

Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection
2017-2018 Report of Activities

Special Projects

- *Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection* cataloging project: This year Malka Schyndel joined the Special Collections' staff. Prior to coming to Special Collections, Malka worked as a cataloger in the Technical Services department and cataloged many of the holdings in the Weiner Collection. Last year she completed cataloging the newspaper holdings. To date, 156 titles, plus all the issues associated with individual titles which total 8,337 items have been cataloged. This will allow patrons and outside researchers to identify and access these valuable newspapers. This year, Malka completed cataloging 74 serial sets with all the volumes associated with individual titles which total 708. Currently, Malka is cataloging the pamphlets.
- Victoria Thur coordinated with Dr. Marcella Munson (Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature) to have selected Weiner materials digitally recorded for her upcoming online class.
- Special Collections Assistant, Annaleah Morse, created Instagram and Tumblr accounts and makes posts highlighting items from the Weiner Collection and Special Collections. Our social media presence for the Weiner Collection has grown substantially. This year, we have attracted 313 more followers on Instagram for a total of 910. On Tumblr, we attracted 407 new followers for a total of 1,002.
- Victoria Thur worked with history department faculty Ben Lowe, Adrian Finucane and Jason Sharples to review and select candidates for the Weiner Fellowship program.
- Dr. Douglas Kanter had FAU history students photographed with Weiner materials for the History Department promotional materials.

Exhibits

- Florida Atlantic University Libraries marked the 500th anniversary of the publication of the “95 Theses” with “The Protestant Reformation: Impacts & Legacies,” an exhibition of rare books and documents from the Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection. The exhibit was open weekdays from Monday, Oct. 16 through Friday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In collaboration with Special Collections librarians, Victoria Thur and Teresa Van Dyke, Ben Lowe, Ph.D., professor and chair of FAU’s Department of History, curated the exhibition with the assistance of graduate students Luke Beswick and Vanessa Ramsey. Dr. Lowe presented the lecture “Why the Reformation Still Matters,” on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 3:30 p.m. at the Wimberly Library. Victoria Thur and John Cutrone created a letterpress broadside rendition of the “95 Theses” that was sold during the exhibition. Members from Episcopal churches throughout the Boca area attended a special tour of the exhibit on Reformation Sunday led by Ben Lowe. The exhibit had 350 visitors.
- A Pop-up exhibit of several items from the Weiner Collection was available for viewing at the public lecture by Alan Taylor, “The Revolutionary Transformation of North America, 1783-1803.”
- Teresa Van Dyke and Victoria Thur are currently assisting Dr. Adrian Finucane in planning an exhibit on Alexander Hamilton which is expected to open September, 2018.

Instruction and Tours

Special Collections Librarian Victoria Thur, assisted by Assistant Special Collections Librarian Teresa Van Dyke, uses the valuable primary resources available in the Weiner Collection to promote critical thinking, research activities, and student engagement. This year the Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, Art History, History, English, and Language and Linguistics departments took advantage of Ms. Thur’s expertise in primary sources and hands-on teaching approach. A total of 600 students

were introduced to the *Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection* through 3 tours and 26 teaching sessions for the following:

Summer Semester 2017

- Tour of the Weiner Collection for Navitas students (20 students)

Fall Semester 2017

- Dr. Jarrett Warshaw's class ED 6035/History of Higher Learning (20 students)
- Dr. Adrian Finucane's class AMH 6936/Grad Seminar in U.S. History (12 students)
- Dr. Adrian Finucane's class AMH 4133/Revolutionary Age (34 students)
- Dr. Stephen Engle's class, HIS 5060/The Historical Experience (9 students)
- Dr. Juliann Ulin's class, ENG 3822/ Intro to Lit Studies (25 students)
- Dr. Patricia Kollander's class, HIS 4935/ Senior Seminar (16 students)
- Dr. Jason Sharples' class, AMH 2010/U.S. History to 1877 (2 sections, 60 students)
- Dr. Mary Faraci's class, ENL 2022/British Lit since 1798 (24 students)
- Dr. Mary Faraci's class, ENL 4383/Women in Literature (28 students)
- Dr. Rosemary Rahill's class, FRE 2220/Intermediate French Language and Culture (7 students)
- Dr. Adrian Finucane class, AMH 4133/Revolutionary Age (35 students)
- Dr. Jason Sharples' class, AMH 2010/U.S. History to 1877 (2 sections, 60 students)
- Dr. Jason Sharples' class, HIS 4451/Slavery in the New World (15 students)
- Tour of the Weiner Collection for Navitas students (15 students)

Spring Semester 2018

- Dr. Patricia Kollander's class, EUH 6939/Nazi Germany (16 students)
- Dr. Jarrett Warshaw's class, ED 6035/History of Higher Ed/Warshaw/ (10 students)
- Dr. Jarrett Warshaw's class, ED 6035/History of Higher Ed (7 students)
- Dr. Jason Sharples' class, HIS 4935/Senior Seminar (2 classes; 7 students each)
- Dr. Emily Fenichel's class, ARH 4305/Baroque Art (25 students)
- Dr. Karen Leader's class, ARH 4371/ Art History (14 students)
- Dr. Evan Bennett's class, HIS 3150/Historical Methods (16 students)
- Dr. Adrian Finucane's class, AMH 2010/ U.S. History to 1877 (2 sections of 30 students each, 60)

- Dr. Karen Leader's class, ARH 2050/Global Art/ (39 students)
- Tour of the Weiner Collection for Navitas students (15 students)

Student Participation

- Luke Beswick, FAU graduate history student, completed an internship during 2017 fall semester. He assisted with the installation for the Reformation exhibit and also staffed the exhibit.
- Vanessa Ramsey Smith, graduate history student, completed an internship during the 2017 fall semester. She assisted with the installation for the Reformation exhibit and also staffed the exhibit.

Collection Maintenance

- Shelf maintenance is performed regularly in the Weiner stacks
- 3, 236 items have been cataloged (See Special Projects)
- The temperature and humidity were constantly monitored with standalone units with an environmental monitoring system called OnSet. In 2016, FAU Libraries switched environmental companies and selected T&D. The new data loggers provide real-time information and the flexibility to capture information easily for reporting issues and concerns. In 2018, The AC unit in the Marvin & Sybil Weiner vault was replaced with a "smart unit" Daikin R410A series. In preparation for the AC installation, three ranges of books were moved to the second floor rare book stack area.