



RENAISSANCE TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GELMAN LIBRARY SYSTEM AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Volume XV, Issue 18

May 9, 2000

GELMAN NEWS

Friends of the Libraries Annual Dinner

by **Erica Aungst**
Administration

Please see **Attachments A, B and C** for information about the **Friends of the Libraries Annual Dinner!** Make your reservations! Gelman Staff \$25 (also for spouse); Gelman Students \$15, Friends Members \$45, and Non-Members \$55.

Important! May 9 is the R.S.V.P. deadline – please reserve early in Room 202/994-6455 to ensure your place!

Due to workshops, Andrea Stewart will not have her weekly HR Office schedule for this week. Please contact Nia Phillips at x4-6455 to set for an appointment with Ms. Stewart.

⇒ INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
2	<i>Need a Job?</i>
3	Collective Knowledge & Global Visions at the Faculty Authors Signing Reception
3	A Little Mold won't Kill You

Gelman Library Open Forum

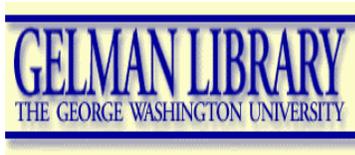
by **Bernadette Boucher**
Special Collections

On Friday, May 5th, from 10:00 a.m.-noon, the Staff Advisory Committee hosted an Open Forum in room 202. Coffee, an assortment of juices, and donuts were served, and Library staff took the opportunity to announce news, and pose comments and questions. This open forum was highly informative and enjoyable.

University Librarian Jack Siggins updated the staff on the numerous construction projects around campus. Currently, George Washington University has more than 25 projects underway, including resizing of the athletic fields at Mount Vernon campus, groundbreaking of the new GW hospital, and the renovation of the Marvin Center. He also fielded the staff's many concerns about low pay and pay inequity, merit increases, and employee evaluations.

Jean Pec of Collection Management Services announced the success of her unit in eliminating a backlog of nearly 6000 items. Andrea Stewart, speaking on behalf of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, announced two GroupWise addresses (HRM Team and HRAC), and a suggestion box where staff can pose questions and concerns about human resources. Blaine D'Amico of Team Tech and Marty Courtois of Cabinet each spoke about their team's efforts in upgrading our software and webpages.

SAC's next event will be the annual staff picnic, coming up in August.



GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES

VACANCY LISTING

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

Need a New Job?

by **Francine Henderson**
Special Collections

Need a new Job???
Work in Special Collections!

Special Collections is looking for a full-time Print Collections Library Specialist (Grade 11). A successful candidate will have three years of clerical library experience.

The Print Collections Library Specialist position is ideal for someone who needs variety and is interested in many aspects of library work. Some benefits of this position are:

*Working with the "treasures" of Gelman Library, GWU and the Washington, D.C. community: Special Collections holds books from the original university Library, as well as rare books donated by alumni and friends of GWU. Special Collections also acquires and cares for books, serials, manuscript collections and memorabilia, which document the history of Washington, D.C. Where can you see a ticket from the 1924 Washington Senators World Series game?--- Special Collections!

*A variety of duties: The PCLS is responsible for the departments' print collections from when they are ordered through when they are used by the public. The PCLS reports directly to the Manuscripts Librarian (Bernadette A. Boucher), but regularly works with members of the Acquisitions, Cataloging, Collection Management and Serials units to ensure that the department's incoming materials are processed. Though most of the work is technical services (updating holdings records, and linking items to holdings

records), the Print Collections Library Specialist also staffs a public services desk for a few hours every day and helps the department mount exhibits.

*Few nighttime or weekend hours: Special Collections normally closes at 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and is not open on Saturday or Sunday. The Print Collections Library Specialist's usual hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Coverage of researchers' appointments outside of these hours is rotated among the Special Collections staff.

If you are interested in working at Special Collections, contact Bernadette A. Boucher (Bernadette Boucher in GroupWise, or x40628) or Francine Henderson.



ADVICE FROM EINSTEIN

“Man tries to make for himself in the fashion that suits him best a simplified and intelligible picture of the world; he then tries to some extent to substitute this cosmos of his for the world of experience, and thus to overcome it. This is what the painter, the poet, the speculative philosopher, and the natural scientists do, each in his own fashion. Each makes this cosmos and its construction the pivot of his emotional life, in order to find in this way peace and security which he cannot find in the narrow whirlpool of personal experience.”

