For editorial concerns, please contact Rabia Gibbs at rgibbs4@utk.edu
Letter from the Senior Co-Chair

by Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty
The Black Metropolis Research Consortium at the University of Chicago

Dear AAC Roundtable Members:

As I begin my second year as your co-chair, it is my pleasure to greet all AACR members, both new and old. It has been a busy year with many new developments and events to report.

For those of you who attended the AACR business meeting in Washington, DC, you may recall mention of the Mosaic Scholarship being expanded into a larger “Mosaic Program.” The program would include under its umbrella the Harold T. Pinkett Award. There was voiced concern from roundtable members as to how this change would impact the legacy of AACR and its Pinkett Fellows. Would we still maintain control over the name of the award? Per tradition, would the AACR co-chairs continue to have a say in which students receive the award along with the SAA Awards Committee appointee?

To answer some of your questions, I wrote an email to Terry Baxter, chair of the Diversity Committee, requesting to be present at the Mosaic subgroup meeting at SAA headquarters in Chicago in November. Present at the meeting were Helen Tibbo (SAA President); Nancy Beaumont (SAA Executive Director); Terry Baxter (Diversity Committee Chair); Bergis Jules (University of Chicago); Farris Wahbeh (Whitney Museum of American Art); and Debra Kimok (SUNY Plattsburgh). It was great to meet with Diversity Committee members to form a bridge between their initiatives and ours.

The three day meeting began on November 18 and ended on November 20; I attended the first two sessions which allowed adequate time to get a sense of the direction that the Diversity Committee’s Mosaic subgroup wanted to take with the program.

We first discussed the issues raised by the SAA Council on the draft proposal for the Mosaic Program submitted by the Diversity Committee earlier this year. Areas of concern included:

- Staff positions (SAA staffing or consultant to carry out the duties of the Mosaic Program)
- Calendar/Timetable
- Funding (IMLS grant)
- Collaboration with ALA or ACRL
- Administrative (Who vets the scholarship recipients and participating repositories)
- Scholarship
- Internships
- Recruitment/Retention (How will we determine if the Mosaic Program is successful?)
- Creation of a Mosaic Symposium

Using these areas as a guideline for planning, the working group also addressed AACR’s priority concerns -- scholarship and awards. The outcomes are as follows:

Graduate Mosaic Scholarship and Award Program

This program coordinates four graduate scholarship and award categories – the Pinkett Travel Award, the Mosaic Scholarship, the Forman Scholarship, and the Doctoral Travel Award. It also manages applications, coordinates scholarship administration, promotes graduate scholarships, tracks recipients through time, and raises money for the foundation and scholarship funds.

Future of the Pinkett Award

The Mosaic Program subgroup will develop and/or coordinate the application process and selection criteria for Mosaic scholarships, the goal being to market all awards and scholarships under the SAA Mosaic umbrella. The Pinkett Award will fall under the administration of the Mosaic Program while maintaining its original name, legacy tie to the AACR, and designation as a travel award.

Past AACR co-chairs have noted that the award has recently experienced an increase in applications from doctoral students. This situation has caused some debate among applicant reviewers due to the discrepancy between master and doctoral students in terms of experience and accomplishments.

During the AACR business meeting in August, the issue of whether or not to allow doctoral candidates to apply for the Pinkett Award was
Introducing Our New Co-Chair

by Courtney Chartier
Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center

I am pleased to address you for the first time as the new junior co-chair of AACR. I was overwhelmed to be elected this August at the roundtable’s annual meeting in Washington, DC. Since many of our members could not attend the meeting, and my remarks at the time were brief, I would like to take this opportunity to properly introduce myself.

I attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a BA in American Studies (2001) and an MS in Information Studies, Archival Enterprise (2006). I also have an MA in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi (2003). The focus of my academic career was religion, gender, and sexuality within the context of Southern religion.

My first professional position after graduation was as a processing archivist for the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection at the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library. I had never been to Atlanta and didn’t know anyone there, but I jumped at a chance to work with the manuscripts of an American icon. I was lucky enough to be hired and I have been with the Woodruff Library ever since. In that time, I have also served as the project archivist for the Voter Education Project Organizational Records and am now assistant head of the Archives Research Center.

