Claire-Lise: Well, Mary Ellen and I commented yesterday—as we have read and re-read and cut and pasted and re-cut and re-pasted the contributions—that we are knowing our colleagues in a way we didn’t before. People we don’t interact with and we say, “Oh, look how interesting.” Or even people that we do interact with, we say, “Oh, look how interesting that is!”

Mary Ellen: And to say, “Who would have thought so-and-so is so poetic?”

C-L: And in almost every piece there was humor. A little bit here and there of something funny. I would think, “Well, I didn’t know so-and-so could actually be funny. [Laughter] But actually, yes!

We were really impressed by our colleagues. It gives you a really good feeling for your colleagues that in everyday life either you don’t see it or in professional discussions it doesn’t come up. So it gives you a very good sense of how thoughtful and insightful our colleagues are. Usually competition among us is just horrendous: space, staffing, offices (and how big that office is). It was so refreshing because in all these stories it is never about competition; it’s just about our experience. I don’t know many of my colleagues in that light, because, professionally, competition is central to what we do.

Deborah: Same people, different script.

“... it isn’t the story, it’s a story.”

DEBORAH COLE

CSWR

Claire-Lise and Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research
Pat B., Office of the Dean
Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access
Heidi Perea, Parish Library

W O R D S

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DEBORAH COLE

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Those still here, those recently come, those who've moved on since April 30, 2006

This book is our collective history of the Zimmerman fire; your contributions made it possible. We extend our sincerest thanks for your earnest and heartfelt interviews. We extend our sincerest thanks for the artwork, photographs and timeline contributions. We extend our sincerest thanks for the clever humor. We extend our sincerest thanks for the thoughtful and poignant narratives. We extend our sincerest thanks for your hopeful and encouraging words. We extend our sincerest thanks for your stories, those included here, as well as those told in confidence or in passing; it was an honor to be entrusted with them.

The Fire/Watch Book Group
January, 2008

“This book, it’s a public conversation. There’s a big difference between the private and the public. I’ve had many private discussions with people over time and none of it appears in the contributions I’ve read. I’m sure there are a lot of stories which are not reflected in the book.”

CLARIE-LISE BEAUD
CSWR

“Here is something I thought of after we did the first interview. It’s really an obvious thing, but still. All those books. You are all doing this great project that’s really healing for lots of us and it’s going to be a book. You’re making a book out of this, out of those books being burned. That’s really great.”

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CARL DONSBACH
LIT

“The good news is, as I discovered in my travels, we can actually change the future by the decisions we make in the present. Most of us won’t, but most of us don’t have to; just enough of us.”

Claire-Lise Benaud
CSWR

AFTER

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

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Anticipated: March
Displaced UL employees to move into remodeled basements

Anticipated: March 24
Zimmerman basement to open to public

Ongoing
Until the State Fire Marshal’s final fire alarm inspection and approval, fire watch continues in Zimmerman Library
DEDICATED TO THOSE OF US WHOSE HEADS ARE STILL ABOVE WATER