

## GELMAN NEWS

### **Retirement of Anne Emery**

by **Jack Siggins**  
*University Librarian*

I wish to inform all Gelman Library System staff that Anne Emery will retire from her position as College Librarian of the Mount Vernon Campus, effective November 6, 2001. Her last day of work will be November 5, although she will be taking a few days off between now and then.

It is with a mixture of sadness at the prospect of losing such an outstanding librarian and happiness for Anne and her husband that I make this announcement. Although she has been an official part of The George Washington University for only about three years, she has been an extraordinary member of the Gelman Library System community during that time. When Eckles Library began to be assimilated into GLS, she took the lead in improving the collection, converting the catalog and upgrading electronic services. In all her interactions, she has been cooperative, imaginative, dedicated and hard-working.

I know all of us regret losing a colleague whose experience and judgment we have come to trust implicitly. It has been comforting to know that we never had to worry about whether Eckles was being managed well; it always was. I particularly will miss her quick wit and wry sense of humor, which are always present just beneath the surface of her quiet demeanor.

I hope in the days remaining before her departure that you will take the opportunity to thank and congratulate Anne. She will be sorely missed.

### **Appointment of Interim Mount Vernon College Librarian**

by **Jack Siggins**  
*University Librarian*

Following the departure of Anne Emery on November 5, Cathy Zeljak will assume the position of Interim Librarian of MVC on a part-time basis, effective November 6. She will continue also in her current position as Head of SEEAR, but will reduce her time there to part-time.



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## New Training Facility

by **Jack Siggins**

*University Librarian*

Congratulations and kudos to Blaine, Lee and the LIT staff for responding so quickly to our request to set up a temporary training facility in the old IMMC space, Room B04, in the Lower Level. In near record time, they have set up 19 computer stations for sole use by library staff to train students and as a place to train library staff also. This should relieve pressure to use 202, 208 and B04F1 for these purposes.

The LIT staff has made it possible to provide a real boost in service to the students. Check out the room when you get a chance and give a "Thanks" to Blaine et al for their good work.

## Damaged Book Use in Gelman

by **Jean Pec**

*Collections Management Department*

Books designated "Temporarily Shelved at GW: Damaged Book Review" ARE available to students and faculty. In past years there have been informal arrangements made on occasion between Reference and Collections Management Services to make these available. Sometimes a damaged book has been brought down to a student sitting in Reference, and sometimes faculties have come up to CMS to review a damaged book.

Now because of the large shipments of new books, which have been arriving since July, Collections Management Services has temporarily changed its focus. With the Physical Preparation staff busy book plating, security tagging, stamping and labeling new books, we've halted work on damaged books. We're continuing our practice to change the ALADIN location of damaged materials to read: Temporarily Shelved at GW: Damaged Book Review. However, there are now

more books with this temporary location. We will review our workflows in October, and might begin damaged book processing again, or might keep it on hold for another month.

In order to provide better service we have regularized our earlier informal arrangement so these damaged books can be used in Gelman. From 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, our business hours, Reference staff will ask either Mrs. Hanh or Randye to find the damaged book, and will use the Reference Secured Books Form to record who is using it. Mrs. Hanh or Randye will record that the book has been taken from the Damaged Book Review shelves, just in case someone else wants to see it. When the student/faculty member has finished using the damaged book, he/she will return it to the Reference Desk. The Reference staff will then return the borrowed damaged book to either Mrs. Hanh or Randye, who will check it back onto the Damaged Book Review shelves.

CMS is grateful that Reference already had a procedure upon which we could "piggy back." The Reference Secured Books Form should facilitate access to damaged books. Just remember that once a damaged book is "Temporarily Shelved at GW: At Mid-Atlantic Bindery" it is out of Gelman until the bindery has returned it, a process that takes about a week.

## **GELMAN HUMAN** **RESOURCES UPDATE**

### Vacancy Listing

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

## **CAMPUS NEWS**

### **Information on Fall Benefits Open Enrollment Period**

by **Andrea Stewart**  
*Administration*

Letters with information on the new health plan (CIGNA) and the Open enrollment period beginning October 29, 2001, will be sent to all staff this week. If by the end of this week you have not received your letter at home, please let Sandra Carpenter know. The following is from the Human Resources page on GWU web site: "GW's Fall Benefits Open Enrollment Period will begin on Monday, October 29th and continue for five weeks through Friday, November 30th. Eight Benefits Fair Days are scheduled at the Marvin Center to give faculty, staff, and retirees the opportunity to speak directly with insurance representatives and retirement investment counselors. Individuals enrolled in GWUHP **must** select new coverage. For further information, please continue to check this site for updates."

