**Annual Report 2015-2016**

**The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience**

**Department of History**

**College of Arts and Sciences**

**Florida State University**

**Tallahassee, Florida**

The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience is dedicated to preserving the history and promoting the study of the Second World War. Founded in 1997 by the late Professor William Oldson, the Institute maintains one of the largest archives at an American university that documents the human dimension of this war that engulfed the world. The Institute has over 6800 individual collections, including the collection donated by award-winning journalist and the author of *The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw. Housed on the Florida State University campus in the Bellamy Building, the Institute serves as a resource for scholars, teachers, students, journalists, and the general public. The Institute is a constituent part of the Florida State University Department of History, directed by a tenured faculty member, Professor G. Kurt Piehler, who teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses. He also functions as advisor for eight graduate students and supervises several undergraduate honors theses and Directed Independent Studies.

The past year has been a time of tremendous momentum at the Institute. With the addition of new collections related to nearly every theater of the war and the continuation of digitization efforts, the Institute aims to continually expand its scope and impact in research, teaching, programming, and outreach. Scholarly publications, award-winning graduate research, and public exhibits have been created through work and research at the Institute. In the upcoming year, undergraduate students will have increased opportunities to work with, and learn about some of the unique collections in the archives. The Institute has strived not only to serve the needs of scholars, but also to make our facilities a living history laboratory for students at Florida State University.

**RESEARCH**

**Collections Acquired**

The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience has focused this past academic year on continuing to forge partnerships with a range of different constituencies. Without the generosity of veterans and their families who have donated their letters, diaries, photographs, maps, visual arts, and artifacts, the Institute would not exist. Individuals continue to add to our holdings, and since July 1, 2015 we have accessioned 36 new collections. We are committed to fulfilling our core mission to continue to preserve all the collections entrusted to our care, as well as ensure that scholars, students, journalists and the general public have greater access to them.

Among the 36 collections the Institute acquired this year, some exceeded our expectations and others held the sorts of surprises that archivists and historians treasure. Rich evidence of the work of memory in the public sphere and its impact on veterans was donated by Floridian and former B-17 co-pilot Paul Gordy. Paul and his brother Leonard, who also flew a B-17, share the distinction of being the only brothers from Florida to both be shot down over Germany and held in the same prisoner of war camp, Stalag Luft III. Thanks to these brothers, in addition to our considerable holdings of documents concerning their Bomb Groups, the 384th Bombardment Group (Heavy) and 94th Bomb Group, we also have a collection of books written just after the war about the 8th Air Force and Stalag Luft III, as well as clippings of newspaper stories spanning the decades since that the brothers found relevant to their experience.

An important addition for those interested in questions of memory and memorializing is the 1941 scrapbook of a German sergeant who participated in the Battle for France. Gifted to the Institute by Jeff Ranu, whose master’s work in history alerted him to the value of the battlefield photographs and previously unpublished stills of the German 25th Infantry Division command staff, the scrapbook also contains poetry that Feldwebel Schäfer wrote in his diary. Although Schäfer was no Heinrich Heine, the poems reveal the attitudes and expectations of this non-commissioned officer at the height of Germany’s “success” in its attempt to dominate Europe.

Another scrapbook of particular interest to Floridians came to us from Laura Elizabeth Smith Hiott who served in the US Army Aircraft Warning Service in Grant, Florida. Ms. Hiott’s granddaughter, Linda S. Alcoff explained that the Smiths were Florida homesteaders, and Laura Elizabeth’s parents were sharecroppers. During the 1930s, the family lived for some years in a railroad car. Ms. Hiott was the eldest of eight children. One of her younger brothers, Elmer Smith, was killed on Wake Island. She assembled the scrapbook during World War II, and it includes documents regarding her family’s service but also a rich collection of letterhead art from every branch of the military.

