

archival outlook

Tally Ho!

- 2009 SAA Candidates + Online Voting
- Yale Archivists Reach Out to Teenagers
- SAA Appointments Committee Wants You



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Tally Ho! . . . Artist Michael D. Jernigan sculpts "Casting the Ballot" after the disputed 2000 presidential election—a contest between Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush that took five weeks to resolve. Gore won the popular vote but Bush was declared the winner by the U.S. Supreme Court after a chaotic ballot re-count in Florida. Read about SAA's 2009 candidates and the new online voting process on page 10 in "2009 Election Features Online Voting for First Time." Photo courtesy of the State Library and Archives of Florida; photographer: Mark Foley.

archival outlook

the society of american archivists
serves the education and information needs
of its members and provides leadership to
help ensure the identification, preservation
and use of the nation's historical record.

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Archives in Tough Times

It's no secret that the American economy, as well as the global economy, is headed for tough times. The question has become not if a recession is coming, but rather how deep the recession will be and how long it will last. These are not happy questions to ponder at either a personal or an institutional level. But think about them we must.

Among our professional responsibilities is that of stewarding our programs through the good times and the bad. Although I'd be the first to admit that stewardship is a lot more fun in the good years, I

**As times get tougher,
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why archives matter.**

believe our call to stewardship also places responsibilities on us in the bad times. Perhaps the most important aspect of stewardship is not to fall into the trap of believing we are powerless to affect our fate. When programs face bad times—economic or otherwise—the worst action an archivist can take is to

hunker down in the stacks hoping that somehow it will all turn out for the best. This is not a time for hiding; it's a time for advocating.

For many archivists this message will sound counterintuitive. Some believe advocacy is about getting new things: more money, more staff, more of everything. But in bad times getting more of anything is not likely a realistic possibility. Although it's certainly true that advocacy is often used to get more, advocacy is fundamentally about educating, re-educating, reminding, or otherwise making clear to those in authority that archives are core to an institutional mission, not an extravagance meant only for the good times. Advocacy in bad times emphasizes to those who control the budget that archives and archivists serve basic, fundamental functions that relate to the institution's mission.

I recognize that this is not always easy. I work in an environment in which a substantial special collections library is maintained by a largely regional university that recently has begun to raise its own expectations about itself. Rising expectations in an academic community are useful in pointing out the importance of the archives, but there remains a

persistent concern in a university that often focuses on first-generation college students regarding the need to spend substantial sums of money on what I have heard uncharitably described as the "toy department."

Unsurprisingly I have a few thoughts about why the "toy department" matters. Linking our "toys" to a student's acquisition of critical thinking skills—particularly first-generation students who may never have been challenged in such a way—is one of those arguments. Others include the role that the archives specifically, and special collections generally, have come to play in forwarding the name and image of my university. The exact arguments that I use are not particularly important, but the broader point is critical for every archivist who is seeking to make his or her way through hard times. Now is the time to remind administrators and other decision makers that what archivists do is not an extravagance, but is central to the institutional mission. Now is the time to remind those individuals of what we do for them and their programs—and what they will lose if the archives is crippled or eliminated.

Archives matter. If we did not believe this, you and I likely would not be archivists. As times get tougher, it's critical that we use our advocacy skills to remind those around us why archives matter. More than ever, it's time for archivists to become committed advocates for themselves and their programs. I've always believed that advocacy is essential to our calling. In the coming months, advocacy may become essential to our survival.

If ever there was a time to make time for advocacy, this is it. Just do it. ♦

How Has the Economy Affected Your Archives?

Archival Outlook will feature a story on how archivists and archives around the country are being affected by the current state of the U.S. economy. How are these tough times affecting your institution and your workplace? Does a budget crunch mean you have fewer resources, human or otherwise? Please take our online survey at <http://www.archivists.org/surveys.asp>



In Times of Trouble

Are you as weary of reading about foreclosures, bailouts, and tumbling stocks as I am? The news has been bad for all of us as individuals. If you attended the Annual Membership Meeting at ARCHIVES 2008 or have had a chance to view SAA's FY2008 Annual Report (www.archivists.org/periodicals/2008AnnReport.pdf), you know that the news for SAA has been pretty bad, too. Our relatively small investment portfolio—developed through hard-won net gains in operations—has gotten a lot smaller since last April. The result for FY2008 was a net loss of \$15,706, even though our programs performed well. But there's some good news, too: SAA's membership continues to grow and we're paying very, very close attention to those financial matters that we *can* control.

There's an old saw in association management that, in times of trouble, individuals turn to their professional organizations for information, education, advocacy, and networking—the practical tools and advice that help them work smarter, the collective voice that represents them as professionals, and the opportunities to connect (commiserate?) with others facing the same challenges. That seems to be happening at SAA:

SAA membership totaled 5,473 (4,869 individuals and 604 institutions) at the end of October, representing growth of 8.57% since October 2007. In fact, our average monthly growth in membership has exceeded 7% for the past two quarters, despite a modest dues increase in January 2008. Student membership is at an all-time high of 1,182 (24% of total individual membership).