The Woodruff Library serves four HBCUs: Clark-Atlanta University; the Interdenominational Theological Center; Morehouse College; and Spelman College. The Archives Research Center collects materials from our member institutions, alumni and faculty, as well as African-American organizations around the city, state, and the South. Three of our recent major collections to be opened for research are the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection (MCMLK), the Maynard Jackson Mayoral Administrative Records, and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Diversity Committee. To stay current with news about the Mosaic Program, please check the Diversity Committee’s website: http://www2.archivists.org/groups/diversity-committee.

In conclusion, my attendance at the meeting was extremely beneficial. I now feel that I am able to communicate to the AACR the philosophy, ideals, and goals of the Mosaic Program. The working group agreed that it would be necessary to work with me as the AACR senior co-chair to communicate with our members regarding changes to the Pinkett Award, the introduction of new doctoral travel awards, and new functionality under the “Mosaic” umbrella.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Diversity Committee. To stay current with news about the Mosaic Program, please check the Diversity Committee’s website: http://www2.archivists.org/groups/diversity-committee.

It is my privilege to serve as your AACR co-chair and I wish you all the best for a happy and rewarding new year.

Sincerely,

Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty
AACR Senior Co-chair (2009-2011)
Preservation and Promotion of Hidden Heritage Threatened
by Sylvia Alden Roberts
Mother Lode Black Heritage Foundation

The Mother Lode Black Heritage Foundation, a unique cultural heritage center in Sonora, California, may have to close its doors soon. The Foundation, founded in 2007, is the only cultural resource center in the state dedicated exclusively to the preservation and dissemination of materials about African American pioneers during the 1849 Gold Rush.

The bulk of written history generally contributes to the illusion that blacks were absent from this chapter of our nation’s history. In truth, an estimated 5,000 blacks from extremely diverse backgrounds were an early and notable part of the experience. These unsung pioneers left behind a legacy that has gone untold for more than one hundred and fifty years.

In the early 1850s, the newly declared “free” state of California both condoned and practiced slavery. Following a heated and protracted legislative debate which remained unresolved during the 1849 application for statehood, California enforced strict fugitive slave laws. Free blacks were denied the right to vote, the right to education and, most restrictive of all, the right to testify in court.

Despite the fierce contention between pro- and anti-slavery factions and the looming Civil War, African Americans saw the Gold Rush as an opportunity for cultural betterment. Undaunted by the odds, these pioneers coalesced to form a wealthy, culturally advanced, and politically active community. Using a combination of gold from the early rush days and their own enterprising resources, they established newspapers, churches, and schools, and mounted extensive fund-raising campaigns to fight for civil rights.

Utilizing presentations, publications, and exhibits, the Foundation shares this unique history with students, researchers, tourists, and the public at large. The Foundation is also partnering with the National Park Service’s Network to Freedom program to uncover African American pioneer history in California and its connection to the Underground Railroad. Long-term plans include creating an interactive website, incorporating digital archives, and developing instructional materials compliant with state curriculum standards for use in public schools.

Recently and unexpectedly, the Mother Lode Black Heritage Foundation lost long-standing funding, significantly impacting its operating expenses. Funding issues, always a challenge for small nonprofits, are in this case exacerbated by today’s tough economic landscape. Although there are monies for some project activity, the Foundation may be forced into the untenable position of having to break an “unbreakable” lease without “bricks and mortar” funds.

Determined to move forward, the organization is launching a national appeal; because the majority
of the Mother Lode’s patron population is local and small, outreach to a wider audience is critical. The Foundation is actively seeking grants, donations, and memberships to contribute to the campaign.

In addition, the Foundation has published *Mining for Freedom: Black History Meets the California Gold Rush*. The book introduces the topic to a general readership; it also offers substantive contradiction to long-standing stereotypes that limit characterization of the pre-Civil War Negro to two categories: the “happy” slave or the hapless victim. *Mining for Freedom* shares stories and photos of black Gold Rush pioneers, offering a glimpse into a fascinating and complex aspect of black history and American history. The book is available at Amazon.com and proceeds help support the Foundation.

The Mother Lode Black Heritage Foundation is committed to highlighting this forgotten cultural heritage. Neglecting this segment of the past not only fosters negative stereotypes, but also denies future generations of all ethnicities the opportunity to learn valuable lessons about perseverance, pride, and overcoming adversity. For over a century and a half, this hidden heritage has languished, shrouded by the shadowy curtains of time. That is long enough.