The institute is also pleased to have received several collections of letters between American Servicemen and their wives, most notably the love letters between Marion and Marine Lt. Carl Johnson who served in Japan and China. Mr. Johnson provided a copy of his *Reflections and Memories* which will help students, researchers and scholars place the events in the letters in the context of historical and personal events.

*Please see Appendix A for a complete list of collections received during the 2015-2016 year.*

**Drawing on the Talents of Staff and Students**

The Institute was fortunate to have Mike Kasper join the staff of the Institute in January 2016. Mike hails originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and holds an undergraduate degree from Penn State. He retired in December 2015 after 28 years as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Agency. He completed his Masters of Library Science from Clarion University in 2012 and volunteered as the Archivist for the Cranbury History Center in Cranbury, New Jersey. He also volunteered at the Hagley Library Archives which is the DuPont Corporation’s historical archive.

As a part-time volunteer archivist, Mike has taken charge of overseeing all aspects of the Institute’s archives and class-supported Scripto crowdsourcing effort. Under Mike’s direction, and with the assistance of undergraduate assistants, the Institute has made tremendous progress in cataloguing our collections in our Archon online access finding aid database. Archon is maintained by the Special Collections at Florida State Libraries. Since January 2016, the Institute has added 91 collections to Archon which have also been cataloged and made available through WorldCat. Institute collections are available on Archon through <http://fsuarchon.fcla.edu/>.

As a result of a bequest from the estate of the late Earl “Bill” Bailey, Mike joined the salaried staff as part-time archivist on July 1, 2016. Funding from Bailey will allow the Institute to keep Mike on as archivist for at least one year. The Bailey money is an important stopgap, but Professor Piehler has made securing an endowment for the archival position a top priority.

Anne Marsh, who has been with the Institute since 1997, is the Institute’s administrative and events manager. Since 2011, the Institute has sponsored an annual spring and fall lecture, and has organized two conferences. Anne, working with Mike Kasper, is the point of contact for the FSU community and visiting scholars seeking to use the Institute’s collections. Additionally, Anne has been conducting essential work for the planning of the upcoming Society for Military History Conference in Jacksonville.

The Oliver L. Austin Photographic Collection, curated by Professor Annika A. Culver, Associate Professor of East Asian History, has garnered international, national, and local interest, including press from the Nikkei News, *Tallahassee Democrat*, and FSU newswire. Under Professor Culver’s auspices, the collection was originally donated in the fall of 2013 by Tony Austin, the son of the photographer. The promotional video for the collection, made by Professor Culver's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) student intern Natalie Jones, which included interviews with Professors Culver, Piehler, and Ron Doel, was featured in prominent Tokyo hip-hop designer and style leader FUJIWARA Hiroshi's blog. This posting lead to over 100,000 retweets and a sensation in the Japanese Twittersphere due to the rarity of color photographs of Tokyo in the immediate postwar period.  Images from the collection were published in *Tokyo-jin*[Tokyoite], a hip Japanese magazine centering on Tokyo history, and in a book on Hachisuka Masauji, a flamboyant Japanese aristocrat and collaborator of Dr. Austin who was an avid hunter. Professor Culver also was interviewed by the Nikkei News (Japan's equivalent to the Wall Street Journal), and was featured in two of their online video news stories in summer 2016.  The website itself received several new tabs under the curator's direction, including one on ornithology and another about the Nakada family, the neighbors of the Austins, as symbols of the postwar rebuilding of the US-Japan relationship on an individual level.  Professor Culver worked also with web developer Sharon Austin through UROP funds to make the site more user-friendly and enhance its aesthetics.

A team of Japanese researchers, including academics, architects, and even building engineers, have been plotting the locations of the images on a Google maps schema, which allows viewers to see the space inhabited by Dr. Austin in Tokyo and on the specimen collecting trips where he went.  Professor Culver is also greatly assisted by Tony Austin, and his former neighbor in Tokyo, Dr. Yoshinao Nakada, a retired physicist, in identifying the photos and determining their orientation.