Folks are seeking opportunities for professional development. SAA's workshop schedule this fall has been hectic, with 17 offerings between September and December serving 361 registrants in locations around the country. One key to providing you with continuing education "where you live" has been working with institutions to co-sponsor SAA workshops. If you're interested in providing an SAA-developed course, go to www.archivists.org, "Education & Events," then "Co-sponsor a Program." For current offerings: "Education & Events" and then "Continuing Education Calendar." All of this continuing education is on the heels of SAA's largest-ever West Coast annual meeting, which attracted more than 1,750 paid attendees.

Although book sales are down from previous years—due largely to the fact that our

publishing program in the past three years has been unnaturally robust for an organization of SAA's size—we have several important titles in the development pipeline. I hope you'll review the Publications Catalog that was sent with the September/October issue of *Archival Outlook*, and that you'll pay attention to the special offers coming your way in the next few months. (See page 23, for example.)

As of today, **44 members have shared information about how their repositories "Celebrated the American Record" during American Archives Month in October.** As Frank mentions in his column (page 3), "As times get tougher, it's critical that we use our advocacy skills to remind those around us why archives matter." We hope that you'll make ongoing use of the "evergreen" public relations tools provided in SAA's *American Archives Month Public Relations Kits*, which can help you advocate for archives and archivists throughout the year. See www.archivists.org/archivesmonth.

Like all of you, we're also trying to work smarter and cheaper:

- We decided to forego printing the FY2008 Annual Report, instead making it available to you as a PDF on the website (where we hope you'll read it!).
- The SAA Council decided in August to administer the 2009 election online, which will enhance security of the process, save money, and reduce staff and volunteer time. We're hoping that the convenience of this method will also enhance participation! See page 10 for more information.
- The Website Working Group is developing a requirements document for implementation of Drupal, an open-source software suite that will enable us to enhance navigation of SAA's website, including new tools for member communication.
- We're exploring options for enhancing online presentation of the 2009 Annual Meeting promotional materials to give you access to the most recently updated information—possibly without publishing and mailing the large preliminary program booklet.

I encourage you to let us know what's going on with you (see box on page 3) and how SAA might help you cope. ❖

2009 Awards Competition and Fellow Nominations

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN
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ACHIEVEMENT IN THE
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- Philip M. Hamer – Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award

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- C.F.W. Coker Award
- Fellows' Ernst Posner Award
- Preservation Publication Award
- Theodore Calvin Pease Award
- Waldo Gifford Leland Award

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mosaic Student Scholarship
- F. Gerald Ham Scholarship
- Colonial Dames of America Scholarships
- Donna Cutts Scholarship

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

- Donald Peterson Student Scholarship
- Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award
- Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award

For more information on
selection criteria and nomination forms, go to:

Awards: www.archivists.org/recognition/awards.asp

Fellows: www.archivists.org/recognition/fellows.asp

Completed forms must be postmarked
by Feb. 28, 2009, with exceptions noted.

What Period Is This?

Yale Archivists Go Back to High School

Outreach Project Introduces Students from Diverse Backgrounds to Profession

NANCY LYON and CHRISTINE WEIDEMAN, Yale University

In October 2007, Yale University archivists from the Manuscripts and Archives Department and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library launched the Family and Community Archives Project (FCAP). The project was designed to reach out to students in a local high school with a diverse population and introduce them to the archives profession by training them to be archivists for their own families or community organizations. We hoped that students would develop an appreciation for, and interest in, archival work and would consider pursuing careers in this field.

FCAP was a direct response to the presidential address given by Elizabeth Adkins at the 2007 Annual Meeting, in which she reiterated Brenda Banks' call for diversity and identifying ways to attract young people of color to our profession. Yale University has long been committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty, student body, and staff and to strengthening town-gown relations. Library and university administrators welcomed and supported the project.

Yale had already developed a relationship with the Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School (COOP) in New

Haven, Conn., and it was selected as the host for FCAP. COOP is a creative and performing arts magnet school whose students come from New Haven and the surrounding towns. It has an enrollment of approximately 475 students in grades 9 through 12, of which 49% are African-American, 25% are White, 22% are Hispanic, and 3% are Asian. Following discussions with school administrators, we determined that we would work with 113 juniors in five U.S. History II classes.

Lesson Plan

Six archivists from the two repositories formed an administrative group and twenty-one archivists volunteered to participate. We established five teams (one for each class) that consisted of archivists from both repositories and with varying years of professional experience. Throughout the fall of 2007, project participants met weekly to develop the structure and content of the classes. Communication was fostered with the creation of a wiki and a blog.

Volunteer teams of archivists developed eight lesson plans (which you can find on our wiki at <http://fcap.pbwiki.com/>, along with handouts and resources). The lessons included:

- An introduction to archives;
- Choosing a family or organization and finding archival materials related to it;
- Conducting oral histories;
- Touring a repository;
- Understanding the various uses of archival material; and
- Basic preservation.

During one session, a noted Yale historian spoke on the use of family papers in historical research.

