FROM the DIRECTOR

This time let’s chat about exhibitions and displays. As I write this we have just come through a major weekend event – the 10th anniversary of September 11th. In addition to our four usual venues for displays we had five additional this past weekend, giving us a total of 9! I can attest that that is an all-time record for us, and something I doubt we’ll ever strive for again.

Exhibitions and displays are very much a part of a normal outreach program for any archives. Not only does it draw attention to the institution, but it also provides an opportunity to showcase specific collections and memorabilia that may not normally see the light of day. Our researcher population has focused interests and they tend to find the collections they need now by visiting online catalogs and web sites. I am confident that we have that covered with our growing list of online finding aids.

However there are many others, even students and staff here at SU as well as in the community at large, that aren’t aware that the University even has an archives, let alone familiar with the collections that encompass it. This is where exhibitions and displays serve a purpose. We currently have 24 exhibitions on our web site dating back to 1997. They cover topics such as commencements, traditions, minorities, nursing, artwork, sports and faculty collections. These are all a permanent part of our web presence. The latest is a look at dances at Syracuse University between 1900 and 1960, and called From the Waltz to the Jitterbug. These in-depth presentations have an important place in an academic setting.

Because we recognize that not everyone in the SU community has a need for in-depth research, we also offer smaller, more compact display cases around campus where someone can spend a few moments and hopefully learn something new about the university. Right now we have a fun display about our mascot Otto the Orange, one on the cottages where so many students used to live, and a third on the experience of the first-year student.

All this provides the Syracuse University Archives with the opportunity to share our rich collection with you. Just another attempt on our part to be all things to all people!

—Ed Galvin, Director

SU Remembers: The 9/11 Sheets of Expression

This year marked the 10th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Hendricks Chapel sponsored a Service of Remembrance and Hope, a lecture series featuring topics on living in the aftermath of tragedy, and a public service event done in conjunction with the Better Together initiative. Students, faculty, and staff were asked to donate canned goods that were given to the Interreligious Food Consortium, which serves 70 local food pantries. Students could also bring their canned goods to Juice Jam where part of the proceeds from the concert went towards famine relief in the Horn of Africa.

The Archives was asked to provide exhibits in The White Cube Gallery of Schine Student Center on campus, at Lubin House in New York City, Greenberg House in Washington D.C., the LA Center in Los Angeles, and at the reception on the University Quad following the remembrance service.

The exhibits featured the 9/11 Sheets of Expression. These Sheets were created in the days following the 9/11 attacks. The Student Association placed over-sized white sheets on the Quad outside Hendricks Chapel where students, faculty, and staff were invited to write their thoughts, feelings, and prayers. A second set of sheets was made in 2002 during SU’s “One Year Later” commemoration program. Both the 2001 and the 2002 Sheets were given to the SU Archives following the 2002 anniversary.

The displays at Lubin House, Greenberg House, and the LA Center incorporated a single sheet, either folded in a display case.
100 Years Ago in The Syracuse Daily Orange

THE SYRACUSE DAILY ORANGE
October 27, 1911

MEASURES TO PREVENT DISORDER AFTER GAMES
CHANCELLOR DAY DISCUSSES THE SITUATION

Chancellor James R. Day in an address before the students in Liberal Arts chapel yesterday morning said that measures must be taken to prevent disorder after football games in the Stadium and conflicts between the students and hoodlums. He said that matters have reached such a pass that something must be done at once to prevent boys from gaining entrance to the Stadium.

The conflict at the Irving Avenue entrance to the Stadium after the Lafayette game was witnessed by the Chancellor. He characterized it as the worst disorder which he had ever seen about the campus, although on previous occasions there had been disturbances when the police were in attendance. While not criticizing the police, he did state that he considered it the duty of the city to provide adequate protection for the University on all occasions.

The Chancellor said: “What we need at the contests is a squad of police in charge of a sergeant to see that the men do their duty. The officers who have been in the Stadium before this stand around, watch the game, and go out as soon as the crowd starts. That leaves no one to check the hoodlums who have broken in, walked in or gained entrance in various ways.

“The fact that they have not hurt anyone on these occasions is nothing less than a miracle. The cushions thrown about might cause a serious accident at any time, as they fly in all directions, sometimes from considerable heights. You students took it into your hands last Saturday to stop this, but I would call your attention to the fact that you interfered after the event. If necessary you must stop them before they throw the cushions.

