

**The Rhode Island Historical Society**

(RIHS) will begin development of an OPAC to encompass its varied library and museum collections thanks to a \$75,000 Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The database is scheduled to launch in September 2005 and will be available via both the RIHS Web site ([www.rihs.org](http://www.rihs.org)) and public computer terminals at the RIHS Library in Providence. The three-year grant will help fund a pilot program called the Rhode Island Family Heritage Project. The first year will be used to select and install database and processing software. The following two years will be devoted to identifying, cataloging, and entering data on materials that relate to families in Rhode Island.

**The Simmons College Graduate School**

of Library and Information Science has been awarded more than \$2 million in grants for several projects, including an international study on image retrieval and management, a collaboration among three of the nation's top library schools to increase the number of high-level academic library professionals in the field, and an effort to train university librarians from the Eastern European nation of Kosovo on modern library policies and procedures.

**Syracuse University (SU) has received a**

two-year \$713,492 IMLS grant to develop a cost-effective, collaborative distance education program that will increase quality, access, and diversity of online educational opportunities. The program, known as the Web-based Information Science Education consortium, is a joint effort between SU, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Washington. Its focus is on developing faculty training for online pedagogy, standards and metrics for online library and information science (LIS) education, and a collaborative marketplace for online LIS courses.

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**Acquisitions****A collection of 3,000 playbills from Ernest**

Albrecht, editor and publisher of *SPECTACLE* magazine, a periodical devoted to the new age circus, has been donated to the Circus and Allied Arts Collection at Illinois State University's Milner Library. While the major emphasis of the collection is on the circus, the collection also includes related arts such as carnivals, carousels, conjuring, music halls, and vaudeville. The collection's book holdings of more than 6,000 volumes makes it among the most comprehensive and in-depth circus and allied arts book collections anywhere. In addition to book items, the Circus and Allied Arts Collection includes photographs, circus posters, programs, route books, correspondence, business records, band scores, videotapes, audiotapes, and realia.

**Don Tosti, the "Godfather of Latino**

rhythm and blues, donated his musical archives and an endowment to the University of California-Santa Barbara (UCSB). Tosti was a musician, composer, band and orchestra leader whose career spanned several decades. In 1948, Tosti's Pachuco Boogie sold a million records and opened a new chapter in American music by pioneering the subgenre of post-war Mexican American jump blues. Prior to his death earlier this year, he donated the Tosti papers to UCSB, which include historical documents, sheet music and lyrics, music recordings, photographs, broadsides, correspondence, scrapbooks, and ephemera. ■

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