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# Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

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## Greetings from the Co-Chairs

By Teresa Mora and Rose Roberto

Ten years have passed since SAA established the minority student award, now named in honor of archival pioneer Harold T. Pinkett. At this critical time, the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable leadership pauses to reflect on the reach, significance, expectations, and goals of the scholarship.

The Pinkett Award was established in 1993 to encourage students of color to consider archival careers and become involved in the organization. Each year, since it was established, members of the roundtable have faithfully donated to the award fund, and it is currently only \$6000 away from the establishment of an endowment for the award. The Pinkett Award has now been given to twelve recipients in ten years time; many of whom have gone on to become active members of both the roundtable and SAA.

However, many continue to notice a lack of diversity within the profession as a whole, and questions have arisen as to how quickly the Pinkett Award can play a significant role in bringing new archivists of color to the profession. At the 2004 SAA Annual Meeting in Boston, a panel session critically examined the questions:

- “How is this award being promoted by AAC and SAA membership?”
- “How does the prize, that funds the recipients’ attendance at the SAA Annual Meeting, appeal to future professionals?”
- “How might the award be better used to draw more talented professionals into SAA at a faster rate?”

Promotion of the Pinkett Award is fundamental, and we, the current co-chairs have decided that it should be our major focus this year. Already many announcements have been made to the membership of SAA, regional archival organizations, the archival listserv and the archival educators’ listserv. Still, we recognize this is not enough. In addition to bringing new members into both SAA and the roundtable, we need you, our membership, to identify and nominate qualified students, and to encourage your peers who are archival educators to also nominate potential candidates. A new nomination form for the Pinkett Award was created this year and appears at <http://www.archivists.org/recognition/PinkettAwardForm.pdf>.

A major observation that came out of the Pinkett panel session in Boston was that SAA has a long way to go in order to successfully support diversity—especially in comparison to other information professional awards like the ALA’s

Spectrum Scholars program, which provides a substantial cash prize and has a structured program of incorporating award recipients into its membership. As it is now, the Pinkett Award is only the beginning in what must become a greater drive.

We hope to move further in the coming years to make the Pinkett Award more supportive for students than it is currently and make greater efforts to bestow it with the prestige and widespread recognition it deserves. Last year, upon the recommendation of the AAC Roundtable, SAA council leadership decided that, in addition to providing annual conference expenses, it will also provide the winner with one year’s student membership to establish stronger continuity and encourage active SAA participation during the recipient’s transition from student to professional. Furthermore, the award should go to the top two candidates to further broaden minority participation in SAA.

Ten years ago, AAC leadership had the vision to generate a means for encouraging wider participation in the profession. SAA council embraced their efforts and the Pinkett scholarship was established. The Pinkett Award has now matured; a dozen students have benefited directly from it, including all of the AAC officers now serving. Our goal is to continue the legacy of growing a diverse profession and society. We are ever closer to our goal of establishing an endowment for the award, and, as of 2006, the award will include a year-long membership in SAA. Yet, we must also continue the innovation. We cannot rest once we have reached the goal of endowing the Award. Instead, we must look ahead to establishing other ways to reach out to students, to promote mentorship, and to continue contact with and support of recipients.

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## CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

Submitted by Teresa Mora

SAA seeks nominations for the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award no later than February 28, 2005. Established in 1993, the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award recognizes minority undergraduate and graduate students, such as those of African, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American descent, who, through scholastic and personal achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of SAA. The Pinkett Award was developed to encourage exceptional minority students to consider careers in the archival profession and, in turn, increase minority participation in SAA by exposing minority students to the experience of attending national meetings and encouraging

them to join the organization.

To be eligible, minority students, with preference given to full-time students, must possess a minimum scholastic grade point average of 3.0 (B) while enrolled in postsecondary institutions during the academic year preceding the date the award is given. The award consists of a certificate and a cash prize supporting full registration and related expenses of hotel and travel for attending the SAA annual meeting. It is jointly funded by the SAA and the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable and is presented in late summer during SAA's annual meeting.

For more information and nomination forms please see:  
[http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/Awards\\_Pinkett.htm](http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/Awards_Pinkett.htm)

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### **Report on the Program Committee**

By Rose Roberto

All program proposals on diversity that AAC endorsed for the SAA Annual Meeting in New Orleans were accepted by the 2005 Program Committee. They are also some of the most interesting topics, ranging from documenting human reproduction, documenting Latino communities, using visual materials depicting women and minorities for outreach efforts, and exploring the work of the HBCU Archives Institute. Of special interest and current relevancy are sessions examining collections of the Middle East and archives in wartime. As some of the session descriptions and session titles are subject to change, more details will be provided on the AAC website after April 2005. Please be sure to check out the "Announcements" section at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/>.

