Pan Am Flight 103

FROM the DIRECTOR

It has been nearly eighteen years since I joined Syracuse University as Director of Archives and Records Management. Although I was fully prepared to assume the role of University Archivist and University Records Manager, I was somewhat hesitant about also taking on the challenge of being the Pan Am Flight 103 Archivist. Twenty years in the profession afforded me the confidence I needed to deal with the technical aspects of this special archive, but I had no experience in coping with a grief-based collection.

However, I soon found that I was part of something much bigger than myself, something of international importance, and something that has become the most significant aspect of my professional career. The families of the 270 victims of Pan Am Flight 103 embraced me and the work we were doing here at the Pan Am 103 Archives. They had been through hell, yet were managing the aftermath of the tragedy with a steadfast vow to seek the truth.

I am proud that the Pan Am 103 Archives has become the place to house materials regarding the bombing – both to memorialize the 270 victims, as well as to document the work of the families toward justice, victims’ rights, and airline security. In 2011, through the generosity of family members and others, we were able to temporarily hire an archivist devoted to working with the Pan Am 103 Archives. Since then we have made significant progress in processing existing collections, as well as adding new materials. But this has been possible only because we have someone caring for the collection on a daily basis.

My personal goal as I look toward retirement is to see the position of Pan Am 103 Archivist fully endowed. Syracuse University is committed to documenting the tragedy and provides space and utilities, but the collection has grown beyond anyone’s expectations. We must work together to establish a $2M endowment to get this done and get it done right. An endowment will generate enough funds on an annual basis to pay the salary and benefits for the position in perpetuity. As our Chancellor Melvin Eggers announced to the SU victims’ families at the 1989 memorial service, “...your sons and daughters will be remembered at Syracuse University as long as any of us shall live and so long as the University shall stand...” We in the Archives pledge to carry forth his charge.

If you would like to join me in supporting this effort please contact me at 315-443-9760 or elgalvin@syr.edu.

—Ed Galvin, Director

List of 25th Anniversary Events

September-December
Pan Am 103 Archives Timeline Exhibit - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F, sixth floor, Bird Library

September
9-15 Archives Staff travel to London and Lockerbie to collect oral histories and materials
10 in London
12 in Dumfries
13-14 in Lockerbie

October
3 Walk for Peace, Run for Hope – main campus
4 The Legacy of Pan Am 103 at SU, Orange Central Panel Discussion - 3-4:30 p.m., Watson Theater
7-12 Remembrance Week, events to be determined
7-12 Telling the Stories oral histories collected – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily Crouse-Hinds Hall room 402
10-11 Pan Am Flight 103 Archives open to the public – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Th) and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Fr) Bird Library sixth Floor Spector Room
11 Rose-Laying Ceremony – 2:03 p.m., Place of Remembrance, in front of the Hall of Languages
11 Remembrance Convocation – 3 p.m., Hendricks Chapel
12 Remembrance and Lockerbie Scholar Reunion – Public Events Room in Maxwell
16-18 Collective Memory Conference – London Center, London England

November
12 University Lectures features former Sen. George J. Mitchell – 7:30 p.m., Hendricks Chapel
14 Alexia Foundation for World Peace and the Newhouse School exhibition and panel discussion

December
20 Victims of Pan Am Flight 103 Inc. Dinner – Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel Arlington, VA
Dec. 21, 2013 is the 25th anniversary of Pan Am Flight 103. Remembrance gatherings will be held at Syracuse University, Arlington Cemetery outside Washington, D.C., in Lockerbie, and at Westminster Abbey in London.
Pan Am 103 TIMELINE of Events

For the past year we have been accumulating a list of relevant dates relating to the tragedy of Pan Am 103. From December 5, 1988 when the Helsinki Warning was issued to U.S. government outposts in Europe, through February 25, 2013 when a contingent of U.K. and U.S. law enforcement agents visited Tripoli to continue the investigation into the bombing, we have included key events relating to the bombing and subsequent investigation, the families’ continuous search for justice and airline security, and memorial events held in Lockerbie, Syracuse and Washington, D.C.

The Timeline provides condensed captions summarizing each event. Most events also have a relevant image, document or video attached; these are all part of the Archives collection and provide additional information for those who would like to explore the events in detail. Also included in the Timeline are lists of related collections contained in the Archives so that researchers may better understand how our materials may be used for scholarship.

The Timeline will continue to be updated as new events in the Pan Am 103 saga unfold. We hope that this Timeline will prove a valuable resource for those interested in the history of Pan Am 103. We have already become accustomed to consulting it for our own work.

