

Capital Area Archivists of New York State



Spring, 2010

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CAA's Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 15 at 5:30PM
at the Fischbach Room, Folsom Library, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Parking will be available in the parking garage on College Ave. There is a corridor through the Center for Polymer Synthesis to an exit near the library. For directions, go to <http://www.rpi.edu/tour/directions.html>.

Program:

"The Rensselaer Polytechnic: Online Access to RPI's Student Newspaper," by **Tammy Gobert, Automation Archivist, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

Tammy will discuss incorporating digital newspapers into Rensselaer Digital Collections, a library-wide system for presenting digital materials to the campus community and beyond.

AND

"Indexing Archival Documents for Online Searching: Accessing a Student Newspaper Using Google Mini" by Mark Wolfe, Curator of Digital Collections, University at Albany.



Schenectady Museum Receives \$10,000 Center for History of Physics Grant for Archives Preservation

The Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics has awarded a grant for \$9,920.76 to the Schenectady Museum for use in preserving archival photographs. The grant will support the standardization, conversion to Encoded Archival Description (EAD format), and creation of 23 finding aids related to the Museum's General Electric collections. Only three grants were awarded in 2009: Schenectady Museum,

Cornell University, and the University of Chicago.

The Schenectady Museum Archives is one of the premier collections on the history of technology and its impact on society. With over 1.6 million images that date from the 1850s to the present, the collection's strengths are many and include photography and film, radio and television film and images, and materials relating to marketing of consumer products as well as medical, power generation and the turbine. Collections from General Electric and the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) give a vivid picture of those companies' international impact. Audio recordings in the collection include rare radio recordings, Edison wax cylinders, and an Edison tinfoil recording from 1878.



Photo Caption: Irving Langmuir holding a plitron tube, c. 1920. The Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics has awarded a grant for \$9,920.76 to the Schenectady Museum for use in preserving archival photographs like this one of Langmuir.

Founded in 1934, the Schenectady Museum & Suits-

Bueche Planetarium is the only science center in Tech Valley offering a multimedia experience for visitors of all ages. In addition to the Suits-Bueche Planetarium, the Museum houses the GE Photograph collection with more than 1.6 million prints and negatives; an archival collection with more than 3,500 cubic feet of historic materials; and over 40,000 objects relating to the history of science and technology. The Museum also offers the only FETCH! Lab in the Northeast, with hands-on activities patterned after the popular PBS show FETCH!, in collaboration with WHMT.

State Archives' Document Showcase Highlights Rights of Women in Early New York History

The New York State Archives' Document Showcase provides teachers and students with online access to historical records that illuminate the history of women's rights in our state from its earliest days as New Netherland through the mid 19th century. The Archives' quarterly website features four important documents:

- an excerpt of a marriage contract from 1643
- a petition by a widow's sons that she be granted a letter of administration from 1670
- a law excerpt from 1710 classifying women as equals of minors and those "not of Sound mind"

- a law excerpt from 1848 protecting the property of married women

Each Showcase includes sample documents, an historical sketch, and links to educational activities developed by a teacher for classroom use. Each Showcase also provides links within the State Archives' website for further information on the topic. Because some of the documents are difficult to read, translations and transcriptions are provided where necessary. This quarter's Document Showcase on women's rights can be found on the Archives website at www.archives.nysed.gov.

State Archives' Pilot Project Tests Presence on Social Networking Sites

The New York State Archives is participating in a New York State Education Department pilot project testing the value of social networking sites in the government environment. The Archives currently has posted videos, images and news updates to Flickr, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. We welcome people to look at the sites and send us feedback either through the sites or via email at archinfo@mail.nysed.gov.

- http://www.flickr.com/photos/nys_archives/
- <http://www.facebook.com/nysarchives>
- <http://www.youtube.com/nysarchives>
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