



# staff news

## Cuba Conference Tour

From January 3 through 10, Robert Cleary, with his wife Abigail, and daughters Emma and Rosa went on the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Indigenous Legacies of the Caribbean Conference/Tour. All activities of the trip took place in historic eastern Cuba, beginning in Santiago in the province of Guantánamo. This was the fourth trip to Cuba for Abi, the second for Robert, and the first for Emma and Rosa. One of the goals of the conference was to maximize friendships between peoples, in particular, the indigenous Tainos of Cuba, once believed to have all perished with the arrival of Europeans. Abi was in charge of a group of seven high school students from her former school in Kansas City, which was the third group of students she has taken to this conference.

Highlights of the trip included a visit to the José Martí museum at Playitas de Cajobabo. This was the site where Martí and Máximo Gómez landed from Jamaica in 1895 to begin the second war for Cuban independence. After attending a play reconstructing that event by the school children of Playitas, Emma and Rosa were honored as the first American children to visit the children of the

school. In Emma's opinion, the Cuban children treated them like princesses. They made attempts to communicate and appeared to do quite well, despite the language difficulties.

The academic portion of the conference took place in Baracoa, founded in 1511 on the furthest eastern point of the island. The Clearys visited the spot where Columbus first landed in Cuba on December 1, 1492, near the shore of the hotel where they stayed.

The Clearys witnessed new history as well. Around 1910, Taino remains were taken from Cuba and resided in the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. These remains were formally repatriated during a reburial ceremony in the cemetery of the town of Caridad de los Indios, Guantánamo. Due to various bureaucratic difficulties between Cuba and the United States, the repatriation process took seven years from start to finish.

Additional information about the tour can be found at: <http://www.indigenousworldtours.com/tainotour.html>.

*Robert Cleary, Bibliographic Services Division*



*Emma and Rosa Cleary with the school children of Playitas de Cajobabo.*

## In Brief

... news about our staff



**Jo Scanlon**, Database Management, reports that recently **Kevin Atwater** had the opportunity to help a British colleague - Andrew Brown, the Llyfrgellydd Systemau Gwybodaeth at Prifysgo Cymru Abertawe - that's Information Systems Librarian at the University of Wales Swansea for those of you not up on your Welsh! Mr. Brown had been browsing old Voyager Listserv messages and found one indicating that Kevin had made a list of keyboard shortcuts for Voyager. Because Mr. Brown has an employee who has trouble using the mouse, he contacted Kevin who updated the list for the current version (2001.1.1) and sent the information to a very appreciative Mr. Brown. So, thanks to Kevin, SUL's participation in Voyager user circles has now gone international.

**David Balfourt**, Media Services Department, and **Darle Doran**, formerly Reference Department, now MGI, have announced their engagement. They are planning a wedding in October.

**Dorcas MacDonald**, Interlibrary Loan, will be bowling for breast cancer and would appreciate contributions of any amount for this great cause. If you are interested in contributing, please let her know by Wednesday, February 12.

### Remember the SULA Meeting on Tuesday, February 11

Francis McMillan Parks will speak at the next SULA meeting on February 11. She is the Director of Students Offering Service of Hendricks Chapel. She will speak to us about the organization, its history and the projects they have undertaken. Their web address is <http://students.syr.edu/depts/cpcs/cinv/sos.html>.

Join us in the 1916 Room on Tuesday, February 11 at 3 pm.  
Refreshments served at 2:45.

### Next Media Services Information Session

February 12, 2003    noon to 1 pm    045 ES Bird Library

#### Digitizing from microfilm

Media staff will demonstrate the use of the self-service Canon 400 Reader/Scanner for creating image files of pages from microfilm or microfiche resources. The image is saved as a .tif file and may be saved to a zip disc. Various applications software for importing these digitized images into text files and PowerPoint presentations will also be covered. Staffed services are also available to scan microfilm resources at a fee.

## Personnel News

**Cynthia Dietz** transferred to Receiving and Accounting on January 30.

**Scott Froelick** will start in Reserves on February 15.

Also on January 30, **Jennifer Roock** transferred to Serials.