In spring 2016, when Professor Culver received a Grant in Engaged Learning (GEL) for her History of the US and East Asia course, students researched individual images in the Collection and wrote professional captions for them.  They worked with GEL graduate mentors Kyle Bracken and Hillary Sebeny, who shepherded them through the process and uploaded their captions after editing by Professor Culver.

Graduate and undergraduate assistants have played an instrumental role in the daily operations of the Institute. Jan-Ruth Mills, a Holocaust and military historian, co-author of *St. Georgen-Guse-Mauthausen: Concentration Camp Mauthausen Reconsidered,* is currently working on a dissertation about Messerschmitt production and slave labor under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Grant. She supported the digitalization project by selecting letters from the Sidney Rochelson collection for undergraduate students to transcribe and annotate. Rochelson, a U.S. Army surgeon, served in the European Theater of Operations in 1944-1945. Prior to Mike’s arrival at the Institute, she had the responsibility of processing and accessioning new collections, adding to Archon and writing the Access scope notes for those collections donated between July 2015 and May 2016. Jordan Bolan, an undergraduate assistant who has been with the Institute since she arrived on campus as a first-year student in August 2013, has devoted her energies in 2015-2016 to processing and cataloguing the 460th Bomb Group Collection.

**Promoting Scholarship**

Making the finding aids for the Institute available through Archon and Worldcat has promoted more scholars and graduate students to contact us about our holdings. The Institute director and staff during the past two years have attended the annual meeting of the American Historical Association and staffed a table at the book exhibit. Several thousand historians attend the annual meeting of the society and this has allowed us to reach out personally to both established scholars and graduate students, fielding inquiries about our resources.

Conferences are an important way for historians to network. The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, in conjunction with Judy Barrett Litoff of Bryant University (Rhode Island), hosted our second scholarly conference focusing on Comparative Home Fronts during the Second World War. This conference, held at the Hotel Duval from January 14-16, 2016, opened with a keynote address by Professor Sheldon Garon of Princeton University. Seventeen scholars from China, Great Britain, Italy, Turkey, and the United States presented papers which offered global perspective on the impact of this important theme. Although all societies mobilized their civilian populations in support of the war, the impact varied, especially for countries that were invaded or occupied by the enemy.

Several conference attendees arrived early to take advantage of the opportunity to review the resources of the Institute. Elena Friot, a doctoral student from the University of New Mexico arrived a week early to conduct research in our collections related to New Mexico and prisoners of war. Andrew Stewart of King’s College London surveyed our holdings and plans an extensive visit in December 2017 to spend several weeks in residence for his next project focusing on the European Theater.

As a result of the generosity of the late Thomas C. Cundy Sr., the Institute is able to offer a travel grant to allow scholars and advanced graduate students to visit Tallahassee to conduct research. The first recipients of the Cundy Grant were selected and visited the Institute to research in our collections. One recipient, Anna Anderson from the University of Houston, was writing a dissertation examining the experience of American Jewish and black POWs in German camps during the war.

Perhaps the most ambitious initiative is hosting the annual meeting of the Society for Military History in 2017, focusing on the theme of “Global War: Historical Perspectives.” In order to accommodate a conference that will conservatively attract 600 military historians from across the globe, the Institute needed to look beyond Tallahassee for a venue. The Hyatt Regency Riverfront in Jacksonville, Florida will be the headquarters of the meeting from March 30-April 2, 2017. Hosting this conference will expand the visibility of the Institute, the History Department, and Florida State University to the scholarly community.

As an active scholar, Professor Piehler continues to work on a book project examining the Religious Life of the American GI in World War II. He is also an editor of two book series with Fordham University Press (World War II) and the Legacies of War (University of Tennessee Press). He continues to participate in scholarly conferences, and in 2015 he joined scholars from the Republic of Korea, Great Britain, Norway, and the United States focusing on the commemoration of the Second World War. Organized by Hyang University, the two-day conference at Seoul, Korea underscored the continuing differences of how nations remember the Second World War. In the case of East Asia, the memory of the Pacific War is not a distant one.