Benefits Fair - Marvin Center - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October 29 - Ball Room  
October 30 - Room 307

November 5 - Ball Room  
November 6 - Ball Room  
November 7 - Ball Room  
November 27 - Room 307  
November 28 - Room 307  
November 29 - Room 405

### **New Academic Unix Machine**

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Please see **Attachment B** about the new academic UNIX Machine replacing the old GWIS2 UNIX machine. GWIS2 will go offline on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002.

## **CONFERENCES**

### **Report from the Annual Conference on Washington, D.C. Historical Studies**

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Mary Faith Pankin's report on the Annual Conference on Washington, D.C. Historical Studies is attached as **Attachment C**.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Help for the Pentagon Library**

by **Cynthia Holt**  
*Reference*

Knee-deep water has damaged collections in the Pentagon Library, and part of the hijacked plane's landing gear ended up in the Reference Section. The DC Chapter of the Special Libraries Association is collecting contributions to support the Pentagon Librarians after the recent tragic events. Please send contributions to:

DC/SLA, c/o Sue O'Neill Johnson, President  
8505 Victory Lane, Potomac, MD 20854

DC/SLA will write one check to the librarian, Kathy Earnest, based on all donations.

## LITERARY HISTORY

Oct. 21, 1556	<b>Pietro Aretino</b> dies in Venice at age 64.
Oct. 21, 1772	<b>Samuel Taylor Coleridge</b> , born in Ottery St. Mary, Devon in England.
Oct. 22, 1885	<b>Arthur Rimbaud</b> decides to become a runner for King Menelik of Shoa.
Oct. 23, 1817	<b>Pierre Larousse</b> , a French grammarian, encyclopedist, and lexicographer is born in Toucy, Yonne.
Oct. 24, 1958	<b>Raymond Chandler</b> begins working on <i>The Poodle Springs Story</i> , his last unfinished book.
Oct. 25, 1748	<b>Henry Fielding</b> is commissioned as a justice of peace for Westminster.
Oct. 25, 1914	<b>John Berryman</b> , an American poet noted for his confessional poetry laced with humor, is born in McAlester, Oklahoma.
Oct. 26, 1669	<b>Augustín Moreto</b> , a Spanish dramatist, dies in Toledo.
Oct. 27, 1977	<b>James Cain</b> , writer of <i>The Postman Always Rings Twice</i> , dies after four marriages and a very successful career as writer, screenwriter, and teacher.
Oct. 28, 1806	English novelist and poet, <b>Charlotte Smith</b> dies in Tilford, near Farnham, Surrey.
Oct. 29, 1618	<b>Sir Walter Raleigh</b> is executed in the Tower of London at the behest of James I after leading an unsuccessful expedition to exploit the wealth of Guiana.

Oct. 30, 1885	<b>Ezra Pound</b> is born in Hailey, Idaho.
Oct. 31, 1960	After previous careers as a cowboy, a typesetter, a reporter, and writing about problems faced by frontier men and women, American novelist and poet, <b>H.L. Davis</b> dies in San Antonio, TX.
Nov. 1, 1930	Returning from a ten-day hunting trip with <b>John Dos Passos</b> , <b>Ernest Hemingway</b> suffers a broken arm when he crashes his car.
Nov. 1, 1972	Two days after his 87 <sup>th</sup> birthday, <b>Ezra Pound</b> dies in Venice, Italy,
Nov. 2, 1927	<b>T.S. Eliot</b> becomes a British subject.
Nov. 3, 1844	<b>William Makepeace Thackeray</b> completes <i>Barry Lyndon</i> .

“Believers and doers are what we need – faithful librarians who are humble in the presence of books... To be in a library is one of the purest of all experiences. This awareness of library’s unique, even sacred nature is what should be instilled in our neophytes.

- A Passion for Books -



## Something to Talk About

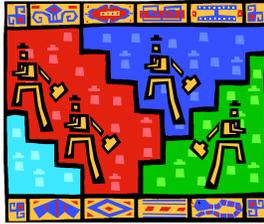


### What was the first American university?

It was Harvard, chartered on October 28, 1636, by the Massachusetts General Court, which passed a legislative act to found “a schoale or colledge.” It was not until November of the following year, however, that there was further action; it was then that the General Court decreed that the college be built in New Town, Massachusetts, which was later renamed Cambridge. In fall of 1638, Harvard’s first professor, Nathaniel Eaton, began classes, at which time the first building was under construction and a library was being assembled. The university got its name not from a founder, but from a newly arrived British philanthropist and colonial clergyman, John Harvard (1607-38), who left the library some four hundred volumes and donated about eight hundred pounds sterling to the college at New Town. The institution was named in his honor in 1639, the year after he died.

