

AACR

Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable Newsletter

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Letter from Senior Co-Chair

Greetings Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable Members,

I am looking forward to serving as the chair for this roundtable. Along with learning the concerns of AACR members and bringing them back to SAA Leadership, I will share SAA information to the roundtable membership. The roundtable and the association operate for their memberships, so we hope that you will stay engaged by putting forth proposals, voting in organizational elections, and providing content for the newsletter.

Building off the successes of last year, as we continue moving forward, we hope to address issues that face the LIS profession. Among them, we want to more closely consider concerns around privacy and confidentiality, cultural competency, social justice, digital humanities, funding, and advocacy. We plan to explore ways of engaging with our membership through Twitter chats, regional meet-ups, conferences, and Town Hall meetings to create spaces for folks to dialogue. If you are interested in helping to coordinate these activities, please contact the roundtable leadership.

This year we aim to collaborate with affiliated sections, committees, and roundtables to bring our members in conversation and to break down some of the barriers that exist. We are excited to introduce two new initiatives for this year: the Diversity Internship and the AACR mentorship program.

I would like to thank Gabrielle Dudley for the work that she did as Senior Co-Chair and to Sonia Yaco for being the webmaster; and extend a warm welcome to our new roundtable leadership, Harrison Inefuku (Iowa State University) as the Junior Co-Chair and Micha Broadnax (Simmons College) as the Newsletter Editor.

I encourage you to send any suggestions, questions, or concerns regarding the roundtable send me a message at ahaykal@csu.edu.

Best,
Aaisha



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Senior Co-Chair Letter	1
Exhibitions	2
Atlanta Student Movement	
Collections	2-5
Chicano/a Research Collection	
Rita M. Cacus Filipino American Community Archive	
Latino GLBT History Project	
Preserve the Baltimore Uprising	
Announcements	3
Simmons Students of Color Organize	
Resources	5
Explore Chicago Collections	
Accolades	6
ARL/SAA Mosaic Fellows	
Opportunities	6-7
BMRC's Archie Motley Archival Internship Program	
Summer Scholar Program: Ernest J. Gaines and the Southern Experience	

“Start Something: Activism and the Atlanta Student Movement”

Exhibit on Display at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library

By Sarah Tanner, Processing Archivist

Start Something: Activism and the Atlanta Student Movement exhibit will be on display at the Atlanta University Robert W. Woodruff Library from October 15, 2015- March 31, 2016. The exhibit documents how students from the Atlanta University, Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University), Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, The Interdenominational Theological Center, and Spelman College strategized and worked together to stage protests in the 1960s. The students penned *An Appeal for Human Rights*, and organized nonviolent marches, sit-ins, picket lines, and boycotts that forced Atlanta merchants and government officials to desegregate stores and public facilities, actions now known as the Atlanta Student Movement.

This story of the fight against segregation and inequality in Atlanta is told through photographs, correspondence, political cartoons, and newspaper articles. Many of the documents on display are from the collections in the AUC Woodruff Library Archives Research Center. The exhibit also highlights the continuing struggle for social justice in the U.S. with photographs from recent Black Lives Matter protests held in Atlanta.

The *Start Something* exhibit is part of an ongoing initiative to collect, display, and share the story of the Atlanta Student Movement. In conjunction with the physical exhibit, there is an online exhibit, “Seeking to Tell a Story: Political Action from Slavery to Civil Rights” available at <http://digitalexhibits.auctr.edu/>.

For more information about the exhibit visit <http://research.auctr.edu/AtlantaStudentMovement> or contact 404-978-2003. Visit www.auctr.edu for directions and parking information.



Atlanta University Center Students garnering support for boycott, 1960, Mary Ann Smith Wilson – Ruby Doris Smith Robinson Collection on Student Activism, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.

Institutional Profile: Chicano/a Research Collection

By Nancy Liliana Godoy-Powell, Curator and Librarian of Chicano/a Research Collection

The [Chicano/a Research Collection \(CRC\)](#), located at Arizona State University Libraries, was established by Dr. Christine Marin in 1970. At the height of the Chicano and Ethnic Studies Movement, the university agreed to support the development of a Chicano Studies program and to acquire primary and secondary sources that complemented the research needs of students and faculty. From the beginning, Dr. Marin played an active role in identifying and acquiring material by creating relationships with Chicano/a activists, organizations, and the general public. In 40 years, the CRC grew from a small circulating book collection to a leading archival repository for Chicano/a and Mexican American history. We have more than 1,500 linear feet of archival material that focuses on Arizona labor, education, civil rights, immigration, and politics.

