Together in Faith:
The Archives Presents the Papal Exhibit

After Pope Benedict XVI’s monumental April 17, 2008, visit to Catholic University, the president’s office asked the University Archives to create a traveling exhibit about the visit to illustrate its deep significance.

As point person for the university’s museum collection, Leslie Knoblauch, records management archivist, managed the project. She focused on the preparation for the papal visit, student involvement and the events on April 17, 2008, and created the exhibit in 10 weeks. CUA facilities office employees built the walls to frame the exhibit, which featured spectacular photographs from Tony Fiorini, the university photographer. Fine arts company Surroundart custom-built the exhibit cases and designed the text panels and title banner.

Titled “Together in Faith: The Pope Visits Catholic University,” the exhibit included the chair from which the Holy Father presented his talk on Catholic education to 400 Catholic educators at the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center; the original zucchetto, or skullcap, worn by the pope when he arrived on campus; and many other commemorative items. It was installed in July in the Columbus School of Law. From there, it traveled to John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library, McMahon Hall, the Pryzbyla Center, and the School of Architecture and Planning, completing its display tour on Dec. 1, 2008.

To bring the exhibit to alumni, Knoblauch also managed the creation of an online papal exhibit, assisted by talented Mullen Library staff members Shanyun Zhang, head of electronic services, and Jonathan Smith, electronic services librarian. Zhang handled the graphic design, while Smith managed the Web coding and editing. The online exhibit offered viewers up-close access to the items in the exhibit, as well as further details about the different parts of the exhibit. Access it at http://libraries.cua.edu/papalexhibit/.
A Note from the Archivist: Change and Progress

By Timothy J. Meagher, Ph.D., Curator and University Archivist

Though the University Archives lost two staff members whose contributions were vital to our work—Patrick Cullum and W. Jordan Patty—we have already benefited from the talents of two new staff members, Audiovisual Archivist Robin Pike and Graduate Library Pre-Professional Eben Dennis.

We continue to improve our Web presence, process vital collections and participate in outreach. Dennis is working hard to complete the processing of the Monsignor George Higgins papers, begun by Jordan Patty during his tenure here. John Shepherd made significant progress developing online finding aids for the Powderly papers and the National Catholic Education Association records, among others. Assisted by Robin Pike, Leslie Knoblauch managed the creation of a traveling Pope Benedict XVI exhibition and accompanying Web site, in addition to her ongoing duties bringing in new university records to the archives. Moreover, Knoblauch is redesigning our records management Web site, and has processed some of the more important university collections, such as the records of the Board of Trustees, which had been left unorganized. Jane Stoeffler and Knoblauch mounted exhibitions for the provost in Curley Hall and Mullen Library in September, and Stoefller recently created an exhibit on the Commission on American Citizenship in our Reading Room, using materials from that collection. Maria Mazzenga worked with the Holocaust Museum to place CUA’s radio condemnation of the Nazi Kristallnacht pogrom in historical context with a group of scholars of religion. She later worked with CUA Magazine to publicize the broadcast. She is also managing a multi-year project in cooperation with Catholic Charities, USA, which houses its records at the archives. The project entails the creation of a historical photo exhibit, as well as two new Web sites drawing from the Catholic Charities records.

ACUA Staff

Archives staff, from left; back row, Tim Meagher, Maria Mazzenga, John Shepherd; front row, Jane Stoeffler, Leslie Knoblauch and Robin Pike
The Archives Recalls CUA’s Relationship with the Knights of Columbus

By Robin Pike, Audiovisual Archivist

For more than a century, The Catholic University of America has shared a close and supportive relationship with the Knights of Columbus, a prominent religious fraternal organization.

The association began in 1898 with the establishment of Knights of Columbus, Keane Council 353, of Washington, D.C., named for the first rector of the university, Rev. John Joseph Keane, with a core membership from the university. In 1899, Rev. Philip Garrigan, the vice rector of the university, asked the Knights of the Columbus to endow a chair of American history. This event was commemorated on April 13, 1904, in a ceremony in front of McMahon Hall, where the Knights presented an oversized check in the amount of $55,633.79 to fund the chair.