As part of this year’s annual report, the Institute has included a bibliography of scholars who have relied upon the Institute’s holdings (*Please see Appendix B*). The Institute has made an impact in scholarship and has been an especially valuable resource for doctoral students. Seeking to increase scholarly and student use of the collections is a major goal of the Institute and this report underscores several initiatives to achieve this end.

**TEACHING**

**A History Laboratory**

Undergraduate and graduate students have always used the Institute’s collections for research papers. This year, students from Professors Kris Harper and Annika Culver’s history classes made the most use of the collections. They sought material on diverse topics, such as women in the military, the Battle of Angaur, the occupation of Japan, and the role of bomb groups in the Pacific War.

In October 2015, Jillian Szaroleta joined the Institute as a part of the Florida State University’s UROP. Jillian began working first with the Civil War papers in the Anne and Wayne Coloney Collection, one of the Institute’s most significant holdings. That project, which has continued as a DIS, consisted of transcription, annotation, and the creation of a headnote. This summer, Jillian started processing collections and adding them into the Archon database. Jillian also processed and digitized the finding aids for many collections, including the Reuben O'Donovan Askew Papers (00.0520), the Taylor G. Burke Collection (16.0010), the Ernie and Chris Conte Collection (16.0009), the Cay Hohmeister Collection (16.0008), the Samuel Kurlandsky Collection (16.0011), the John and Rosalie Meade Collection (16.0014), the Charles F. Myers Papers (16.0016), the Roemer "Ray" Stead Papers (16.0007), and the Raymond L. Willett Collection (16.0015).

The Institute is not just a resource for history majors. Jason Ratcliffe, a graduate student, is one of our current graduate assistants at the Institute. During the spring of 2015, Jason assisted Sam Hollister, a pre-veterinary student, who immersed himself in a medical journal from a U.S. Army surgeon who served in the European Theater. Before he died, Dr. Thaddeus Moseley donated his war-time journal to the Institute and it has been inaccessible to scholars and students. Through a Directed Independent Study, Sam carefully transcribed and fully annotated it by identifying individuals, events, and the medical operations and procedures. In the late summer of 1944, Moseley landed at Utah Beach in Normandy; he was dispatched to one of the Auxiliary Surgical Groups to support American troops moving through France. Moseley left behind a ninety-two-page journal, recording the name, identification number, type of injury, and treatment given for each of his patients. This journal is a priceless addition to the history of World War II. It reveals what injuries he saw commonly, how he treated men. While Moseley used shorthand and his script is small, his entire journal has now been transcribed and annotated for the benefit of researchers. This transcription will soon be accessible online, adding to a number of excellent collections that the Institute has worked to make available to the public.

Given staffing constraints and the size of the FSU student body, only a small percentage of students will ever have an opportunity to complete an internship or independent study at the Institute. Earlier in his career, Professor Piehler pioneered as founding director of the Rutgers Oral History Archives (1994-1998) in engaging students in original research. Beginning in the fall 2014, he sought to engage undergraduate students enrolled in a range of both honors and lecture courses in the efforts to make our collections more accessible to scholars, students, journalists and the general public. Advances in technology and the creation of open access platforms allows the Institute to have students work with our collections anywhere they have access to the Internet.

In 2015-2016, students in all four courses offered by Professor Piehler conducted original research in order to transcribe and annotate collections. One of the hallmarks of these courses was the “library scavenger hunt” where students working in small groups had to find key resources in Strozier Library related to World War II. Among the most important skills Dr. Piehler seeks to impart in his courses, is the ability to think critically and to consider how to discern what is an authoritative source and not simply rely on a Google search. Students in these courses rose to the challenge, in part, because they recognized their final work would be read not just by their course professor, but that they were creating a lasting publication that will be viewed after the course’s completion. By way of an example, Professor Piehler often shows students the transcripts of interviews that he conducted with students back in 1994 and he expects to show off the works completed by his current students in 2016.

