

## Archives Management Roundtable Newsletter

JULY 2004

### Please Join Us in Boston!

Casey Edward Greene, Chair, will speak on, "Give the People What They Want! An Alternative Strategy for Handling Office Politics," during the first half of our Roundtable's meeting in Boston, Saturday, August 7, 2004, 8-9:30 AM. He will draw on Tony Allesandra, Ph.D, and Michael J. O'Connor, Ph.D., *The Platinum Rule: Discovering the Four Basic Business Personalities and How They Can Lead You to Success* (New York: Warner Books, c1996). Typically, people seek specific, cookbook advice when handling a difficult person in the work environment. *The Platinum Rule* in contrast offers a global approach to understanding how employees differ in their workplace expectations and their personal styles. By utilizing its research – as well as other books and personal experiences – Greene will show how disputes can often be resolved by *adapting* to others' personal styles. During his presentation, the audience will divide into small groups and discuss several typical workplace problems. Afterwards, Greene and Newsletter Editor Kerrie Cross will lead a discussion on developing session proposals for the 2005 SAA annual meeting. Please join us in Boston for a most stimulating discussion and meeting!

- *Meeting Announcement*
- *Institutional Spotlight:*  
*Thomas J. Dodd*  
*Research Center*
- *SAA Annual Meeting :*  
*Session of Interest*
- *Professional or Institutional News Wanted*

## **The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center**

### **Background**

The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center was officially dedicated in October 1995 by President Bill Clinton and opened its doors to researchers in January 1996. The building was designed to house the University of Connecticut Libraries' archives, special collections and rare books. In addition, the new building also contained a number of public spaces, including an exhibit gallery, a 185-seat auditorium, and public meeting rooms.

The Center opened with considerable fanfare. In addition to President Clinton's visit, there was a ten-day series of programs focusing on Human Rights and the Rule of Law. These events celebrated the life of Thomas J. Dodd, who was a prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials from 1945-46 as well as serving Connecticut's senior senator from 1958 through 1970.

Following the initial conference, the University celebrated the opening of the Dodd Center with events focused on human rights over the next twelve months. Many of these events were scheduled in Dodd Center facilities and the Center soon became a popular venue for campus events.

### **Collections**

The University of Connecticut Libraries began developing special collections in 1964. Initially, collecting focused on rare books and literary manuscripts and one of the significant early acquisitions were the papers of poet Charles Olson. In the late 1970s, the Library hired Rand Jimerson as University Archivist and a collection of materials reflecting Connecticut and university history soon developed. These two programs remained physically and administratively separate within the University Libraries until the Dodd Center united them in one building.

Major collecting areas include the Alternative Press Collection. This program began during the Vietnam War period with anti-war literature and expanded to include activist movements fomenting social change. It is now one of the larger collections in the United States.

The Connecticut history materials focus on business, labor, politics and ethnic heritage and immigration. Significant collections include the records of the New Haven Railroad, Southern New England Telephone, Connecticut State AFL-CIO, the Connecticut Historic Preservation Collections and the senatorial papers of Prescott Bush and Francis T. Maloney. Most materials are from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the Center does house some collections that began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Center houses one of the largest collections of illustrated children's books and papers of children's book authors and illustrators in the United States. The collection reflects a New England bias and, again, the primary focus is on the 20<sup>th</sup> century to avoid conflicts with older regional collections. Two other strengths are collections focusing on natural history including the paper of naturalist Edwin Way Teale, and a Hispanic History and Culture Collection that emphasizes primarily Latin America and Puerto Rico.

## **A\*CENSUS will soon be coming to your Archives**

The Archival Census and Educational Needs Survey in the U.S. (A\*CENSUS) is an IMLS grant funded project managed by SAA. Please take the time to fill out this survey and help SAA determine the current status and future needs of the profession.

For more information about the A\*CENSUS project go to <http://www.archivists.org/a-census/>.

### **Professional or Institutional News Wanted**

Roundtable members are encouraged to submit professional accomplishments and institutional news items for inclusion in this newsletter. Please send submissions to Kerrie A. Cross, University Archivist, Albert Emanuel Hall Room 211, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469-1360, or Kerrie. Cross@udayton.edu.

SAA, Archives Management Roundtable  
Kerrie A. Cross, Editor  
211 Albert Emanuel Hall  
University of Dayton  
Dayton, Ohio 45469-1360



The Center began with several endowment accounts created prior to the building dedication. Working with the University Foundation and the Library's Director of External Relations, the Center has sought to create new endowments or increase those already in existence. There are currently endowments available to support four major collecting areas along with endowment funds for researcher travel grants and internships.

## Management

The Dodd Center is one of seven areas within the University Library structure. Other areas include Access Services, Collection Services, Director's Office and Administrative Services, Information Technology Services, Regional Libraries, and Research and Information Services. Each area head serves as a member of the Libraries' Leadership Council that provides library management and oversight. The Library moved from a hierarchical to a team environment with a major reorganization in 1996. Leadership Council meetings are open to all staff members with agendas and minutes of meetings sent to all staff.

The Dodd Center operates in a team environment. Staff meets weekly to review issues and concerns. The group sets annual and long-term goals and these are tied to individual goals. Staff evaluations are done on an annual basis and merit is awarded on the basis of staff achievements that are tied to area and library goals.

The Center also has an advisory board of sixteen members. The board meets at least twice each year and provides advice on programmatic direction and assists with fund raising efforts.

## Public Programming

In addition to hosting a variety of events in its auditorium and public spaces, the Dodd Center actively pursues a variety of public programs. It hosts an active exhibit program in two exhibit spaces within the building. In any given year there may be up to ten different exhibits.

The Center also sponsors a number of lecture series. These include the Raymond and Beverly Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights, Nature and the Environment: The Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series and the Greenwich Capital Markets Lecture in Business. These lectures provide faculty and students with an opportunity to listen to and meet distinguished speakers.

In 2003, the Center hosted the first Thomas J. Dodd Prize in Human Rights. The prize honors an individual or group that has furthered the cause of international justice and human rights in the United States or around the world. The award winner receives a monetary award of \$75,000 and a bust of Thomas Dodd. The initial winners were Prime Minister Tony Blair of Great Britain and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern of Ireland, who were recognized for their efforts in bringing peace to Northern Ireland.

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## Conclusion

Over the past nine years, the Thomas J. Dodd Center has made a significant impact on the University of Connecticut campus. Through staff outreach, its collections are heavily used and student and faculty use of collections increased on an annual basis. Public outreach programs have brought more than 15,000 students, faculty and members of the public into the building each year to view exhibits and participate in a wide range of programs. Through a new building, a dedicated staff and active programming, the Dodd Center has become a center for learning and research that is known and appreciated by the University community.

— Thomas Wilsted, University of Connecticut

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### Session of Interest

#### *Archives Unplugged: Archival Management*

Thomas Wilsted will host a workshop at the SAA Annual Meeting from 2:00 to 3:30 on Friday, August 6th. The SAA Conference Program states that, "the workshop will cover supervision, strategic planning, and budgeting in an informal setting of lecture, case studies and group discussions."

The workshop will be recorded and available for sale to conference attendees who cannot attend the session or to members who will not be at the SAA Annual Meeting.

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