

## GELMAN NEWS

### Staff Recognition Awards Program

by **Cynthia Holt**  
*Reference*

#### Awards:

In response to staff feedback, and in an effort to make the staff recognition awards more meaningful, the Staff Association Committee (SAC) has made the decision this year to limit the awards categories to four with one winner per category. Please see the attached flyer for more information on the awards and how to submit nominations. A nomination form is also attached to this issue of RT. (See **Attachment A**)

#### Banquet:

Each year, a banquet is held to recognize staff achievement in The Gelman Library System. In past years this banquet was held in January, but due to weather considerations it was decided by SAC and Libraries' Administration to move the banquet date to May.

Date/Time: Monday, May 7th, 2001, noon – 2:00 p.m.

Place: Wyndham City Center (not the same Wyndham as last year), 1143 New Hampshire Ave, NW (just the other side of Washington Circle)



#### Menu (Buffet-style):

Seasonal Greens with Two Dressings  
Tomato and Cucumber Salad

Cranberry and Apple-Stuffed Chicken with Peppercorn Sauce  
Penne Pasta with Artichokes, Onions, Peppers and Olives  
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables  
Roasted New Potatoes  
Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter  
Caramel Apple Granny and Cherry Cobbler  
Freshly-Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Hot Tea with Lemon, Iced Tea

## GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

### Vacancy Listing

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

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## **End of Performance Evaluation “Blitz” Celebration on April 2, 2001**

by **Emma Mosby**  
*Administration*

Come and join the Human Resources Team to celebrate the end of the Performance Evaluation “Blitz”. Please see **Attachment C** for more information. Hope to see you there.

## **Vacant Positions Filled in Acquisitions**

by **Marifran Bustion**  
*Acquisitions*

Three offers by Human Resources were recently accepted by Chris Walker, Alan Lloyd and Emanuel Fang.

Chris, who has been working in Acquisitions the past several months, is now the permanent Loading Dock Specialist. During the time he was a temporary employee, Chris worked with other staff to move materials out of the Loading Dock to more appropriate locations, discarded no-longer-needed materials, organized a more efficient trash pick-up, and made suggestions for further improvements to the flow in and out of Gelman.

Alan has also worked in Acquisitions for the past few months as a temporary employee and is now the Gifts Liaison. During this time, he has moved hundreds of boxes of gifts to more appropriate locations, organized the gifts shelving in Room 210 and the Lower Level, and established contact with collection development librarians and donors.

Emanuel Fang is the new Approvals Specialist in Acquisitions. Emanuel, who has worked temporarily in this position since last summer, has previous experience with several communications companies, has a B.S. in Environmental and Chemistry Engineering, and has training in SQL and Oracle. We look forward to working with Emanuel as the Library continues its collections support with approvals.

Please join Acquisitions in welcoming Chris, Alan and Emanuel.

## **Gyoung Sun Jang Joined the ILL Unit**

by **Quadir Amiryar**  
*ILL*

It is my pleasure to share the good news with my colleagues that Gyoung Sun Jang (Sun) has joined the ILL Unit. Sun is filling the Library Specialist I position that was held by Matthew Waters.

Sun is a graduate student in Public Policy and a candidate for a M.A. degree in Women's Studies from GW. Sun comes to GW from the Kangnam University, Young-in City, Korea, where she served as instructor in "psychology of women". Also, she was Office Director for the Korean Feminist Artist Group, Seoul, Korea from August 1997 - June 1998. Sun brings a highly valuable public service experience and career to this Unit. We all are looking forward to the additional experience and expertise that Sun will add to our service desk.

Please join us in welcoming Sun to the Gelman's ILL Unit.

## **Mark Brown Joins the SEEA Reading Room Staff**

by **Cathy Zeljak**  
*SEEARR*

It is my pleasure to announce that Mark Brown joins the Slavic, East European and Asian Reading Room staff on Monday, March 12, 2001. Mark is our new Unit Coordinator, filling the position formerly held by Sergei Petrov. Mark has impressive work experience in fields relating to his new position. He has served as a customer service manager at Chadwyck-Healy, Inc.,

publisher of scholarly books, CD's, microform sets, and internet-based databases; as a Senior Abstractor/Indexer at Bell and Howell/Chadwyck-Healey; as an Account Manager at Faxon, the library subscriptions vendor; and as a Subscriptions Clerk at Victor Kamkin, Inc., one of the preeminent Russian bookstores in the U.S.

