

GELMAN NEWS

Appointment of Acting DLIT

by **Jack Siggins**
University Librarian

Effective February 1, Debbie Bezanson will assume the position of Acting Director of Library Information Technology (DLIT) for The Gelman Library System (GLS). She replaces Blaine D'Amico, who has held the position of Acting Director for almost a year. Blaine will continue full-time in his normal position as Manager of Information Technology and Technical Support.

I want to acknowledge the major contribution Blaine has made this past year while holding down two (and sometimes more) very important jobs. During a period in which the GLS had to assume the extra burden of several additional LIT responsibilities previously handled for us by outside agencies and at a time when we were hit by a critical shortage of qualified LIT staff, Blaine almost single-handedly kept GLS LIT together, while at the same time incorporating upgrades and new systems into our public and technical support systems. I publicly want to thank him for the hundreds of extra hours he (and other LIT staff) worked, frequently during holidays and other times when GLS was closed, trying to solve problems and making sure as best as is humanly possible that our systems kept running. It is my hope and expectation that as a result of his relinquishing the Acting Director's responsibilities, he can now concentrate on those problems which have had to go uncorrected due to more demanding priorities. Please join me in thanking him for his contribution.

I also want to thank Debbie Bezanson for her success in handling two jobs over the last year. She had to deal with a large number of staff vacancies at a critical time in the evolution of public services in GLS. Now, by agreeing to take on the DLIT position, she will continue to serve as a valuable member of the Administrative Group, while working with Blaine and the LIT staff to address problems and future directions of all GLS technology. Please join me in thanking her for her major contributions this past year and in wishing her well in her new acting position.

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Faculty Authors Signing Reception

by **Valerie Emerson**
Reference

Please visit Special Collections for the first Faculty Authors Signing Reception of the new year. The reception will be held in Special Collections on Friday, February 9, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Please see **Attachment A** for additional information.

Lani Guinier Lecture

by **Valerie Emerson**
Reference

The Melvin Gelman Library is co-sponsoring a public lecture featuring Lani Guinier on January 23, 2001. Please see **Attachment B** for more information.

Vote for YOUR Favorite Books for the Year 2000!

by **Valerie Emerson**
Reference

The Friends of the Libraries, U.S.A. is sponsoring the Reader's Choice Awards for books published in various categories in the year 2000. If you would like to vote for your favorite books, please use the attached ballot (**Attachment C**). Ballots must be returned to Room 201 no later than 5:00 pm., Friday, January 19th.

GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Vacancy Listing

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

CONFERENCES

Midwinter 2001 Report

by **Teena Bedola**
Administration

Attached as **Attachment E**. Mary Faith Pankin's report on her Midwinter 2001 Conference attendance.



BOOK QUOTE

“Surviving and thriving as a professional today demands two new approaches to the written word. First, it requires a new approach to orchestrating information, by skillfully choosing what to read and what to ignore. Second, it requires a new approach to integrating information, by reading faster and with greater comprehension.”

~ **Jimmy Calano** ~

ANDREA STEWART'S SCHEDULE	
Monday, Jan. 8, 2001	ALA
Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2001	Business Office 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Human Resources 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2001	Business Office 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Human Resources By Appointment
Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001	Human Resources By Appointment
Friday, Jan. 12, 2001	No Schedule

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Exhibit - "*Bright Stars Through the Perilous Fight*": *Men and Women Who Would Be Through President* - - Weekdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Gelman Special Collections
1/26/01 (202) 994-7549

Lecture - Lani Guinier – “Rethinking Race, Gender and Power”
01/23/01 4:30 p.m. – GW Law School Moot Court – Reception to follow, Great Hall
 2000 H Street, NW – (202) 994-6942

