March 23, 2011

Friends:

I am very pleased that after a seven-year fundraising effort we are able to bring an assistant archivist on board to handle the daily operation of the Pan Am Flight 103/ Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives at Syracuse University. Funding for this five-year position is possible only due to the overwhelming generosity of many PA103 victims’ families, as well as others who have been touched by this tragedy.

Cara A. Howe is the new Assistant Archivist for Pan Am 103 / Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives. She will reprocess our existing collections and process all future deposits. She will coordinate the digitization of portions of the Archives, and will monitor our web site to offer you increased access. She is here to assist family members, organizations, donors, SU Remembrance Scholars, and researchers. She will also help me prepare and present talks to classes, alumni groups and professional associations; assist with our continuing fundraising efforts including research and applications for grants; and will attend PA103 meetings and functions.

I was overwhelmed at the amount of interest in this position. We had over 70 applicants from 19 states, all with appropriate master’s degrees. We interviewed six by phone and brought three in for on-site interviews. I am so grateful that several family members as well as SU staff with a heartfelt interest in PA103 were able to meet with the candidates and provide valuable insight to the search committee.

A native of Central New York, Cara is very familiar with the story of PA103. She received a BA in history with a minor in legal studies from SUNY-Geneseo, and earned a MS in library and information science with a certificate of advanced study in Cultural Heritage Preservation here at SU. While a graduate student Cara did an internship with us. We were so impressed that we hired her as a summer employee and asked her to stay on part-time in the fall until she graduated. She helped us sort our existing PA103 collections as we re-crafted our web site so she is already very familiar with the Archives. Some of you had the opportunity to meet her last fall when VPAF103 met on campus. She has also worked on archives projects at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse and at the Judaic Heritage Center of CNY.

You can contact Cara directly by email at cahowe@syr.edu, or by telephone at 315-443-0632.

Thank you all for you part in making this a reality.

Edward L. Galvin
University and Pan Am 103 Archivist