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### **Cornell University Library to Conduct an IMLS-funded Internship Program Focusing on Native American Library Staff.**

By Barbara B. Eden

Associate Director, IRIS/ Department of Preservation and Collection Maintenance  
Cornell University Library

Cornell University Library plans to offer a program of internship in preservation management and practice designed to build a preservation infrastructure within tribal colleges and universities throughout the country. This program will focus on the development of a cadre of twelve qualified Native Americans trained and dedicated to helping establish and maintain preservation programs in institutions within their region. The program will take place over a two-year period, during the months of June, July, August and consists of one training sessions per year for each of six interns for a total of two sessions and twelve interns. The program is designed to prepare the interns to train other librarians, archivists, and technicians in the basics of program development through workshops, seminars, on-site surveys, simulations, needs

assessments, and the establishment of a regional disaster plan and response capability. By focusing on a train-the-trainers model, this program will have an impact well beyond the twelve interns and will lead to the development of direct tribal responsibility for indigenous cultural heritage materials. As with other internship programs that Cornell has conducted, the staff will continue to act as mentors beyond the period of the project. The program of training will provide Native American tribal colleges with the ability to greatly extend the life of their cultural heritage materials, to conduct fruitful studies of their collections and services, and to prepare viable proposals for external grant funding to support Native American collections.

The internship is for a three-month period, and there is funding available for travel to Ithaca, NY and a \$5000 stipend for each intern. There is no charge for housing.

Please contact Barbara B. Eden ([beb1@cornell.edu](mailto:beb1@cornell.edu) or 607-255-5291) for further questions.

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### **Day in the Life of an Archivist**

By Karen L. Jefferson

Head, Archives & Special Collections  
Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center

Being a professional archivist defines a great part of my life, brings me much joy, and gives me a sense of accomplishment. As an archivist I get to meet so many interesting people. Donors, their families and friends, leave me spellbound with the stories of their life experiences. Researchers with such varied interests of inquiry, expand my knowledge and understanding of the world. I smile with pride when I see materials from the archives where I have worked, cited in books, articles, films, and exhibits. Everyday I learn something new in talking to donors and colleagues, assisting researchers, and arranging and describing collections. I happily share this information with others—educating folks about the wonders of documentation and preservation, explaining what is an archives and what it is that archivists do!!!

So what is a typical work day for me? No day is exactly the same, and rarely does the day proceed as I have planned. There is always some adjustment in the schedule as research services and donor relations are the priority and compete with administrative duties and my love for processing and preservation. Archives is demanding work that requires attention to detail and strong organizational skills (Although you may not think so if you saw my desk—let's just say there is a method to the madness.). There is also the frustration of insufficient resources and the unending administrative duties. If you know me, you know I am not one to suffer quietly. However a supportive staff, understanding colleagues and appreciative donors and researchers, get me through the rough times. When I am at my wits' end, I can reclaim the joy by sorting through a collection, unearthing historical treasures—photographs, letters, unpublished manuscripts, invitations, programs, and first edition and autographed books.

Recently, I was struggling through the quagmire of paperwork on my desk when I received a call from a retired educator who lives in the Atlanta area. He was a public school administrator who had taught occasional classes at Atlanta University. He was going through the estate of his aunt and came across some bill of sales for slaves in Alabama and Georgia. He did not know how she came to have the documents as the geography and names revealed no relationship to his family. He decided to donate these documents to archives in the Atlanta area. He donated two bills of sales to our archives. A younger member of his family suggested that he sell the documents. He replied that enough ill-gained profit had been made on the sale of slaves. He wanted to donate the documents and have them used for research and study. Coincidentally there was a freshman history class that was assigned to select and analyze a 19<sup>th</sup> century document from our archives' holdings. I was scheduled to speak to the class and the discussion was more exciting for they were able to review these newly acquired documents. One transaction was dated January 1, 1853. Nine hundred dollars was received for "payment of a negro Slave named Dillard... 16 years of age of a copper colour & rather strait hair..." The owner further stated, "And I warrant the boy to be sound both in mind and body and a Slave for life." This document truly brought home the brutality of slavery. This acquisitions experience is now part of my story to share with students and visitors, and family and friends to help them better understand what it is that archivists do and why it is important.

Each work day is full to the brink with things to do, and sometimes I don't stop for lunch. But at the end of day, I have a sense of accomplishment and anticipation, for I know there will be new challenges awaiting me tomorrow.