Hannah Shapiro, an undergraduate staff member, took Professor Piehler’s honors class, The American GI in War and Peace during World War II, in the spring of 2016. In this course, the students were required to read five different texts and analyze them through an academic paper. The final project required students to “identify, transcribe, annotate, and digitize documents from the Institute on World War II and seek to tell an important part of the history of World War II” through various collections. Hannah and her group worked with the Edward Sidote collection specifically, a collection that is now available on the Archon and WorldCat databases. With this collection, the group selected 60 of the most important letters, transcribed them, annotated them, and completed a headnote for the collection to be published. Since completing the course, Hannah has also completed a Directed Independent Study with a focus on processing collections of Merchant Marine involvement and impact during World War II.

Jake Groh, an undergraduate researcher, began his experiences with the Institute over the course of two semesters in class with Professor Piehler. In his courses, Professor Piehler took the time to involve students, including Jake, in the preservation and study of history through the interaction with letters sent by GIs to their loved ones at home. In these assignments, the classes read the handwritten letters of Kenneth Adams and Carl Emile Johnson, transcribed the letters, annotated specific details to provide contextual knowledge, and posted them onto the Scripto platform for public viewing. These activities provided an important look into the work that historians do in preserving and presenting the distinct perspectives of the individuals who participated in some of the most important events in history and present them to the public in an accessible manner. Not only were the activities important for sharpening writing, research, and critical thinking skills, but to interact with such historical documents was uniquely engaging in that it allowed a small window through which to understand the varied experiences of different American GIs and provided access to a primary resource that would not have been available to undergraduate students.

The Institute strives to initiate the first of what we hope will be many cross-institutional partnerships to integrate “crowd sourcing” assignments into classrooms around the country. In fall 2015, Professor Edward Gitre of Virginia Tech University partnered with the Institute to involve two sections in our work. Institute staff selected over 300 documents from two collections and digitized them for his students in Blacksburg, Virginia. Not only did the Institute provide the documents and guidelines on how to transcribe and annotate the documents, but Professor Piehler remained a resource for students to contact regarding research questions. At the beginning of the course, he traveled to Blacksburg to offer a lecture to both sections introducing students to the goals and purposes of the project. The visit also offered an opportunity to begin a dialogue on further developing the partnership between Florida State and Virginia Tech.

Professor Gitre’s involvement in the crowd sourcing won recognition from his home institution and nationally. He was nominated and a finalist for the XCaliber Award offered by Virginia Tech for exceptional contributions to technology-enriched teaching and learning in 2016. Gitre also received recognition from the Center for Research Libraries winning an Honorable Mention for the Primary Source Award for Teaching (2016).

The collaboration with FSU encouraged Professor Gitre to initiate a new project that seeks to increase greater access to one of the most important collections, the underused papers of a team of social scientists under the leadership of Samuel Stouffer. The American Soldier Collaborative project aims to digitize the raw data created by Stouffer during the Second World War that studied virtually every aspect of the life of the GI. The distillation of Stouffer’s once top-secret reports into the four volumes, *The American Soldier* (Princeton University Press, 1944), is one of the most important sources for understanding the social history of the American GI in World War II. For instance, the Stouffer team would determine that comradeship, not patriotism, remained the essential glue for combat cohesion. His team’s findings on race relations proved influential in undermining the Jim Crow Army and helped speed integration of the armed forces. The research on the causes of psychiatric casualties contributed to the decision of the U.S. Army to establish limited tours of duty on the front lines since the Stouffer team concluded that, over time, soldiers in sustained combat will almost invariably experience psychological distress. While scholars often quote from *The American Soldier*, no scholar, except Gitre, has used the raw data from the hundreds of thousands of surveys that sit in the National Archives only available on microfilm. Official censorship of GI letters and the prohibition on keeping diaries make these two sources problematic, especially in determining the innermost thoughts of GIs. When completing surveys, GIs had a rare opportunity to express themselves freely and anonymously, making this a particular rich historical source.