Collective Knowledge and Global Visions at the Faculty Authors Signing Reception

by **La Nina M. Clayton**

Special Collections

At Faculty Authors Signing Receptions students, faculty and staff in attendance get to hear the latest scholarship in various fields. The Receptions also provide a venue for faculty members across disciplines to meet and discuss their research. The use of collective knowledge to foster learning organizations was the theme of the February 10th Faculty Authors Signing Reception. Held in the Special Collections Department of The Gelman Library, the reception was the third of four receptions scheduled in the 1999-2000 academic year. Presentations were made by Dr. Nancy M. Dixon, Associate Professor Administration Science; Michael J. Marquardt, Professor of Human Resource Development; and Associate Professor of Tourism and Hotel Management, Larry Yu.

Dr. Dixon kicked off the program by summarizing the highlights of her book *The Organizational Learning Cycle: How We Can Learn Collectively*. In her book Dixon asks, “How can companies transfer knowledge from one part of an organization to another? What is the infrastructure? What does the organization as a whole know?” She contends that those in positions of power and influence often do not communicate with the real experts—those “regular” workers whose job it is to be the expert.

She states that research and development are important to advancing the overall strategic goals of an organization, but those who do the actual work can and should communicate their knowledge, needs, and experience. Learning organizations are based on the concept of collective knowledge. Learning organizations cannot be called such if they do not bring together everybody’s intelligence. Her latest publication entitled *Common Knowledge: How Companies Thrive by Sharing What They Know* further explores the theme of collective knowledge.

The Global Advantage: How World-Class Organizations Improve Performance Through Globalization by Michael J. Marquardt enlarges the scope of collective knowledge to include global enterprises. After leaving the seminary in 1969 to pursue his interest in international and cross-cultural studies, Marquardt earned his Ph.D. at GW in 1976. His human resources research has taken him to over 80 countries. Currently, his research focuses on identifying steps to grow global organizations.

Marquardt’s presentation explained how global companies have to learn to develop an organizational culture while incorporating local customs and culture. He reminded the audience that while technology allows global companies to emerge, industrialized countries, the United States in particular, must be careful not to impose cultural values on other groups, confusing what Americans think is “natural” as to be the norm for others. An example cited was earned wages in manufacturing operations. Marquardt stated that union representation of American factory workers may support relatively high hourly wages, but to pay similar wages for the same jobs in developing countries would disrupt their national economy.

So, while factory company workers in developing countries have less than desirable working conditions, and lower wages are the status quo, it is dangerous to presume that paying workers more money in such places will put those workers on equal footing with their American counterparts. Rather, what companies need are clear global visions and global values. Thus developing a global corporate culture means that a corporation has to embrace diversity, and understand, respect and work within the traditional values and cultural mores of the different countries in which it operates.

Larry Yu’s book *The International Hospitality Business: Management Operations* rounded out the morning with a summary of the application of international management theories. In his book of case studies, Yu uses a tri-part model to define competencies for global management. For his research he interviewed members of the Global

Managers Club, executives who have worked on at least three continents. Relating the importance of political economic climate, international hospitality laws, and financial management, Yu, like Marquardt, stresses the importance of understanding the culture in which global companies do business, respecting local customs and lore.

Faculty author publications are on display throughout the year on the first floor of the Gelman Library. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet the “experts” and participate in lively discussions. Attend a Faculty Authors Signing Reception. For more information call the Special Collections Department at (202)994-7549.



BOOK QUOTE

“It is not my experience that society hates and fears the writer, or that society adulates the writer. Instead my experience is the common one, that society places the writer so far beyond the pale that society does not regard the writer at all.”

ANNIE DILLARD

A Little Mold Won't Kill You

by **La Nina M. Clayton**
Special Collections

On Thursday, April 6th, during National Poetry month, the Gelman Library hosted Dr. Joe Jeff Goldblatt, Director, International Institute of Tourism and Jane Shore, Professor of English, at the Faculty Authors Signing Reception. Goldblatt and Shore took turns describing their muses, writing as a craft, and the importance of memory and emotion in the creative process. The audience of students, faculty and staff were treated to one of the most dynamic Faculty Author Signing Receptions of the year.

After light refreshments Dr. Goldblatt began the program by discussing how he and co-editor Frank Supovitz, a world-renowned events planner, began *Dollars and Events: How to Succeed in the Special Events Business* (John Wiley: New York, 1999), as a conversation at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Similar books are dated by ten to 20 years, and so they began the process of creating a guide to answer questions as to how to create and sustain a profitable event management enterprise. In town on other business, Goldblatt and Supovitz casually discussed the practices and concepts a person needed to know about successful event management. Among other things they agreed upon is that event management involves understanding the central purpose of an event, the planner must be able to answer the question “Why are we remembering, commemorating, celebrating, etc. a particular event? After discerning that reason, the event planner must constantly keep the idea in front of those in attendance and, if desired, the media. Goldblatt explained to those in attendance that in planning events he attempts to visualize the future, in effect trying to imagine not only the activity, but also the memories he would like people to have of the event.