“The law allows you a certain amount of freedom in defending yourselves, but remember to act always so that you can give an account under the law. I would not advise you to take these hoodlums who come in merely to act as hoodlums, and throw them about by the neck, nor would I advise you to throw them down on the ground, but you are acting fully within your rights when you assist them out of the Stadium.

“The students have a right to protect themselves at all times, particularly when they must regard the welfare of women students. I ask you to be discreet at all times, but if the police will not make any effort to stop this hoodlumism, it must be stopped in some way.”

Exhibitions and Displays

The SU Archives now presents major exhibitions only on its web site. This enables the Archives to share a larger amount of historical artifacts, images, and documents than it could in a physical setting. The display case in the Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center, where past major exhibitions had been highlighted, is now used for a rotation of simpler displays of items of interest from the Archives. We also continue to offer smaller displays in our cases on the ground floor of Crouse-Hinds Hall on campus as well as at Lubin House in New York City.

Visit the Archives online exhibition pages at archives.syr.edu/exhibits/

Current Online Exhibition
From the Waltz to the Jitterbug: Dances at Syracuse University
http://archives.syr.edu/exhibits/dances.html

Upcoming Online Exhibition
Spring 2012
Changing Collegiate Women’s Fashion

Lubin House
August 2011-January 2012
“Tip It, Frosh!”: The First-Year Student through SU’s History

January – July 2012
Scenes of Cottage Life from the Syracuse University Archives

Crouse-Hinds Hall
July 2011-January 2012
Scenes of Cottage Life from the Syracuse University Archives

January – July 2012
50 Years of Manley Field House

Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center
September 2011 – January 2012
Archives Salutes Otto the Orange
“Snap” Happy: QR Codes and the Archives

Have you been noticing those funny looking bar codes that are popping up just about everywhere these days? Used in grocery stores, on junk mail, in magazines, stuck to bus stops, and even in SU Archives’ exhibits, these futuristic bar codes are known as Quick Response, or QR, codes. Basically, they are a compressed means of displaying up to 7089 characters, which allows the creator to store text or a URL inside the code. This URL can take you directly from the physical code to a web site, using only the camera on your smart phone.

The University Archives is undertaking a QR code project in collaboration with the Office of Campus Planning, Design, and Construction. It is being done in conjunction with an update of our campus buildings web pages. A QR code will be created for a building’s page; this code will then be incorporated into a transparent decal that will be placed on the entrances to most academic and administrative buildings on SU’s Main Campus. When “snapped” with a smart phone that has downloaded a free reader application, the code will direct the mobile device to open the building’s web page in the web browser. This will allow prospective students and their families, alumni, freshmen and upperclassmen, and those interested in University history to learn more about the origins of each building as they tour campus. So, be on the look-out for these codes and start snapping!

A New Place to Manage the Archives’ Collections

Over the past several months Archives staff have been on the hunt for a new database to manage archival collections. Our current database is best suited for records management, and we’ll continue using it for just that. But all the data for our collections in the SU Archives - from the papers of chancellors to the records of SU’s colleges and schools, to memorabilia and photographs - need a new home. Plus we want to include additional information that we have in other databases, such as new donations and donor information. It would benefit us to have all these records in once place!

With the help of two incredibly helpful project managers from the University’s Enterprise Process Support, Kathy Kinney and Debbie Gardner, Archives staff members evaluated a number of content management systems. We ooh’d and aah’d over the shiny bells and whistles of big, expensive databases, but, in the end, we surprised ourselves by deciding we wanted to go with something simple. The Archives is now busy cleaning up records in the old database in preparation for moving data over to an open-source software called the Archivists’ Toolkit (AT). AT was developed, through a grant, by archivists from the UCSD Libraries, the NYU Libraries, and the Five College Libraries. It is “the first open source archival data management system to provide broad, integrated support for the management of archives.” (http://www.archiviststoolkit.org/) Stay tuned to track our progress towards a brand new archives database.
Archives Grad Student Immersed in Photo Collection

Second-year iSchool grad student Alison Miner has been re-processing the Archives’ Photograph Collection since the summer. Here is her experience in her own words:

When I began working with the Photograph Collection at the SU Archives this summer, Ed Galvin asked me to: “Look out for the pictures of the 1906 bleachers collapse — we haven’t seen them in a while.” When I came across the pictures, which showed the aftermath of an SU-Colgate football game held before Archbold Stadium was built, they were in a folder called “Football Games – Colgate.” While this was perfectly accurate, it wasn’t where anyone would look for it. Now the photographs of this devastating accident — caused by the overwhelming popularity of the big game against Colgate — are in their own folder, for anyone to find quickly.

