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# Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

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Vol.12 No. 2

Fall 1998

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## SAA WENT TO DISNEYWORLD

In case you were not able to join your friends and professional colleagues for the 62nd annual meeting, which took place in Orlando, Florida, August 31 through September 6, 1998, you may be interested in conference highlights:

## SAMPLER OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, September 2

3:00-6:00 p.m.

**SAA Membership Forum on Special Issues Task Forces**

Three active task forces on diversity, dues and membership benefits, and the annual meeting presented their findings and sought feedback from forum attendees.

The July/August issue of *Archival Outlook* contains an update by chair Brenda Banks on the activities of the Task Force on Diversity. Those interested in obtaining that group's interim report should contact SAA at (312) 922-0140 or [info@archivists.org](mailto:info@archivists.org) or via SAA's web site at: <http://www.archivists.org>

Thursday, September 3

7:00-8:30 p.m.

**Awards Ceremony**

The 1998 Minority Student Award recipient, Elenita Tapawan, and Ida E.

Jones, 1998 recipient of the Colonial Dames of America Scholarship were feted.

Friday, September 4

3:45-5:45 p.m.

**AAC Roundtable Business Meeting**

Colleagues while discussed projects, elected a new co-chair, and took care of other assorted business. Agenda items were sent to roundtable co-chair

Brenda Square, Amistad Research Center, Tilton Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118; (504) 862-3221;

e-mail: [square@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu](mailto:square@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu)

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## SELECTION OF SESSIONS RELATING TO AAC INTERESTS

Thursday, September 3

3:00-4:30 p.m.

The Nation Next Door: Native American Sovereignty as a Critical Issue for Archivists

Saturday, September 5

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Documenting the Caribbean Immigration Emergency of 1994-95

10:30-12:00 p.m.

Cross-cultural Communication Workshop

2:00-3:30 p.m.

The Cultural Role of Archival Institutions in Ethnic Communities.

Civil Rights During the 1950s and 1960s: A Look at the Records

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Marketing Archives in a Racially Charged Environment

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"--Special Collections at Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Archival Education in Latin America: A Comparative Study

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**Co-Editors**  
Joellen ElBashir  
Kathryn M. Neal

**Layout and Design**  
Robin Van Fleet

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**Correspondence**  
Address all correspondence to:  
Joellen ElBashir  
Moorland-Spangarn Research Center  
Howard University  
Washington, D.C. 20059  
(202) 806-7480  
Fax: (202) 806-6405

Or

Kathryn M. Neal  
Iowa Women's Archives  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa  
(319) 335-5068  
Fax: (319) 335-5900

## OTHER SESSIONS FEATURING ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

Friday, September 4  
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Meet the Press: Managing the Media  
Spotlight (Wilda Logan Willis, Daniel Williams)

1:45-3:15 p.m.

The Dynamics of Donor Relations:  
Learning from Development Professionals  
(Kathryn Neal)

Documenting Our Agricultural Heritage  
Today (Tammy Lau, David Moltke-Hansen)

Saturday, September 5  
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kindred Spirits: Archives and Religious  
Heritage Tourism (Ida E. Jones)

"Get Newman for the Part!": The Archival  
Image in Contemporary Fiction (Danna Bell-  
Russel)

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Science, Community, and Architecture:  
Documentation  
Strategies in Practice (Sushan Chin)

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## FAREWELL FROM THE CO-CHAIR: MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

by Cynthia Patterson Lewis

Serving as chair and co-chair for the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and Archivists and Archives of Color (AAC) Roundtable has been a positive venture on my archival journey. Over the past two years, I have had increased opportunities to engage in serious dialogues on numerous concerns and issues. Some of the topics addressed were as follows:

1. Renaming or redefinition of AAC-related matters, e.g. suggested name change designation for the Minority Student Award, changing title designation for chairs and co-chairs, and the development of procedural guidelines for AAC officials and committees
2. Encouraging continued professional development and reviewing the merits of certification
3. Enhancing the AAC's relationship with or level of influence within other roundtables and committees or SAA in general and/or encouraging members to serve as liaisons within them
4. Advancing efforts to increase SAA's diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, etc.
5. Assessing the benefits and services derived from SAA membership
6. Promoting minority participation in archival work at both the scholarly and professional level
7. Increasing awareness of the mission of the AAC Roundtable

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8. Enhancing support efforts and administration of the Minority Student Award

9. Identifying and acknowledging AAC notables

We have attempted to sustain an atmosphere that consists of a shared and clearly understood mission. We have toiled to assure that AAC activities and dialogues were kept synonymous with our goals.

My primary focus has been to try to assure that the AAC Roundtable could make a difference and indeed we have. The ways to measure all we have tried to affect are imprecise. These efforts have certainly been enhanced, however, by the commendable service of members such as Taronda Spencer, Wayne Coleman, Thomas Battle, Kathryn Neal, David Moltke-Hansen, Joellen ElBashir, Karen Jefferson, Brenda Banks, Clifford Muse, Deborah Dandridge, Walter Hill, Wilda Logan Willis, Donna Wells, LaNina Clayton, Ida Jones, Beverly Cook, Nishani Frasier, and many others. Special appreciation is extended to Anne Diffendal, who diligently worked with us in regards to the Minority Student Award. My thanks are also extended to Bernice Brack of SAA, who was always knowledgeable and helpful. I send sincere gratitude to my colleague, Elaine Hall at the King Library and Archives, who generously and efficiently assumed the administrative oversight for AAC, along with her many other responsibilities.