For example, the *Club Sonorense Records* and *Los Mineros Photographs* highlight the struggles and segregated working and living conditions of Mexican American miners in Arizona and New Mexico. The *Gustavo Gutierrez Papers* and *Maricopa County Organizing Project (MCOP) Records* preserve statewide efforts to organize and unionize undocumented Mexicans

(Continued on page 3)

Institutional Profile: Chicano/a Research Collection

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and Mexican American farm workers in Arizona. The *Alianza Hispano Americana (AHA) Records* and *Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) Records* preserve the history of two important Mexican American organizations that were dedicated to improving the lives of Mexican Americans through education, economic development, social services, and affordable housing. Finally, the *Ocampo Family Papers & Photographs* preserve the life and customs of a pioneering Mexican American family from 1863 to the present. The Ocampos helped establish the first public school, St. Anthony Padua Catholic Church, and library in Wickenburg, Arizona.

Nevertheless, Mexican American history is vastly under-documented in Arizona's archives. In 2012, a statewide archives survey showed that only 2% of known collections document this community's history. As we celebrate our [45th anniversary](#), we take pride in the role we played in preserving the collective memory of several generations of Mexican Americans in Arizona. However, we also recognize that we still have a lot of work ahead of us. As the new Archivist and Librarian of the collection, I am continuing Dr. Marin's legacy by engaging, educating, and empowering the Mexican American community. I am responsible for collection development, archival arrangement and description, instruction, specialized reference services, and community outreach. Recently, I have developed a [workshop](#) (video) that teaches individuals how to trace their roots and how to preserve family archives. During the workshop, I provide a quick introduction to archival theory. I also hand out "genealogy- archives kits" that contain bilingual brochures with "easy preservation tips" as well as archival supplies. My current goal is to encourage the Latino community to become "community archivist" because it creates a sense of trust and equal ownership of the history. For more information about the Chicano/a Research Collection, please visit our [library guide](#).



Nancy Liliana Godoy-Powell (current Archivist) and Dr. Christine Marin (founder of Chicano/a Research Collection).

Simmons Students create space for Boston LIS students and professionals of color to connect!

By Gabby Womack, Students of Color at Simmons Alumni Liaison

The Students of Color at the Simmons School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS), playfully referred to as SoCS, is a new student group founded in the Fall of 2015 in response to the need for a greater sense of community amongst graduate students of color within LIS programs. Through the formation of this organization, the founding officers of SoCS wanted to build and sustain a supportive community for graduate students of color that contributes to their academic development, social growth, and well-being.

For many of the students of color at Simmons, diversity and inclusion are driving forces behind their professional work and their choice of profession. But diversity should not be a value that is only practiced after obtaining your MLS. SoCS recognizes the need to integrate ongoing and open discussions of diversity in the field and the promotion of a culturally diverse workforce, beginning as students and early career practitioners. The Simmons SLIS houses programs focused on librarianship, computer science, and archives, all of which are areas where diversity is critical to how we carry out our work and how we interact with and provide

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Simmons Students create space for Boston LIS students and professionals of color to connect!

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is critical to how we carry out our work and how we interact with and provide access for users. By providing a space for discussions of our experiences as students and practitioners of color, SoCS also seeks to create a platform for critical reflection that will enhance our efficacy and relevance as the architects and facilitators of information services.

In addition to providing support to students of color during their MLS, a connected goal of SoCS is to create more relationships with alumni and professionals of color for mentorship and guidance beyond graduate school. To support these goals, SoCS is planning several events and collaborations with other student groups throughout the year including a Diversity in Higher Education Forum in the Spring, focusing on student presentations and panels related to social justice in LIS. SoCS also hosts quarterly study groups for students to interact and connect with each other.

Through the activities of the SoCS Alumni Liaison, SoCS is also reaching out to the Greater Boston and New England communities of LIS professionals of color and working to connect students entering the profession with more opportunities for development.

***Please join us on Friday, December 4th
for MetaMixer, a social hour event for students, alumni, and professionals of color
Hosted by SoCS at the Squealing Pig
134 Smith St, Boston, MA 02210
at 7 pm.***

SoCS Officers

Araceli Hintermeister - Co-Chair

Stephanie Orellana - Co-Chair

Desiree Alaniz - Secretary

Alyssa True - Webmaster

Gabby Womack - Alumni Liaison, Womackg@simmons.edu

Community Archives Showcased at “Pop-Up Forum” by Archivist of Metro D.C.

