

Friends of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library

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September 2003

From the Director's Office ...

Georgetown Organizes National Conference on Preservation of Legal Information

With the help of the Friends, the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library hosted a national conference this past spring on the "Preservation of Legal Information for the 21st



George Soete and Claire Germaine

Century." The conference brought together leading law librarians, as well as experts in preservation and technology, for a two-day meeting and discussion leading toward the development of a national agenda for the preservation of both paper-based and "born-digital" legal information.

As was presented at the conference, historical legal information is seriously threatened from two quite different directions. Legal information published on paper between approximately 1820 and 1970 is deteriorating because of the acidic content of the paper. At the same time, so-called born-digital legal information, published in electronic form

since about 1990, is deteriorating even faster for a variety of reasons, including software generational changes, machine obsolescence, "link-rot" (the disappearance of links on the world-wide-web), changing political parties in leadership positions, and the simple removal of materials thought to be outdated. Unless a concerted effort is made to preserve this valuable information, legal researchers of the future will be unable to have access to it.

Conference participants first reviewed the current situation with respect to federal, state, international, and foreign legal documentation. They heard from preservation experts about other projects underway in both legal and non-legal fields, and they learned about technology issues and digital preservation.

With the help of a facilitator, the conferees then focused on crafting a national agenda for the preservation of legal information in the 21st century. It quickly emerged that as important as it is to stay focused on the preservation of

GULC Fast Facts

10 years ago ... 1993

The Library was ranked eighth in the ABA statistical ranking of the largest law library collections; the library is currently ranked third.

The Friends of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library Newsletter is published several times a year by the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library, Georgetown University Law Center, 111 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001-1417. For further information about the *Newsletter*, contact Robert L. Oakley, Law Library Director, at 202/662-9160

Or e-mail: oakley@law.georgetown.edu

For information on joining the Friends Program or renewing your annual support, contact Joannah Pickett, Georgetown University Law Center Development Office, 50 F Street, N.W., Suite 8100, Washington, D.C. 20001-1417

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paper-based legal information, the more pressing issue is the on-going loss of digital information, especially that published and made available only on the world-wide-web.

The group agreed to create a new organization - **the Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA)** - to work cooperatively on projects to further the goal of preservation. As of this writing, 18 law libraries (not all of whom attended the conference) have pledged to contribute approximately \$75,000 to support LIPA in its effort to obtain grants and

promote a variety of initiatives in support of the preservation of legal information for legal researchers and legal scholars of the future.

With this conference and the activities that will flow from it, Georgetown has made a major contribution toward the preservation of the nation's (and possibly the world's) legal literature. For more information, visit the LIPA web site at: <http://www.allnet.org/committee/lipa/>.

Reunion Weekend ...

Friends' Events

At Reunion Weekend last fall, **Father Robert S. Drinan, S.J. (L'49, L'51, H'91)** discussed his new book, *Mobilization of Shame: A World View of Human Rights* (Yale University Press, 2001), in the Atrium lounge of the



Photo courtesy of Rhoda Baer

library. Speaking passionately to a devoted crowd, Father Drinan analyzed some of the historical developments and current problems of human rights. He raised sensitive issues in the rights of women, children and prisoners. He also touched on such contemporary developments as the

indictment of Milosevic

and the prisoners of war taken following the invasion of Afghanistan and now held in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. A reception followed Father Drinan's inspiring talk and he signed copies of his book.

This fall at Reunion Weekend, the Friends will host another prominent author for an important presentation. On Friday, October 17, **the Honorable Michael R. Gardner (C'64, L'77)** will speak about his new book *Harry Truman and Civil Rights: Moral Courage and Political Risks* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2002).

The book was the co-winner of the Henry Adams Prize of 2003 by the Society for History in the Federal Government. The author asserts that "in view of the Society's make-up - archivists and historians from all three branches of the federal government - this award validates the basic premise of the book - that Harry Truman - and not FDR, Ike, JFK, or LBJ - was this country's pioneering civil rights president."

Kweisi Mfume, NAACP President and CEO, said that



The Honorable Michael R. Gardner

Gardner's book "presents a riveting account of the little-known, yet pivotal role President Truman played in the cause for civil rights ... President Truman's bravery and dogged determination opened many doors and forever changed the course of history. This book is a tribute to the visionary courage displayed by this

statesman who began laying the foundation to right the horrific injustices that prevailed against people of color during this time."

We hope that you will join us on Friday, October 17, for what should be an interesting presentation and discussion.

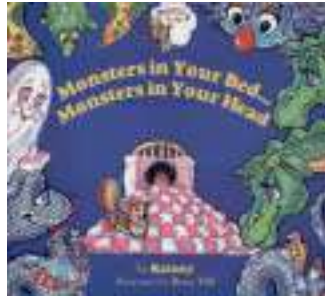
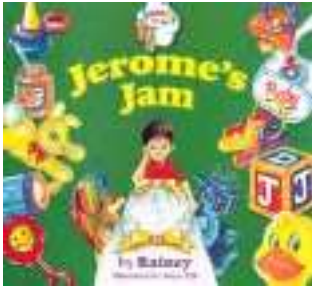
GULC Fast Facts

20 years ago ... 1983

The Library acquired its first 2 IBM computers for student use; the library currently offers students access to over 60 computer workstations.