We are pleased to announce that **Harriet Sonne de Torrens** has accepted the position of Head of the Fine Arts Department effective March 16. We thank the members of the search committee for bringing this search to a successful conclusion.

**Yuxin Yang** transferred to the Reference Department on January 23.



**Peter Graham's** recent reading included:

*Seek My Face* by John Updike

Extraordinarily smooth writing by John Updike, as expected, in a short book about a one-day interview of an aging woman artist by a self-centered young New York woman critic all in black. Not a lot of action; the day, including much on weather and windows, is a peg on which to hang reminiscences of the New York art scene of the 40s through 70s by a figure very like the wife of Jackson Pollock, or maybe also of Barnett Newman and Claes Oldenburg. A good read, but I find myself ignorantly asking what Updike is getting at.

*Churchill* by Roy Jenkins

Jenkins died recently. He is the one Winston Churchill biographer who had a career anything like his, and he writes well, too. It remains a parliamentary biography, very little about social movements in Britain during Churchill's years except as reflected in who gets elected. Yet Jenkins has more insight into Churchill's motives, assets, and liabilities than most, and an eye for the telling anecdote. He praises with faint praise, but ends up naming Churchill the finest PM Britain has ever had. Read with Geoffrey Best's of 2001, the other good bio.

**Cynthia Needham**, Reference Department, says that she read a wonderful novel over the winter break titled *Three Junes* by Julia Glass; it won the National Book Award for 2002. The story is told through the voices of one family who all live in different places in the world - Scotland, France, New York, and Greece. And, in Cindy's opinion, their story is truly about "how" and "what" people "love."

## Summary of the January 14, 2003 Cabinet Minutes

Peter Graham proposed two unit name changes: from Technical Services to Information Management Services (the Bibliographic Services Division would not be renamed) and from Special Collections to Special Collections Research Center For Students, Faculty and the Scholarly Community. There was a brief discussion and Cabinet will send additional thoughts and comments to Peter G.

Cindy Cost reported on outstanding searches. She reminded supervisors that self-evaluations were due on January 10. She is working on budget projections for the next six months and more information will be forthcoming. She has sent a draft process for creating job descriptions from JIQs to Human Resources for review.

Denise Stephens commented on the successful Voyager upgrade and thanked those involved. Some cleanup problems remain (e.g., some printing problems) and they are being addressed. She mentioned that the Library would be sending out a press release on the following new services: web site re-design, wireless laptops, and MyLibrary.

Bill Garrison said that he is making in-depth visits to areas of Bibliographic Services to acquaint himself with personnel and procedures. The Faxon failure is a major concern and is taking much of the time of Bibliographic Services personnel.

Peter McDonald noted that he would be meeting with all selectors for annual evaluations.

Eileen DeRycke explained the Guest Borrower Policy, including the different types of guests and the privileges for each type. Currently, there are problems relating to visiting faculty, visiting scholars, and emeriti professors who should have access to a fuller range of our services and resources. We now do a manual workaround, but are encouraging the University to add an appropriate I.D. category.

Peter McDonald, Bill Garrison, and Peter Graham reported on the Faxon failure and what we are doing to address the situation. Currently, we are trying to determine the extent of our exposure, trying to determine where to find the money to place orders with a new vendor, meeting with possible new vendors, and holding monograph orders except for Reserve materials. Our subscriptions with Faxon were primarily for print journals and most publishers are giving us a grace period of January/February or the first issue of the year. Bill Garrison is working on a RFP for periodical subscriptions for next year. Vice Chancellor Freund, Allan Breese, the Director of Business & Facilities Maintenance Services, and the University's lawyers at Bond, Schoeneck & King are all aware of the problem. Once we have additional information, Peter Graham will notify faculty.

Cabinet discussed procedures relating to Cabinet folders on the F drive.

Yuming Tung reported that Systems has created two phonemail lists—one for Cabinet members and one for technology associates. These lists will be used to notify us of system downtime. For technology associates without voicemail, Systems will make a phone call. Cabinet members expressed some concern about messages being left when a person was away from the Library and thus the message not being conveyed to the department.