Over the next 10 years, the Knights worked with CUA to establish an endowment fund for students, with preference given to Knights and their families. In 1914, they presented CUA with $500,000 for the Knights of Columbus Endowment.

The university continued to work collaboratively with the Knights over the next few decades. In 1954, Columbus University merged with Catholic University, and the Columbus School of Law was officially founded.

In recognition of this longstanding relationship, Catholic University has awarded honorary degrees to several notable Knights over the years. In 1957, Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart was granted a Doctor of Laws degree. Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters in 1967. Most recently, in 2008 Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and his wife, Dorian, were awarded Doctor of Theology degrees.

Catholic University has found additional ways to bring the spiritual and social principles of the Knights of Columbus on campus. On April 1, 1987, CUA Council 9542 was chartered, making membership for students more accessible. Two Supreme Knights, Virgil C. Dechant, and Carl A. Anderson, were elected to the university’s Board of Trustees in 1991 and 2003.

The most recent and prominent contributions the Knights have made to the university have been the Bicentennial Fund, used to build the current Columbus School of Law, dedicated in 1994, and the $8 million grant for the renovation of Keane Hall, which was re-dedicated as McGivney Hall on Sept. 8, 2008.

For more information, please consult the Knights of Columbus and McGivney Hall reference files at the archives.
Manuscript Collection Update

By W. John Shepherd
Associate Archivist

The University Archives is pleased to announce the addition of online finding aids for four important manuscript collections, as well as significant updates to two existing finding aids. There is also notable progress toward completing finding aids for six other collections. URLs for these collections appear at the end of this article.

With assistance from practicum student Ben Justesen, we completed an online finding aid for the papers of labor leader and civil servant T.V. Powderly.¹ Although a significant portion of the papers was microfilmed in the 1970s, and parts of the photograph series had been digitized online more recently,² there was no complete finding aid available until now.

With contributions from practicum student Dale Park, we also posted a series level (no folder listings) finding aid for the records of the National Catholic Education Association, giving this important collection a Web presence despite the fact that the finding aid is not yet complete.³ Additionally, Education Archivist Maria Mazzenga and I assisted and/or supervised student worker Yuki Yamazaki and practicum students Taras Zvir and Sandra Ware to complete finding aids for collections of material of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X,⁴ as well as CUA’s own Commission on American Citizenship.⁵

Last year we reported on the creation of an online finding aid for the records of the National Catholic War Council.⁶ This included detailed folder listings for the first three of the total 10 series of files. We are pleased to announce an update, adding folder listings for Series 4, the Reconstruction Committee (1918–1922), and a plan to complete additional series listings by the time of the next newsletter. There was also an update reflecting the addition of important printed material to the existing finding aid for the records of the NCWC Social Action Department.⁷ Additionally, there has been significant progress in processing collections with several large or otherwise important finding aids nearing completion. These include work on the papers of labor leader John Mitchell and Catholic World War I veteran Robert O’Connell and, under my supervision, Robin Pike’s work on the Vatican Council I scrapbook of photographs, Eben Dennis’s on the papers of labor priest Monsignor George Higgins, and the work of other students on the papers of church historian Monsignor Peter Guilday.

¹http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/powderly.html
²http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsdl/collect/powderly/powderly.shtml
³http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/ncea.html
⁴http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/socpiusx.html
⁵http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/americancit.html
⁶http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/NCWarCouncil.html
⁷http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/socact.html

Stirring the Election Memories of a Past Generation ...
Remembering Tim Pettigrew

By Jane Stoeffler
Administrative Assistant

Recently, University Archives has witnessed a surge of renewed interest in one of its more popular digital collections, the Treasure Chest of Fun & Fact. Although we have always received a great deal of positive feedback from researchers about this collection, the current presidential election sparked the collective memories of many members of the Treasure Chest audience. The impetus for this resurgence of interest is a six-part series that ran from January 30 through June 4 of 1964. Officially titled “1976 — Pettigrew for President!” the serial is presented as a futuristic fulfillment of the Declaration of Independence’s assertion that “all men are created equal” in that a “negro” man is nominated by a major party to run for president of the United States (the series doesn’t

Left: Cover of Treasure Chest comic book
New Leadership for the University Libraries

By Leslie Knoblauch
Records Management Archivist

The University Archives is part of the university library system, and is under the direction of the head of the university libraries. When Michael McLane, director of libraries since 2005, retired in April, two new positions were created, the associate provost for university libraries and interim director of library administration.