To support this effort, please make checks payable to Mother Lode Black Heritage Foundation and mail to 21 Theall Street, Sonora, CA 95370. The IRS recognizes any donation of $250 or more to a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3) organization as a qualified, charitable donation. MLBHF will provide all qualified donors with written acknowledgment of tax deductible donations, which may be used as tax receipts.

For more information, please contact Sylvia Roberts at (209) 532-3400 or via email at info@suggmuseum.org or blackminer@gmail.com. You may also visit the Mother Lode Black Heritage Foundation online at (www.suggmuseum.org).

Sylvia Roberts is the executive director of the Mother Lode Black Heritage Foundation. She is also the author of *Mining for Freedom: Black History Meets the California Gold Rush*.

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**Documenting a White Supremacist: The Byron de la Beckwith Papers**

by Elizabeth Dunham

The University of Tennessee

On June 12, 1963 civil rights activist Medgar Evers was shot and killed outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi. During the past year, Special Collections processed a related set of documents and photographs whose unassuming appearance belies their significance: they were created by Evers’ killer, Byron de la Beckwith. The majority of the collection is composed of two sets of correspondence. Beckwith wrote the first while he was incarcerated pending trial for Evers’ murder in 1963 and 1964 and the second while he was working with his nephew, B. Reed Massengill, on a never-completed book about his life.

Although he consistently styled himself a Southern gentleman, Beckwith was born to Byron and Susie Southworth (Yerger) Beckwith in Colusa, California in 1920. After his father’s death in 1926, Beckwith and his mother returned to her hometown of Greenwood, Mississippi. Beckwith quickly absorbed the area’s racial culture, which ensured that blacks, while nominally enjoying the same rights and privileges as their white neighbors, lived as second-class citizens. Over time, Beckwith came to believe that there were inherent and insurmountable differences between the races that kept them apart.

These attitudes are apparent in the letters that Beckwith wrote while awaiting trial for Evers’ murder. He accuses the NAACP and nebulous “left wing forces” of having engineered his arrest in order to distract from their own perfidy and to destroy a “strong right wing patriot” who threatens their efforts to integrate society. Beckwith is convinced that most white Southerners share his belief that the civil rights movement needs to be ended and segregation restored in order to salvage the South’s perceived earlier greatness. In many ways, his incarceration and trial seem to bear out this
view. His jailers frequently granted him privileges not accorded to other inmates, including a radio, a typewriter, cigars, and in one case a black inmate to run errands for him. He also enjoyed widespread political support from such prominent figures as former Mississippi governor Ross Barnett. Although Beckwith’s high spirits were somewhat dampened after a jury failed to reach a verdict in his first trial, his confidence soon returned and was apparently justified when his second trial ended with a hung jury and the charges against him were dropped.

By the time he began corresponding with his nephew in 1986, Beckwith had become a radical, calculating, and extremely dangerous white supremacist. He had been ordained a minister in Christian Identity, which holds that Caucasians are the “Lost Tribes” of Israel, that blacks, Jews, and other “mud people” are the literal offspring of Satan and do not possess souls, and that God has charged the white race to rule over these supposed inferiors. His letters speak frequently of the “Zionist Occupied Government” and “World Jewry,” which he believes are using America’s compliant and ignorant black population to carry out their schemes. Beckwith frequently encloses propaganda materials (published by such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nations) with his correspondence exalting him as a “Great American Patriot” and supporting his views on race and religion.

Beckwith was finally convicted of Evers’ murder in 1994 and appealed his conviction until his death in custody on January 21, 2001. His early letters reflect attitudes common among southern whites during the 1960s, including the belief that blacks are inherently inferior to whites and that any weakening of segregation would destroy society. His later letters, however, represent radical and violent white supremacist attitudes well beyond what modern society is willing to tolerate. In short, these materials provide rich source material for scholars seeking to understand racism as well as a warning of the danger and longevity of supremacist attitudes.

Elizabeth Dunham is a departmental supervisor in Special Collections at the University of Tennessee.

Artwork courtesy of Sam Hundly.

Interning at the National Museum of the American Indian

by Naomi Bishop
University of Notre Dame

During the summer of 2009, I had an archival internship at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C. The Smithsonian’s mission is “to increase and diffuse knowledge” and NMAI’s is “to advance knowledge and understanding of Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere past, present, and future through partnerships with Native people and others.” Through the archives, both objectives are served.

