

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: MARY COLLINS, 845-398-4220
WRITTEN BY: COLLEEN PEREZ

**THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY HOSTS
“THE MISSING CHAPTER: UNTOLD STORIES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN
THE MID-HUDSON VALLEY”**

Lecture discusses the lives and working conditions of African Americans in the Hudson Valley

(SPARKILL, NY, February 11, 2009) – The Friends of the Library at St. Thomas Aquinas College together with the Writers@Work will host a lecture by Ms. Susan Stessin-Cohn, Archives Specialist on Monday, February 16 at 4:00 (Snow date: Thursday, February 19 at 4:00 p.m.) in the Loughheed Library on campus. A viewing of the group exhibit “The Missing Chapter” in the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery will follow the lecture until 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 845-398-4220 or email mcollins@stac.edu.

The lecture will focus on the lives and working conditions of African-Americans in the Hudson Valley region during the colonial and antebellum periods. Stessin-Cohen’s research was derived from primary sources, life stories, and other long-lost information.

Currently, Ms. Stessin-Cohn serves as an Archives Specialist at Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, NY. She was previously an instructor at SUNY New Paltz and a past trustee of the Elting Library, as well as a member of the New Paltz Preservation Committee. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards from the following organizations: the NYS Archives, the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC), the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center, and the Ulster County Legislature. In 2006, she received the 2006 Bruce Dearstyne Award for Excellence in the educational use of local government records and the 2005 New York State Archives Award for the best use of primary local documents in a curriculum in NYS. She also received the Pride of Ulster County Award for research on the Ulster County Poorhouse.

The Friends of the Library at St. Thomas Aquinas College organizes and sponsors lectures in the library by notable speakers from within and outside the College. All lectures are open to the community. Community members interested in joining The Friends of the Library, participating in Friends activities, or making donations to the College designated for The Friends of the Library may contact Ms. Mary Anne Lenk, Director of Library Services at 845-398-4221 or mленk@stac.edu. For reservation to the upcoming lecture, call the Library at 845-398-4220.

MORE ABOUT ST. THOMAS

The College’s 2,700 full and part time students can choose from over 97 different majors, minors, specializations, and dual degree programs across five divisions: The Humanities; Business Administration; Social Sciences; Natural Sciences & Mathematics; and Teacher Education or are enrolled in one of our graduate programs. St. Thomas has expanded its offerings to include: a Master of Science in Education with specializations in Literacy, Special Education, and Educational Leadership, a Post Masters Certificate program in Education, a Master of Science in Teaching, a Master of Business Administration program, a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Education, and an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree, the latter two offered at the West Point Military Academy. For more information on the College visit www.stac.edu.