Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection
2015-2016 Report of Activities

Special Projects

- *Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection* pamphlet project: An ongoing project to sort, arrange, and create finding aids for the approximately 6,000 pamphlets in the collection was completed this year. Vicky and Teresa created a processing plan and the pamphlets were sorted and organized into nine series: Speeches, Letters, Almanacs, French Revolution, Foreign Language, Congressional, Essays and Reports, British, and Miscellaneous. With assistance from student interns and student assistants the pamphlets were re-housed in archival folders with titles and dates. The final three series were completed this year: the French Revolution, 1789-1793; British Pamphlets, 1770-1909; and Miscellaneous. In addition, four document boxes of unsorted pamphlets were processed and updated in the following finding aids: Congressional, Essays & Reports, Letters, Speeches, and Foreign Language.

- Incorporating Primary Documents into the Classroom Workshop:
  A workshop for secondary educators held on February 26, 2016. The workshop included a tour of the Magna Carta exhibit, a demonstration of digital and free primary resources, and a hands-on primary document exercise using items from the Weiner Collection. Vicky coordinated and planned the workshop in collaboration with the Reference Department. Rachael Neu worked with Vicky to create a LibGuide that showcases tools for secondary educators, “Primary Documents and Palm Beach County Civics.” Teresa gave the tour of the exhibit, Vicky gave the hands-on demonstration, Larry Mello, Lauri Rebar, and Bruce Barron provided demonstrations of online resources. Thirteen secondary educators from Palm Beach County school system attended.
- Magna Carta Exhibition catalog was created, formatted, and edited by Special Collections Librarian Vicky Thur, Assistant Special Collections Teresa Van Dyke, and the FAU Library’s Senior Designer and Photographer Pat Koppisch.


- Special Collections Assistant, Annaleah Morse, created Instagram and Tumblr accounts and made weekly posts highlighting items from the Weiner Collection and Special Collections. Shafer Ross, an undergraduate intern, also worked to raise awareness of the Weiner Collection through these social media accounts. We now have 323 followers on Instagram. One post Schaefer made from the Weiner Collection, *Hieronymi Cardani Arcana politica*, received 910 likes.

- Dr. Douglas Kanter of the History Department brought the FAU film crew to take footage of the Weiner suite including the stack area. This footage will be used in a recruitment video for history graduate students.

- **Magna Carta 800 years: Legacy of Liberty**: Florida Atlantic University’s Special Collections Department celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta with an exhibit on the history of English and American liberties. The Magna Carta, a charter of rights and liberties, is the core of English and American law and has influenced the legal systems of many other democratic nations. The exhibition traced the story of how this medieval charter became an enduring symbol of liberty and its influence on America’s founding fathers and the United States Constitution. Rare books, documents, pamphlets and historical items from FAU Libraries’ Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection were featured. An original 13th century broadsword and an array of 18th century and modern replica artifacts from Robert Feeney’s personal collection were also on display.
The exhibit accompanied the Department of History lecture series on the Magna Carta. On Thursday, Nov. 5 at 4 p.m., Ralph V. Turner, Ph.D., professor at Florida State University, presented the keynote lecture “Magna Carta and the Medieval English Nobility; Friday, Nov. 6, there was a panel discussion titled “Magna Carta in English and Early American History.” Panelists included FAU’s British historians Boyd Breslow, Ph.D., Ben Lowe, Ph.D., and Douglas Kanter, Ph.D. All events took place on the fifth floor of the Wimberly Library. The Magna Carta exhibit was open November 5, 2015 – February 29, 2016 with a total of 270 visitors.

**Instruction and Tours**

Special Collections Librarian Victoria Thur assisted by Assistant Special Collections Librarian Teresa Van Dyke use the valuable primary resources available in the Weiner Collection to promote critical thinking, research activities, and student engagement. This year the History, English, and Language and Linguistics departments took advantage Ms. Thur’s expertise in primary sources and hands-on teaching approach. 377 students were introduced to the *Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection* through tours and teaching sessions for the following classes:

**Summer 2015**

- Dr. Stephen Engle’s class, AMH 2010/United States History to 1877; (27 students)
- Two tours of Special Collections and the Weiner Collection to TOPS Piano and Creative Writing camp; (40 students)

**Fall Semester 2015**

- Dr. Ben Lowe’s Graduate History class, EUH 5905, to discuss hand press books; (10 students)
- Dr. Stephen Engle’s class, HIS 5060/Historical Methods; (9 students)
- Dr. Rosemary Rahill’s class, FRE 3340/French for Bilinguals; (14 students);  
- Dr. Rosemary Rahill’s class, FRE 3400/Advanced French Language and Culture; (24 students)
• Dr. Karen Leader’s class, ARH 4937/Art History Seminar; (9 students)
• Dr. Rosemary Rahill’s class, FRE 2221/Intermediate French Language and Culture; (6 students)
• Dr. Patricia Kollander’s class, HIS 3150/Historical Methods; (9 students)
• Two tours of Special Collections and the Weiner Collection to Navitas students; (40 students)

Spring Semester 2016
• Dr. Patricia Kollander’s class, HIS 4935/Senior Seminar, Culture & Society; (18 students)
• Dr. Emily Fenichel’s class, ARH 4350/Baroque Art; (16 students)
• Dr. Karen Leader’s class, ARH 2051/ Art Survey 2; (34 students)
• Tours of the Weiner Collection to three prospective faculty candidates in history department
• Tour of the Magna Carta Exhibit to Dr. Corey King’s class, SLS 1503/Student Resources; (27 students)
• Tour of the Magna Carta exhibit to Dr. Cecil Mackey (past president of Michigan State University) and his wife Claire
• Tours of Special Collections and the Weiner Collection to two groups of Navitas students; (20 students)
• Three tours of Special Collections and the Weiner Collection to Dr. Engle’s class, AMH 2010/American History to 1877; (59 students)
• Tour of the Weiner Collection to a prospective faculty candidate for College of Arts and Letters

Student Participation
• Natasja Graske, graduate history student, completed a Directed Independent Study with Special Collections Department during the 2015 Fall semester. She assisted with research and captions for the Magna Carta exhibit.
• Shellie LaBelle, graduate history student, completed a Directed Independent Study with Special Collections during the 2015 Fall semester. She wrote a paper on the *Letters of Junius* from the Weiner Collection.

• Shafer Ross, undergraduate student from the Communications Department, completed an internship in 2016 Spring semester. Shafer worked on the social media accounts.

• Dakota Merchant, student assistant, worked on the British pamphlets during the 2015 Summer and Fall semesters.

  **Collection Maintenance**

• Shelf maintenance is performed regularly in the Weiner stacks

• 3,016 books been cataloged

• 11 finding aids for the pamphlet collection have been cataloged

• Hansy Ambroise (Systems Department) monitored and updated the HOBO environmental monitoring system