My job was to organize and weed internal records related to repatriation and to create an internal archive for the cultural protocols (repatriation) office. Numerous records were scattered and many duplicate copies of case files and research were found. The documents I appraised, arranged, and described were from various repatriation staff over the past 20 years.

As I weeded and organized files, I began to understand the repatriation process and the office’s internal organization. After weeks of going through boxes, I saw firsthand that I was responsible for improving access to these documents, both for the office and the museum. In my last week on the job, I assisted a repatriation researcher in the archives. I helped him find the original field notes from George Heye, the collector and founder of the Museum of the American Indian in NY. I then made copies and digital scans of the delicate notebooks for the patron. This experience was significant because I had the opportunity to directly assist with an important repatriation case.

The NMAI archives tell the story of the collection, the museum, and generations of Native communities. The collection is alive. It’s hard for me to understand why these materials are so far away from their homes; I wonder how many days it will take for these stories, histories, traditions, and medicines to return home. Returning sacred ceremonial objects, associated funerary objects, and human remains is a priority for NMAI; the organization continues to work with tribal communities to return collection items to their origins. Reflecting back on my summer internship I realize that the archives and repatriation are
vital to every museum. The evidence of Native American history, often not found in textbooks, is documented and presented in NMAI’s photo, paper, and media archives as well as in the collection.

The best part of the internship was meeting and connecting with other Native students who were studying art, education, cultural anthropology, museum studies, history, and library science at colleges and universities across the country. The friendships and connections made with other Smithsonian interns, Native and non-Native, have encouraged me to finish my MLIS and inspired me to share my experiences and to listen and learn from the experience of others.

One of the most important lessons I learned from my internship is that libraries, museums, and archives represent homes, families, and communities. The work of archivists and librarians is not only to organize and share information, but also to help others understand the relationships between people by preserving the stories for future generations.


A recent graduate from the University of Washington’s iSchool, Naomi Bishop is the current Librarian-in-Residence at the University of Notre Dame.

2) What is your current organization and position?

The Black Film Center/Archive was founded in 1981 to help preserve films and related materials made by and about African Americans. Since then, we have expanded our mission to collect and preserve films and related materials made by and about African Americans, the people of Africa and the African Diaspora.

My official title is Archivist and Head of Public and Technology Services – but I do a lot more. Besides processing and caring for the collections, I provide reference services, oversee the day to day operations of the archives, supervise students, order office supplies and manage finances, assist with programming, and serve as the associate editor of the journal Black Camera: An International Film Journal which we publish in conjunction with Indiana University Press.

3) How do institutions like yours contribute to diversity in the profession?

We are open to working with any students in the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University who want to either do internships or volunteer at the Black Film Center/Archive. I’m always happy to meet with student to discuss the challenges and rewards of being an archivist or librarian.

4) What is the future of film preservation in a digital world?

Digital technology presents a number of challenges and benefits. Filmmakers who use digital cameras shoot a lot more material than they did when they used film so the amount of material to potentially be preserved can be enormous. Material created with specific equipment and software may not be accessible in only a few years because of technological obsolescence. Then there’s the cost of servers and the need to migrate material stored digitally on a regular basis. The cost to store a movie digitally is much more expensive than to store a movie on film. One of the benefits is that digital technology can be used during the restoration process to correct problems in negatives – either due to deterioration or to problems encountered while shooting or processing the film.

5) What are the biggest concerns with orphan works and copyright in film preservation?
If a copyright owner can't be located or if the copyright status of a film or video can't be determined, an archive can't take the risk of spending time, money, and resources to have the work restored and preserved. This means that culturally valuable material is being left to disintegrate and never be seen.

6) What is the value of home movies?

Home movies provide a unique perspective on everyday life you can’t find anywhere else. While home movies can sometimes be “scripted” they also show people in relaxed and unguarded moments. They are a time capsule that captures the fashions, architecture, attitudes, traditions, and events of a specific day and time.

7) Do you have any advice for those interested in learning more about film preservation?

Join the Association of Moving Image Archivists or at least join the AMIA listserv (it’s free!) to see what moving image archivists are talking about. AMIA also publishes a journal The Moving Image that explores the many facets of film preservation. Try to visit a film archives and meet with the archivist to see how their job is the same or different from a traditional archivist. Contact the schools (UCLA, NYU, and George Eastman House) that offer programs specifically for moving image archiving.