In addition, Mark has earned a B.A. in Russian Studies from Yale University and an M.A. in Russian Language and Literature from Norwich University Russian School. Mark is fluent in Russian and knows German and French as well.

Please join me in welcoming Mark to Gelman and the Reading Room. We are very happy to have him on our team.

## Special Collections Welcomes Nancy Richards

by **Francine Henderson**  
*Special Collections*

Special Collections is pleased to announce that Nancy Richards is working temporarily as a librarian in the Department. Nancy will assume some of the responsibilities previously held by Bernadette Boucher. Included in her responsibilities are public services, non-Washingtoniana manuscripts and print collection management. Nancy received her M.S.L.S. from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Please stop by and greet her if you wish.

### **BOOK QUOTE**

"A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking."

-[Jerry Seinfeld](#)-

*"Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library: a companion of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries in a thousand years... The thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)



## **OTHER NEWS**

### **WRLC Status Report**

by **Lizanne Payne**  
WRLC

Bruce Hulse, WRLC Director of Library Services, reported on the following activities:

- Last week WRLC completed installation of the remaining shelves for the offsite storage facility, bringing the facility to its full shelf capacity. For next month's meeting Bruce will prepare a detailed accounting of shelf usage patterns and expected storage transfers, to assist with estimates of how long it might take to fill up the remaining space.
- WRLC is beginning to interview programmers to fill Wei Wu's position.
- A prototype of the local CORC database is being reviewed by the Reference committee, and WRLC expects to have the database ready to load CORC records in a production mode in about three weeks. Libraries can create CORC records now on

OCLC for future download, without waiting for the WRLC CORC database to be complete. It is expected that the WRLC CORC database will be added to the public ALADIN menu sometime in the summer, after a critical mass of records have been added. Additional discussions will take place to determine what constitutes a large enough database to go public. There was some discussion about what standards are in place to govern what goes into the CORC database. Bruce clarified that there are guidelines for Dublin Core metadata for individual records, but no standards regarding the content, i.e. what websites are cataloged. There was a suggestion that the Collection Development Advisory Committee should be involved in reviewing the content. Lizanne pointed out that the intention is for the libraries to create records for websites they have already been pointing to through pathfinders. The general feeling among the Library Directors was that there was no need for the CDAC to be involved in the process. There was also some discussion about duplicate CORC records from multiple WRLC libraries. Bruce clarified that the system would automatically match and overlay the duplicates and that it would not be necessary for staff to check for duplicates manually.

- Endeavor still has not released the next expected patch for the Voyager 2000 upgrade (Release 2000.1.3). Pat Wand asked if WRLC is still expecting to upgrade to Rel. 2000 at the end of May, and when would be the final date for making a decision if the patch release continues to be delayed. Bruce responded that, at this point, WRLC still expects to be able to make the late May upgrade, but the decision will have to be reviewed if the patch release has not been received by the end of April. It would be possible to perform the upgrade as late as August, and it will depend mostly on the confidence

level of the acquisitions staff who will experience the most change. Reference staff can be reviewing the test system now in order to become familiar with the changes to the Web OPAC, for purposes of revising user aids.

Lizanne reported on two other status items:

- She has received a planning estimate for expanding the storage facility from the James G. Davis Construction Company, which built the original WRLC building. Extrapolated into next year's dollars, the estimate indicates that a one-module expansion (12,000 sf, another 1.2 million items) would cost around \$3.1 million. The maximum two-module expansion would cost around \$5 million. While it would be better in some ways to raise all the money at once and build out the maximum space, Davis recommended that we build only as much as we would actually need within a few years. Lizanne will continue to work with members to identify storage requirements. She will also work with other institutions to see if partnerships might be possible.
- Lizanne has started to work on the annual WRLC survey, which will be derived mostly from the NCES-ALS online survey data which each library has already provided. She will send a more detailed message to each Library Director outlining the additional or different data, which is still needed.