After eight weeks of classes, we mounted an exhibit in Yale's Sterling Memorial Library of reproductions of materials uncovered, created, and selected by the "student archivists." The exhibit featured interview transcripts, photographs, memorabilia, and artwork. We held an opening reception for the students, their families, teachers, and school and university administrators and handed out certificates of participation and "goodie bags" with an archives theme to the students.

Teacher's Role Is Fundamental

Challenges were encountered in implementing this project. We learned firsthand about an inner-city public education and were dismayed at the reading and writing abilities of many of the students. (The educational requirements for becoming a professional archivist may present insurmountable barriers to these students, unless the education they receive is improved.)



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Teacher participation was critical. When we had it, the classes benefited from the project; when we didn't, both the students and archivists struggled. Due to the usual demands of teaching, the teachers were unable to devote enough time early on to reviewing the lesson plans we prepared. As a result, our lesson plans were overly ambitious and frequently had to be modified.

The teachers did not define the work on which the students would be graded until well into the project. Students became frustrated and our work with them was not as tailored as it could have been to help them meet their assignment. Privacy concerns relating to the public use of student names and photographs or films of them were addressed by the project's administrative committee rather late and not very successfully. High absentee rates and sleepy (and even sleeping!) students characterized 7:30 a.m. classes. The school calendar changed frequently, with events for juniors unexpectedly being scheduled at the same time as our classes.

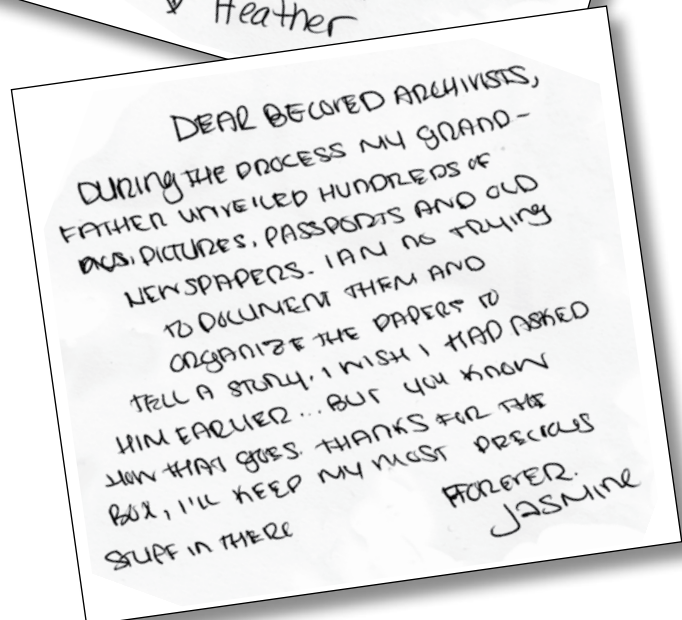
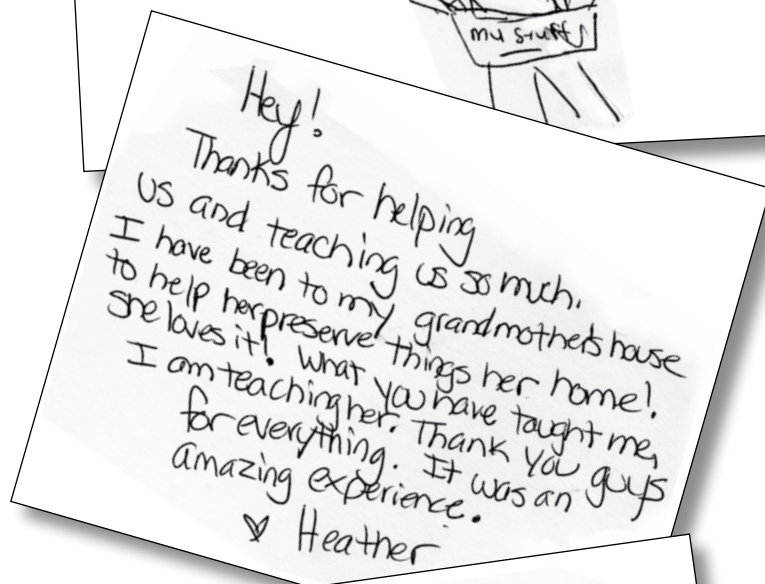
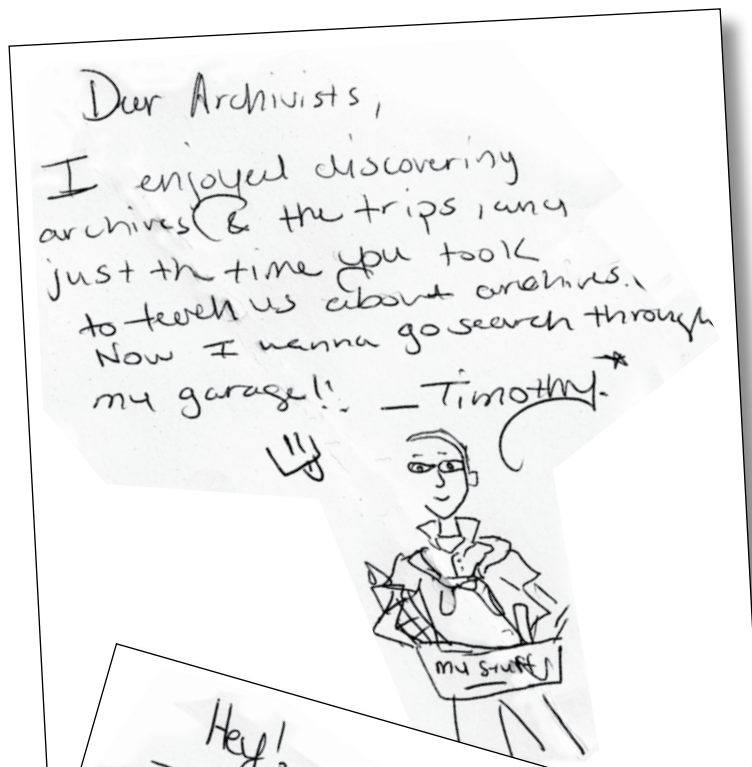
Lessons Learned