Literary Alumni

“Rainey,” also known as **Lorraine Lee Friedman (L’89)** is an award-winning song-writer, composer, author, speaker and children’s rights attorney who inspires children and parents through imagination and love. She is the author of *Monsters in Your Bed...Monsters in Your Head* (DreamDog Press, 2000) and the song-writer/composer/producer and performer



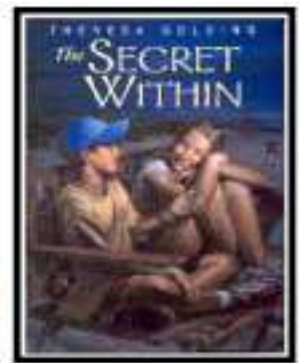
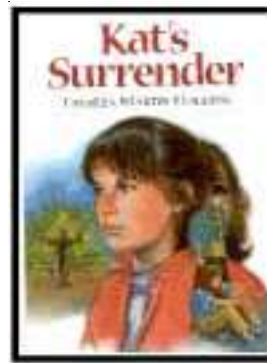
in the Parents’ Choice Award *I Believe in Me* music CD of original sing-along songs. Her recent book, *Jerome’s Jam* (DreamDog Press, 2003) and its music CD *More Love*, will be followed by the upcoming book and CD *Shine*.

After graduating from Georgetown University Law Center, Rainey started her children’s advocacy with the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty and later was recruited to IPACHI (Information, Protection and Advocacy Center for People with Disabilities, Inc.) as the Director of Protection and Advocacy.

Rainey and her husband, Douglas, and two young sons, Jared and Cameron, live with Jazz the DreamDog® in

Alexandria, VA. Rainey would love to autograph and paw-o-graph books and CDs for any Georgetown alumni friends. Please visit <http://www.dreamdog.com> or call her at 703/535-1545.

After graduating from the Law Center, **Theresa Martin Golding (L’85)** practiced law, raised her children and began to write young adult fiction. Her first novel, *Kat’s Surrender* was published by School and Library Binding in 1999. Her second, *The Secret Within* was released in 2002 by the same publisher.



A picture book titled *The Memorial Day Surprise* will be available in the spring of 2004. Golding is currently putting the finishing touches on her third novel, *The Truth About Twelve*. She is a full-time writer and resides in New Hope, PA with her husband and three children. She can be reached by e-mail at GJG874@aol.com or by phone at 215/862-3402.

From the Past

The law library recently became aware of a literary alumnus from the past. **Charles Joseph Kappler (L’1896, L’1897)** was the compiler and editor of the first compilation of the final texts of nearly all of the American Indian treaties made with the U.S. Government. The seven volume set is entitled *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties* (Government Printing Office, 1904-1941). Known as *Kappler’s Indian Affairs*, it was reprinted in 1975-1979, and is still the standard source for these instruments. There is a new index to this set entitled *Kappler Revisited: An Index and Bibliographic Guide to American Indian Treaties* (Epoch Books, 2003). It is authored by Charles D. Bernholz, who is the Government Document Librarian at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, NE. This new book extends Kappler’s work and includes an extensive table that serves as a guide to tribal cultural resources, a broad bibliography, and several analytical essays. The Library has two copies of the reprinted set and this new book. Kappler’s historically important work has also been digitized with the author’s notes at the Oklahoma State University Library Electronic Publishing Center. Visit the web site at: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/index.htm>

An Invitation

Our library is an active institution. Every day, we work with students, faculty, public patrons, alumni and Friends. If you are not currently using our services, we invite you to visit, call or e-mail us, or consult our Web site when you need information or assistance with legal research.

Our catalog, research tips and guides, tutorials, federal and state government information, and other reference sources are easily accessible online from anywhere. Check us out!

Web site

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu>

Telephone

202/662-9160 (General Information)

202/662-9148 (Reference Desk)

E-mail

libref@law.georgetown.edu (Reference Desk)

For inquiries and contributions to the Friends Program, or to renew your annual support, contact Joannah Pickett in the Law Center Development Office at 202/662-9375 or e-mail her at: jsp32@law.georgetown.edu.

Edward Bennett Williams Law Library
Georgetown University Law Center
111 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-1417

Hours during the academic year

Monday - Thursday

Library: 8:00 a.m. - midnight

Reference Desk: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday

Library: 8:00 a.m. - midnight

Reference Desk: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

Library: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Reference Desk: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

Library: 10:00 a.m. - midnight

Reference Desk: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Note that special hours apply for holidays and the summer months. Please call 202/662-9131 if you plan to visit us during these times.

Tours

Tours of the library can be arranged by calling Susan Ryan at 202/662-9142 or inquiring at the Reference Desk.