My Life in the Archives

My appointment as senior advisor to the Schlesinger Library represents something of a homecoming for me, except that I never really left. My entire professional career has been linked to the library, and after more than 40 years, I’m happy to repay the debt.

I first visited the Schlesinger in 1972 to research my senior honors thesis at Wellesley College about Seneca Falls and the early women’s rights movement. The next year, I enrolled as a doctoral candidate in the history department at Harvard University, where my first two seminar papers were on the Cambridge Political Equality Association, a suffrage group, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, whose collection the Schlesinger had just acquired. I was hooked!

Harvard’s history department was a challenging place to do women’s history in the 1970s, but I had two wonderful mentors, Frank Freidel and Barbara Miller Solomon, and the resources of the Schlesinger nearby. Researching my dissertation on a network of women reformers in the New Deal, I drew on no fewer than 17 collections there, according to the bibliography in the book it became: Beyond Suffrage: Women in the New Deal (Harvard University Press, 1981).

Molly Dewson was the architect of the New Deal network, and her papers were so rich that I decided to embark on a biography of her. As part of my research, I contacted family members still living at Moss Acre, the grand “cottage” in Castine, Maine, that Molly shared with her long-term partner, Polly Porter. Sitting in Moss Acre’s living room, I was allowed to look through a lovingly assembled collection of scrapbooks documenting their life together. That material became the centerpiece of a photo essay for Partner and I: Molly Dewson, Feminism, and New Deal Politics (Yale University Press, 2011). Happily, the family agreed to microfilm the Porter-Dewson scrapbooks for the library’s collection.

For a researcher, nothing matches the moment when a crucial piece of evidence suddenly falls into place. I had one of those moments when researching Game, Set, Match: Billie Jean King and the Revolution in Women’s Sports (University of North Carolina Press, 2011), after I found a memo from October 1972 that laid out for the first time the “separate but equal” framework for Title IX. Eureka, I probably said, hopefully not too loud, although I’m sure none of the other researchers in the Pforzheimer Reading Room would have minded.

But research isn’t just a question of making discoveries. Sometimes it involves offering fresh perspectives. My biography Still Missing: Amelia Earhart and the Search for Modern Feminism (W.W. Norton, 1993) recounted the well-established facts of the aviator’s life but shifted the field of focus, documenting Earhart’s significance for 20th-century feminism. The result was a different take on a much-admired cultural figure, but it started with her papers at the Schlesinger.

My main responsibility this year is to provide intellectual leadership for the library, but I have two additional goals: I want to settle on a new research project, preferably one that draws on the library’s rich collections. And befitting my interests in the history of women’s sports and Radcliffe, I want to run several laps around the indoor track at the Knafel Center (formerly the Radcliffe Gymnasium) while I still can. Wish me luck on all three fronts!

--Susan Ware
Senior Advisor

Update: Projects in Process

The Schlesinger is partnering with the Department of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Groningen in a pilot project to make selections from the handwritten manuscripts of the Charlotte Perkins Gilman Papers searchable by keywords. The library’s Gilman papers are the first handwritten manuscripts in English to be included in the project.

In addition, the Schlesinger is working on three grant-funded projects.

• The library digitized more than 100,000 pages of the Blackwell Family Papers as part of a project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. In this second year of the grant, about 30 percent of the collection remains to be digitized. When complete, the collection will be available on a platform known as SuiteSpot, originally developed for the Harvard Law School Library and further developed and enhanced through collaboration between Harvard Law School and the Schlesinger.

• Cataloging and digitizing the work of the noted feminist photographers Bettye Lane and Freda Leinwand is being supported by a Harvard Library grant to expose hidden collections. Approximately 4,000 images documenting second-wave feminism will be available by the end of this year. The project will culminate in an online exhibit called Catching the Wave.

• The Schlesinger is contributing to a project funded by a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Members of the group previously known as the Seven Sisters and now known as the Seven Siblings are collaborating to augment the history of women’s education in the United States. Collections of digitized letters, photographs, diaries, and scrapbooks documenting the lives of young women studying at these colleges from 1837 to the mid-20th century will be made available through a central portal. In addition to Radcliffe, the project involves Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley Colleges.

—Marilyn Dunn
Executive Director and Radcliffe Institute Librarian
Pforzheimer Fellow Digitizes Charlotte Hawkins Brown Papers

The papers of Charlotte Hawkins Brown (1883–1961), an educator who transformed a one-room schoolhouse into an accredited junior college, are now available to a wider audience because of work done by a Pforzheimer Fellow at the Schlesinger Library during the summer of 2014.

