From the Director

It is time to pause, remember, and celebrate 50 years of the Syracuse University Archives! Syracuse University actually began collecting its history in 1929 when a room was set aside to house “the complete history of the University,” but it wasn’t until March 1959 that SU appointed its first professional archivist, Jim Owens, to manage the program.

Jim came to SU from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He and I knew each other when we both worked in the Boston area and were members of New England Archivists back in the 1970s and early 1980s. Little did I know at the time that I would end up carrying the torch he lit. When Jim was here the Archives were housed in the sub-basement of White Hall. That’s where they were when Amy Doherty took over in 1969 as our second archivist. Amy oversaw the eventual move to the Continental Can Building off campus, and the later move to Bird Library’s sixth floor where we are still housed. She was also there when the Archives’ storage moved from Con Can to the Hawkins Building where we still store the majority of our boxes.

Amy saw the Archives through the creation of the Records Management Program in 1991 and the 125th anniversary of the University in 1995. Her retirement that same year opened the door for me to move back east from a job in California. During my tenure we’ve renovated our space at Bird and Hawkins, added three staff members, and moved into the electronic age with a massive web presence. As you can see, we’ve even given our newsletter a new look. But through it all we still hold fast to our original goal of “preserving records that document the history, organization, policies, activities, and people of the University, and making those records available to researchers.”

—Ed Galvin, Director

Amy’s Retirement

The Archives lost an important member this year when Amy Doherty retired after 26 years of service. Amy was the longest serving archivist in the Archives’ history. She oversaw the Archives’ move to three different locations and watched as the program grew and changed to meet the needs of the University.

New Children’s Book Available

Last year Wendy Solomon Morton ’89 visited the SU Archives with her son. Wendy had lost a dear friend, Sandy Phillips, in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, and wanted to spend time in our Pan Am Archives. When she returned home to Arizona she wrote a children’s book about the visit, *Flipper and Dipper and the Treasures of 6 Bird*.

This 40-page look at the history and traditions of SU is a wonderful way for alumni to remember their years on “the Hill” and a way to share those years with their children and grandchildren.

Proceeds from the book, which is being distributed through SU Press, go to the Pan Am Flight 103 Archives to help preserve the legacies of those friends and loved ones who were lost.

Order online at arm.syr.edu/news_flipper.html or toll-free 1-800-365-8929.
100 Years Ago in the SU Daily Orange

Syracuse Daily Orange
February 12, 1909

SENIOR BALL ECLIPSES ALL PREVIOUS EVENTS

“The most brilliant and successful affair in the annals of Syracuse University” was the Senior Ball of last evening. Much is the praise showered upon the class of 1909 and Tau Theta Upsilon who carried the function to a successful close. With not less than three hundred couples on the floor in costumes made resplendent at every turn by myriads of glowing incandescent lights suspended beneath a canopy of orange and white crepe paper caught up in streamers and festoons, the Senior Ball presented a most charming and elaborate appearance, not only to the gliding, whirling dancers below but to the hundreds of spectators gathered in the balcony above.

To the scheme of decoration was due to a large measure the success of the evening. The idea, unique and original on the part of the committee in charge, consisted of a ceiling of orange and white crepe paper arranged so as to give a swing drape effect, and a side decoration following the rail of the running track of orange and white bunting. From side to side just beneath the ceiling in graceful curves were draped alternating streamers of orange and white electric lights. At the north end of the Gymnasium in incandescent form the numerals 1909 and at the south end an electric crescent and chains representing the pin of Tau Theta Upsilon made an attractive completion to the overhead decorations.

The fraternity boxes, separated by palms, presented a very striking and pleasing contrast. Decorated in their respective colors with a pennant before each and shaded electric lights within, their appearance was at once one of variation and simplicity.

With the band and orchestra located on opposite sides of the hall, the music reached every nook and corner. The effect as a whole was indeed one of dazzling splendor and unaffected completeness.

Archbold Gym Decorated for 1909 Senior Ball

Memory Test

Here is our latest mystery: four cornerstones from buildings on the SU campus. Can you match the cornerstone with the correct building? Check our web site, arm.syr.edu, for the answer—and more photos and information.

Recent Additions

Since last fall the Archives has received many new additions to its collections including:

- Papers of geography professor John Mercer
- 25 cartons of audiotapes from SU Library
- Photographs of SU drama productions from Peter Maloney ’63
- Drawings of sports figures done by Thomas “Pap” Paprocki donated by Gil Williams
- Small china cup with Crouse College pictured from Wally Bobkiewicz G’89
- Papers of Pamela Ray regarding Dark Elegy sculptures
- Videos of lectures of professor Benjamin Burtt, chemistry
- 41 scrapbooks of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity
- Cheerleader and nursing uniforms from Amy Scheiner Shaw ’77
- 31 boxes of endowment records from the Treasurer’s Office
- 1959 championship football team drinking glasses from Lois Hart Carnahan ’48
Galvin and Lowenstein Receive Keeping Spirit Alive Award

Archivist Ed Galvin, and Suse Lowenstein, creator of the *Dark Elegy* sculpture collection and mother of SU student victim Alexander Lowenstein who was killed in the bombing of Pan Am 103 in 1988, were the 2008 recipients of the Keeping the Spirit Alive Award from the Victims of Pan Am Flight 103 (VPAF 103). The awards were given during VPAF 103’s annual dinner, held in Syracuse on October 24.