Undergraduates do good work, but even the best work needs editorial review. In the spring 2016 Jason Ratcliffe, a graduate assistant, as assigned to work with undergraduates engaged in special projects. Jason conducted two-person reads with Shelby Blankinship, who, as part of a Directed Independent Study, reviewed and edited the transcriptions of documents from the Wilson D. Brooks Collection. This is among the most important collections acquired in the last five years. Brooks served as an investigator for the War Crimes Branch of the Judge Advocate Section of the Seventh Army. Working with other war crimes investigators, Brooks interviewed ex-prisoners from prisons, workhouses, and concentration camps in order to ascertain where, when, and upon whom war crimes had been committed in Nazi Occupied Europe. Brooks’ collection details many smaller sub-camps, prisons, and workhouses that are rarely mentioned within the historiography, while also detailing events at the infamous camps at Auschwitz and Treblinka. This collection has been fully transcribed and uploaded to the Internet for more public access to one of the Institute’s most fascinating collections.

Jason Ratcliffe referenced the Brooks Collection for a graduate seminar paper about Vaihingen an der Enz, a sub-camp of Natzweiler. Vaihingen was a sub-camp about which very little has been written. In the last year or so of the war, from late in the summer of 1944 to May 1945, the camp system in Nazi Germany expanded to unprecedented levels. The camps in the East were being evacuated due to the encroachment of the Red Army, and the Nazi leadership was encouraging more and more the use of concentration camp prisoners in the armaments industry. German leadership was holding to the notion that keeping this industry running was essential to the war effort, even when the situation was becoming bleak. The result of these measures was that there was more emphasis on keeping prisoners alive so they could work. But, with prisoners coming from the eastern camps, these camps farther west were filling up at an accelerated rate. Overcrowding and the spread of disease were problems. The usual solution to these problems was the murder of those who were sick. But, using the Brooks Collection, the case was made that murder was not the only solution that Germans had for this problem. In the chaos of the late war period, some sub-camps—in very rare cases—became hospital camps, meant to be a place solely for sick prisoners or those unable to work. Vaihingen was an example of one of these camps. Vaihingen and other camps like it were anomalies, few among hundreds. The Brooks Collection has revealed the nature of one of the Krankenlager (sick camp), something nonexistent in the historiography, and therefore an incredible contribution to the history of Nazi Germany in the late war period.

History is not the only discipline that can benefit from our holdings.  Alison Reilly, a graduate student instructor in fall 2015 used the Institute’s collections for the Museum Object Class in the art history program at Florida State University.  Fifteen undergraduates in the course worked closely with the Institute Director to organize *This Is How it Happened: An Officer’s Perspective on the Okinawa Occupation, 1944-45* in the William Johnson Building Gallery.  This display chronologically narrated one naval officer’s experience in World War II through Daniel Kupfer's combat photography, personal and official correspondence, clothing, and contemporary cameras.  All students in the class worked closely with the Director of the Institute, Professor Piehler, and the Institute’s Administrative Assistant, Anne Marsh, to identify objects and place them into context. The Institute’s staff taught the students how to catalog, handle, and research historical artifacts and documents, providing them with the knowledge necessary to present these works in an educational manner to the greater community.  This exhibit gained significant press coverage in the local media in Tallahassee with stories appearing in the *Florida Flambeau*, *FSView*, *WFSU NPR* radio, and *WTXL ABC* News."