Bradley Lynn Craig ’13, who is working on his PhD in African and African American studies in Harvard’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, worked with the Schlesinger’s experimental archives team to digitize the Brown collection, which was previously available only on microfilm. During his two-month fellowship at the library, he says, he learned “about the time, energy, and attention to detail that go into preparing a collection for viewing. And I learned about a remarkable woman.”

The Harvard Library launched the Pforzheimer Fellows program last summer to offer humanities graduate students in-depth experience with the work that libraries do today. Robert Darnton, the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and University Librarian, proposed the fellowships, which honor Carl H. Pforzheimer III, a generous contributor to the University. Libraries from six Harvard divisions—the Harvard Archives, Harvard Business School, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Design, Harvard Law School, and the Radcliffe Institute—proposed 10 projects for which graduate students were invited to apply. The selection committee chose four projects to which Pforzheimer Fellows contributed.

At the Schlesinger, Bradley Craig worked with Marilyn Dunn, the executive director of the library. He used a Hovercam—which combines the technologies of a digital camera and a scanner—to digitize the Brown collection. The collection contains biographical material, including an unpublished biography, writing, and speeches; personal correspondence; and information about the junior college Brown founded.

The granddaughter of former slaves, Brown was born in North Carolina and moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, when she was five. During her senior year at English High School, she met Alice Freeman Palmer, a former president of Wellesley College. Palmer urged Brown to attend the State Normal School at Salem and provided financial assistance. After a year in college, Brown accepted a teaching job at a one-room school in rural North Carolina. That was the school she eventually transformed—with the help of many supporters—into an accredited junior college. She renamed the school the Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute (PMI) in honor of her benefactor.

PMI, located in Sedalia, North Carolina, near Greensboro, became a school for upper-class African Americans. Brown raised money for it from Boston-area philanthropists, who formed a “Sedalia Club.” By 1916 the campus contained four buildings.

More than a thousand students attended the school from 1902 to 1970, when it closed. Brown became a nationally recognized educator and received honorary doctorates from Howard, Tuskegee, and other universities. She was the first black woman to serve on the national board of the Young Women’s Christian Association. She died of heart failure in Greensboro in 1961.

Today the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum is housed in the buildings of the Palmer Memorial Institute. The museum links Brown and the school she founded to larger themes in African American history.

—Pat Harrison
Publications Manager

Charlotte Hawkins Brown, ca 1913–1933
Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust was the perfect person to provide historical context for the Schlesinger Library’s new exhibition, titled What They Wrote, What They Saved: The Personal Civil War. Faust has spent her scholarly career conducting research on the American Civil War and writing award-winning books on the subject—including This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War (Random House, 2008) and Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War (University of North Carolina Press, 1996). She spoke to a crowd of 200 in the Knafl Center in Radcliffe Yard on October 15, the opening day of the exhibition.

In an intimate storytelling voice that held her listeners spellbound, Faust said that the very title of the exhibition—the notion of a personal Civil War—is testimony to our changed understanding of it. In the past, historians focused on generals and statesmen and broad national trends when they studied the Civil War, but today they ask different questions.

About the same time that military history shifted, she said, historians began using what was then called “the new social history” to study the lives of women and enslaved people on the home front. For several reasons, the Civil War provides a particularly rich understanding of how these two streams converged. Not only was it a literate war—the majority of Americans could read and write—but people were moved to record their thoughts. They knew that they were living in momentous times and that whatever they wrote and kept would most likely be valued.

The Civil War was also an uncensored war, because those in charge hadn’t figured out how to monitor the flow of letters between the home front and the battleground. The war kept people apart, so they wrote down their thoughts in letters. “We don’t know what people said at the dinner table,” Faust remarked, “but we know what they wrote to each other.”

The library’s exhibition also reminds us that women’s writing was not just personal. Faust cited Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly as an example. “This was Stowe imagining the difficulties of slave families,” she said, adding that correspondence in the exhibit suggests that Stowe took up the project because she had lost a child and wondered how enslaved mothers endured
the sale of their children into slavery.

“Warfare is of course about the power of guns,” Faust said in closing. “But I think we see in this exhibit that it’s also about the power of words. And those words are ours—still—to read, to understand, to learn from. I hope you enjoy this wonderful exhibit.”