The momentum is here, and we are stronger working together. Let us continue to build upon the efforts and coalitions of the past as we look to shape the future of the AAC Roundtable. We are in a position to be at the forefront of strategic planning for archivists and archives in the promotion of our stated mission and objectives.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as one of the AAC's catalysts in "making a difference." May the AAC continue to serve as a means for communication and alliance.

Blessings,  
Cynthia Patterson Lewis

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## NEW CO-CHAIR ELECTED

A new co-chair, Ms. Kathryn Neal, former co-editor of this newsletter, was elected during the roundtable business meeting, Friday, September 4, at the SAA Annual Meeting in Orlando. Ms. Neal will serve a two-year term, becoming senior co-chair at the 1999 meeting. She will chair the 1999 business meeting. More on Ms. Neal in the Spring news-letter.

The junior co-chair assumes the duties of the senior co-chair when necessary. Responsibilities of the senior co-chair include: submitting all required documents from the business meeting, such as the roundtable leadership list and the attendees list to SAA as soon as possible after the annual meeting; writing letters on behalf of the roundtable; representing the roundtable on the SAA Awards Committee, serving as chair of that committee's sub-committee for the Minority Student Award; and ensuring that the roundtable's non-active records are sent to Clifford Muse of Howard University.

A complete AAC business meeting update will be highlighted in the Spring newsletter.

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## MUNDALE VOLUNTEERS FOR NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORSHIP

Ms. Cathy Mundale, Special Collections Librarian at Virginia Union University in Richmond, has volunteered to become co-editor of the AAC Newsletter, replacing Ms. Kathryn Neal. More on Ms. Mundale in the Spring issue.

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## AAC ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS REMAIN ACTIVE IN SAA

Several AAC Roundtable members are contributing service to SAA's elected offices, sections, roundtables, committees, and task forces.

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If you would like to volunteer your time and talent, please contact SAA Vice President Luciana Duranti, c/o The Society of American Archivists, 527 S. Wells St., 5th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607.

#### **Council**

Karen Jefferson  
Wilda Logan Willis

#### **1998 Program Committee**

Lynda DeLoach

#### **1998 Nominating Committee**

Danna Bell-Russel

#### **1998 Minority Student Award Committee**

Cynthia P. Lewis, Chair  
Wayne Coleman  
Taronda Spencer

#### **1998 Hamer-Kegan Award for Increasing Public Awareness of Documentary Materials**

##### **Committee**

Gloria Meraz

#### **Committee on Institutional Evaluation and Development, Chair**

Wilda Logan Willis

#### **Colonial Dames Scholarship Award Committee**

Wilda Logan Willis, Chair  
Deborra Richardson

#### **Committee on the Selection of SAA Fellows**

Brenda Banks, Chair

#### **Committee on Education and Professional Development**

Danna Bell-Russel

#### **Membership Committee**

Lynda DeLoach  
Deborah Saito (outgoing)  
Ida E. Jones (intern)  
Beverly Cook (key contact)

#### **Manuscript Repositories Section Steering Committee**

Danna Bell-Russel  
Kathryn Neal (outgoing)

#### **Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable, Co-Chairs**

Cynthia P. Lewis (1996-1998)  
Brenda Square (1997-1999)

#### **Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable Newsletter, Co-Editors**

Joellen ElBashir  
Kathryn Neal

#### **Task Force on Diversity**

Brenda Banks, Chair  
Karen Jefferson

#### **Task Force on Dues & Membership Benefits**

Kathryn Neal

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### **PEOPLE, PLACES, PROJECTS, AND EVENTS**

#### **Jefferson Assumes New Position**

Karen L. Jefferson, formerly the African American Studies Archivist/Bibliographer for the John Hope Franklin Research Center at Duke University, has recently accepted the position of Head of Archives and Special Collections at the Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center, Inc.

#### **Jones Wins Award**

Ida E. Jones of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, has received a 1998 Colonial Dames of America Scholarship. She was awarded funding up to \$1,200 to attend the two-week Modern Archives Institute at the National Archives in January 1998.

#### **Motley Retires from Chicago Historical Society**

After a 42-year career at the Chicago Historical Society (CHS), Archie Motley has retired as

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curator of archives and manuscripts. But Motley still harbors a passion for archival work. He has been named archivist emeritus and will spend his time "advising CHS on prospective archives and manuscripts acquisitions, participating in the appraisal and cataloging of manuscript holdings, and helping to nurture the development of reference and archives staff expertise" (*Archival Outlook*, July/August 1998). Look for a retrospective on Motley's career in a future issue of the *AAC Roundtable Newsletter*.

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### MAC Awards Two 1998 Minority Scholarships

Two aspiring archivists of color, **Gregory T. Eow** and **Tywanna Whorley**, have received \$500 scholarships from the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC). The organization provides these scholarships annually to encourage minority student recruitment and participation in the archival profession. This marks the first time that a second scholarship could be awarded. Eow is slated to earn

a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh in August 1998. He has held positions in cultural, governmental, desk at the Library of Congress. According to Eow's candidate statement, he is "most interested in government records and the public policy issues raised in managing such collections." Whorley is also a student in the master's program in library and information science at the University of Pittsburgh. She has already gained experience in the area of oral history, having served as a research assistant for Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies and its project "Behind the Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South" and for the Black Belt Press. In her application statement, Whorley explains that "[a]s an archivist, one of my goals would be to encourage the development of local repositories in communities, which would only enrich already existing collections related to African American life."

### DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Spring issue.....March 1  
Fall issue.....July 1