This, in essence, is what I’ve been doing since the summer: going through each of the Archives’ 120,000 photographs, sometimes with a magnifying glass, often checking against maps or the Onondagan, and making them more useful for researchers and archivists alike. It has been fascinating, painstaking work and has taught me immeasurably about the history of SU. When I’d leave the Archives at lunch and walk down sunny Waverly Ave, I’d see snow-covered Victorian cottages in the place of a parking garage, WWII-era temporary buildings over the Health Center, horse-pulled carriages instead of cars.

But this knowledge, even when aided by the extraordinary memories of Mary O’Brien and Ed Galvin, makes only a framework on which to build the stories of the SU experience. I’m creating an extensive index to pass my knowledge along to make the collection easier to use. But many students in the photographs are unidentified; many stories are still incomplete. That is why the Archives has the Recognize Anyone? page on their website — we need the help of alumni to fill in the cracks. Please keep the information coming, and I promise not to tell anyone about that Rod Stewart poster you had in your dorm room.

Pan Am Web Site and Facebook

The Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives debuted its improved web site in August. A new color scheme and header enhance the renovations, while updated functionalities improve the site’s usability. An index to the various collection categories, including Victims and Families, Syracuse University, Lockerbie, Groups and Organizations, Other Collections, and two new categories for Audiovisual materials and Publications are included. Collection finding aids are located under this index. For latest news and updates to the Archives check the bottom of the Pan Am 103 homepage. You may visit exhibitions may be seen using the links at the right.

The Pan Am Archives also has a brand new Facebook page. This page allows the Archives to post updates to collections, Archives sponsored events and exhibits, and provides another avenue of communication with our supporters. If you haven’t already, visit our Facebook page and be sure to “Like” us before you’re done! Feel free to post questions or comments on the Facebook page and as always you can reach the Assistant Pan Am 103 Archivist, Cara Howe, by email at cahowe@syr.edu or telephone at 315-443-0632.

Visit the Pan Am 103 Archives web site at archives.syr.edu/panam/.
SU Remembers: The 9/11 Sheets of Expression
(cont’d from page 1)

or hanging, with an exhibit card outlining the origins of the Sheets of Expression and directing visitors to the Remembrance web site at syr.edu/september11. The display on the Quad incorporated a larger Sheet, which was hung inside a tent, and supplemented by a documentary Syracuse University After September, 11 made by Benjamin C. Jones, ’04, which contains footage of and interviews with students signing the Sheets of Expression in 2001. Another set of blank Sheets was supplied so that service attendees could record their thoughts ten years after the tragedy.

The main exhibit was installed in the White Cube Gallery in Schine Student Center. This exhibit, titled “SU Remembers: The 9/11 Sheets of Expression” contained yet another of the Sheets of Expression. Also featured were the cover and centerfold from the September 12, 2001 and the September 11, 2002 Daily Orange; the Winter, 2001 edition of SU Magazine, the cover photo of which was taken at ground zero by U.S. Navy PH2 (AW) Jim Watson, ’99; Chancellor Kenneth A. Shaw’s letter to the university community from October, 2001; and images of students signing the Sheets and participating in a candlelight walk that originated at the Quad.

The SU Archives is no stranger to tragedy as we hold the Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives, and are proud to be the permanent home of the 9/11 Sheets of Expression.

Building Our History: 113 Euclid Avenue

One hundred years ago this fall Gamma Phi Beta Sorority dedicated a newly-constructed house on Euclid Avenue. An article in the September 21, 1911 Syracuse Herald called it “without an equal on University Hill.” Today this building is home to several College of Arts and Sciences Programs, such as the Soling Program.