Following Faust, Kathryn Allamong Jacob, the Johanna-Maria Fraenkel Curator of Manuscripts at the Schlesinger, described the wealth of material the library committee considered when selecting documents for the exhibition: diaries, hundreds of pages of letters, dozens of images (daguerreotypes, tintypes, cartes de visite, photos), prints, memoirs, autobiographies, biographies, histories of the war, and the very first fundraising cookbook—The Poetical Cookbook—published to secure money for soldiers’ relief.

The exhibition committee looked for hooks on which to hang a larger story, Jacob said, for items “that tell their own stories but also stand in for the stories of others.” Catherine Porter Noyes, for example, was one of a thousand teachers who traveled south from New England to teach newly freed slaves. Her diary is in the exhibition, representing the experience of other teachers.

Lizabeth Cohen, dean of the Radcliffe Institute, opened the event by pointing out that the library’s exhibition coincides with the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. “The Schlesinger’s exhibition makes a unique contribution to Civil War commemorations,” she said. “The objects and documents selected from our collections demonstrate vividly that the domestic concerns of home and family were not apart from war. Rather, personal, often private, documents provide compelling evidence of how military and political events such as the Civil War affect individual lives and collective experience.”

—Pat Harrison
Publications Manager

Guests gathered in the Schlesinger Library’s Pforzheimer Reading Room for a reception during the opening.

Left: Kathryn Allamong Jacob, the Johanna-Maria Fraenkel Curator of Manuscripts at the Schlesinger; Drew Gilpin Faust, the Radcliffe Institute’s founding dean and the president of Harvard University; and Lizabeth Cohen, dean of the Radcliffe Institute, spoke at the exhibition opening.
Who Was Annie?

Kathryn Allamong Jacob, the Johanna-Maria Fraenkel Curator of Manuscripts at the Schlesinger, asked Beverly Wilson Palmer, a researcher who has used the library for many years, to transcribe one of the library’s Civil War diaries for the exhibition *What They Wrote, What They Saved: The Personal Civil War*. The diary’s author was unknown. Palmer, a skilled documentary editor, agreed to decipher the tiny scrawl so that visitors to the exhibition could read the diary. As she worked, she became increasingly curious about the diarist and began trying to learn who she was. In accordance with the conventions of documentary editing, Palmer retained the writer’s spelling and punctuation.
“The Yankees Aunt Annie what shall we do?”

From this excited question that Annie quotes in her diary, we learn only the first name of a woman who kept a journal from 1861 to 1863, which the Schlesinger Library acquired in 2012. Written in a cultivated though at times unclear hand, it contains all information then known about the writer. The diary begins as Annie departed her childhood home in New Castle, Delaware, with her children. Despite painful separation from other family and friends, she was determined to leave the North for the Confederacy, exclaiming, “Oh this battle of Right against Outrage and Wrong.”

Delayed in Baltimore, Annie refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States—or, as she put it, “the Lincoln government.” Finally, sailing on Chesapeake Bay, she wrote, “Soon a Dixie gun boomed through the air . . . and we were Dixies children.”

From Norfolk Annie’s party traveled by train through Virginia, reaching Memphis on December 19, 1861. En route she wrote, “We meet crowds of our soldiers going on to Virginia all in high spirits looking travel worn but glorious in their strength.” Traveling by boat from Memphis down the Mississippi River, the family arrived at the Rossmere plantation in Lake Chicot, Arkansas, on December 22, 1861. Annie described life at the plantation, contrasting its luxury with deprivation and depicting festivities at neighboring plantations that were interrupted by raids from the despised Yankees.

Annie made clear her commitment to the Confederate cause when she addressed her sister Caroline back in New Castle in March 1863: “If you could be here I mean in the South and see the people as we see them, know them as we know them learn of the true magnanimity of soul, look upon their deeds—displaying daily their heroism, I feel that their cause would be pronounced by you to be the true cause born of Heaven.” Her journal breaks off mid-story on September 9, 1863, as Annie described a young neighbor girl threatened by Union troops: “[S]he gave one bound down the steps rushed across. . . .”

As I transcribed, I composed a portrait of Annie. Her mother and father were dead, for she had recorded, “to day many years back my own dear mother left us orphans.” She never mentioned a husband or brothers. With two daughters of marriageable age, she was most likely in her middle 40s. Despite her erratic spelling, Annie came from an educated background, quoting Tristram Shandy and Hamlet, referring to the Greek historian Xenophon, and adding the occasional French phrase (ma chere). Don Simons’s study In Their Words: A Chronology of the Civil War in Chicot County contains family names Annie mentioned. But no last name for Annie.