By Steven D. Booth, Organizer of Archivist of Metro D.C.

The metro D.C. area is home to richly diverse communities, many of whom are un(der)represented in traditional archival institutions. In an effort to continue the conversations that took place about community archives at SAA 2015, Archivists of Metro D.C. (AMDC) organized a “Pop-Up Forum” to discuss and learn about the work of those who document local cultures and histories. Here’s a brief snapshot of the organizations present:

Since the early 1990s newly retired archivist Rita Cacas has collected and preserved the history of Filipino communities in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia. What initially began as a grant-funded project to capture the stories of her father and other Filipino immigrants has evolved into the [Rita M. Cacas Filipino American Community Archives](#). Housed at the University of Maryland, College Park, the collection broadens the knowledge and narrative of the Filipino American experience through rich materials that illustrate the personal and professional lives of Filipino communities living on the East Coast. “When I began my research decades ago, in search of solid evidences of the early DC Filipinos, there was no body off archives about the communities around DC. I visited each of the elders personally, asking about old pictures and other mementos. The shock was finding how many people had already thrown out their old stuff when they downsized after retirement. They only saw two options – saving everything or nothing – with ‘nothing’ an impossible choice.” Through her self-titled foundation, Cacas has created engaging programs and built partnerships with student groups at UMD and other organizations to promote the collection. She hopes to “offer people better options for preserving their records.”

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Community Archives Showcased at “Pop-Up Forum” by Archivist of Metro D.C.

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To protest the erasure of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Latino identities and activism from historical queer literature, Jose Gutierrez organized the [Latino GLBT History Project \(LHP\)](#). Founded in 2000 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2007, the volunteer-led organization strives “to investigate, collect, preserve and educate the public about the history, culture, heritage, arts, social and rich contributions of the Latino GLBT community in the metropolitan Washington, D.C.” The archival collection consists of files, photographs, and ephemera documenting the work of several LGBT Latino groups and organizations, pageants, Pride activities and the AIDS epidemic. Esther Hidalgo serves as co-chair of the Archives Committee and coordinates the acquisition and preservation of collections and records. Over the years the group has created a number of educational exhibits, public programs, and a digital museum to raise awareness about LHP and provide social service resources. LHP President Jose L. Plaza described the work of the organization as ever-changing as it responds to societal issues within the community. Next year, members of the executive and steering committee will expand their outreach by soliciting donations from attendees at the Creating Change Conference in Chicago.

In contrast to the identity based community archives present, [Preserve the Baltimore Uprising](#) is a fully digital repository documenting the protests surrounding the death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray who was arrested by Baltimore police on April 19, 2015 and later died in their custody. Dr. Denise Meringolo from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and her public history students responded to the urgency of capturing history as it happened by designing the online archive using the open-source platform Omeka. Currently, the website preserves and provides access to over 600 items of “original content that was captured and created by individual community members, grassroots organizations, and witnesses to the protests.” Although this is a collaborative project between several historical and academic institutions, Dr. Meringolo stressed the importance of ownership belonging to the Baltimore community. Residents are encouraged to share their stories and pictures in order “to gather and preserve as many perspectives and experiences of protest and unrest as possible.” The project expects to receive additional materials with the upcoming trials of the six Baltimore police officers charged in the death of Freddie Gray.

For more information about AMDC and upcoming programs and service projects, please visit archivistmetrodc.weebly.com.

Resources

Explore Chicago Collections

Chicago Collections, is pleased to announce the [Explore Chicago Collections](#)— a free, centralized, web-based search engine and record-finding tool that will allow researchers, teachers, students, and the general public to locate or access over 100,000 maps, photos, letters, and other archival materials. These twenty-one members include the likes of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago History Museum, the Newberry Library, and others such as Alliance Française de Chicago, and the Chicago Zoological Society. Rather than negotiate traditional online boundaries between these institutions, users will be able to browse an enormous wealth of digital material (as well as guides for locating physical objects related to Chicago history) by topic, neighborhood, city, and more. Additional resources available through the Explore Chicago Collections site will include library guides, a virtual reference desk, educational materials, and eventually, digital exhibits, and more. The free and unfettered access to Chicago history and culture that Explore Chicago Collections affords is unprecedented.

For more information, go to chicagocollections.org, follow us on Twitter (@ChiCollections, #TogetherChicago), or “Like” us on Facebook (facebook.com/ChiCollections).