The first state university was the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – it was founded in 1789. And in 1795, it became the first public institution of higher education in the United States to begin enrolling students.

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



### SIMPLE TIPS

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

by **Jack Siggins**  
*University Librarian*

“If you’re feeling sorry for yourself, try delivering meals to the homebound; that will snap you out of it.”

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Harvest Festival

**10/31/01** Wednesday, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.  
Gelman Library  
Suite 202

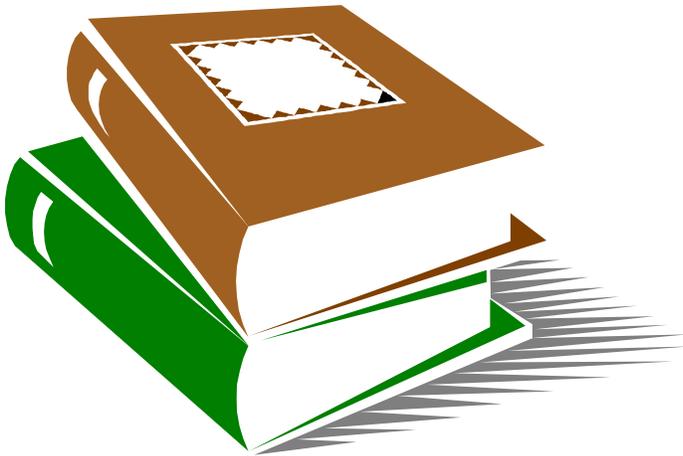
*With this issue of the Renaissance Times, we are pleased to announce a change in "Editorship." Isabella Montgomery has graciously accepted this position. We are grateful to her, and to Erica Aungst, the former Editor, for all her hard work. See the next issue of RT for additional details.*

#### 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** in conjunction with Photocopy Services. Submissions, comments, and questions should be directed to:

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**\*\* New Academic Unix Machine Available \*\***

**\* Discontinuation of @gwis2.circ.gwu.edu e-mail address \***

**\* New personal web page addresses \***

Information Systems and Services is replacing the GWIS2 UNIX machine with a new machine called Acad (acad.gwu.edu). Acad accounts are now available, and you should begin transitioning to Acad if you use GWIS2. GWIS2 will go offline on June 1st, 2002.

You are using GWIS2 if:

- \* You connect to GWIS2 to use Pine to read your e-mail.
- \* You connect to GWIS2 to use any academic UNIX utilities.
- \* You have a personal web page on GWIS2

(<http://gwu.edu/~username> or  
<http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~username>)

The central GWMail system is NOT affected by this transition, so most of our clients (who do not use GWIS2 at all) will not have to do anything for this transition. \* If you do not currently use GWIS2, you will not need an Acad account at all. \*

**\*\* Stop Using The @gwis2.circ.gwu.edu Address \*\***

When GWIS2 goes away - June 1st, 2002 - the @gwis2.circ.gwu.edu address will stop functioning. The @gwu.edu address has been the recommended address for some time now, and we ask that you please use the next several months to change any remaining stationery, publications, business cards, etc. to make sure that they use a @gwu.edu address, not @gwis2.circ.gwu.edu.

**\*\* New Personal Homepage Address \*\***

ISS is shifting to a new naming standard for personal web pages as they are moved from GWIS2 to Acad. That new address is home.gwu.edu/~userid.

This does NOT affect web pages hosted on [www.gwu.edu](http://www.gwu.edu), only personal webpages that currently use <http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~userid> or <http://gwu.edu/~userid>.

If you have a home page, you must transfer it over to Acad during the transition period. At the end of that period, the <http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~userid> and <http://gwu.edu/~userid> addresses will no longer work. Acad has a utility that should aid you in transferring your web page.

**\*\* Getting An Acad Account \*\***

Acad accounts are now available. To sign up, visit <http://helpdesk.gwu.edu> and click on "Account Center", then select the appropriate link to get your Acad account.