THIS WEEK IN LITERARY HISTORY

January 14, 1898	Lewis Carroll , creator of <i>Alice's Adventure in Wonderland</i> (1865), and <i>Through the Looking Glass</i> (1871) dies in Guilford, Surrey.
January 14, 1977	Anais Nin , a French-born author of novels, short stories and an enormous collection of personal diaries, dies in Los Angeles, California.
January 15, 1752	Tobias Smollett anonymously publishes <i>Habakkuk Hiblin</i> .
January 16, 1977	Novelist and dramatist Leif Panduro dies in Asserbo, Denmark.
January 17, 1706	Printer, statesman, philosopher, and writer, Benjamin Franklin is born in Boston.
January 18, 1922	Rudyard Kipling , the first English winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature dies in London, England.
January 19, 1809	Edgar Allan Poe is born in Boston.
January 20, 1806	Writer, editor and founder of the <i>American Monthly Magazine</i> , Nathaniel P. Willis is born in Portland, Maryland.
January 20, 1972	At President John F. Kenney's inauguration, Robert Frost , 87, recites his poem.

RENAISSANCE TIMES

Renaissance Times (RT) is the official weekly newsletter of the Melvin Gelman Library at The George Washington University. *RT* 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 aungst@gwu.edu
 Data stewart@gwu.edu

Midwinter 2001 Report

by Mary Faith Pankin
Collection Management

At Midwinter, I attended several committee and informational meetings, including: Rare Books and Manuscripts Bibliographic Standards Committee (BSC), American Libraries Advisory Committee, Women's Studies Section Collection Development Committee (WSS CDC), WSS membership meeting and discussion meeting, ALA Chapter Relations Committee meeting, and the Washington Office information session on the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA). Below are some observations on some of these.

The BSC is proposing that the Library of Congress approve the tracing of printers' family names for books, since pre-1801 imprints often contain family rather than single or company names. Currently LC approves family names "author" tracings (as opposed to subject tracings) only for manuscripts, not books. Also, the maintainer has added some new links to the "Resources for the Rare Book Cataloger" web site (see me for URL), including links to the cataloging policies of Yale University and several place name sites that the general cataloger could use (e.g. USGS Geographic Names Information System).

At the American Libraries Advisory meeting I learned that some planned themes for the next year are: Public Relations, Religion and Libraries, and Lifelong Learning. The editor, Leonard Kniffel, recently returned from a sabbatical, which he spent in Poland researching his family (see his article in the January issue on Polish libraries). He plans on using the research to write a family memoir. He reminded us that letters are always welcome (the magazine gets fewer of these than previously) as are submissions for the "On My Mind" feature (see the ALA web page for publication guidelines or e-mail him with an proposed idea for a short or long article). The magazine is doing well financially, in spite of increased postage costs, due to greatly increased advertising revenue.

The WSS CDC hopes to go live with the resources for women's studies collection development page pending the WSS Executive Committee approval under the revised publication guidelines. Contact me for the URL if you would like to look at the almost-approved version.

UCITA is a proposed uniform law, passed in Maryland and Virginia, and opposed by the library community and consumer advocates and supported by publishers and large software producers. Created by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) after ten years' work, it is a proposed state contract law developed to regulate transactions in intangible goods, including computer software, online databases, online journals, ebooks, and the like. Opponents fear that UCITA would validate terms in shrinkwrap and clickable licenses ("clickwrap") that restrict uses by libraries that are otherwise allowable under copyright law. The buyer might enter into a

contract with terms that may restrict otherwise legitimate uses of the product. Such terms might, for example, prohibit publicly discussing the product (even reviews) or providing access to other users or producing archival copies. And, unlike actively negotiated contracts, the buyer (library personnel or ordinary consumer) may not know all the terms before clicking and buying. By making the terms enforceable under contract law, UCITA would supersede currently legal practices under the copyright exceptions for fair use, first sale, and preservation.

Opponents also fear that UCITA would allow software firms to waive liability for known and undisclosed defects in software. Another concern is the “Orwellianly” named “electronic self-help,” which is a process whereby a licensor may electronically disable, remove, or prevent usage of computer information or software. Firms could disable mission critical software without warning if they thought the institution was breaching any term of the contract under UCITA. “Self-help” provides the licensor with the ability to monitor the use of the resources, raising privacy worries. For more information see the Association of Research Libraries’ UCITA index (<http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/ucitapg.html>)

At the Chapter Relations Committee I learned that ALA is applying for a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to fund a series of library leadership development institutes. If approved in July, the two-year grant would fund 2 institutes for each of eight regions, 2002-2003.