Jane Shore picked up the discussion thread of visualization, memory and emotion as she read from *Happy Family* (Picador: New York, 1999). Shore’s *Happy Family* takes its name from the

specialty dish offered at many Chinese restaurants. The strata of her own life, growing up an urban Jewish female in the 1950's, reminded Shore of the different meats, vegetables and rice that give color, texture and taste to the "Happy Family" of restaurant fame. Living above the dress shop her parents owned in Bergen, New Jersey, she kept a diary as a young girl and in it she recorded the dates, sounds, colors, tastes and smells that were her world. *Happy Family* is poetry rooted in memoir. Shore treated the audience to three selections reading "Reprise," "Shit Soup," and the title poem "Happy Family." Recalling that her mother's hectic schedule sometimes meant that dinner consisted of whatever leftovers were available, Shit (an abbreviated Yiddish word meaning "to throw in") Soup sometimes also meant that a "a little mold won't kill you."

Goldblatt and Shore, while writing in different disciplines, reminded the audience that some memories are universal. Memories, be they long past or very recent, can evoke very powerful emotions, helping us to recall everything from our mother's favorite perfume to spectacular fireworks-filled galas. At the end of the program Goldblatt and Shore ruminated as to whether events can become poems and vice versa. The reception ended with Goldblatt and Shore signing presentation copies of their books for inclusion in the Library's Faculty Authors Collection. Copies of their signed books are on display in the lobby of the Gelman Library.

The Gelman Library thanks all those who helped make the 1999-2000 Faculty Authors Signing Receptions a success. Look for the 2000-2001 reception schedule in the fall.

For more information about events management see the Joe Jeff Goldblatt Collection, the Frank Supovitz Collection and others in the *Event Management and Marketing Archives* located in The Special Collections Department in Room 207 of the Gelman Library or call (202) 994-7549.



Workstation Tip of the Week

May 9, 2000

by **Alicia Miller**
Management Information Systems

ACCESSING EXCEL THROUGH THE CITRIX PROGRAM NEIGHBOR

A Reference Librarian wants to know: *Why can't I open my Excel spreadsheets by double clicking on them in the Windows Explorer?*

ANSWER: I checked your local workstation configurations and discovered that you do not have a local installation of Excel, which is necessary to open your *.xls spreadsheets directly from Windows Explorer. However, once you login to Gelman's Citrix Server through your "Program Neighborhood" desktop icon, you can open your spreadsheets directly from the Excel open file screen.

Gelman Library's Graduating Seniors

by **Emma Mosby**
Please see attachment

Please see **Attachment E** for the list of seniors working in Gelman who are graduating in May. Congratulations Students and Good Luck!!!

GELMAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Special Collections Exhibit <i>Africana Women at the Dawn of the New Millennium</i>	Friends Dinner: <i>An Evening With Steve Roberts</i>
<u>DATE</u> January 31 Thru May 26, 2000	<u>DATE</u> May 17, 2000
<u>PLACE</u> Room 207	<u>PLACE</u> National Press Club
<u>TIME</u> Noon – 5:00 p.m. and by appointment	<u>TIME</u> 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

RENAISSANCE TIMES

Renaissance Times (RT) is the official weekly newsletter of the Melvin Gelman Library at The George Washington University. *R.T.* is proofread by **Karen Greisman** and is published every Tuesday by **Teena Bedola** in conjunction with Photocopy Services. Submissions, comments, and questions should be directed to:

Erica Aungst, Editor
Andrea W. Stewart, Co-Editor
The Melvin Gelman Library
2130 H Street, NW - Room 201
Washington, DC 20052

Voice	(202) 994-6455
Fax	(202) 463-6205
Data	astewart@gwu.edu
Data	aungst@gwu.edu

THIS WEEK IN LITERARY HISTORY

May 8, 1885	Thomas B. Costain born in Brantford, Ontario
May 8, 1899	The Irish Literary Theatre inaugurated in Dublin with Yeats' <i>The Countess Cathleen</i>
May 8, 1938	Thomas Pynchon born in Glen Cove, New York
May 9, 1860	James M. Barrie born in Kirriemuir, Angus
May 9, 1883	Jose Ortega y Gasset born in Madrid
May 10, 1898	Ariel Durant (Ida Kaufman) born in Proskurov, Ukraine
May 10, 1932	William Faulkner moves to Hollywood to write for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
May 11, 1942	William Faulkner's <i>Go Down Moses</i> published
May 12, 1738	Samuel Johnson's poem and first significant work, "London," published anonymously
May 12, 1828	Dante Gabriel Rossetti born in London
May 13, 1906	Willa Cather enlists as an editor for <i>McClure's Magazine</i>
May 13, 1907	Daphne du Maurier born in London