Despite these challenges, the project was a success and we believe other archivists interested in developing similar efforts can benefit from the lessons we learned:

- Teachers must be engaged early on and define the work for which they will hold the students responsible.
- Resources need to be identified and committed, including the time required of archivists and, if appropriate, repository support staff members; and funds for such items as handouts, exhibits, audio-visual equipment, Internet resources, and teaching preparation for archivists who have never taught before.
- A variety of teaching methods works best, from lecturing and small group interactions and discussions to hands-on work with materials, using visual aids (photographs and moving images) whenever possible.
- Students enjoy and learn a good deal from repository tours and participating in exhibit selection and preparation.
- Expect the unexpected. Uncovering family history can mean that sensitive information is revealed. Archivists may have to assist students in determining what should be exhibited in a public setting.
- Flexibility throughout the project is a must. Meetings with the archivists involved while the project is underway are useful mechanisms for discussing what is and is not working and how teams are adapting to their students and teachers.

Feedback from students, teachers, archivists, and university colleagues identified the successes we achieved. The students completed an evaluation form and indicated that they learned what archives are and what archivists do. Thirteen noted that they might be interested in a career in archives. We had rewarding evidence that many students talked with family members for the first time about their history and that these conversations strengthened bonds between them. Two out of the three participating teachers found the project stimulating for themselves and their students and were eager to do the project again. Working as teams enabled us to work with

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SENTIMENTAL SENDOFF Students who participated in the Family and Community Archives Project in New Haven, Connecticut, created a large thank you card for the archivists from Yale University. Shown above are just some of the handwritten messages from the kids at the Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School.

Survey Conducted on “Accessibility in Archives”

MICHELLE GANZ, Lincoln Memorial University and Museum Archives

Two SAA roundtables have formed a working group to raise awareness about the issues that professionals with disabilities in the archives field are facing, and to provide solutions to their problems. In July the group conducted an online survey to determine the most pressing needs of these individuals. We’ve drawn some preliminary conclusions from the survey responses.

The two roundtables—the Records Management Round-table (RMRT) and the Archives Management Roundtable (AMRT)—built a coalition of archivists, records managers, librarians, and students called the Joint Working Group on Physical Disabilities in the Profession. The working group was charged to do the following:

To contact and network with persons with physical impairments in the archives and records management profession, identify and study the challenges for them in same, and develop tools to assist them in overcoming these challenges.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that there are approximately 49 million people with disabilities in the United States. Many are not receiving the help they need because they are

afraid to ask for assistance or to disclose their disability. Their fears often are based on a concern that they will be treated differently by co-workers or may lose their jobs. They may not ask for assistance simply because they do not realize that it is available or because they fear being stigmatized.

The working group decided that a survey would help define the most pressing issues and needs of this population. Working group member Avery Olmstead contributed survey questions that he had created on this topic as part of a class project at the University of South Carolina, where he is a MLIS student. Those questions were used as a starting point for the survey designed to gather information from archivists regarding their own disabilities and their institutions’ efforts to accommodate people with disabilities. The resulting

“Accessibility in Archives Survey” was posted on SAA’s website for 29 days in July.

In terms of patrons’ challenges, the biggest issues seem to be mobility-related.

Preliminary Analysis

Although the survey data have not been fully analyzed, some speculative conclusions can be drawn at this time. One of the most striking issues to come out of the survey is that

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Making a Collection Great

How to Say “No” to Socks and Other Items You Don’t Need

HELEN JANOUSEK, SAA Editorial and Production Assistant

Any presentation that includes a college archivist candidly recalling how she diplomatically turned down an offer of old, smelly crew socks to add to her institution’s collection is sure to draw a crowd, as it did at SAA’s 2008 Annual Meeting at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco this summer.

“We’re Ignoring That: Collection Development and What Not to Collect” drew an overflow audience August 28, as four panelists discussed how making decisions about what not to collect can lead to a stronger institutional identity and a better collection.

The session’s panelists included Pam Hackbart-Dean (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale), Kristin Eshelman (University of Connecticut), and Nanci Young (Smith College). Elizabeth Slomba of the University of New Hampshire served as chair.