Several of Professor Piehler’s graduate students are at work on dissertations in the Department of History, including Kyle Bracken, Takahito Moriyama, Hillary Sebeny, and Allyson Stanton. Professor Piehler is also on several other dissertation committees, including those of Christian Juergens and Sarah Patterson at Florida State University, and Elena Friot at the University of New Mexico.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The Institute sponsors an annual spring and fall lecture aimed at both the Florida State University community and the broader public. The fourth annual fall lecture was held on November 16, 2015 by Panteleymon Anastasakis, FSU alumnus and author of the monograph *The Church of Greece Under Axis Occupation.* His lecture was titled “The Church of Greece and the Holocaust.”Anastasakis’ book was published as part of Professor. Piehler’s Legacies of War series at Fordham University Press. The Institute welcomed Professor Anastasakis back to his alma mater where he earned a bachelor’s and master’s under the direction of Professor Jonathan Grant of the History Department.

The Institute’s spring lecture was held in conjunction with the Comparative Home Front Conference. Professor Sheldon Garon, of Princeton University, spoke on the central theme of the conference, the impact of the air war on civilians. In his engaging lecture, Garon focused on the effectiveness of civil defense measures in Great Britain, Germany, and Japan in bolstering the war effort.

Since 2003, Dr. Piehler has edited a book series with Fordham University Press that has published over twenty books on the Second World War. In 2012, he initiated a joint collaboration with the Press to sponsor an annual Veterans Day program, at the Manhattan campus of Fordham University, featuring the distinguished veterans of the Second World War. For the 2015 lecture, John W. Chambers, one of the nation’s leading scholars of war and society, delivered a lecture focusing on current trends, specifically the scholarship. Chambers, who chaired the Advisory Board of the Rutgers Oral History Archives in 1994, examined what the 600 oral histories, conducted by Professor. Piehler and his successors, contribute to our understanding of the Second World War. In co-sponsoring this event with Fordham University, the Institute was able to benefit by presenting programs at venue, free-of-charge, that was right next to Lincoln Center and only a few blocks from midtown. Audiences for the Veterans Daylecture have been diverse, with a conducive amount of local college students, FSU alumni, and readers eager to learn more about the Second World War.

From January 4 to February 7, 2016, the Institute, in conjunction with the Holocaust Education Resource Council and the Florida Department of Education, sponsored an exhibit called “Anne Frank: A History for Today.” Developed by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and the Anne Frank Center USA, the local exhibit also displayed a number of items from Institute collections, including the Omer Engleheart, Paul Oehler, Mary Roberts, Thomas Jenkins, Gary Conner, Margaret Salm, Paul Dougherty, Gilbert Johnson, and Deborah Gierach collections. Additionally, a painting from our holdings by Rolande Faucon (titled “Young Girl at the Window”) and excerpts from the oral history interviews of Abraham Zuckerman, Sylvester Knap, Rolande Faucon, Giulia Hine, and Leni Mittelacher were used in the exhibit.

The Institute continued in 2015-2016 to provide tours to individuals and to small groups. Professor Piehler continues as a resource to middle and high school students completing national history day projects. Frequently, he is called upon to speak to the media and in 2015-16 had several appearances on Chinese television networks, based both in Washington, DC and Beijing.

**SUPPORT**

**A Shared Partnership**

The Institute has no budget to purchase collections, so therefore, we have instead relied on the philanthropic impulse of thousands of individuals who have donated them. Financially, the Institute receives substantial support from the University that funds many of the core expenses, including the salary of the Institute Director and Administrative Assistant. Private gifts have made a crucial difference in the ability to undertake a number of new initiatives. They have funded scholarly conferences, public lectures, and salaries for undergraduate and graduate assistantship. If you would like to learn more about the Institute or would like to consider making a gift, please contact the Institute Director, Professor G. Kurt Piehler at [kpiehler@fsu.edu](mailto:kpiehler@fsu.edu).

The Institute receives significant budgetary support from Florida State University. Funds from the University provide the basic office expenses of the Institute, including telephones, postage, and supplies. Private contributions and endowments play a crucial role in allowing the Institute to organize public lectures and conferences, host visiting scholars, fund graduate students, and undertake new initiatives to encourage the study and preservation of the history of World War II.