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**New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Presents**  
**Lest We Forget: The Triumph Over Slavery**  
[Macromedia Flash Player] <http://digital.nypl.org/lwff/>

In conjunction with the United Nations resolution designating 2004 as the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle Against Slavery and its Abolition, New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture presents this multilingual Web exhibit. Making use of Schomburg Center materials, as well as items loaned by other public institutions and private collections, the Web exhibition begins with a section entitled "A New People" that traces the complex genetic heritage of today's African-Americans—the vast majority descended from enslaved Africans—but also counting Europeans, Native Americans, and Asians among their ancestors.

Shackles and coffer chains, currency used in the 16th to 19th centuries to buy and sell slaves, and artwork depicting the horrors of the slave trade are some of the artifacts in "The Long March." "Slave Labor and Slave Systems" outlines the skilled and unskilled labor that African slaves were brought to

the Americas to do, from sugar plantations in Brazil to cotton plantations in the southern United States. The exhibition also includes sections on the abolition of slavery in the United States, family life, religion, education, and "Expressive Culture," describing the influence of Africans on music, art, speech and dress in the U.S.

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**The University of Illinois Archives Announces Online Guide to African-American Sources**

The University of Illinois Archives has a new online guide to African-American Sources <http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/guides/afamer.html>. Focusing on the history of African-Americans at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the guide features a bibliography of books, dissertations and theses, and journal articles; university history reference files; a description of sources concerning African-American topics; and a list representative of African-American student organizations at the University of Illinois. The finding aids for the American Library Association Archives regarding African-American topics are found on this online guide as well.

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**New Mexico State University Library Receives Images of Mrs. Clarabelle Williams, Co-founder of Williams Medical Clinic of Chicago, Illinois.**

Submitted by Steve Hussman  
Department Head for Archives and Special Collections  
New Mexico State University Library

New Mexico State University Library, Archives and Special Collections Department is pleased to announce that it has received images and materials relating to Mrs. Clara B. (Clarabelle) Williams, its first African-American graduate.

Mrs. Williams in 1937 became the first African-American to graduate from New Mexico State University, despite a boycott of the ceremonies by some of the other students. When she returned in 1980 to receive an honorary doctorate, she was greeted by a standing ovation from the school's student body. A campus street is named Williams Street in her honor.

A former sharecropper, teacher and drug store owner in Texas and New Mexico, she worked with her sons to establish the noted Williams Medical Clinic of Chicago, which was one of the foremost facilities serving the African-American community of Chicago.

She was born on October 29, 1885, in LaGrange, Texas. Her parents were sharecroppers and their parents had been slaves. Her father had taught himself to read because he had an opportunity to attend school. Her three sons would become physicians as would a next generation of 4 grandsons.

Mrs. Williams won a scholarship to attend Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College (now Prairie View A&M), where she was valedictorian of her class of 1905.

From 1907-1914, she served as Professor of Domestic Arts and Assistant Dean of Women at Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College, and in 1910, enrolled in summer terms at the University of Chicago. Later, in the 1930's, she attended New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now known as New Mexico State University) in order to obtain her bachelor's degree.

In 1963, she invested her life savings to purchase a 22-room medical center located at 408 East Marquette Road in Chicago, to which her three sons, Drs. Jaspar Sr., James Sr., and Charles, brought their respective specialties of obstetrics and gynecology, surgery and internal medicine. Mrs. Williams always instilled important community values in her sons "to never doubt that they could forge a better world."

In 1977, she was honored and awarded the Scroll of Merit from the National Medical Association, and was also elected to the National Education Association Teaching Hall of Fame.

She passed away at the age of 108 in July, 1994.

In collaboration with Dr. Troy Franklin, Director of New Mexico State University's Black Studies Program, we plan to assist in preparing an exhibit for its program to Celebrate Black History Month in February, 2005, and in addition, construct a digital exhibit to be mounted on our department's website.

This collection celebrates our endeavors to document the African-American experience in the desert southwest, as well as Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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### **The University of Minnesota Libraries Acquires the June Jordan and E. Ethelbert Miller Correspondence Collection**

Submitted by Karla Y. Davis

Curator, Givens Collection of African-American Literature

The Archie Givens, Sr. Collection of African-American Literature, part of the University of Minnesota Libraries, has received a donation from award-winning African American poet E. Ethelbert Miller of 200 of his personal letters. The letters, written between 1975 and 1999, chronicle Miller's relationship with acclaimed poet and political activist June Jordan.

Jordan and Miller's relationship began as a professional one and evolved into a romantic one. By the time of Jordan's death from breast cancer in 2002, the two poets considered themselves to have a deep, spiritual connection.