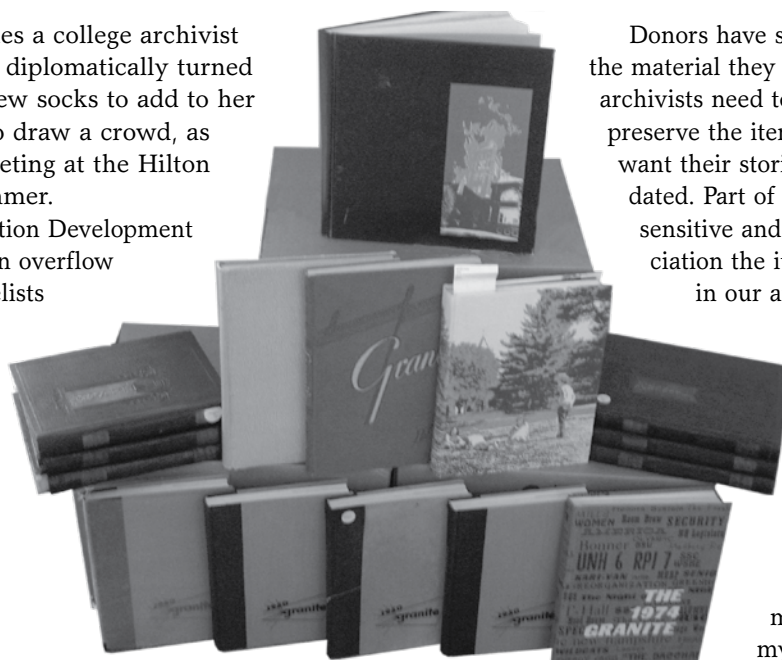
Hackbart-Dean, director of special collections, said institutions “must have a living policy to remain relevant. This will provide guidance to the staff and ensure continuity in the collection.” However, a recent survey conducted by Cynthia Saucer shows that less than 40 percent of institutions do this, she said. “There is reluctance by some archivists [to have one] because they do not want to be limited in their scope of collecting. But you can always go back and revisit the policy.”

A policy helps the institution maintain good public relations by providing the public with information on what it does and does not collect, deflecting unwanted items. “It helps to justify an unpopular decision and brings more cooperation,” Hackbart-Dean said.

Young, college archivist at Smith, reiterated the recommendation to put forth some clear rules. “Create a mission statement and make these principles known. Post it on your website, have handouts available, and keep the key points at your desk,” she suggested.

Develop a Strategy for Key Areas

It’s important for archivists to remember that working with collection donors is not just business—it is personal, too. “The donor-archivist relationship boils down to a personal exchange and, for many archivists, ‘No’ is a hard statement to make,” said Young. “Black-and-white decision-making is not part of the world of archivists, so learn to walk the gray space.”



THE WAY WE WERE Sometimes you can have too much of a good thing—such as yearbooks—and saying “no” may be the best route to go.

Donors have strong attachments to the material they want to donate and archivists need to respect their wish to preserve the items, Young noted. “People want their stories to be heard and validated. Part of our job requires us to be sensitive and acknowledge with appreciation the items donors want to place in our archives.”

Young said it’s a good idea to have a strategy for key areas. One approach is to send the donor with an unwanted item to a more suitable repository. She did this when a donor offered his grandmother’s gym suit. “After my one-two-three pause—in which I thought ‘Why in the world would he keep this?’—I redirected him to a historical

society that collects clothing items.”

Another common issue is dealing with items belonging to family members of well-known alumni. “Four years at Smith do not make a good reason to send us this material. But when you have other sources for them to send the material to, the rejection is less painful,” Young said.

Show Them What You’ve Got

Last year Smith College received a thin scrapbook created by a long-gone alumna. “The advancement rep said, ‘Isn’t this wonderful,’ and the answer was ‘No,’” Young explained. “I then talked to the family member about our current collection of 350 scrapbooks. The donor got to see how the item would not be a standout. Later, I received calls from other family members who thanked us for not taking the item.”

Young told the story of a donor who wanted to give the college a pair of crew socks worn in a race that brought the school a historic victory. “I thought honesty would be the best policy so I told the guy, ‘I’m afraid your socks won’t add anything of value to the archive.’” She then showed the man other items from the crew team already in the school’s collection.

“He said his wife was trying to get him to get rid of the socks. But going through the materials we already had made him seem relieved. Off he went—with socks in hand—and he seemed to be quite happy,” she said.

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2009 SAA Election Features Online Voting

SAA will make its own election history in 2009, with members casting their votes online for the first time. Eighteen candidates are on the ballot, vying for five different offices: vice president/president-elect, treasurer, Council member, and 2010 Nominating Committee.

The top job of vice president/president-elect will be a contest between Megan Sniffin-Marinoff of Harvard University and Helen Tibbo of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The full slate is listed in the adjoining sidebar.

Any eligible member of SAA can be placed on the ballot by submitting a petition signed by 50 individual members. Petitions must be received at the SAA office by February 10, 2009. Voters may also write-in candidates on the ballot.