## II. WRLC Operating Budget FY'02

Lizanne had distributed the final version of the proposed WRLC operating budget for FY'02 with the advance meeting materials. She indicated that the next step after responding to any further comments from the Library Directors would be to send the proposed budget to the university finance officers for review prior to presenting the budget to the Board of Directors on May 1. The Library Directors approved sending the budget on to the

finance officers. In response to a question from Virginia McKenna, Lizanne confirmed that the proposed member fees for FY'02 are lower than the amounts originally projected.

### III. Proposal for Shared Journal Storage

She had also distributed a background discussion document about a proposed policy to restrict storage of duplicate bound journal volumes and to provide continued access to the content by online delivery of individual articles. The document outlines possible features of the proposed policy and identifies some of the major issues to be resolved. The single biggest issue is how to balance ownership of the volume with permanent access to the content: whether to transfer ownership to WRLC as the best guarantee of permanent access for all members, or leave ownership with each depositing library, which may be more feasible in the short run but leaves the other members more vulnerable to loss of access to the volume.

Lizanne suggested that the process for discussing the issues and deciding on a shared journal storage policy should be as follows:

- Individual libraries discuss internally to gather staff feedback and identify any other issues.
- WRLC gathers other background information, including legal advice re: copyright implications and a possible addendum to the Participant Agreement, and governance and policy documents of other shared collections and last copy depositories.
- WRLC committees discuss for purposes of general clarification.
- Library Directors discuss and recommend policy to WRLC Board for approval.

The Library Directors affirmed this process and agreed to work toward presenting a recommendation for the December 2001 meeting of the WRLC Board.

## CONFERENCES

### Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Attached as **Attachment D**. Mary Faith Pankin's report on her Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference.

### Computers in Libraries 2001: Platitudes and Promise

by **Teena Bedola**  
*Administration*

Please see **Attachment E**. David Ettinger's report on his Computers in Libraries 2001: Platitudes and Promise conference.

<b>ANDREA STEWART'S SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Monday, March 26, 2001</b>	<b>Human Resources 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 27, 2001</b>	<b>No Schedule</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 28, 2001</b>	<b>Human Resources 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, March 29, 2001</b>	<b>Human Resources 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, March 30, 2001</b>	<b>Human Resources 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>

## 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 North

**Through** Metro Station – 1201 17<sup>th</sup> St., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 442-6060  
**6/21/01**

**Event - Faculty Authors Signing Reception**

Thursday, April 5, 2001 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Gelman Library Special Collections.

Call (202) 994-7549 for information.

**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 Room. Call (202) 994-6455 for more information.

Reading

**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

March 25, 1823	<b>William Blake</b> agrees to engrave the <i>Inventions to the Book of Job</i> . His payment is 5 pounds per plate.
March 26, 1874	<b>Robert Frost</b> born in San Francisco.
March 27, 1923	<b>Louis Simpson</b> , an American poet, is born in Jamaica.
March 28, 1941	<b>Virginia Woolf</b> , at 59, commits suicide by walking into the River Ouse.
March 29,	The pregnant <b>Mary Wollstonecraft</b> marries novelist William Godwin. She dies 11 days after

1797	the birth of her second daughter, Mary, who grows up to marry Percy Bysshe Shelley and write <i>Frankenstein</i> .
March 30, 1820	Author of <i>Black Beauty</i> , <i>the Autobiography of a Horse</i> , <b>Anna Sewell</b> , is born in Norwich.
March 31, 1873	After meeting Matthew Arnold, <b>Henry James</b> writes to professor Charles Eliot Norton: "He is not as handsome as his photographs—or as his poetry."
March 31, 1883	Two months before her death, <b>Emily Dickinson</b> is asked to submit a volume of poems for publication.



# Computers in Libraries 2001: Platitudes and Promise

by David Ettinger  
Reference

Computers in Libraries 2001 turned out to be a mixed bag. If the best part of a preconference workshop turns out to be the complimentary lunch at the end, it's a pretty good sign that something is amiss. It took Purdue University Librarian D. Scott "Techman" Brandt three-hours belaboring the obvious trying to teach us "How to Teach the Internet in 49 Minutes Flat." There must be an oxymoron there somewhere.