EXPLORE
CHICAGO COLLECTIONS

Accolades

The third cohort of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) /Society of American Archivists (SAA) Mosaic Program are well into the first quarter of their experience. The 2015-2017 ARL/SAA Mosaic Program fellows are:

Mohamed Haian Abdirahman, University of Texas at Austin

Internship host institution: Human Rights Documentation Initiative, University of Texas at Austin

Maria Fernandez, University of Texas at Austin

Internship host institution: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas at Austin

JoyEllen Freeman, Clayton State University

Internship host institution: Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center

Joyce Gabiola, Simmons College

Internship host institution: Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Boston University

Hannivett Nabahe, University of Arizona

Internship host institution: University of Arizona Libraries Special Collections

Crystal D. Paull, University of Texas at Austin

Internship host institution: Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, National Archives and Records Administration

Special thank you to AACR members who serve on the Advisory group or Selection Committee. For more information visit [ARL/SAA Mosaic Program website](http://www.arl.org/saa).

Opportunities

BMRC's Archie Motley Archival Internship Program

The BMRC will award two Archie Motley Archival Internships for Spring 2016. Interns will receive \$3,000 in funding. Mr. Archie Motley (1935-2002) was a gentle crusader whose collection of off-beat papers and manuscripts enabled the Chicago Historical Society to build an extraordinary collection of documents about the lives of black people, labor leaders and social workers.



Eligibility

Current senior-level undergraduates, graduate students, recent graduates, or individuals in career transition are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to students of color studying the following disciplines: Public history, Library and Information Science, History, Political Science, Sociology.

The internship assignments will begin in early February 2016 at Chicago State University. The spring 2016 cohort will process the records of Provident Hospital, the first black owned and operated hospital in the United States.

Requirements

The internship must entail at least 200 hours of work over the course of a semester to qualify for funding. Intern supervisors will be expected to confirm hours worked. Award recipients will be expected to write a brief update at the midway point of their internship and an 800-1500 word summary of their internship project at the conclusion of their internship. This final report should not duplicate any work turned in for course credit and will be published by the BMRC on the BMRC's website. Alternate forms of project outcomes may be acceptable.

Applications will be accepted starting November 15, 2015. The application deadline is Friday, January 15, 2016. Awardees will be notified by February 1, 2016. [Apply here](#)

Opportunities Continued

Summer Scholar Program: Ernest J. Gaines and the Southern Experience

<https://ernestgaines.ucla.edu/summerscholar/>

This four-week Institute, based in Lafayette, Louisiana, takes place May 31-June 24, 2016 and will focus on bringing the work of Ernest J. Gaines into the broader conversations of American, Southern, and African American literature. Some of his works include the award-winning *Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Lesson before Dying*, and *A Gathering of Old Men*. One of the most widely read and highly respected authors of contemporary African American literature, Gaines is recognized for the voice that he gives to his characters, their undeniable relationships between land and community, as well as his thought-provoking portrayal of the South during the mid to late-twentieth century. Gaines' awards include a 2000 National Humanities Medal and 1993 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

To explore Gaines and his place in the American literary canon, the institute will bring together distinguished scholars and twenty-five participants in a four-week summer program located at the Ernest J. Gaines Center at University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The Center houses the author's manuscripts, correspondence, reviews of his works, speeches, interviews, and other items related to his life and writing. The institute will include lectures, group discussions, film screenings and the opportunity for participants to have hands-on work with the Center's resources. Using Gaines as a foundation, participants will examine the following: general influences on Gaines, African American literary contemporaries and predecessors, and Louisiana contemporaries or predecessors.

By studying the work of Ernest J. Gaines in the wider realm of Southern and American literature, scholars and participants will engage in broad, provocative discussions regarding canon formation, artistic freedom versus social responsibility, the creation of race and nation, and the effects on regional affiliation on identity. Participants will be expected to have a research project in mind during the institute. The project does not necessarily have to be focused on Gaines's works, but centered, for example, on representations of the South in literature, the idea of influence on an artist, or the formation of the literary canon. The program will include weekly field trips to sites that have relevance to Gaines and the other featured authors, concluding with a trip to Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, where Gaines lives, to view and experience the area and the land that inspired novels like *A Lesson Before Dying* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. The program will conclude with presentations given by the institute's participants.

Applications Due March 1, 2016

Thanks for reading!

The deadline for the next newsletter is February 13, 2016.