"By donating these letters to the Givens Collection, I continue to support the work of a dear friend and important American writer," Miller said. "When I look at the letters I've kept I think they provide insight into the writing life."

Staff from the University of Minnesota Libraries will arrange and describe the correspondence before adding an electronic finding aid to the Givens Collection Web site. The materials will be available to the public in January 2005.

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### **News from our Neighbors to the North: Library and Archives Canada Launches Web Product Featuring Canada's Inuit People**

(Reprinted from October 8, 2004 News Release Transmitted by CCNMatthews)

On Oct. 8, 2004, Library and Archives Canada launched the trilingual Web product Project Naming at [www.collectionscanada.ca/inuit](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/inuit) in English, French and Inuktitut.

Project Naming is a Web site and searchable database containing evocative images from the photographic collections of Library and Archives Canada. The people in these images from Canada's Nunavut region have recently been identified, and their stories have been rediscovered. In addition, the site explores the history, language and culture of the Inuit people portrayed.

Research for Project Naming began in 2001 with the selection and scanning of photographs. The next stage involved youth travelling across Nunavut showing Elders these photographs on laptop computers. The people in the images were then "named" by the Elders and the new information was added to the Library and Archives Canada photographic database. Through Project Naming, hundreds of Nunavut residents who were photographed between the 1920s and the 1950s have been identified.

For many Elders, viewing the Project Naming photographs was their first time seeing images of certain family members. For the youth, it offered the chance of seeing a photograph of a deceased relative, and of learning about their past. The "naming" of the people in these photographs is time sensitive; today's Elders may be the last people left to identify these individuals, whose names might otherwise remain lost forever.

Project Naming connects Inuit youth with Elders and bridges the cultural differences and geographic distances between Nunavut and the more southern parts of Canada. It is an ongoing initiative and through continued research, its goal is to identify all those in the database photographs.

"This Web product is the culmination of several years of collaboration among the Inuit people, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut, the Government of Nunavut and Library and Archives Canada. Canadians are fortunate to have this valuable resource. A big thanks must go out to the people of Nunavut for their dedication and participation throughout this project," said Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

The Honourable Peter Irnik, Commissioner of Nunavut stated,

"It has been rewarding for our youth to connect with our Elders in this new way. By adding names to the photographs of our ancestors, our people have also been able to reclaim their past."

This initiative is the result of a collaboration between Library and Archives Canada, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Training Program in Ottawa and the Government of Nunavut Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY). Funding for Project Naming was provided by CLEY. Funding for the Web site was made available through the Memory Fund of the Canadian Culture Online Program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

For further information please contact:

Library and Archives Canada  
Louisa Coates, Media Relations  
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### **National Survey of Librarians/Information Professionals of Color**

By Kyung-Sun Kim  
Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information  
Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

You are invited to participate in a national survey of librarians/information professionals of color, supported by a 2004 ALA (American Library Association) Diversity Research Grant. Please take a few minutes to complete our Web-based survey questionnaire if you are a librarian/information professional of color, who graduated with a master's degree from an ALA-accredited LIS program or is currently enrolled in such a program.

The purpose of our study is to identify and suggest strategies

to improve the recruitment and retention of students of color into LIS schools. The survey asks your opinion on recruitment and retention efforts that LIS schools and professional associations have made. We would also like your suggestions on improving recruitment and retention programs.

To participate in this study, please visit <http://orson.lis.wisc.edu/~survey/>. The study has fulfilled the requirements for conducting human-subject research. Your response will be strictly anonymous. You will not be asked for your name or any other identification. To ensure that your voice be heard, please send your responses no later than December 31, 2004.

The findings of this study will be presented at the 2005 ALA's annual meeting in Chicago. We will also submit our findings for publication.

If you have any questions or need more information about the study, please do not hesitate to contact me, Kyung-Sun Kim, at (608)263-2941 or [kskim@slis.wisc.edu](mailto:kskim@slis.wisc.edu).

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## Mission Statements

### The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable was established in 1987 as an interest group within the Society of American Archivists. The Roundtable's purposes are to:

- 1) identify and address the concerns of Archivists of African, Asian, Latino, and Native American descent.
- 2) promote wider participation of said archivists in the archival profession.
- 3) promote the preservation of archival materials that pertain to people of color.

The co-chairs of this Roundtable are:

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### The Society of American Archivists

The Society of American Archivists (SAA), founded in 1936, is a professional association of individuals and institutions interested in the preservation and use of archives. Its membership includes individuals serving government, academic institutions, businesses, churches, libraries, historical societies, museums, and professional associations in more than sixty countries. Through its publications, annual meetings, workshops, and other programs, SAA provides a means for contact, communication and cooperation among archivists and archival institutions:

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