Note from the Archives Manager

Hello, Mount Community!

What a busy semester we have had in the archives! Here are a few of our numbers:

- **22 research hours** completed by students, faculty, staff, alumni, and scholars outside of the Mount community
- **28 information requests** (In the 2015-2016 AY, we had a total of 25 requests. What an improvement in just one semester!)
- **280 hours** of work completed by **4 student interns**
- **4 archival exhibits**
- **1 campus-wide scavenger hunt**
- **1 feature article in The Mountain Echo**

I would like to thank you for your continued interest and support in the archives and Mount history. God bless you and your families this holiday season, and I look forward to working with you again in the New Year.

*Jessica Whitmore*
Brute Manuscript Conservation

This manuscript was sketched by Fr. Simon Brute on July 1, 1822, and it consists of a map of campus and a corresponding legend. This drawing is the oldest image in existence of the Mount campus.

The manuscript has suffered much wear over the years. Perhaps most damaging was the cellulose acetate lamination that was placed on the document in the 1960s, which many erroneously believed would protect the drawing from further damage. Unfortunately, the acids in the lamination have been deteriorating the drawing ever since. Other current preservation concerns include discoloration, tearing, and the sulfuric acid produced by the iron gall ink. Finally, the drawing had been previously framed, and in the process, was ironed onto a highly-acidic backing paper.

Conservation work to restore the manuscript began earlier this semester by Ray-Rachel Cleveland of Cleveland Conservation of Art on Paper, Inc. Ms. Cleveland’s work will include:

- Removing the cellulose acetate lamination
- Separating the drawing from the existing acidic backing papers
- Reducing the acids and discoloration currently in the drawing
- Mending tears and reinforcing weak areas of the paper
- Applying a new back liner that is of an archival and conservational grade

While the original drawing will continue to be fragile and will require proper archival housing, a facsimile of the drawing is being made that can be permanently displayed. Stay tuned for an announcement for our unveiling reception of the drawing, once it is fully restored!

About the Conservator

Rachel-Ray Cleveland is the President of Cleveland Conservation of Art on Paper, Inc. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Intaglio Printmaking from the University of Iowa, a master’s degree in Conservation of Paper from SUNY Buffalo, and a graduate certificate in Collection Management from the Chicago Art Institute.

She has been a member for the American Institute of Conservation for over 25 years. Further, she is a member of the International Institute for Conservation and the International Institute of Paper Conservation. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Washington Conservation Guild.

Her conservation projects include:

- The letters of George Washington – Mount Vernon Estates and Gardens
- Shakespearian-era globes – Folger Shakespeare Library
- The papers of Thomas Jefferson – Library of Congress
- Rembrandt etching – Private Collection
Veterans Day Update

Our Veterans’ Day Exhibit was a big success! The exhibit featured the sword of William Whelan, C’1826, who went on to become Surgeon General of the US Navy during the Civil War. Additional items included World War I photographs of soldiers on campus, rosaries carried by Mount alumni during World War II, a log book from the World War II flight training programs on campus, ROTC memorabilia, and of course, a photo of the Trainor family.

Adjacent to the exhibit was the non-profit organization Roots for Boots, sponsored by iLEAD. With their core values of Serve, Educate, and Inspire, Roots for Boots works to help local veterans and their families. Founder Christy Lucas spoke on campus in September as part of the “Living Leadership” series, and we welcomed her back to campus.

We thank everyone who came to the exhibit, and we especially thank all of our veterans for your tremendous service!

Interested in helping local veterans on and off campus? Click the links below!
On November 4-5, Archives Manager Jessica Whitmore attended the fall conference of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) after receiving the organization’s Marsha A. Trimble Travel scholarship.

Held in Annapolis, the theme of this year’s conference was “Capitol/Capital: Making the Most of Archival Assets/Resources.” In addition to networking with other archivists across the region, Whitmore enjoyed engaging sessions including:

- Grant Funding for Your Next Project
- Wearing Many Hats: Multi-faceted Roles and Creative Resources for Archivists
- Truth and Reconciliation in Campus Archives
- Lessons from the Shop Floor: Innovations in Labor Archives that May Be Useful to You
- Archival Education and Outreach

The plenary speaker was Ms. Deborah Tulani Salahu-Din, a curator at the Smithsonian’s new Museum of African American History and Culture. Her presentation, “Collecting Evidence of the Black Lives Matter Movement in Baltimore,” was a powerful and inspirational talk of her experiences collecting artifacts from the Baltimore protests, days after the events occurred.

Overall, the conference was a very engaging and informative experience, and Whitmore looks forward to working with MARAC in the future.