

AACR

Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable
Newsletter



Conference/August 2015

Volume 29, Issue 4

Letter from Senior Co-Chair

Greetings Roundtable Members,

I am excited to bring you the latest issue of the Roundtable newsletter and my final letter as Senior Co-Chair. It has been a pleasure to serve you and the Roundtable over these past two years. I have been in awe of the wonderful accomplishments of my colleagues through awards and grants received, new professional positions accepted, collections processed, and the everyday work of documenting the experiences of people of color.

I sincerely appreciate the leadership and support of Aisha Haykal, Sonia Yacco, and Amber Moore over the past year. The work of task forces led by Rebecca Hankins, Agnieszka Czeblakow, and LaToya Devezin have been tremendous and had helped to move the Roundtable forward; and I am certain that the Roundtable will continue to thrive under Aisha's leadership.

Thank you for a wonderful year!

Cheers,

Gabrielle



ELECTION INFO

AACR is still accepting nominations for individuals to lead the Roundtable's activities for 2015-2016. We are seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Junior Co-Chair/Chair-Elect
- Newsletter Editor

The **Junior Co-Chair/Chair Elect** serves a one year term as Junior Co-Chair (2015-2016) and then will serve as Senior Co-Chair for 2016-2017.

The **Newsletter Editor** serves a one year (renewable) term. The successful candidate will serve as a member of the Roundtable Steering Committee.

Please send questions and/or nominations to gabriel-le.dudley@emory.edu.

The Roundtable will not participate in the online elections process this year, but will prepare a ballot and accept nominations from the floor during the business meeting.

The election will take place on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 3:00 PM until 4:30 PM.

**2015 Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting
Archivists of Color Roundtable
Business Meeting**

Cleveland Convention Center—Room 26B
Wednesday, August 13, 2014
3:00–4:30 PM

3:00-3:05 PM	CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
3:05-3:10 PM	ANNOUNCEMENTS Pinkett Award Recipients Mosaic Scholarship Recipients 2015-2016 AAC Roundtable Officers
3:10-3:30 PM	Junior Co-Chair (2015-2017) and Newsletter Editor Election
3:30-4:00 PM	REPORTS SAA Council: Michelle Light Diversity Committee: Committee Member History Task Force: Rebecca Hankins Outreach/ Advocacy Task Force: Task Force Member Nominating Task Force: Angel Diaz Louis Jones, Vice President/President Elect, Academy of Certified Archivists Cecily Marcus, Principal Investigator, Umbra: Search African American History
4:00-4:10 PM	2014-2015 RECAP
4:10-4:15 PM	Junior Co-Chair and Newsletter Editor Election Results
4:15-4:20 PM	GENERAL DISCUSSION & Transition of leadership
4:20-4:30 PM	2015-2016 Senior Co-Chair Statement
4:30 PM	ADJOURNMENT

Member Spotlight

The Annual Business Meeting should not be your only opportunity to get to know members of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable! A new "Member Spotlight" will appear in each issue of AACR Newsletter and monthly via social media sites.



Name: Aisha Haykal

Position Title & Institution: University Archivist, Chicago State University

Hometown and Current City: West Valley, NY and Chicago, IL

In your own words, describe what you do:

I wear many hats in this position, archivist/ special collections librarian, administrator, records manager, and activist. As an archivist, I preserve the history of the university first and being a special collections librarian I work with donors whose history would normally be unrecognized or silenced a place to be remembered and preserved. It is power that can be overwhelming at times, but also exciting. As an administrator, I balance the departmental budget, supervise, shape the direction of the department, and attend a mountain of meetings. As a records manager, I inform our university employees about our state and federal regulations. As the role of activist, I promote the need to preserve community heritage, specifically those of color by conducting workshops and serving as a resource, as many never even met an archivist before.

How do you work with communities of color:

The university that I work at is a Predominantly Black institution (PBI) so I consistently serve a community of color through providing instruction on primary sources and what archives are for undergrad and graduate students. Additionally, I serve on the board of Black Metropolis Research Consortium and we provide assistance and access to collections on Black Chicago experience(s). I often give workshops and talks to Black audiences, usually religious organizations about the need to preserve their history, as well as working with a committee to preserve The Forum, which is a historic building in Bronzeville that was used by African American organizations and performers.

What are you listening to and/or reading:

Listening to Erykah Badu and Janelle Monae; reading the Black Woman's Syllabus to find next book as well as everything by bell hooks.

What is something that you are most excited about in the archives profession:

I'm excited about the real commitment and discussion about including alternative voices that is happening at conferences. I believe though that we need discussion across disciplines and we often speak too much in silos.

(Continued on page 4)

Member Spotlight continued...

What professional organizations, besides SAA are you a member of?