**\*\* Questions?? \*\***

If you host a personal web page on GWIS2, you will receive an additional e-mail shortly with details about that transition. Users who have logged into GWIS2 recently will receive another e-mail with details about logging into Acad.

We have placed these details and more about the transition on our Virtual Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.gwu.edu>. You can also contact the ISS Data Help at [ithelp@gwu.edu](mailto:ithelp@gwu.edu) or 202-994-5530.

Thank you.

*(This message has been sent in accordance with George Washington University mass e-mail policy and procedure. This procedure is available online at <http://helpdesk.gwu.edu> for review. This message was requested by ISS Communications and was approved by the Chief Information Officer.)*

## Report from the Annual Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies

*by*

**Mary Faith Pankin**

Collections Management Department

**I attended this conference held October 18-20 here at George Washington University. Below are some impressions of several of the sessions.**

The Letitia Woods Brown Memorial lecture, was “Ulysses S. Grant and Washington, D.C.” delivered by John Simon, editor of the Grant papers. Fighting off a terrible cold, Mr. Simon summarized the Grant family’s time in Washington. Grant was leery of Washington, having had several bad experiences of politics there in the 1850s. When he was made chief of the Union forces in 1864, he was determined to leave the city as soon as possible. He had a wary relationship with President Lincoln, especially when the President requested that his son, Robert Todd Lincoln, serve on Grant's staff (a “suggestion” he could not really refuse). After the war, the Grants lived in Washington and then Philadelphia. Nominated in 1868 for President, he was a reluctant candidate, although his wife Julia was enthusiastic about the prospect. He felt honor bound to support the Republican party in this way, however, Grant hated campaigning and did as little as possible; he was a poor public speaker as well. He regretted having to resign his four star general’s commission (and its pay) in order to run for this “temporary job.” Once elected, he tried to be comfortable in the city’s society, if not in its politics. Julia, on the other hand, enjoyed her position and entertaining in the White House, which she had refurbished. (She made the President smoke his cigars outside, perhaps beginning the smoke-free building.) Grant hated writing and delivering the State of the Union message. Still feeling honor bound, he ran and was elected to a second term, but declined a third term, although Julia might have preferred he run. After a European trip, the Grants settled in New York, and lost much of their savings in poor investments. Grant died of cancer (probably caused by the cigars) in 1885 and Julia, who liked the capital better than her husband, eventually returned to finish her days in Washington, where she died in 1902.

Jeff Fearing, a photographer at the Howard University Biomedical School, talked about his research about the Scurlock Studio in Washington, D.C. and showed interesting examples of their work. Addison Scurlock founded the firm in Washington in 1904 and with his sons Robert and George, built the business into an outstandingly successful portrait studio which stood on U St. N.W., 1911-1964. His portraits of fellow African Americans used plain backgrounds and showed his subjects at their dignified best, through skillful posing, lighting, and especially, master retouching. Mr. Fearing, who is related to the family through a great aunt, showed many examples of this art. Robert, who photographed the Tuskegee airmen during World War II, moved the studio to Connecticut Avenue and continued until shortly before his death in 1994. The Scurlock firm was the Howard University photographer from the early 1900s until 1994, both for individual and group portraits. We saw wonderful portraits (some well known) of many prominent African Americans, such as Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Edward Brooke, Carter Woodson, Marian Anderson, and Charles Drew.

One session featured two 19<sup>th</sup> century women lawyers in Washington. Jill Norgren, of the City University of New York, spoke about Belva Lockwood (1830-1917). Widowed and the mother of a young child at 22, she graduated from college in the 1850s and taught school before coming to Washington. After attending the National University Law School, she had to fight to be admitted to the D.C. bar in 1873. By this time, she had married an older man who supported her career. In 1879, she became the first woman to be admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court, although she argued there only a few times. Her practice was primarily at D.C. courts and federal agencies (pension and patent cases). She also lobbied for pensions for Civil War veterans and equal pay for female government employees. In the 1870s she became involved with pacifism in the form of the Universal Peace Union, with arbitration as her specific interest. She also ran twice on the Equal Rights ticket for President of the U.S. (1884 and 1888).

J. Clay Smith, of Howard University School of Law, talked about Charlotte E. Ray, the first African American woman to be admitted to a bar of a judicial court. Born in 1850 to a Congregational minister and his wife, she attended Howard University Law School, which opened with an integrated faculty. Admitted to the D.C. bar in 1872, she practiced a short time in Washington and is known to have pleaded a divorce case in 1875. She left for New York and is buried with family members in Brooklyn.