As some of the most popular questions posed to the Archives involve University buildings and architecture, we maintain a listing of SU buildings, past and present, on our website at archives.syr.edu/buildings/. We are currently updating and expanding the information offered. Future issues of Access will feature buildings that have reached a milestone date, such as the one pictured here.

Archives Adds Even More Memorabilia to its Collections

The SU Archives averages about 200 new accessions annually. Many of these are of scholarly interest or document the inner workings of SU’s departments, school and colleges. Every once in a while, however, some special and unique materials find their way to us. The past few months have continued to be especially rich with historical items and memorabilia that we thought you’d enjoy hearing about. As always we thank the donors who keep the Archives fresh and the past alive.

1878-79 Journal
Joanne Diamond donated the journal of her great grandfather Willis A. Holden, Class of 1880, which was written on his ‘grand tour’ of Europe in 1878-1879. Holden was the brother of Charles D. Holden, Class of 1877, for whom Holden Observatory was named, Eloise Holden Nottingham, Class of 1880, whose former home is now the Chancellor’s Residence, and Bertha Holden Wilson, Class of 1882. Their father Erastus Holden was a member of the Board of Trustees for over twenty years.

The journal is in very good condition and, thanks to good penmanship, very easy to read. The seven men who made the trip together all figured prominently in the history of Syracuse or the University. The trip was documented in an article in the University Herald of Apr. 25, 1878, which stated “Professor Coddington…and others, set sail for Europe, June 29th. Chancellor Haven, appointed as a delegate to the Wesleyan Conference to be convened at London, will accompany them as far as England. The party will pass the summer in Great Britain, Germany and France, and will winter in Italy, Greece, and Egypt. They expect to be absent from fifteen to eighteen months.”

113 Euclid Ave., circa 1920. Note the 2-story front porch, since removed. [Archives Image 11-0896]

Archbold Stadium Seat
On Nov. 11, 1978 Alan Norris attended the final game played in Archbold Stadium – the one where we beat Navy 20-17. His seat was Section C, Row 19, Seat 11, and immediately after the game he and many other fans began personally dismembering ‘Old Archie’. He donated his seat, clearly identified as number 11, to the Archives.

SU Souvenir Spoons
Brian Spector ’78 generously donated four items to the SU Archives: two sterling silver souvenir spoons, a 1911 Syracuse University date book, and a 1931-32 Syracuse University desk book. The spoons are a special delight and are in wonderful condition. One has scene of SU campus buildings engraved on it; the other has the University seal on its handle.
Collection Reappraisal and Processing Continues

Work progresses on the reappraisal and processing of many older archival collections in the Archives. Recently, I came across a box of papers of Prof. Warren Walsh (History, 1934-67). While they did involve Walsh, they in fact documented an interesting national public service program run locally by the Maxwell School during the WWII. Known as the “Rumor Clinic”, it served as a clearinghouse for debunking rumors regarding current events or government officials. Community members would submit a rumor they heard and faculty members researched the rumor’s validity, often publishing findings in local newspapers. The Rumor Clinic helped provide accurate information to the public and allay unwarranted fears.

Another result of reappraising these older collections means more storage space for new archival documents. As often happens with office files, duplicates and other material of little research or historical value may be included. This is especially true of collections where faculty members passed away unexpectedly, leaving no one to sort through files prior to their transfer to the Archives. Progress is being made, though I am often reminded of the old saying about sweeping back the ocean with a broom!

As part of the effort to update and expand the building histories Archives maintains on its website, I often use records here in our storage facility. Recently archival files from the Treasurer’s Office proved to be invaluable as they contained deeds and correspondence dating back to 1874 regarding University-owned properties. Here were primary source materials on the University Block in downtown Syracuse and the University Farm, now South Campus, that answered questions not found in other sources.

— Susan Hughes

Gifts and Donations

The Archives benefits from the generosity of the Syracuse University community. Donations of documents, scrapbooks, photographs, and memorabilia that help to tell the story of the University, its students, faculty, and staff are always welcome. In addition, funding opportunities exist that help the Archives with its efforts to process and preserve the history of SU.

Contact the University Archivist, Ed Galvin, at 315-443-9760 or at elgalvin@syr.edu to discuss ways that you can donate to or support the work of the Syracuse University Archives.