Online Ballot

The Council approved a motion at its August meeting to administer the 2009 election via online ballot. SAA will partner with Votenet Solutions (www.votenet.com), a leading provider of secure online voting software for nonprofit associations. Provision of an online ballot promises to increase member participation and conserve resources. Online ballots administered via Votenet will be accessible to members via their SAA login and feature a user-friendly interface that includes candidate photos, biographical sketches, and write-in options. The system not only supports voter confidentiality but also features ballot receipts, each of which is identified by a unique serial number that members may use to confirm that their vote has been cast and counted. Members who are not able to vote online are able to request a paper ballot (see below).

Get Ready Now for Online Voting!

Members may cast a ballot online March 11 through April 11, 2009. A link to the ballot will be posted on the SAA website and announced via *Online News* and in the January/February issue of *Archival Outlook*. Please verify that your current, preferred email address is on file and make any desired changes to your SAA login and password no later than February 28, 2009.

1. Visit www.archivists.org/login.asp and log into your SAA profile.
2. Personalize your SAA login and password via the designated link.
3. Click on "My SAA Profile" to verify that your preferred email address is listed. If not, choose "update my personal profile" from the user menu.

How to Request a Paper Ballot

If you do not have Internet access and wish to place your name on a list to receive a paper ballot, please call the SAA Service Center toll-free at 1-866-722-7858.

Slate of Candidates The Nominating Committee has slated the following SAA members as candidates for office in the 2009 election. Terms begin in August.

Vice President/President-Elect (One year as VP, then will become SAA's 66th president in 2010–2011.)

- Megan Sniffin-Marinoff
Harvard University
- Helen Tibbo
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Treasurer (Three-year term)

- Aimee Felker
City of Sacramento
- Becky Haglund-Tousey
Kraft Foods

Council (Three-year term)

- Scott Cline
Seattle Municipal Archives
- Tom Frusciano
Rutgers University
- Brenda Gunn
University of Texas–Austin
- Susan Potts McDonald
Emory University
- Deborra Richardson
Smithsonian Institution
- John (Jac) Treanor
Archdiocese of Chicago

Council (Two-year term)

- Sue Hodson
The Huntington Library
- Brenda Lawson
Massachusetts Historical Society

Nominating Committee (One-year term)

- Carole Bartels
The Historic New Orleans Collection
- Terry Baxter
Multnomah County Records Program
- Amy Cooper Cary
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
- John LeGloahec
National Archives and Records Administration
- Daniel Santamaria
Princeton University
- Claude Zachary
University of Southern California

A Call to Service in SAA

PETER GOTTLIEB, SAA Vice President/President-Elect, 2008–2009

Much of SAA's work is done by its member-volunteers—its elected officers, interest-group newsletter editors, and committee members, to name just a few. We're all volunteers working together to learn from each other, become better archivists, and strengthen SAA. Each year, committees, boards, task forces, and working groups shoulder part of our collective effort.

As SAA Vice President for 2008–2009, I have the responsibility of appointing members to many of these groups, some that are standing and continue indefinitely (i.e., committees, boards, and some working groups) and some that the SAA Council creates for a specific purpose (i.e., task forces). I'm aided in this process by an Appointments Committee that I select. The Appointments Committee—chaired this year by Kathi Neal of the Bancroft Library at the University of

California at Berkeley—and I will follow the SAA Council's long-standing directive to make appointments that reflect the diversity of the entire membership, by gender, race, region, and type of repository.

Now is the time to let us know that you'd like to be considered for an appointment to an SAA board, committee, task force, or working group. It's easy to volunteer. Simply complete and submit the volunteer form that is accessible via the SAA website (at <http://www.archivists.org/membership/volunteer/>), identify the group to which you'd like to be appointed, and tell us why you believe you can contribute to that group's work.

One indicator of SAA's vitality is that each year more members submit volunteer applications than there are positions to fill. If you don't receive an appointment through this process, remember that there are many other ways in which you can contribute your time and talent to SAA. Become an Annual Meeting navigator. Mentor new members. Join in a project sponsored by a section or roundtable. Propose a workshop or an Annual Meeting program session.

We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions about the appointments process or where you can find an opportunity to work within SAA, don't hesitate to contact me at appts-cmte@forums.archivists.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

**We're all
volunteers
working together
to learn from
each other,
become better
archivists, and
strengthen SAA.**

Appointments Available in 2009

For a description of the groups listed below, see www.archivists.org/leaders/. The number in parentheses indicates the number of available positions. To volunteer to serve, visit www.archivists.org/membership/volunteer. **Application Deadline: March 2, 2009.**

ALA/SAA/AAM Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums (1)

American Archivist Editorial Board (2)

Publications Editorial Board (1)

Awards Committee (Co-Chair)

C.F.W. Coker Award Subcommittee (1)

Colonial Dames/Donna Cutts Scholarship Subcommittee (1)

Distinguished Service Award Subcommittee (1)

Hamer-Kegan Award Subcommittee (1)

Oliver Wendell Holmes Award Subcommittee (1)