I'm the Secretary of the Chicago branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History as well as a national member; the co-chair of the professional development committee of the Chicago Area Archivists; and the American Library Association

Why did you choose to become an archivist?

I like to think that it choose me. But I became an archivist to see cool things and to collect and preserve the documents of people who people don't think have a history.

Do you have any hobbies or special talents or skills?

As a hobby I often visit museums and attend lectures on historical topics; and I like bowling and karaoke

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Anything else you want to share?

1. Encourage people to rest, sometimes our jobs can be stressful, but the archives will still be there even if we are not so take care of ourselves
2. If you want to see something happen inform others and act on it
3. Be an advocate for the profession in any way that you feel comfortable
3. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History is celebrating their centennial this year, so check to see what is happening locally in your area
4. Black Lives Matter

Aaisha Haykal serves as the University Archivist at Chicago State University. She is a graduate of Syracuse University where she received two bachelor degrees English and Textual Studies and African-American Studies and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she received her Master of Science in Library and Information Science. She enjoys educating undergraduates and graduate students about the power of primary sources, developing public programming to bring history to the people, is concerned about preserving digital objects for the long-term, and has assisted community organizations in documenting their own history. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), American Library Association (ALA), Chicago Area Archivists (CAA), and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)-National and Chicago branch.

Accolades

Louis E. Jones, Ph.D., CA, Field Archivist for the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, has been elected ACA Vice President/President-Elect.

Talia Guzman-Gonzalez, a student the University of Maryland –College Park is one of two recipients awarded the 2015 Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award. Established in 1993, this award recognizes and acknowledges minority students, such of those of African, Asian, Latino or Native American descent, who, through scholastic and personal achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of the Society of American Archivists.

In addition to her pursuit of an MLIS degree, Talia holds a PhD in Portuguese with a minor field in Latin American Literature. She currently works at the Smithsonian Latino Center in Washington, DC where she is involved with the Latino GLBT History Project. As an archivist, Dr. Guzman-Gonzalez states that she wants “to advocate for the presence of minorities as user, but also make sure that their contributions to our society are part of archival repositories.” In her past experiences as a teacher and current work in Washington, DC she is committed to raising awareness about the histories of communities of color. Talia was recently recognized by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) as a 2014 Career Enhancement Program fellowship.

Rachel Winston, a student at the University of Texas at Austin is one of two recipients awarded the 2015 Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award. Established in 1993, this award recognizes and acknowledges minority students, such of those of African, Asian, Latino or Native American descent, who, through scholastic and personal achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of the Society of American Archivists.

As a student, Rachel has been committed to making herself “more capable to advocate for and work with collections and materials related to the African American and Black Diaspora experience.” Her interest, dedication, and enthusiasm for documenting the Black Diaspora is seen in her work with UT-Austin’s Domestic Slave Trade Database. Rachel recently completed ethnographic research and multi-lingual course work in Black Diaspora Studies at a local university in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to further define and improve her knowledge of Afro-Brazilian communities and history. Rachel is active in many local organizations and serves as the secretary of the student SAA chapter at the University of Texas at Austin.

Institutional Profile: Immigration History Research Center Archives

By Ellen Engseth, Curator, Immigration History Research Center Archives and Head, Migration and Social Services Collections

The **Immigration History Research Center Archives** is a well-established archives and library at the University of Minnesota for the study of im/migration, ethnicity, and race. We select sources documenting a broad range of im/migrant and refugee experiences, and strive to connect history to today’s experiences. We work closely with our colleagues in the [Immigration History Research Center](#), and we are part of the Migration and Social Services Collections in [Archives & Special Collections](#).

A current project of the Immigration History Research Center and Archives is that of [Immigrant Stories](#), which encourages the creation and deposit of self-created digital stories documenting personal experiences of im/migrants. And through an exciting partnership with the Minnesota Digital Library and the Digital Public Library of America, *Immigrant Stories* are increasingly discoverable by greater number of people across the globe.

AACR “Meet and Greet” Activities

In an effort to engage members, friends and supporters of the Archivists & Archives of Color Roundtable we have begun to host “Meet and Greet” activities in cities across the country.

June 25th 2015: Frida al Fresco Meet & Greet at the New York Botanical Garden, co-hosted by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (A.R.T.) & the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable (AACR)



Attendees enjoyed a festive night out at the New York Botanical Garden and got the opportunity to experience the “FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life” exhibit after hours. Attendees included A.R.T. President, Ryan Anthony Donaldson and his wife, Mrs. Lori Donaldson, New York City area archivist and library information professional Flora Rodriguez, who manages the archives at the [New York Junior League](#), roundtable members from both the A.R.T. and AACR, as well as their friends and family

Thanks for reading— Enjoy the Conference!