decreased and book fairs do not enjoy the popularity they once did. This being the reality, book collectors must ponder other places for their collections. Collectors/donors need to be reminded of the existence of special collections. Donations to non-profit institutions continue to be an attractive option for collectors, especially those who collected in the 1960's. Jackson contends that in spite of the lessening of tax advantages, today's collectors will probably be driven by altruism rather than tax benefits.