At the annual conference of the Association for Documentary Editing in 2013, I expressed my frustration over the lack of information about Annie to an old friend, William M. Ferraro, an associate editor of the Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia. “Let me see what I can do for you,” he said. Back at UVA, he and Michael Dickens, a retired pediatrician and volunteer researcher for the Washington papers, worked from the details I had sent them. Soon I received an e-mail beginning, “Good news!”

Ferraro and Dickens had probed census data, genealogical records, and other historical sources and identified Annie. All the details fit: Ann Dorsey Read Reeves (1818–1900) was a member of the prominent Delaware Read family and a granddaughter of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Her husband, Captain Isaac Reeves, from Charleston, South Carolina, graduated from West Point, taught there in the 1840s, and died in 1851, at age 32. He left Ann with three daughters and a son. The plantation to which she and her children—Marion, 20, Anna, 19, Caroline, 12, and Isaac, 11—traveled was owned by her brother George Read IV, who died at Rossmere in 1859. These family ties to the South may well explain her strong Confederate sympathies. By 1870, according to census records, Ann had returned to Delaware. An obituary in the Wilmington, Delaware, Star informs us that she died in nearby Baltimore at the home of her daughter Caroline Reeves Potter on January 18, 1900, and is buried in New Castle.

The discovery of Ann’s identity prompted much elation at the Schlesinger Library. Nevertheless, we seek the next installment of her diary, perhaps to learn how this proud Confederate partisan reacted to the South’s defeat.

—Beverly Wilson Palmer

A research associate in the history department at Pomona College, Beverly Wilson Palmer earned degrees from the College of William and Mary and the University of California, Berkeley. Her published documentary editions include The Selected Letters of Lucretia Coffin Mott (University of Illinois Press, 2002) and The Selected Letters of Charles Sumner (Northeastern University Press, 1997).
Finding Adrienne Rich ’51 in

Soon after I finished high school, a math teacher sent me a graduation card and a photocopy of Adrienne Rich’s poem about Marie Curie, women, liberation, and survival, “Power,” from The Dream of a Common Language. Over the past 20 years, Rich has become a part of my daily life. I always carry a book of hers with me when I leave home. Sometimes I select a weighty collection, such as The Fact of a Doorframe, and sometimes a slim volume of poems. Reading and rereading her poetry is one of the ways I make sense of the fractures and possibilities in love, life, and struggle for social change.

As a university student, I became interested in labor solidarity between North American and Southeast Asian feminists. In graduate school, my activist interest in labor solidarity turned into an academic focus on how people resist state repression in Thailand. Adrienne Rich, not the canonical (mostly male) writers in Southeast Asian studies, remains the author I turn to most often. Her writing on silence, freedom, and memory informs how I think about Thai political history. As I trace the impunity of state violence over the past 80 years in Thailand, Rich’s admonition that silence is not an absence but “a presence/it has a history a form” is foremost in my mind.

For these reasons, whenever I have an extra hour, I walk across Radcliffe Yard from Byerly Hall to visit Adrienne Rich’s papers in the Schlesinger Library. After reading her journals from her four years at Radcliffe, I see Brattle Street in a new way. The letters from her readers make me feel as though I have joined a sisterhood for whom her work is a form of sustenance.

But when I saw the folder labeled “Natalya Gorbanevskaya,” my interest sharpened. Gorbanevskaya was a Russian poet who was confined in a psychiatric prison from December 1969 to February 1972 for protesting the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. In December 1975, she was able to leave Russia for France, and she lived in France and Poland until her death in November 2013. In 1968 Rich wrote the poem “For a Russian Poet” about Gorbanevskaya. It begins with the solidarity of living under a shared sky and the fragility of justice. Then Rich describes the 1968 protest and the certainty of arrest for Gorbanevskaya. She writes, “I’m a ghost at your table/touching poems in a script I can’t read/ we’ll meet each other later.”

What I did not realize is that Gorbanevskaya was not only the subject of one of Adrienne Rich’s poems, but also her friend. In 1973 Rich began trying to help Gorbanevskaya leave Russia and to circulate her poetry in English translation. Letters went back and forth among Rich, Gorbanevskaya’s friends in Italy and Switzerland, and various support networks for writers facing repression in the Soviet Union. Rich made handwritten notes, often on the backs of envelopes, about the practical details of issuing an invitation for Gorbanevskaya to come to the United States, dealing with the authorities for permission to leave Russia, and determining appropriate travel routes to safety.