The Timeline will go live in early September, 2013 and may be found at archives.syr.edu/panam/timeline

The Search Continues:
Twenty-Five Years of the Pan Am 103 Saga Exhibit

The Archives is also planning an exhibit on campus that will feature selected dates from our virtual Timeline. We have chosen the most salient events from the list of almost 150 included in the online version. These events will be displayed, with their related image or document, in a display case located on the sixth floor of Bird Library on the SU campus. The exhibit will open in September and remain in place until after the 25th anniversary on December 21.

If you are on campus during Remembrance Week, from October 7-12, please stop by and see the exhibit. Since the Archives will be open to the public October 10-11, also on the sixth floor of Bird Library, you can browse through some of the collections that relate to the events you see in the exhibit.

Panel Discussion: The Legacy of Pan Am 103 at Syracuse University

The effects of the Pan Am 103 tragedy were felt across campus in 1988 and are still prevalent today. Though heartache and grief were the initial impetus for many of the lasting changes Pan Am 103 wrought here at SU, what has emerged from this tragedy is a legacy of hope, understanding, and commitment to always moving forward. This panel will discuss the legacy Pan Am 103 has created at Syracuse University. The panel discussion will be held on Friday October, 4 from 3-4:30 PM in Watson Auditorium as a part of the Orange Central calendar of events.
Telling the Stories: The Pan Am Flight 103 Story Archives Project

The Archives and the Syracuse University Pan Am 103 25th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, with funding from Syracuse Symposium™ in the SU Humanities Center, are sponsoring Telling the Stories: The Pan Am Flight 103 Story Archives Project.

Telling the Stories gathers narratives from those who have personal knowledge of Pan Am Flight 103. These stories may include memories of the 270 people who lost their lives in the bombing, of the days immediately following the disaster, of the effect the bombing had on individuals, local communities and nations, and how Pan Am 103 has shaped the world we live in today.

The project will include traditional oral histories, gathered on campus during Remembrance Week October 7-12, in London on September 10, and in the Lockerbie area September 12-14. To schedule an oral history session please contact Assistant Archivist Cara Howe at pa103archives@syr.edu or 00-1-315-443-0632.

We also invite user-created content where you tell Your Story, Your Way; or participants may choose to create their story using the Digital Storytelling method. Information on these, and oral histories, may be found on the Pan Am 103 25th Anniversary website at syr.edu/pa103remembrance25.

The Pan Am 103 Archives website contains finding aids for processed collections and guides for all other materials. Information about using the Archives, policies, fees and other important information are all easily found. Past exhibitions have been digitized and presented online as well as the book On Eagle’s Wings, which contains a brief biography for most of the 270 victims. Of course, our new TIMELINE of events will debut on the website in early September, 2013.

Like the Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives at Syracuse University on Facebook

Follow PanAm103ArchivesSU on YouTube

Find us Online: archives.syr.edu/panam/

Lockerbie Trip

The Archivists, with financial assistance from the Office of the Chancellor, are making a long-overdue trip to Lockerbie, Scotland. Ed Galvin and Cara Howe, along with Assistant Chancellor Trudy Morritz, will visit SU’s London Center on September 10 and travel to Lockerbie on September 11. A side trip to Dumfries on September 12 will allow the archivists to interview and gather materials from active and retired members of the Dumfries and Galloway Police. September 13-14 will be spent in the town of Lockerbie.

The primary purpose of this trip is to gather materials and record oral histories. We invite those with materials they wish to donate to meet us at Lockerbie Academy. We will be able make digital copies of any materials that people may not be ready to part with. These digital copies can be used in the Archives until the original materials are donated.

We will also bring video equipment with us to record anyone willing to share their stories and recollections of the crash, the search and recovery efforts, and how Lockerbie has recovered from the tragedy. We also hope that those who knew any of the victims will be willing to share their memories. These oral histories will be part of the Telling the Stories: The Pan Am Flight 103 Story Archives Project (see previous article).

Anyone interested in recording an oral history (in London, Dumfries or Lockerbie) should please contact Cara Howe at pa103archives@syr.edu or 00-1-315-443-0632 to schedule a time.
Materials Drive

As the 25th Anniversary of the bombing of Pan Am 103 approaches, the Archives is sponsoring a materials drive centered on expanding our collections to include information on more of the 270 victims and others involved in the aftermath of the tragedy. The Archives is interested in materials that memorialize those lost and demonstrate the impact Pan Am 103 has had on the world. Currently the Archives holds materials relating to 104 victims and sixteen lawyers, legislators, authors, composers, producers and investigators involved with the tragedy. The Archives extends an invitation to anyone with materials relating to Pan Am 103 to deposit them with us for the benefit of future generations.

Although a cash gift associated with the donation of materials is not required, preserving and indexing collections, re-housing them and storing them, and providing access to them online are costly tasks. Monetary support from individuals and organizations who donate materials is always appreciated.

If you are interested in donating materials please contact Assistant Archivist Cara Howe at pa103archives@syr.edu or 315-443-0632.