

# Chapter Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH , 2010

## Chapter Elections in April

### Special points of interest:

- *Learn about Chapter elections and how to get involved.*
- *Discover new services and programs at other universities*
- *Learn about the upcoming spring meeting*

Election time looms and the Chapter is in need of enthusiastic members willing to run for the following offices:

### Vice President/President Elect - PA

This is a two year appointment [2010-2012]. This year the candidates are from Pennsylvania as the position alternates between West Virginia and Pennsylvania members.

### Secretary

This is a two year appointment [2010-2012] and is open to West Virginia and Pennsylvania members.

### Member at Large – PA

This is a two year appointment [2010-2012] and is open to Pennsylvania members.

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This is a two year appointment [2010-2012] and is open to West Virginia and

Pennsylvania members.

Please consider nominating your colleagues or yourself to serve the Chapter in these important positions. Elections will be held April 5th-16th. If you need further information about the nomination or election process, contact Liz Evans at [eevans@pointpark.edu](mailto:eevans@pointpark.edu).

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## Join WPWVC-ACRL!

Interested in becoming more active in the academic library community outside of your institution? Then join the Western Pennsylvania West Virginia Chapter of ACRL!

To join, simply visit the chapter website located at: <http://www.wpwvcacrl.org> and click on "Join the Chapter or Renew Your Membership" on the left side of the screen. Mem-

bership fees are payable via Paypal or check.

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Fees are:

- \$15 for Professionals

- \$10 for Students or Retirees

- \$100 for Institutions

We look forward to working with you.



## IUP to Host WPWV ACRL Spring Meeting

Indiana University of Pennsylvania will host the Spring meeting of the WPWV ACRL Chapter on Friday, May 21st. Presentations and discussions will focus on grassroots initiatives, with keynote speaker Danielle Theiss-White discussing innovation in today's academic library in her address, *(R)Evolutionary Academic Library Services*.

Theiss-White is the General Reference Coordinator at Hale Library, Kansas State University. Over the past three years, the General Reference Unit in Kansas State's Libraries has undergone significant changes to meet

the needs of their undergraduate population. Changing IM services, introducing text messaging and consolidating to a single reference service area are just some of the changes K-State Libraries have undergone.

This workshop has been partially funded with Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds administered by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries and would not have been possible without the help of the College and Research Division of PaLA. Show your appreciation by becoming a member of PaLA! And if you

are a member – thank you.

Go to the chapter website, <http://www.wpwvacrl.org> for more details about the Spring Meeting.



Danielle Theiss-White

## Murder Mystery at the Hanley Library

It is after hours on a cold Friday night. Students are burrowed in their dorms; staff have long gone home. Inside Hanley Library a man lay at the bottom of the stairs. Slowly, a white sheet is pulled over the dead body; at the same time a student knocks at the door.

It's a Murder Mystery Party! Hanley Library at Pitt Bradford rewarded their nineteen student workers at the end of Fall semester with a party based on the board game *Clue*. Most lights were turned off, spooky music oozed through the PA system and staff eerily went about their business. Students entered the library in teams with their

first of ten clues. Each team had crossword/word-search puzzles, pictograms, rhymes, etc. to solve. With



every clue the team gained exoneration cards, which were personalized to make Hanley Library staff, rooms, and

objects the "who," "where," and "what." A checklist was used to mark off suspects as they solved clues and collected cards. Unfortunately, the final clue envelope was clutched in the rigid hand of the body (compliments of a staff member's good natured boyfriend). Afterwards everyone shared their favorite parts of the game, giving suggestions to make "next time even creepier." We are now circulating thoughts of using this mystery theme as a way to introduce incoming students to the resources of the library. However, we will most likely consider a fully lit library with approachable staff and no dead body on the floor...

## AFR Pittsburgh gets Fired Up



In September 2009, Pittsburgh's Alliance for Response network presented a program on fire safety for cultural heritage organizations. The featured speaker was Nick Artim of the Heritage Protection Group, a Middlebury, Vermont-based collaborative of fire protection and security consultants and engineers that specializes in

heritage protection. Artim is considered one of North America's preeminent experts in fire safety for cultural heritage.

In the program, Artim described the general philosophy of fire safety for libraries, archives, museums, historic structures, and other cultural heritage agencies. Artim discussed a full range of fire safety issues, starting with basic fire chemistry – how a fire starts and develops. He then related the typical fire risks that exist in cultural properties and how through fire prevention and risk reduction measures, the

threat can be minimized.

Looking ahead, Alliance for Response Pittsburgh plans to focus its spring 2010 program on Heritage Preservation's Mayday efforts, as well as on examining the "anatomy of a response" to a disaster and how members might learn what to do and what not to do in a similar situation. The meeting is to be held on the afternoon of March 23 at the University of Pittsburgh Thomas Blvd. facility. For more information on AFR, contact John Barnett at [Barnett@palci.org](mailto:Barnett@palci.org).

## Free At Last? Slavery in Pittsburgh Exhibition now Online

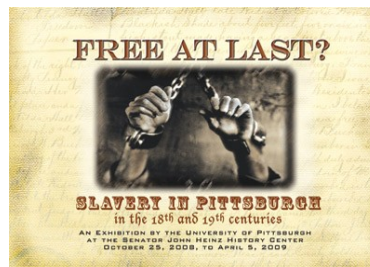
The University of Pittsburgh-produced exhibition *Free at Last? Slavery in Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th Centuries*, which was on display during the 2008-09 academic year at the Senator John Heinz History Center, lives on in a compelling Web version.