8) What is the strangest thing you have found in an archive?

When I was a student, we found a woman’s gall stones – when she had them removed, she got them from the doctor and kept them in a little jar. Needless to say, it was decided to “weed” them from the collection.

Atlanta University Center’s 21st Century Learning Environment

by Andrea Jackson
Atlanta University Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library

On August 26, the Board of Trustees of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Robert W. Woodruff Library officially dedicated its newly renovated 21st century learning environment with a two-day celebration. Completed in May 2010, the renovation AUC Woodruff Library is the first of a two-phase project outlined by the architectural firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott.

Phase I encompasses more than 130,000 square feet of the Library’s 220,000-square-foot facility. This is the first major interior upgrade since the building’s dedication in 1982.

“The new and improved spaces in this phase of the renovation will improve our capacity to provide enhanced programs, services and resources that support the academic goals and objectives of our AUC schools,” said Mrs. Loretta Parham, AUC Woodruff Library CEO & Director.

The primary focus of the Phase I project was the creation of the new “Woodi Learning Commons” to support the collaborative, interactive and technology rich teaching, learning and research methods of today’s AUC students and faculty.

MAIN LEVEL “Woodi Learning Commons” featuring:

- “Technology Design Studio” with fully outfitted video and audio editing rooms, and presentation practice rooms
- “Information Services Center” for “one-stop” circulation, general information and reference consultation assistance
- 4 new high-tech and flexible classroom spaces
- 12 new and refurbished group study rooms
- “The Exchange” collaboration area to support the Library’s Center for Integrating Technology and Teaching and the AUC Career Planning and Placement program
- AUC Library Document Center with color copying, binding, cutting, publication and large format production capabilities
- “Woodi Café

UPPER LEVEL Archives Research Center and Meeting Spaces, featuring:

- Redesigned Archives Research Center reading room
- Refurbished Archives Research Center work area
- 7 refurbished group study/meeting spaces

LOWER LEVEL Quiet Study Spaces, featuring:
Phase II Renovation Plans

The second installment of the two-phase renovation of the AUC Woodruff Library will further enhance resources, services and building stewardship. Priorities to be addressed include upgrades to the Library’s Exhibition Hall event space and sustained long-term protection for irreplaceable and internationally prominent archival collections, including the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection and others. At an estimated cost of $7.5 million, the next phase of renovation will also add LEED energy efficient and environmentally sustainable elements to the existing building.

About the Library

Constructed in 1982, the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library is an independent entity organized and operated for the exclusive benefit of its member institutions—Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College. With a combined enrollment of nearly 10,000 students, these colleges and university represent the world’s largest consortium of historically black institutions of higher learning. The Library bears the name of the late Robert Winship Woodruff, longtime Coca-Cola CEO and Atlanta philanthropist, who donated $10 million of his personal fortune toward the original Library construction in 1980.

New Chicana/o Archive Unveiled at SDSU

adapted from “Chicano Collection Comes to Library”

The exhibit “Unidos Por La Causa: The Chicana and Chicano Experience in San Diego” made its debut in the San Diego State University library last month.

Developed by the Chicana/o Archive Advisory Committee, a group comprised of professors, community activists and library employees, the project has been in the works for about four years.

“It has been a community and library partnership that has brought in new collections,” Head Director of Special Collections and University Archives Rob Ray said.

The archive was made possible by two fundraisers held at the Barrio Station and by the President’s Leadership Fund Grant. The grant contributed about $10,000 to process collections and to hold a celebratory event to unveil the exhibit.

Some of the major highlights of the collection are Chicana feminism and the establishment of Chicana/o studies at SDSU.

Rita Sanchez, Professor Emeritus at San Diego Mesa College who taught in the Chicana/o Studies department at SDSU, is currently on the Chicana/o Archive Advisory Committee and was a pioneer in the Chicana feminist movement. She worked on the journal “San Diego State Chicano Studies Papers” with her students at SDSU and published a journal with Stanford University that has since become historically significant.

The archive also features eight collections and a 10-panel exhibit composed of digitized versions of original documents from the movement.