I had hoped to come away from this session with some practical tips and techniques. Instead, the instructor, promoting the instructional design model, chose to emphasize theory. The result was, at best, platitudinous, resurrecting familiar themes such as the need to assess one's audience, accommodate different learning styles, carefully structure and choreograph the presentation, etc. In the tortured language of "eduspeak", Brandt stressed the need to integrate "objectives and strategies to build a learner-centered module of training or instruction." Translation: Plan your presentation in order to best meet your users' needs. I wish he had taken his own advice.

Fortunately, things picked up on Friday. "Navigating the Net," a discussion of how search engine technology is evolving, was an interesting review of recent developments. Veteran web watcher Greg Notess discussed the "morality and mortality" of search engines, suggesting that as they struggle for economic survival some search engines have succumbed to increased commercialization thereby potentially compromising their results, while others have cut down on search functionality or disappeared altogether. Other panelists stressed the importance of human intervention in constructing search engines and the growing popularity of specialty and conceptual searching.

An utterly delightful, brisk, informative, and entertaining session by information broker Mary Ellen Bates on web navigation tips was a useful primer on efficient and effective web searching techniques. Among other hints, Bates emphasized the importance of using specific web tools (e.g., directories, portals, web guides), site maps, and the Invisible Web. Look for quality, not quantity, she counseled, and don't be afraid to seek out others for advice.

I confess I was, ironically considering its title, somewhat lost during the following session, "Finding Our Way: Libraries as Community Search Engines." If the central message here, was, as I think it was, the need for libraries to create a "sense of place" for users, I'm not sure what the speaker was trying to tell us that we didn't already know.

The final two presentations were the highlights of the day. In a spirited talk, bordering on a homily, Judy Field of Wayne State University gave a scathing indictment of the state of current reference librarianship for which, she claimed, was becoming increasingly out of step with its users. I found myself nodding my head repeatedly as she described how reference librarians were alienating themselves from patrons by conducting pro forma reference interviews, focusing on their computer monitors rather than the people in front of them, and dismissively referring them to web pages as ways of responding to queries. Making the case for a return to traditional reference service values which emphasize customer service, Field itemized a list of recommendations to revitalize reference librarianship including offering 24/7 reference service, tailoring classes to user needs and schedules, reaching out to users beyond the walls of the library, and incorporating new technology in reference transactions.

The latter point was vividly illustrated by a live demonstration of the "Ask-A-Librarian Live" service offered by the University of Chicago's Business and Economics Library. Essentially a one-on-one chat room, librarians are able to interact in real time with users, addressing their specific concerns at point of need. Patrons log into the system where they are put in touch with a reference librarian on duty who provides immediate help. Specialized software enables the librarian to open separate windows on users' computers and walk them through the research process. "Ask-A-Librarian Live" would appear to combine the best features of traditional, telephone, and e-mail reference in a dynamic setting attractive to remote users. Quite impressive!



## by Mary Faith Pankin

### CMS

I attended this annual conference March 7-10 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. An alternative title for this report could be: "Avoiding the Grateful Dead," since there were eleven (!) sessions on this musical group, more than any other topic! Other popular culture subject areas covered were: mystery fiction, film studies, horror literature, women's studies, atomic culture, libraries and culture, science fiction, romance novels, and many more. What follows is not comprehensive but will give the flavor of the conference.

The first session was about current film interpretation. While three of the talks used the (to me) opaque language of literary theory, one was more accessible. The "deconstructive" titles were: "Kristeva and 'Sliding Doors'," "David Fincher's version of the Nietzschean Overman in 'Fight Club'," and "Deconstructive Trends in Recent American Cinema." The fourth talk, by Kylo-Patrick Hart was "The Form and Function of Characters with HIV/AIDS in non-AIDS Movies." A non-AIDS movie is one in which a non-central character has AIDS (e.g. an AIDS movie would be "Philadelphia," while a non-AIDS movie would be "Forrest Gump.") Hart believes the latter type may be more socially useful because it shows a more "ordinary" person contracting the disease and thus reminds viewers that they too need to take precautions.

