



# RENAISSANCE TIMES

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

Volume XV, Issue 32

October 3, 2000

## GELMAN NEWS

### Library Update and Review this Thursday, October 5

by Teena Bedola  
Administration

The Annual Library Update and Review for the GW community will be held on **Thursday, October 5 in Room 202 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon.** Jack Siggins, Caroline Long, Barbra Tschida, Debbie Bezanson and Marty Courtois will give a briefing on the current state of the Library, discuss operational issues for 2000 – 2001, and describe the challenges facing the Library in the future.

Academic department chairs, program directors and Library representatives have been invited to attend, as well as representatives of other University units that regularly interact with the Library and its staff.

Please come hear what's new at Gelman this year. Updates on the FY 2001 Collections Budget, CLS Web Delivery, New Web Site and Highlights from Goals 1 & 4 are just some of the topics planned for discussion. See **Attachment A** in this issue of *RT*.



## GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES

### Vacancy Listing

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

### ANDREA'S SCHEDULE IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

Monday, Oct. 2, 2000	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2000	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2000	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5, 2000	1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6, 2000	Work @ Home

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## On Learning

by **Alicia Miller**

*Organization Development*

*Strategic Planning & Systems Training*

The debut of today's *On Learning* column marks the first in a yearlong series of articles which discuss what it means to be a "learning organization." Staff members were briefly introduced to the concept when the 2000-03 Strategic Plan was presented at the fall Open Forum last September 28 (see sidebar). Goal II of the Plan, "transform The Gelman Library into a learning organization," has four objectives:

1. Educate and train staff in the concepts of a learning organization.
2. Create a culture of assessment.
3. Create a culture of learning, personal mastery and teaching.
4. Plan staffing to provide the flexibility needed to develop a learning organization.

Objective I is the focus of the *On Learning* column.

Gelman Library staff who completed "Library Management Skills Institute (LMS) II: The Management Process" will take the lead in accomplishing this objective. It was at this workshop, sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries Office of Leadership and Management Services, that this group of staff, the Learn Group, examined the theories, tools, and techniques of organizational learning. Examples of topics we will discuss in *On Learning* include:

- The essentials of a Learning Organization,
- Teaching ourselves about a Learning Organization,
- Facilitating learning to work as a Learning Organization,

- Training in and practicing the use of Learning Organization skills, and
- Developing a "persistent presence" of Learning Organization concepts

As other staff members complete LMS II, they will become a part of the Learn Group (to see current members of Learn, open your GroupWise address book, **right-click** on Learn, and select Edit Group). Watch this space each month for practical ideas for applying this abstract concept of a Learning Organization to the services we provide to faculty, students, and staff.

Next Week: ***What exactly is a Learning Organization?***

### **2000 – 2003 Strategic Plan To Be Presented at Library Update**

The Gelman Library System will present its 2000 – 2003 Strategic Plan to the GW community at the annual Library Update on Thursday, October 5, at 10:00 a.m. in room 202. The Plan, which was presented to Gelman employees at the Staff Open Forum on September 28, contains four goals and focuses on developing a culture of assessment in an environment that fosters continuous learning and improvement.

Representatives of GW departments and programs will have an opportunity to ask questions about and comment on the objectives presented in the new Plan, as well as on the services the Library provides to faculty, students, and staff. Later this month, a series of articles will appear in *Renaissance Times* detailing the Plan's implementation strategies.

Please continue to watch this space for additional information, or drop by the Library at 2130 H Street, NW to pick up your personal copy of the Gelman Library System 2000 – 2003 Strategic Plan.

**THIS WEEK IN LITERARY  
HISTORY**



**BOOK QUOTE**

*“Read not to contradict and confuse;  
nor to believe and take for granted;  
nor to find talk and discourse; but to  
weigh and consider. Some books are  
to be tasted, others to be swallowed,  
and some few to be chewed and  
digested: that is, some books are to be  
read only in parts, others to be read,  
but not curiously, and some few to be  
read wholly, and with diligence and  
attention.”*

- FRANCIS BACON -

<b>October 1, 1985</b>	<b>E.B. White</b> , the author of the well-known children’s book <i>Charlotte’s Web</i> , dies on his farm in North Brooklin, Maine
<b>October 2, 1836</b>	<b>Charles Darwin</b> returns from his four-and-a-half year voyage on H.M.S. Beagle
<b>October 3, 1896</b>	<b>William Morris</b> , English designer, poet, and early socialist, whose designs for furniture, wallpaper, and other decorative products generated the Arts and Crafts Movement, dies in Hammersmith, near London
<b>October 3, 1900</b>	<b>Thomas Wolfe</b> , a novelist, born in Asheville, North Carolina
<b>October 4, 1535</b>	The first complete English translation of the Bible is printed in Zurich
<b>October 5, 1713</b>	<b>Dennis Diderot</b> , French encyclopedist and <i>philosopher</i> , born in Langres
<b>October 6, 1914</b>	Author of <i>Kon-Tiki</i> , <b>Thor Heyerdahl</b> , born in Larvik, Norway
<b>October 6, 1930</b>	<b>William Faulkner’s</b> novel, <i>As I Lay Dying</i> , published
<b>October 7, 1571</b>	<b>Miguel de Cervantes</b> wounded twice in the chest and once in the left hand while fighting valiantly in the naval Battle of Lepanto
<b>October 7, 1849</b>	<b>Edgar Allan Poe</b> dies in Baltimore at the age of 40

**GELMAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

EVENT	EVENT
<p><i>“Bright Stars Through the Perilous Fight” Men &amp; Women Who Would Be President</i></p> <p align="center"><b>Exhibit Showing</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Library Update &amp; Review</b></p>
<p align="center"><b><u>DATE</u></b></p> <p align="center">October 2, 2000 through January 26, 2001</p> <p align="center"><b><u>PLACE</u></b></p> <p align="center">Room 207</p> <p align="center"><b><u>TIME</u></b></p> <p align="center">Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>DATE</u></b></p> <p align="center">October 5, 2000</p> <p align="center"><b><u>PLACE</u></b></p> <p align="center">Room 202</p> <p align="center"><b><u>TIME</u></b></p> <p align="center">10:00 a.m. – 12 noon</p>

**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:

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