“We are planning on letting other universities, colleges and libraries display the collections,” Richard Griswold del Castillo, chair of the CCS Archive Committee said. “The purpose is to let people know about civil rights history of San Diego which a lot of people aren’t aware of.”

To access the online exhibit, please visit: http://scua.sdsu.edu/exhibits/online/2010/10/UnidosPorLaCausa/index.shtml
In the News

Miranda N. Rivers and Vivian Wong are the joint recipients of the 2010 Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award.

Miranda Rivers earned a degree in History from Spelman College. She is currently pursuing an MA in History and an MLS in Archive Management at Simmons College. She was also a Mellon Librarian Recruitment Fellow at the James B. Duke Memorial Library at Johnson C. Smith University in 2008 and received the Mellon Graduate Library School Scholarship in 2009. She was also an intern for Project SAVE: The Armenian Photo Archive Collection and is currently interning at the Fredrick Law Olmsted archives in Boston.

Vivian Wong is pursuing a Ph.D. at UCLA in Information Studies. She has a degree in East Asian Studies from Bryn Mawr College and an MFA from UCLA. She is interested in documenting, collecting, preserving and disseminating historical and cultural records in Asian American communities and archives in the Asian Diaspora. She comes to the profession as a filmmaker; in 2005 she created a film about her Malaysian grandmother titled, “Homecoming.” The project spurred her interesting in documenting underrepresented communities. She recently was the project director and producer of the Chinatown Library Digital Archives Project, and a oral history project with the Friends of the Chinatown Library in Los Angeles.

Archivists at Work

Ervin L. Jordan, a research archivist at the University of Virginia, was recently featured in Archival Outlook’s new column “Someone You Should Know.”

Mr. Jordan first became interested in archives as a Civil War history graduate student at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Currently, he is a UVA associate professor and he has also taught courses in Civil War history and African American history.

In regards to diversity in the profession, he states, “We should not just define diversity. We must practice and embrace it.”

To read more about Ervin Jordan, please visit the March/April 2010 issue of Archival Outlook at http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/AO-MarApr2010.pdf
Opportunities

Documenting the Clemson African American Experience

adapted from “Documenting the Clemson African American Experience”

We would like to update your readers and appeal for their assistance with the development of Documenting the Clemson African American Experience, a digital collection of selected materials that holds historical and cultural significance to the African American community and represent the longtime presence at Clemson University.

Established in 2008, the project first sought to document important aspects of the Clemson experience by identifying materials within the holdings of Clemson’s Special Collections Unit which were of historical and cultural significance.

The other component of this effort is to stimulate interest and collaboration amongst those connected to the Clemson University community and the Upcountry of South Carolina. We are looking for unique and original materials, such as photographs, manuscripts, audio or video recordings, oral histories, and records (correspondence, memos, minutes, agendas, or flyers) that document African American life, work, history, and culture at and around Clemson University.

By collecting and digitizing these materials, we will be able to bring together objects that were once only available in the library or in private collections so that they can ultimately be made accessible online.

If you or someone you know would be interested to contribute to this initiative, please send an email to Carl Redd, jredd@clemson.edu or Virengia Houston vhousto@clemson.edu

Archives Leadership Institute
July 17 - 23, 2011
University of Wisconsin - Madison

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is pleased to announce the 2011 Archives Leadership Institute. The project aims to examine the leadership needs of the profession and to prepare participants to influence policy and effect change for the benefit of both the profession and users. The program is directed primarily to United States-based mid-level to senior staff—archivists who aspire to leadership roles in their organizations and/or professional associations.

There is space for 25 archivists at the week-long event. A mix of panels, workshops and small-group discussions will explore topics such as policy issues for archivists, communication and media relations, legislative advocacy, strategies and sources for funding, and collaboration. A grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) funds most of the costs of the Institute. The $600 registration fee includes tuition, instructional materials, hotel accommodations, and some meals. Scholarships for travel and tuition are available so do not let a lack of funding keep you from applying!