The paper I presented was "The Yale Scientific Expeditions in Kansas" and concerned fossil hunting expeditions around Fort Wallace, Kansas, in the early 1870s. My great-grandfather was a member of the 1871 expedition and kept a diary of the events. Other topics at this Kansas-themed panel were: "Pawnee Powwows and the Pan-Indian Powwow Phenomenon," "Mexican Migration to Hutchinson, Kansas," and "Death Journey of William Seward Burroughs." The latter, by Denise Low, was the most interesting. Burroughs, known as the author of Naked Lunch and other avant-garde works, had a reputation for wild behavior. Yet when he moved to Lawrence, Kansas in 1981, he made many new friends in all walks of life, including professors, local merchants, and gun lovers. He especially liked pistol practice, in spite of having accidentally shot and killed his wife years before. He kept his heroin habit in check with methadone shots and continued to smoke pot. By all accounts he was courteous, charming, and much loved. Forty-nine days after his death in 1997, his friends performed a bardo ceremony, which in Tibetan culture consists of burning an effigy of the dead person to release his soul to another level of incarnation. In this case, they used a collection of photographs and mementos instead of an actual effigy.

At a mystery fiction session Roberta McFadden of Mount St. Mary's College in Maryland discussed her use of Tony Hillerman's A Thief of Time in an American civilization course. Students like this novel and learn a lot also. Hillerman's series concerns two Native American tribal policemen in New Mexico and Arizona. He portrays the Navajo culture respectfully, as well as the conflicts between the older, more liberal policeman and his younger, more traditional colleague. Professor McFadden presents the book at the end of the semester, and the perceived lightness of the genre is a welcome change from the heavier texts of the rest of the semester. The students analyze plot and character and contrast their life view with that of the Navajo characters who are shaped both by the stark landscape and the Navajo culture.

In a film session, William Burgess discussed Franco Zeffirelli's film of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" (with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton). I had not seen this since its original release in 1967 and didn't remember it very well. Professor Burgess believes this production was the beginning of the post-war feminist interpretations of the play. It was all in the acting and visual representation, however. While past productions may have softened the shrew Kate's supposed capitulation to Petruchio, this version undercuts his authority at every turn and implies that a battle for the upper hand will continue into the future. Discussion pointed out that the play's text alone cannot support this interpretation. In another film session Dennis Cutchins argued in his presentation, "Why The Great Gatsby Makes a Lousy Movie" that film adaptations of classic books can heighten students' understanding. As an example, he used the bad 1974 adaptation of Gatsby (with Robert Redford and Mia Farrow). The screenwriter conformed the dialogue in the film too closely to the original, instead of taking a totally different approach that would

be more cinematically believable. Contrasting the book's descriptions of characters with the one-dimensional film portrayals forces students into a close reading of the text.

The best-attended session was about the fabulously successful Harry Potter books. Amy Judd highlighted J.K. Rowling's critique of modern technology, which she presents narrowly, not in its full range, but only in its mind-numbing characteristics such as television and video games. Thus Harry's cousin Dudley is an unpleasant boy whose passive soaking in video games results in stupidity. The wizard students at Hogwarts School, however, develop their magical powers and thus grow in critical thinking and creativity. Karen Smith showed the series to be a worthy successor to the long line of English boarding school series, starting in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with Tom Brown's School Days. They share characteristics such as: the hero's having two friends, facing down school bullies, and taking part in light-hearted pranks; a wise headmaster, both sympathetic and cruel teachers, and unfair punishments; and important athletic competitions. Richard Burke pointed to a growing sense of magical evil as the series progresses. Harry always has to face ordinary evil in the guise of his unpleasant adopted family and bullies at school. In the early books, however, the evil wizard Voldemort has lost some of his strength; in the later books he is regaining some strength, and thus Harry gains in stature as he defeats him. As the stakes are raised, the books become darker in tone.

Some of the subjects of other talks were: the 1939 movie "Destry Rides Again" as an argument against U.S. isolationism, Truman Capote's In Cold Blood, a cost-benefit analysis of tourism along (the former) U.S. Route 66, Alfred Hitchcock's definition of "the McGuffin," fictional African-American detectives, the Mr. Cranky movie review web site, and Russian women's search for foreign husbands. As you can see, talks do not have to be about the Southwest. I have the program at my desk if anyone wants to see it. I met several other librarians who gave talks, and the organization is very open and welcomes new presenters

### 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 **Lana Muck** and **Valerie Emerson**. *R.T.* is published every other Tuesday by **Teena Bedola** in conjunction with Photocopy Services. Submissions, comments, and questions should be directed to:

*Erica Aungst, 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