Kimberly B. Kelley, Ph.D., hired in 2007 as the dean of the School of Library and Information Science, was named associate provost for university libraries. Since her arrival at CUA, Kelley has managed the School of Library and Information Science re-accreditation process and formed a committee to explore new avenues for synergy between the library school and the different campus libraries and the archives.

Before coming to the university, Kelley served as the vice provost and dean of academic resources and services at the University of Maryland University College. She received a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in library science from Emory University. She received her Ph.D. in higher education policy, planning and administration from the University of Maryland, College Park.

The position of interim director of library administration went to Stephen Connaghan, who also serves as the selector for anthropology materials.

Connaghan has been with the university libraries since he received his undergraduate degree in anthropology from CUA in 1991. Since then he has received a master’s degree in library science from Catholic University. He has held various positions within the university libraries during his tenure, including associate director for library technology, head of library facilities and information systems, head of library information systems, electronic access librarian, and interlibrary loan assistant II/graduate librarian pre-professional.

run past the party nominating process). Pettigrew is the governor of New York and his opponent is a white Southerner named Willard Oilengass. The series covers the primary process and features discussion of ballot counts, the Vietnam War (Pettigrew is a vet), and national convention politics. Throughout the series, there are suggestions that Pettigrew is African American, but his identity is not revealed until the second to last panel. One of our initial inquiries came from a gentleman named Larry Davenport who wrote that while attending St. Catherine of Siena school, “We looked forward to the Treasure Chest comic book delivery almost as much as recess and ‘hot dogs on

Thursdays.’” He recalled that “around 1964 or 1966,” a story featured “a future U.S. president who was very wise and kind, but never seen.” A multitude of similar inquiries to the archives were soon to follow. Although, due to copyright restrictions, we are unable to post digitized versions of the Treasure Chest past 1963, we have been able to provide photocopies to researchers who have requested them. We have also installed an exhibit in our reading room featuring several images from this series.
For years, a record intriguingly labeled “Catholic Protest Against Nazis, November 16, 1938,” sat mutely in the archives, marred by a long scratch, it was surmised, from someone trying to play it on a turntable not of its time. The label was intriguing because Catholics are not known for their vociferous protest against the Nazis, either in Europe or the United States. Archives staff were eager to hear what the record held. After taking the record to a digital preservation specialist, we discovered that the recording, made under the auspices of Catholic University, does indeed have historic value. Organized by Rev. Maurice Sheehy, the Catholic Protest Against the Nazis is in fact a national broadcast carried by the NBC and CBS radio networks protesting what today is known as Kristallnacht, the anti-Jewish pogrom of Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, when the Nazis attacked and killed Jews across Germany, and destroyed thousands of their homes, businesses and synagogues. The pogrom is today considered the beginning of the systematic brutality constituting the Holocaust.

Realizing the recording’s historical value, University Archivist Timothy Meagher and Education Archivist Maria Mazzenga presented it to staff at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, who encouraged them to submit a proposal for a research workshop related to U.S. religious responses to the Holocaust for funding by the museum. The workshop on U.S. Religious Responses to Kristallnacht was held at the Holocaust Museum for two weeks in August 2007. Working with museum staff and seven other scholars, Mazzenga introduced the group to the recording and made some observations about its potential significance, while other participants presented their own research findings on Jewish, Protestant and Catholic responses to the pogrom. Their findings will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in a book edited by Mazzenga titled American Religious Responses to Kristallnacht next year.