For more information, please visit: http://www.slis.wisc.edu/continueed-ali.htm

Increasing African American Diversity in Archives: The HistoryMakers Fellowship

The HistoryMakers is pleased to offer a year-long fellowship (June 6, 2011 -- June 1, 2012) working in African American archives. This fellowship is made possible by an IMLS grant. The purpose of this fellowship program is to provide training for African American archivists and other archivists interested in working with African American archival collections. The year will include a 3-month immersion training program at The HistoryMakers Chicago location and an on-site residency. For more information, please visit: http://www.thehistorymakers.com/aboutus/HistoryMakers_fellowship_listing.pdf
Rebekah Kim (senior co-chair) called meeting to order. She introduced herself, Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty (vice co-chair), Tomaro Taylor (newsletter editor, not present at the time of introductions), Rose Roberto (webmaster, not present at the time of introductions) and Janel Quirante (listserv manager, not present). She also introduced incoming webmaster, Eugenia Kim (not present at the time of introductions) and incoming newsletter editor Rabia Gibbs (not present at the time of introductions).

1:15-1:45 PM -- General Announcements

Harold T. Pinkett Award Announcement

Miranda N. Rivers and Vivian Wong are the joint recipients of the 2010 Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award.

Miranda Rivers earned a bachelor’s degree in History from Spelman College. She is currently pursuing an MA in History and MLS in Archive Management at Simmons College. She was also a Mellon Librarian Recruitment Fellow at the James B. Duke Memorial Library at Johnson C. Smith University in 2008 and received the Mellon Graduate Library School Scholarship in 2009. She is learning everything she can about the archive profession, and was an intern for Project SAVE: The Armenian Photo Archive Collection and just received an internship at the Fredrick Law Olmsted archives National Park in Boston.

Vivian Wong is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at UCLA in Information Studies. She earned her bachelor’s degree in East Asian Studies at Bryn Mawr College and her MFA from UCLA. She is interested in documenting, collecting, preserving and disseminating historical and cultural records in Asian American communities and archives in the Asian Diaspora. She comes to the profession as a filmmaker and when she created a film in 2005 about her grandmother from Malaysia titled, “Homecoming,” it spurred her interesting in documenting underrepresented communities. She recently was the Project Director and Producer of Chinatown Library Digital Archives Project, and oral history project with the Friends of the Chinatown Library in Los Angeles.

Congratulations to Miranda and Vivian.

Donations were solicited from the audience. A total of $159.00 was collected for next year’s winners.

SAA Council Report

Deborra Richardson (Council liaison) reported on Council Meeting highlights:
1. Encouraged people to communicate with Council.
2. Council is working with Drupal-new content management system to make things more accessible.
3. SAA is at the beginning stages of creating a foundation board. This foundation board would be a 501c3 organization that will oversee all of the scholarships and fellowships that SAA awards. Of interest to the AACR council is working on the Mosaic program. There will now be a Mosaic Program that will include at least three scholarships, the Harold Pinkett Award which will be under the umbrella of the Mosaic program. Another award is a new scholarship to award either $5,000 or $10,000 to two or one minority graduate student(s) who would go into a graduate program in the archives profession. Council has been approached by an organization that wants to co-sponsor this award with SAA.
4. Voting members were encouraged to attend the business meeting during the annual conference. It
occurs on Saturday August 14 from 12:45 until 1:45 PM. In addition to the officer’s reports, the agenda will contain the following: two resolutions and a proposed dues increase. The resolutions are 1. Foreign Associate Members’ Eligibility for Fellowship and 2. Membership “Grace” Period. 
5. Deborra discussed the Mosaic Program, and having the Pinkett award and Mosaic scholarship fall under the Mosaic Program. Also informed members that there might be additional scholarships. 

AAC Donor Brochure

Co-chair Tamar Dougherty introduced the idea of the AACR drafting a donor brochure just for Archives and Archivists of color. There has been a concern among some archivists that the current SAA donor brochure does not address the unique needs and challenges of donors of color. Special issues include building trust between archival repositories and communities of color, language barriers. The brochure would be appropriate work for the AACR. It has been a long time since the AACR has produced a tangible product and the brochure would be a great start. A committee would have to be put in place to discuss what issues should be covered by the brochure. For example would we want to list archival repositories which collect archives of color such as the Schomberg or places that specialize in Asian archives. What would we tell the donors that would be different from the current publication? For instance, many African American donors wonder if they should always donate their papers to a repository that only collects “black materials”. A vote was taken and the members present overwhelming voted to support the creation of a brochure. Tamar added that the AACR would have to enlist the support of sister roundtables such as LACCHA and the Native American Roundtable as well as the Committee for Diversity. Tamar made a call for volunteers.