The Keeping the Spirit Alive Award recognizes the person or persons who, over a long period of time, have succeeded in keeping the government and public aware of the important lessons learned from this terrorist action.

Galvin oversees the Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives at SU. This unique collection includes a broad range of government documents, newspaper clippings, and personal memorabilia from many of the 270 victims of the tragedy. “It is a comfort to know that one person has taken it on to give loving care to our memorabilia, to keep it for generations to come,” said Glenn Johnson, VPAF 103 board chair, in presenting Galvin with the award. “He has made it possible to use the Pan Am 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives to educate those who are trying to prevent similar acts of terrorism.”

For Galvin, his work in building and maintaining this special collection has been a labor of love. He has established many strong relationships with families of victims not connected to SU and has drawn on his experience in documenting this tragedy to help other universities, such as Virginia Tech, Bluffton University, and Northern Illinois University, in times of crisis.

Lowenstein created the *Dark Elegy* sculpture collection ([darkelegy103.com](http://darkelegy103.com)), which consists of 78 figures that depict mothers returning to the actual moment that they learned their child had died.

“*One by one they came to my studio, stepped onto a posing platform, closed their eyes, and went back to Dec. 21, 1988—to that horrible moment when they learned that their loved one had died*,” Lowenstein says of her work. “They allowed their bodies to fall into the position that it took upon hearing that most devastating news. Some screamed, some begged, some wept, some prayed, some curled into a ball, while others raised their fists in anger and despair. This is the moment that I froze in time; this is the pose that I shaped into sculpture.”

The award was presented to Lowenstein by Aphrodite Tsairis, first board chair of VPAF 103 and the mother of SU student victim Alexia Tsairis. She spoke of how Lowenstein doubted her ability to return to her work following the tragedy but realized the art was the most powerful form of expression that had lasting relevance. Tsairis was the first mother to pose for *Dark Elegy*.

More information on the organization can be found at [www.victimsofpanamflight103.org/](http://www.victimsofpanamflight103.org/).

Lowenstein Family Establishes Endowment

Peter, Suse, and Lucas Lowenstein have established the Alexander Lowenstein Pan Am 103 Archives Memorial Endowed Fund. This $100,000 fund, in honor of their son and brother, Alexander, will be used each year to support the Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives. The fund will help ensure that the memory of Pan Am 103 will be preserved and stewarded in a professional and comprehensive manner forever at SU.

Alexander, along with 269 others on the plane and on the ground, died in the 1988 terrorist bombing. His mother is the sculptor of *Dark Elegy*, which depicts 78 mothers or wives at that moment when they first heard the news of the death of their loved one in that terrorist act.

If you would like further information about establishing a similar endowment or making a financial contribution to this important initiative, please contact Jim Broschart, director of regional development, at 315-443-1120 or by e-mail at jjbrosch@syr.edu.

New Records Manager on Board

We are very pleased to announce that we have a new member of the Archives and Records Management family. Ted Hanousek was appointed University records manager last August after a nationwide search.

He comes to us from Rochester, N.Y., where he was records manager with the Rochester law firm of Underberg & Kessler LLP. Earlier, he worked with Barnes & Noble, Inc.

In his new job Ted oversees the University records management program; coordinates the Records Coordinator program, with more than 360 representatives from various SU schools, colleges, and departments; and oversees the University Records Center.

Ted is a Syracuse native and received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Alfred University. He is a member of the professional associations ARMA International and AIIM.

You may reach him at tbhanous@syr.edu or at 443-8388.

Ted Hanousek

Suse Lowenstein with *Dark Elegy*
Archives Works on Proposed SU Museum

In late July 2008, the Archives brought Meg Mason on board to act as coordinator for the content development project for the Couri Visitor Center and Museum. The original concept for a historical museum began with SU Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus John A. Couri ’63, who along with his wife, Elaine, made the initial $2 million gift to establish the center.

Working with Archives staff, Meg spent the late summer and fall months identifying and cataloging SU artifacts and images that may serve as content for the museum. More than 600 artifacts and more than 1,000 images have been entered into a FileMaker Pro database. Each record provides a digital image of the artifact or image as well as a description, physical dimensions and location, and suggested thematic content. Artifacts include textiles, sports equipment, buttons, dance cards, and other memorabilia. Images consist of photographs and negatives as well as published and unpublished documents, posters, and other ephemera. Meg also added more than 150 items from the Electronic Media Department.

Records Management News

Beginning with this issue, Access will be focusing solely on the Archives side of the house. Our new records manager, Ted Hanousek, is starting an electronic newsletter, SUfiles, that focuses on the records management program and will be distributed to our 360 records coordinators on campus. If you would like to get on Ted’s e-mail list, please let him know at tbhanous@syr.edu.

Staff Highlights

At the American Red Cross 10th Annual Real Heroes Breakfast in December, Archives’ own Mary O’Brien and her twin, Margaret O’Brien, were honored with the blood donor award for 35 years of donations.