Elaine Coppola asked for any final revisions to the policy section of the SU Student Handbook by January 31.

Complete minutes of this meeting are available on the F drive.

*Elaine Coppola, Reference Department*



*Members of the SUL group attending the SU - Pitt basketball game on January 18 in the Carrier Dome were treated to one of the most exciting games of the season.*

### **Basketball at it's BEST! SU vs Pittsburgh!**

It was my first SU basketball game – WOW – was I in for a treat! A group fourteen SUL staff members attended this amazing game. Before the game started, we had a moment of silence for the Columbia shuttle disaster that had occurred that same morning. After that, it was better than watching a good suspense movie. We were on the edge of our seats for the entire game, and what an ending! The energy and ambiance of the Dome was just out of this world!

*Nancy Pitre, Reference Department*



The Reference Department Book Display for February is quite a theatrical work of art, so please come and take a look. So often the Reference Desk is asked how to locate play reviews - so Wendy Bousfield, the subject selector for Drama, Charu Chawan and Cynthia Needham, decided to create a book display in the department that would assist with this frequently asked reference question. The display is titled: "Finding Play Reviews".

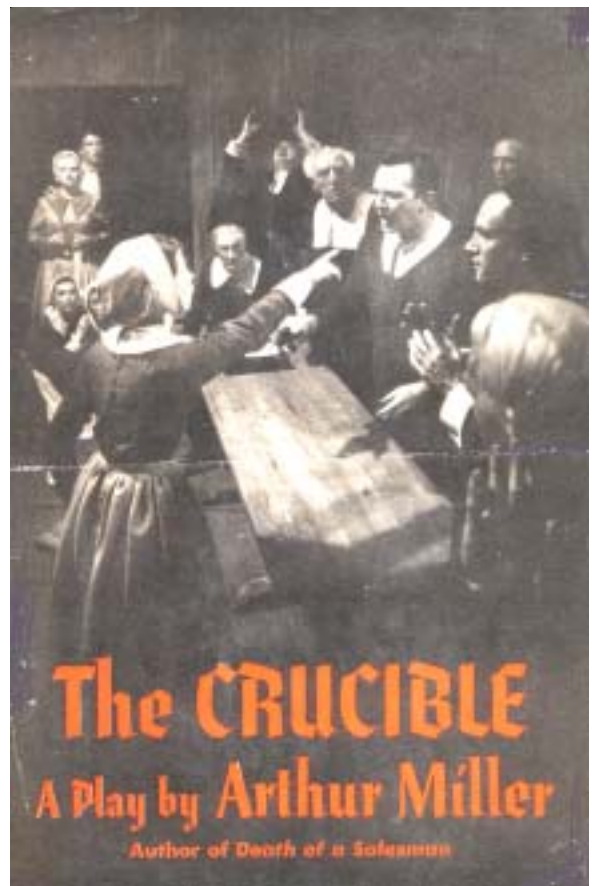
## Book of the Month for February/March *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

The Special Collections Research Center is featuring *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller as the Book of the Month for February and March. This selection coincides with the choice for the CNY Reading Initiative 2002 "If All CNY Reads Arthur Miller" and the production of *The Crucible* by Syracuse Stage. Miller has often been called America's greatest living playwright, and several of his works, notably *Death of a Salesman*, *The Crucible*, and *A View from the Bridge*, have received prestigious awards and are today widely studied and performed.

Miller became an object of the 1950's witch hunt for communists in the entertainment industry. The terror of this experience is one of the underlying themes of *The Crucible*. He also achieved a special place in the history of film because *The Misfits* became the last film for both Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe. The exhibit comprises first editions of most of Miller's plays, as well as his engaging narrative of his travels to China, *Salesman in Beijing*, and his insightful autobiography, *Timebends*. Syracuse Stage has generously lent photographs and programs for their performances of Miller's plays.



The first-floor exhibit cases now house an Arthur Miller display in conjunction with Syracuse Stage's presentation of *The Crucible* and the wind-up of the ongoing CNY Miller reading initiative.



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Please send material for the next *Staff News* by Thurs., Feb. 20, 2003 to the editor at 219 E.S. Bird Library.

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