But it is the correspondence between the two women that made me acutely aware of the possibility of solidarity across space and experience. A Western Union telegram from Gorbanevskaya to Rich, dated May 13, 1974, said, “POLUCHILA TELGRAMMU TEPER JDU PRIGLASHENIA NADEIUS NA WSTRE-ChU CELIU.” On the thin yellow paper, the English translation is written with an olive marker: “I got your telegram, am waiting for your invitation, hope we’ll meet soon, I kiss you. N.” On June 12, 1974, Rich wrote her a letter explaining that a formal invitation was in process, but until then, “Your photo is on the wall over my desk and I look at it often when I work. I think of how it will be to see you really, to hear you read your poems, which even in translation I love so much.” The folder does not reveal whether or when Natalya Gorbanevskaya was able to come to the United States, but in an essay published in late 1975 in Caratad magazine, Rich notes that she finally left the Soviet Union for France.

After the coup on May 22, 2014, Thailand’s 12th since 1932 and the end of the absolute monarchy, both unbridled state power and impunity in its abuse became acute. The arrest of writers, intellectuals, and theater performers who question authority—and concern about how dissidents inside the country can remain safe and out of jail—are part of the present-day context for my writing of this history. Reading Adrienne Rich’s papers, particularly her notes about and letters to Natalya Gorbanevskaya, reminds me that this kind of work must continue, even when the inability to stem repression threatens to feel devastating.

In my next letter to the former teacher (now friend) who introduced me to Rich’s work, I will write about the friendship between Rich and Gorbanevskaya and the urgency and lessons I still find in her writing after 20 years.

—Tyrell Haberkorn

Tyrell Haberkorn is a 2014–2015 fellow at the Radcliffe Institute, where she conducts research on state violence, human rights, and dissident cultural politics in Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand. She is affiliated with the Australian National University, where she’s a fellow in the Department of Political and Social Change.
Cambridge

Adrienne Rich '51
This academic year, the Schlesinger Library awarded a total of $74,000 to 35 grant recipients, who will plumb the library’s manuscripts, rare books, magazines, photos, and audiovisual materials to examine topics such as childhood obesity, the history of disability in the United States, political participation among immigrant populations, and the portrayal of neuroscience in films and to research notable women such as the suffragist Alice Paul.

**CAROL K. PFORZHEIMER STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS**
The Schlesinger Library awarded Carol K. Pforzheimer Student Fellowships to support these Harvard College students in their undergraduate study:

- **Diane Brinkley ’15**
  “Pornography in the Public and Private Spheres”

- **Grace Chen ’15**
  “‘Easy’ and ‘Exotic’: The Familiar and the Foreign in Grace Zia Chu’s Cookbooks”

- **Kristin Holladay ’15**
  “Suffrage and Sanity: The Political Pathologizing of Alice Paul and the National Woman’s Party”

- **Ivel Posada ’14**

- **Indiana Seresin ’15**
  “Radical Doulas and Reproductive Justice Activism: An Emerging Movement”

- **Cynthia Shih ’15**
  “Childhood Obesity in the Cafeteria: How School Food Environments Shaped the Bodies of America’s Youth”

- **Seyedehfatemeh Delaram Takyar ’15**
  “Political Participation of Middle Eastern Immigrants in the Post 9-11 Era”

- **Lyla Wasz-Piper ’15**
  “Genital Normalizing Surgeries on Intersex Infants: Current State of Affairs”

**RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANTS**
The recipients of Schlesinger Library Research Support Grants are independent scholars and college and university faculty members from around the world.

- **Tori Barnes-Brus**, Cornell College
  “‘Saviour of Her Sex’: Lydia E. Pinkham Patent Medicine Company and the Construction of Female Health”

- **Meredith Chilton**, Independent Scholar
  “The Emergence of Informal and Private Dining in 17th- and 18th-Century Europe”

- **Ariel Dougherty**, Independent Scholar
  “Feminist Filming within Communities”

- **Diane B. Friedman**, Marian University
  “Neuroscience in Popular Early Films: *Dark Victory* and World War I”

- **Jeffrey Gonda**, Syracuse University
  “‘No Crystal Stair’: Black Women and Civil Rights Law in Postwar America”

- **Che Gosett**, Independent Scholar
  “‘My Dungeon Shook’: Legacies of Black Queer Solidarity with Palestinian Struggle in a Time of Pinkwashing, Homonationalism, and Carceral Regimes”

- **Dorene Isenberg**, University of Redlands
  “The Development of Women’s Creditworthiness: The 1970s”

- **Shelah Gilbert Leader**, Columbia University
  “Forging a Feminist Consensus”

- **Irene Lusztig ’96, RI ’11**, University of California, Santa Cruz

- **Michelle Moravec**, Rosemont College
  “The Politics of Women’s Culture”

- **G. Kurt Piehler**, Florida State University
  “The Religious History of American GIs in World War II”

- **Margaret Talbot**, Independent Researcher
  “Jailbirds: The Final Push for Women’s Suffrage”
**DISSERTATION GRANTS**
The Schlesinger Library awards Dissertation Grants to scholars who are enrolled in a doctoral program and researching a dissertation topic.