J. Franklin Jameson Award Subcommittee (1)

Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award Subcommittee (1)

Waldo Gifford Leland Award Subcommittee (1)

Theodore Calvin Pease Award Subcommittee (1)

Donald Peterson Student Scholarship Subcommittee (1)

Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award Subcommittee (1)

Fellows' Ernst Posner Award Subcommittee (1)

Preservation Publication Award Subcommittee (1)

Spotlight Award Subcommittee (1)

Committee on Education (3)

Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct (2)

Diversity Committee (1)

Host Committee—Washington, DC (10)

Membership Committee

Program Committee—Washington, DC (8)

Standards Committee (2)



New Roles for the NHPRC

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), has some new missions. Under legislation signed October 13, 2008, by President Bush, the NHPRC will be able to extend NARA's reach to the records of presidents who do not now have federally operated presidential libraries. Up until now, NHPRC grants have funded the preservation and accessibility of nonfederal records important to our nation's history.

**Since 1964,
the NHPRC
has awarded
\$175 million to
4,500 projects.**

The new legislation—the Presidential Historical Records Act of 2008—would establish a grants program for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence, provide online access to the published volumes of the papers of the Founding Fathers, and establish a national database and grants program for records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War Reconstruction.

Since it began making grants in 1964, the NHPRC has awarded \$175 million to 4,500 projects involving records held by various institutions across the country, including state and local governments, colleges and universities, and non-profit groups. The NHPRC grants often act as catalysts, providing seed money for projects that increase the number and availability of American history sources, and are used for preserving records, publishing them, making them accessible to the public, and establishing archives.

Grants have supported 300 publishing projects involving more than 900 individual volumes of original documents and 9,100 reels of microfilm. NHPRC-funded archival projects are of great assistance to scholars, family and local historians, journalists and authors, documentary film makers, lawyers, and many others.

The NHPRC's reach now extends into all 50 states and the District of Columbia, into all types of records repositories, classrooms, the media, and scholarship at all levels. Grants have underwritten the publication of papers of historical figures, and have also spawned spin-offs, such as curriculum guides for teachers and documentaries for television. Grants have also been awarded to establish or modernize public records programs throughout the country.

NHPRC grants often have an impact that goes well beyond the immediate needs of the recipient organiza-

tion or agency—a ripple effect that increases the impact of each grant immeasurably. For example, NHPRC grants supported the organization and publication of papers of two Founding Fathers, John Adams and Alexander Hamilton. These papers were invaluable in the research for such award-winning books as David McCullough's *John Adams* and Ron Chernow's *Alexander Hamilton*.

But important changes may be in store for the NHPRC and NARA if funds to support the new legislation are appropriated.

The Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence program would provide competitive grants to eligible organizations to promote the preservation of, and public access to, historical records relating to any former president who does not have a library within the NARA system of presidential libraries. This would apply to all presidents before Herbert Hoover, who took office in 1929.

The second new program, stemming from the NHPRC's work on the Founding Era Online report issued to Congress this past spring, would allow the Archivist to enter into a cooperative agreement to provide Internet access to the published papers of the Founding Fathers. A special advisory committee would be created to review progress of the Founding Fathers projects and provide an annual report to Congress.

The third new program involves the records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War Reconstruction and other records, including those of the Freedman's Bureau, to assist African Americans and others in conducting genealogical and historical research. The bill requires NARA to set up a national database of information about these records and authorizes the NHPRC to make grants to states, colleges and universities, and other non-profit organizations to preserve such records and establish online databases.

The new legislation contained no funding for these new programs. Some of the reforms included in the bill, particularly the new grant programs, will require additional appropriations, while others will require staff to redouble efforts to improve the work at the NHPRC and suggest alternatives for operating presidential libraries.

Sponsored by Virginia senators John Warner and Jim Webb, this new legislation will help us achieve the goals of preserving important federal records and of partnering with other archives across the country to achieve a national archival network. ❖

SUSTAINABLE ARCHIVES AUSTIN '09

SAA's 2009 Student Program Subcommittee is accepting proposals for two special sessions dedicated to student scholarship at ARCHIVES 2009—the Joint Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists and the Council of State Archivists in Austin, Texas, August 11–16.

Graduate Student Paper Session

The work of three current archives students will be selected for presentation. Each speaker will be allotted 15 minutes to present a paper. Thirty minutes will be reserved for audience questions. Proposals may relate to any research topic of interest to the student and to the larger archives community. The Subcommittee will select participants based on the quality of proposals. Presenters and topics will be listed in the Preliminary Program.

Graduate Student Poster Session

The 9th annual Graduate Student Poster Session will showcase the work of both individual students and SAA Student Chapters.

Individual posters may describe applied or theoretical research that is completed or underway; discuss interesting collections with which students have worked; or report on archives projects in which students have participated (e.g., development of finding aids, public outreach, database construction, etc.). Submissions should focus on research or activity conducted within the previous academic year.

Student Chapter posters may describe chapter activities, events, and/or other involvement with the archives profession. A single representative should coordinate the submission of each Student Chapter proposal.