2011 SAA Conference Call for Proposals

Rebekah Kim (2011 program committee co-chair) solicited session proposals for the 2011 SAA Annual conference to be held in Chicago. The theme is 360 (degrees) and it will be SAA’s 75th Anniversary. Proposals should connect to the theme, and be introspective and retrospective, and look to the future. For more information people call go to the SAA website. The deadline for session proposals is October 1, 2010.

AACR can endorse two session proposals. The program committee is looking for proposals from a wide variety of institutions and people and is especially interested in proposals with an international perspective. Proposals may now be submitted electronically.

Mosaic Award

Petrina Jackson announced the recipients of the 2010 Mosaic Scholarship, LaNesha DeBardelaben (Indiana University-Bloomington) and Susan Gehr (San Jose State University).

The Mosaic Scholarship provides $5,000 in financial aid and offers mentoring support to encourage students to pursue a career as an archivist. The scholarship was established in 2008 to promote diversification of the American archives profession. It is given to applicants who demonstrate potential for scholastic and personal achievement and who manifest a commitment both to the archives profession and to advancing diversity concerns within it.

LaNesha DeBardelaben, a student in the Master of Library Science program in the School for Information Science at Indiana University-Bloomington, and Susan Gehr, who is earning a master’s degree in Library and Information Sciences at San Jose State University. This annual award offers financial support to minority students who manifest a commitment both to the archives profession and to advancing diversity concerns within it. As recipients, DeBardelaben and Gehr each receive a $5,000 scholarship, a one-year membership in SAA, and complimentary registration to the Archives*Records/DC 2010 conference this August in Washington, D.C.

Misc. announcements from AACR members in attendance

1. Anne Gilliland (UCLA) announced a doctoral scholarship. Archival educators pursuing a doctoral degree at 8 participating universities are eligible. Funded by IMLS, the scholarship includes a $20,000 stipend plus fees for 4 years of study.
2. Driskell Center Seeks Archivist for Position Supported by Institute of Museum and Library Services. Interested members were encouraged to pick up a copy of the job description or go to the website.

3. Wilda Logan (NARA) described NARA’s change in application policies and for student workers need to call the repository directly, and will not find student positions in USA JOBS.

1:45-2:00 PM -- Elections & Voting

There were 3 candidates for the co-chair position. 1 person, Béatrice Colastin Skokan (Special Collections Librarian at University of Miami Libraries - Special Collections) was not present, and her statement was read. The other two candidates were present and gave a brief statement: Courtney Chartier (Assistant Head of the Archives Research Center at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library) and Shugana Williams (Librarian and Assistant Archivist, The University of Southern Mississippi Katrina Research Center at the Gulf Coast).

Ballots were passed out and collected. Courtney Chartier was elected as the incoming co-chair of the AAC Roundtable.

2:00 -2:45 PM -- Panel on Advocacy and Outreach

Moderated by
• Sonia Yaco / Bob Vay [DOVE Project]
• Lisa Calahan [Black Metropolis Research Consortium - University of Chicago]

2:45 PM -- Meeting Adjourned

Harold T. Pinkett
Minority Student Award

Established in 1993, this award recognizes and acknowledges minority undergraduate and graduate students who, through scholastic and personal achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of the Society of American Archivists.

Eligibility: Awarded to minority students, with preference given to full-time students possessing a minimum scholastic grade point average of 3.5 while enrolled in a graduate program focusing on archival management during the academic year preceding the date on which the award is given.

Prize: Full complimentary registration to the SAA Annual Meeting, and related expenses for hotel and travel for attending the SAA Annual Meeting.

For additional information about the award and nomination procedures, please visit http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-pinkett.asp

Call for Submissions!

The AACR is currently seeking submissions for its quarterly newsletter. We welcome:

• articles about current news and trends
• op-ed and perspective pieces on topical issues
• descriptions of digitization initiatives
• excerpts from research projects and scholarly writings
• institutional profiles and professional updates
• book reviews

Guidelines for Submitting Materials

Materials should be submitted via email to the newsletter editor, Rabia Gibbs, at rgibbs4@utk.com no later than March 1, 2011. Manuscripts are to be sent as a Microsoft Word attachment or in plain text in the email body. For publication.

Article length should be between 300-750 words. Shorter or longer pieces may be accepted upon prior approval.

We look forward to hearing from you!