**Stephanie Boland**, University of Exeter
“Cooking the Books: Genre and Culture in the Modernist Cookbook”

**Jenifer Dodd**, Vanderbilt University
“Psychiatric and Feminist Theories of Rape, 1970–1990”

**Kristen Gaylord**, Institute of Fine Arts at New York University**
“‘Infiltrate the Masses’: Immaculate Heart College and Corita Kent in the 1960s”

**Deneil Hill**, Binghamton University**

**Charlotte Jeffries**, University of Cambridge
“The Emergence of a National Consensus on Teenage Female Sexuality in the United States, 1981–2008”

**Bryan Knapp**, Brown University

**Assata Sankofa Kokayi**, Northwestern University***

**Joe Ryan-Hume**, University of Glasgow**
“Standing in Reagan’s Shadow: Liberal Strategies in a Conservative Age”

**Roxanne Samer**, University of Southern California
“Receiving Feminisms: Toward a Media Archaeology of Lesbian Possibility”

**Monica Steinberg**, City University of New York
“Finish Fetish: Art, Artists, and Alter Egos in Los Angeles of the 1960s”

**Jessica Waggoner**, Indiana University
“Crip Modernisms: Unspectacular Disability in the United States, 1930s and ’40s”

**Ashley Rose Young**, Duke University
“Nourishing Networks: Provisioning Southern Cities in the Atlantic World, 1840–1905”

**ORAL HISTORY GRANTS**
The Schlesinger Library awards Oral History Grants to scholars conducting oral interviews relevant to the history of women or gender in the United States.

**Kythe Heller**, Harvard University
“A Media Archaeology of Mystical Islam: Female Sufis of the Bawa Muhaisin Fellowship in America”

**Abbie Reese**, Independent Scholar
“Young Nuns: Discerning Religious Life in the 21st Century”

**Jaime Schultz**, Pennsylvania State University
“Women Marathoners in the Age of Rebellion, 1959–1972”

For more information about the Schlesinger Library’s research grants and deadlines, please visit [www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/grants](http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/grants).

*Also received the Elizabeth A. Nicholson Undergraduate Award, which is conferred in honor of Elizabeth A. Nicholson ’79 on the most deserving undergraduate proposals.

**Also received the Joan R. Challinor Award, which is given for research in the area of women, gender, Catholicism, national government, journalism, and libraries.

***Also received the Alice Stone Blackwell Award, which—consistent with the life and accomplishments of the woman it honors—is given for research supporting the promotion of equal rights for women, with an emphasis on women around the world.
Early in her career, Ana Livia Cordero (1931–1992)—a Puerto Rican physician and social activist—helped bring medical services to rural Puerto Rico. Now the Schlesinger is pleased to announce the acquisition of her papers.

Cordero became involved in politics at age 15, when she served as treasurer of the Puerto Rican Pro-Dominican Democracy Committee. She graduated from Columbia University Medical School in 1953 and returned to Puerto Rico, where she worked with rural communities. In 1961 she and her husband, the civil rights activist Julian Mayfield, moved to Ghana, where Cordero ran a women’s health clinic and served as W. E. B. Du Bois’s personal physician until his death, in 1963. When President Nkrumah fell from power, Cordero was expelled from Ghana. She and Mayfield divorced, and Cordero again returned to Puerto Rico, where she continued her medical work and grassroots activism.

For three years, Cordero was a member of the Movimiento Pro Independencia (a pro-independence group) before she began working in 1967 to form Proyecto Piloto de Trabajo con el Pueblo (Pilot Project for Working with the People). Proyecto offered community training in basic skills such as driving and cooking, along with anticolonial and neo-Marxist political and economic analysis. Cordero was arrested in 1968 for her activism. She and Proyecto maintained connections with the African American liberation movement in the United States.