In addition to the academic volume, staff at the archives have created a Web site at which the full 27-minute recording as well as other recently discovered primary source materials related to Kristallnacht can be accessed. Titled “American Catholics and Nazi Anti-Semitism: Father Maurice Sheehy, Father Charles Coughlin, and the 1938 Catholic University Kristallnacht Broadcast,” the site can be found at http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/kristallnacht/index.html.

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**Farewell to Jordan Patty**

The University Archives is sad to report the departure in January 2008 of Processing Archivist W. Jordan Patty, who accepted the position of processing archivist/librarian in the Special Collections and Archives unit of the George Mason University Libraries. He spent nearly three years at CUA and was instrumental in converting our existing online finding aids to the more Web-friendly Encoded Archival Description and setting templates for the creation of new finding aids in EAD as well as MARC cataloging records for all our 300-plus manuscript collections. Associate Archivist John Shepherd says, “While Jordan was only here a relatively short time, he has left a real mark on the archives. His services will not be easily replaced.”
Introducing New Staff Member: Robin Pike

In February, Robin Pike became the new audiovisual archivist. Pike is from Spruce, Pa., a small town roughly three hours north of Pittsburgh. She received a bachelor’s degree in music education with a concentration in flute performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a master’s degree in library and information science with a specialization in archives and records management from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists as well as the American Library Association.

Pike says it was her love of music that introduced her to the field of archives. “While at IUP, I worked in the music library for four years. My supervisor gave me a book titled *Careers in Music Librarianship II*. This book led me to the world of sound archives. I looked into programs with music librarianship, media and archives. I went to the University of Pittsburgh for my master’s degree, but they did not have a music librarianship program, so I changed fields and focused on archives and incorporated my interest for music librarianship into the papers I wrote for class.”

When asked what drew her to the D.C. area, and specifically to CUA, Pike says, “Originally I started looking at CUA to get a master’s degree in music performance. But when I decided not to do music performance, I knew that I still wanted to end up in the D.C. area. When I saw the job advertisement on the SAA listserv, it looked like my dream job.”

According to Pike her primary goal as the audiovisual archivist is to “increase the accessibility of our AV collections through the revision of the AV Web site and through the creation of additional online finding aids.” Her other goals include setting up an audiovisual lab, creating additional audiovisual policies and expanding the presence of the archives through exhibits and presentations.

Introducing New Staff Member: Eben Dennis

This fall, University Archives welcomed Eben Dennis as our new graduate library pre-professional student from the CUA School of Library and Information Science. Dennis is from Round Hill, Va., which is in western Loudon County. He received his undergraduate degree from Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C., where he majored in music and environmental science. He also has several years of experience teaching classical guitar to students at Southwest Guilford High School.

As someone with interests in English, science, music and library science, Dennis says he was drawn to the field of archives because it is very interdisciplinary. He chose to pursue a master’s degree in library and information science at CUA because he enjoyed the prospect of being in the D.C. area, especially as it was an “opportunity to work in one of the major political epicenters of the world while working in a field that stresses the importance of preservation.” Dennis says that one of his main goals for applying for the pre-professional program at the archives was to gain professional experience, “When I graduate with my master’s degree, I can jump right into the archival field.” Once a self-described ‘technophobe,’ Dennis enjoys the opportunities the program has given him to learn more about computers and become more technologically savvy, especially through his work with encoded archival description. He says that he is really enjoying the experience “because things that I thought I’d learn in class, I’m learning here in the archives.” He looks forward to learning more of the fundamentals of archives, and incorporating them with his personal interests in music, natural history and science.
The American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives Is Asking For Your Support!

The archives is always seeking new collections, equipment donations and additional funds to continue our mission of collecting, organizing, preserving, making accessible, and promoting scholarly and public understanding of the records of The Catholic University of America and, more generally, the documentary and artifactual heritage of the American Catholic people. Please take a moment to fill out the form below or e-mail the information to archives@mail.lib.cua.edu. Thank you!

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