By visiting [www.library.pitt.edu/freetatlast/](http://www.library.pitt.edu/freetatlast/) viewers are guided through a virtual tour of the award-winning exhibition seen by thousands between October 2008 and April 2009.

*Free at Last?* writes a new chapter in the early history of race relations in this region by exploring the little-known fact that slavery persisted in

Western Pennsylvania through the years immediately preceding the Civil War. The exhibition centers on 55 handwritten records of legal transactions in Pittsburgh between 1792 and 1857 that were discovered in 2007 by staff in the Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds Office.

Highlights of the exhibition include, video segment narrated by Pitt History Professor Laurence A. Glasco, a zoom and navigation tool closer viewing of the handwritten documents, a typed



transcript of the handwritten text, and a photo gallery of 81 thumbnail images.

The exhibition won six 2009 Golden Triangle Awards from the

International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), including the award for Best of Show. It also received the CASE District II Gold Award in the Individual Special Public Relations Projects category and the PRSA Pittsburgh Renaissance Award.

## Chatham University Archives Unveils First Flickr Collection

This past December, the Chatham University Archives contributed to Flickr a digitized collection of 110 nineteenth century lantern slides depicting Biblically significant locations in Jerusalem and Palestine.

Flickr allows Chatham and the numerous other institutions that have already joined to reach a new and larger audience. Members also benefit from the knowledge of the Flickr community, who help identify and describe images with tags, comments, and embedded notes.

Several factors contributed to Chatham's involvement in Flickr. First among these was the success of other institutions, most notably the Library of Congress, who launched a prominent Flickr project in January of 2008. Another important factor was the desire to publicize a collection many might not expect to find in the Chatham Archives, a small archive that primarily collects materials related to the history of the university. With limited collection information and provenance, Chatham also hoped to learn more

about the images and how they were produced.

Since the Holy Land Lantern Slides Collection went live, the images have seen over 700 hits according to Flickr supplied statistics. Considering that no researcher has ever consulted this collection in person, this is an extraordinary number.

You can view the online collection at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/14599621@N02/>. Please feel free to comment or tag if you know more about the images you see.

## Library Self-Guided Tour

The University of Pittsburgh, Hanley Library has come up with an exciting activity to help students learn about the library. The activity is called the *Library Self-Guided Tour*. The "tour" guides first year students to discover and explore multiple collections throughout the library including the reference desk, circulation desk, audio/visual collection, reference collection, and circulating collection. Students learn how to search for various materials in different collections, including a search using the library OPAC. Their searches include



physically exploring the various collections, asking for help at the Reference Desk and the Circulation Desk. Students learn where they can pick up print jobs, gain access to materials professors have put on reserve, check out laptops and/or study room keys to study in groups, etc.

Marietta Frank, Reference/Bibliographic Instruction Librarian started the activity while working with the composition program on campus. The professors and the students have generated positive feedback regarding

the "tours." Not only do the students learn the faces of the librarians at their assistance every day, they also have fun gaining the foundation and confidence to feel comfortable utilizing Hanley Library and its research benefits throughout their college careers. Students who complete this tour are able to confidently ask questions, borrow materials from Hanley Library as well as other libraries, complete searches and/or ask for more guidance on searches once they have done the preliminary work. Research is made approachable and this is one of the most important steps in getting first year students through our doors!

VISIT THE NEW CHAPTER  
WEBSITE!

[WWW.WPWVCACRL.ORG](http://WWW.WPWVCACRL.ORG)



## Chapter Mission

This Chapter is to be a forum for and an advocate of academic and research librarians and library personnel and all other information professionals that serve academic and research libraries who live or work in the region of western Pennsylvania and all of West Virginia. The purpose of the Chapter is to:

- 1) provide opportunities for the professional growth of its members by conducting workshops, conferences, programs, etc.
- 2) encourage the exchange of ideas and information relating to library development and issues.
- 3) disseminate educational information oriented to academic and research librarians.
- 4) support and participate in, where appropriate, other regional and local organizations in the region.

The chapter has also set annual goals in support of its mission and ACRL's strategic plan, viewable at

<http://sites.google.com/site/wpwvcacrlorg/home/about>

## Renovation a Hit with Students

At the WVU's Evansdale library, we wanted to replace the carpet. This project morphed to a renovation of the first floor, including new carpet, based on student feedback. Dr. Cindy Beacham, Chair of the Interior Design Division was generous in giving us comments and direction on what and how to ask for the changes we wanted. She also helped us to design a short online survey for students in spring 2008 and ran three focus groups for us in October 2008.

The results were shared with our campus designer and she included what



she could, based on the budget. We now have a combined service desk so students have one place to stop for assistance. There is a snack area with a variety of options for seats and a campus information station.

The students wanted color and texture so the designer gave us a warm, creamy yellow paint and a dusty blue wallpaper and paint. Some of the seating is movable and can be nested in a corner if space is needed. Many of the tables



can also be moved and collapsed if needed. Plus we now have three new study/conference rooms on the

first floor with six movable white boards.

Systems took this opportunity to provide us with 6 iMacs and 5 Macbooks which are very popular with the students. We also have a variety of display areas for students to display their projects, already being used by a design student this semester. The students seem to be happy with the results and are using the space more than ever.