The Ana Livia Cordero Papers were donated to the Schlesinger by her eldest son, Rafael Mayfield. The story of how these papers came to the library illustrates the Schlesinger’s strong ties with Harvard students. Sandy Placido PhD ’16, a Harvard graduate student in American studies, learned about Ana Livia Cordero when she found a letter from Cordero in the Malcolm X papers at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Placido began researching Cordero and made contact with Mayfield. She had conducted research at the Schlesinger and felt that the library would be an excellent repository for this important collection. Library staff members worked with Placido and Mayfield to survey and organize Cordero’s material.

The collection includes material in English and Spanish and documents both Cordero’s activism and the state backlash against her projects. Proyecto in particular is well documented: The papers include its curriculum, a member’s diary, and a community history. Also contained in the collection are police files spanning the 30 years from 1950 to 1980. The files contain material from the Puerto Rican Police Department Intelligence Division, which was primarily tasked with suppressing nationalists; independence and leftist activists and community organizations; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Negociado de Investigaciones (NIE), an arm of the Puerto Rican Justice Department that is similar to the FBI.

The collection also includes Cordero’s personal correspondence; photographs; passports, school transcripts, and other documents; and articles and political analyses Cordero wrote. A notable item is her medical bag, which she carried during trips through rural Puerto Rico. The papers will be processed shortly and, once opened, will serve as a rich resource for scholars.

—Amanda Strauss
Research Librarian
John Ingraham: Dedicated to Crime Stoppers and the Schlesinger Library

John Ingraham ’52, MBA ’57 has been a proud member of the Schlesinger Library Council for the past decade. His mother fought in Milwaukee for women’s right to vote, so when he visited Harvard’s campus to celebrate his 50th reunion, in 2002, he decided to explore the Schlesinger’s collections on the suffrage movement. Always a fan of the Harvard libraries, Ingraham says, he spent the afternoon “just sticking my nose under the stacks.” What he found was a revelation. “This,” he says, “was something I wanted to support.”

After Ingraham gave his reunion gift to the library in honor of his mother, Nancy F. Cott invited him to join the Schlesinger Library Council. Cott had just arrived at the Radcliffe Institute from Yale to lead the library as the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director.

Ingraham has “enjoyed immensely” the opportunity to be a member of the council, which not only helps him keep in touch with the University, but also gives him a chance to learn about the cutting-edge technology the library uses to make its collections available to scholars in Cambridge and around the world. He is excited by the diversity of Radcliffe’s Fellowship Program and the international focus of many of the Institute’s public events.

Ingraham’s interest in the Institute’s international reach is almost certainly rooted in his professional experience. One of just six students plucked from his Harvard Business School class for a career at Citibank, he has worked for nearly six decades in international finance—a career that has taken him from New York to Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

He spent much of the 1980s in Latin America, overseeing the bank’s interests at a time when many countries in that region found themselves unable to repay their foreign debt. That, Ingraham says, was a formative experience. “I began to appreciate the profound differences between the sheltered way I was brought up and what it’s like to live, as a human being, in the emerging markets.”

Although he continues to travel as the head of risk aggregation for Citigroup—most recently to Central Europe to explore the economic effects of the political situation there—Ingraham makes community service a priority. For 20 years, he has served on a committee that evaluates tips made to New York City’s Crime Stoppers hotline and grants rewards in cases where a tip has helped solve a crime. The Crime Stoppers program has resolved more than 5,300 violent crimes since its inception, in 1983, leading Ingraham and his fellow committee members to pay out more than $1.8 million in rewards.

“I was brought up to believe that everybody has a responsibility for some community service,” Ingraham says. “Crime Stoppers is my commitment to New York. The Schlesinger Library Council is my commitment to Harvard.”

—Danielle Griggs
Development Communications Manager

PHOTO BY TONY RINALDO
Schlesinger Library Informs HBO's *The Normal Heart*

When the HBO adaptation of Larry Kramer’s 1985 autobiographical play, *The Normal Heart*, hit the airwaves on May 25, 2014, it did so to strong acclaim from critics and audiences alike, eventually garnering six Primetime Emmy Award nominations. The film—set during the rise of the AIDS epidemic in early 1980s New York City—stars Julia Roberts, Mark Ruffalo, Jim Parsons, and Alfred Molina.

Roberts portrays Emma Brookner, intrepid physician and polio survivor—a character based on the AIDS-research pioneer Linda J. Laubenstein, who discovered the first cases of the syndrome in New York. Housed at the Schlesinger Library, Laubenstein’s papers date from 1947 to 1993 and include photographs, videos, personal correspondence, clippings, a diary, and other autobiographical writings.