The Institute wants to acknowledge the support it receives from the following permanent endowments:

Duane and Betty Bohnstedt 460th Bomb Group (H) Collection Endowed Fund

Harold Baumgarten and Samuel M. Gibbons Endowed Fund

Thomas C. Cundy Fund for World War II Era Research

Anne and John Daves Archival Fellowship

George and Marian Langford Endowment in the Department of History

Pearl Tyner Endowment for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

Harold and Kay Ronson Endowment

Rintels Professorship of the Humanity at the Institute for World War II and the Human Experience

TBUF (Tallahassee Branch of the University of Florida) Memorial Endowed Graduate Fellowship for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

TBUF Memorial Endowed Acquisition Fund for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

Wayne and Anne Coloney Endowment for the World War II Institute

We also want to recognize the following individuals for their charitable gifts to the Institute in 2015-16:

Mr. Robert K. Adair, Hamden, Connecticut

\*Mr. Earl “Bill Bailey, New York City\*

Mr. and Mrs. William Eichenberg, Ridgecrest, California

Mrs. Ashley E. Messer, Tampa, Florida

Mr. Peter G. Newman, Miami Spring, Florida

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. and Ashley E. Messer, Tampa, Florida

Mr. R. A. Simler, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mr. Stephen M. Slepin, Esq., Tallahassee, Florida

Mrs. Patricia Stauffer, Thompson Fall, Montana

\*Estate Gift

We regret in advance any omissions in our annual report; please bring any to the attention of the Institute Director, Dr. G. Kurt Piehler, at [kpiehler@fsu.edu](mailto:kpiehler@fsu.edu).

Respectfully submitted,

G. Kurt Piehler, Director & Associate Professor of History

Michael Kasper, Archivist

Anne Marsh, Administrative Assistant

Jan-Ruth Mills, Graduate Assistant, 2015-2016

Jason Ratcliffe, Graduate Assistant, Fall 2016

Jordan Bolan, Undergraduate Assistant, 2015-2016

Shelby Blakinship, Undergraduate Assistant (DIS), 2015-2016

Jennifer Barton, Volunteer

Richard Davis, Volunteer

Chris Juergens, Volunteer

Mary LePoer, Volunteer

Elizabeth McLendon, Volunteer

Inez Manuel, Volunteer

Dorothy Whittle, Volunteer

**Appendix A: Collections Received, July 2015-June 2016**

*We would like to thank all of the service members and their families who donated collections this year.*

15.0026 - Martin L. Thach

15.0027 - Miller A. Trammell

15.0028 - Ronald D. Risner

15.0029 - Melvin James Kelley

15.0030 - Grafton W. Johnson

15.0031 - Paul and Leonard Gordy

15.0032 - Guy Alexander Luttrell

15.0033 - Lionel Crawford

15.0034 - Raymond Lucitt

15.0035 - Kenneth M. Roberts

15.0036 - Calvin Webb

15.0037 - Beehive Mariners Association

15.0038 - Tallahassee WWII Historical Society

15.0039 - Laura Elizabeth Smith Hiott

15.0040 - Werner Ulrich

15.0041 - A. Hays Smith

15.0042 - Frances and Lamar “Duke” Campbell

15.0043 - Guy M. Edwards

15.0044 - Richard Seemel

16.0001 - Oscar J. Armstrong

16.0002 - Carl E. Johnson

16.0003- Eddie Houston Thomason

16.0004 - James Woodrow Wade

16.0005 - Jeff Ranu

16.0006 - Murray Okrent

16.0007 - Roemer Stead

16.0008 - Clay Hohmeister

16.0009 - Ernie and Chris Conte

16.0010 - Taylor George Burke

16.0011 - Samuel Kurlandsky

16.0012 - Barbara Post-Askin

16.0013 - Howard E. Adams

16.0014 - John and Rosalie Meade

16.0015 - Raymond L. Willet

16.0016 - Charles F. Myers, Sr.

**Appendix B: Bibliography of Works Citing Institute on World War II Collections**

**Published Books:**

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