According to Diana Carey, a research librarian in visual resources, the producers consulted photographs of Laubenstein’s apartment while researching the film. And the screen adaptation has not been the only production of *The Normal Heart* to benefit from Laubenstein’s papers: another actor watched videos of Laubenstein while developing her character for the stage.

One could argue that it’s through the Schlesinger that *The Normal Heart’s* Emma Brookner found her soul.

—Ivelisse Estrada
Writer/Editor

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Reading Historic Cookbooks: A Structured Approach**

A Seminar Taught by Barbara Ketcham Wheaton
May 31–June 5, 2015

The Schlesinger Library invites applications to the seminar “Reading Historic Cookbooks: A Structured Approach.” Cookbooks are among the best sources we have for the study of food history, but they are complex documents that yield their secrets only to an attentive and systematic reader. Join the scholar, writer, and honorary curator of the library’s culinary collection, Barbara Ketcham Wheaton, for a highly interactive weeklong seminar in augmenting research skills in culinary history. A maximum of 16 participants will have the opportunity to work with Wheaton to explore the art of reading cookbooks for meaning.

For more information about the seminar, visit www.radcliffe.harvard.edu.

**Gilman and the Archive**

The Sixth International Charlotte Perkins Gilman Conference
June 2015

The Radcliffe Institute is a cosponsor of the Sixth International Charlotte Perkins Gilman Conference, to be held on the Radcliffe campus in June. Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library holds a rich collection of Gilman’s papers, including letters, drawings, and the entire run of her periodical, *The Forerunner*. A selection of Gilman-related materials will be exhibited as part of the conference.

For more information about the conference, visit www.radcliffe.harvard.edu.
Radcliffe Helped Jean McCarroll’s Dreams Become Reality

The Institute Keeps College’s Legacy Alive

When a National Merit Scholarship made her dream of college a reality, Jean McCarroll ’60, MAT ’61 knew she would choose Radcliffe. Not only had her sixth-grade teacher suggested that she attend Radcliffe, but the campus was not far from her hometown of Sandwich, Massachusetts, and all her classes would be at Harvard, which appealed to her.

McCarroll majored in history and did a minor in government, but her favorite course was Music I, taught by the famed G. Wallace Woodworth ’24, known to his students as Woody. With no prior musical training, McCarroll remembers, Music I was the most difficult class in her time at Radcliffe, and for it she earned the lowest grade of her undergraduate career: “A C-plus, and even that was a great struggle.”

Music, though, was never part of her long-term plans. She had always hoped to be a teacher and entered Radcliffe’s master of arts in teaching program following graduation. The yearlong intensive in history and social science prepared her well for a career educating high school students in Burlington, Massachusetts, and Pelham, New York. But McCarroll didn’t stop there. She worked for several years in publishing and then put herself through law school and began a long career in environmental law.

“My motto is ‘It’s never too late to start over again,’” McCarroll says. Even in retirement, she has reinvented herself, focusing on travel to far-flung places such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and, most recently, Turkey.

Now, as she approaches her 55th reunion, McCarroll is honoring her alma mater with a charitable gift annuity to support the Schlesinger Library, which is part of the Radcliffe Institute and helps carry forward the legacy of Radcliffe College.

For McCarroll, a gift annuity serves three purposes: It provides her with a tax deduction. It gives her income during her retirement years. And, she says, “it allows me to support an institution I care about. I have such fond memories and emotional feelings about Radcliffe College, and I’m very glad that the Institute keeps the Radcliffe name alive.”

For more information about charitable gift annuities or planned giving, please contact John Christel, Radcliffe’s liaison at University Planned Giving, at 617-384-8231 or john_christel@harvard.edu.

—Danielle Griggs
Development Communications Manager

How Wonder Woman Got Into Harvard

The noted author Jill Lepore BI ’00, the David Woods Kemper ’41 Professor of American History at Harvard and a staff writer at the New Yorker, gave a spirited lecture on Wonder Woman in late October at the Radcliffe Institute.

Lepore’s new book, The Secret History of Wonder Woman—which she dedicated to her mentor Nancy F. Cott—had just been published to enthusiastic reviews. Cott is the former Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library and a professor of history in Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

In writing her book, Lepore drew on material from the Schlesinger’s collections.
Ana Livia Cordero used this medical bag and its contents to deliver care to patients in rural Puerto Rico. (See page 11.)

PHOTO BY KEVIN GRADY/ANA LIVIA CORDERO PAPERS, SCHLESINGER LIBRARY

Front Cover

Written materials from What They Wrote, What They Saved: The Personal Civil War