CALL FOR STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Submission Instructions and Deadlines

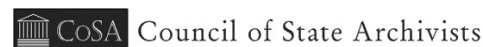
Submissions must include the following:

- ★ Your name, postal address, telephone number, and email address;
- ★ The name and address of your college or university;
- ★ For paper proposals: Your paper title and a 250-word abstract;
- ★ For poster proposals: A brief description of your poster topic (not to exceed 250 words);
- ★ A one-sentence statement attesting to your commitment to attend SAA's 2009 Annual Meeting and present your paper/poster in person if selected by the Subcommittee.

Proposals must be received no later than January 30, 2009, and must be sent electronically to:

2009 Student Program Subcommittee
studentsessions@archivists.org

If you have any questions, please contact Subcommittee Chair Jacquelyn Ferry at jacquelyn.ferry@wisconsinhistory.org.





Congress Passes Bill Making Major Changes at NARA and NHPRC

In September Congress passed legislation (S. 3477) to make changes in major program areas at the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The President signed the bill into law October 13.

The legislation creates a new program called "Grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence." Under the initiative, the Archivist of the United States, with advice of NHPRC, may make competitive grants to non-profit entities or State or local governments to promote the historical preservation of, and public access to, historical records and documents related to any former president who does not have an archival depository administered by NARA under the Presidential Libraries Act.

The National Coalition for History (NCH) sent a letter to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman (ID-CT) strongly objecting to the passage of the "Presidential Historical Records Act" section of the bill.

This section of the bill is the latest iteration of legislation (H.R. 1664, S. 1878) introduced earlier in this Congress. That legislation would have authorized NARA to make pass-through grants towards the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, Virginia.

Although the Bush administration took no formal position on H.R. 1664 when it was considered in the House, the National Coalition for History opposed that bill on the grounds that the National Archives should not be used as a pass-through for federal funds to a private entity. Private institutions usually receive funds through specific earmarks in appropriations bills, not through separate legislation.

The National Coalition for History opposed the "Presidential Historical Records Act" because the new grants initiative would put further strain on the already severely limited financial and human resources that the NHPRC has at its disposal.

In addition, the legislation duplicates existing law. The NHPRC's current authorizing statute already allows it to make grants for the presidential documents projects that the legislation purports to fund. NCH argued that there was no demonstrated policy rationale to carve out a new special grants program for this specific subset of documentary projects. A project to preserve a former president's papers should compete on a level playing field with all other projects seeking NHPRC funding. At committee markup, the bill was improved to give the Archivist of the United States greater discretion in the establishment of the program.

Here is a summary of S. 3477 as enacted into law (Public Law 110-404):

Creates "Grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence"

- The Archivist of the United States, with advice of NHPRC, may make competitive grants to non-profits, or a State or local government to entities to promote the historical preservation of, and public access to, historical records and documents to any former president who does not have a Presidential archival depository administered by NARA under the Presidential Libraries Act.
- Funds can only be used to promote historical preservation of, and public access to historical record of former president.
- Funds cannot be used for maintenance, operating costs, and construction of any facility to house former president's record.
- Application requirements: applicant must possess historical works and collections of historical sources that Commission considers worthy of public expenditure; applicant must have appropriate facilities and space for preservation and public access to records; ensure free access to the public; have educational programs as part of mission; raised funds from non-federal sources in amount equal to the amount of the grant sought; coordinate with relevant federal programs or entities; coordinate with relevant non-federal entities; and workable plan for preservation and public access.

Term Limits for NHPRC Members. An NHPRC member cannot be appointed for a term of more than 2 years and is limited to 4 terms. The bill requires members to recuse themselves from voting on any matter that poses a conflict of interest or may benefit the entity they represent. The term limits would apply to members currently serving on, and all future members of, the NHPRC.

Online Access of Founding Fathers Documents. The Archivist of the United States may enter into cooperative agreements to provide online access to the published papers of Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Franklin, John Adams, Madison and "other prominent historical figures as determined appropriate by the Archivist of the United States."

Advisory Committee on Founding Fathers Editorial Projects. The Archivist of the United States may appoint an advisory committee to review the progress of the Founding Fathers projects funded by the NHPRC. The advisory committee may also, in consultation with the



Founding Fathers projects, set appropriate completion goals. The advisory committee shall be comprised of 3 "nationally recognized historians" appointed for no more than 2 consecutive 4-year terms.

Capital Improvement Plan for Presidential Archival Depositories. The bill requires NARA to provide, as part of its budget submission to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, a ten-year capital improvement plan for the Presidential Library System and to update it annually.

Changes to Endowment Requirements for Presidential Libraries. The bill increases the endowment percentage requirement for the land, construction, and installing equipment from the current 40 percent to 60 percent.

National Database for Records of Servitude, Emancipation and Post-Civil War Reconstruction. The legislation allows the National Archives to create an electronically searchable database of historic records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War Reconstruction contained within federal agencies for genealogical and historical research and to assist in the preservation of these records.

The bill gives the NHPRC the authority to provide grants to states, colleges and universities, and genealogical associations to preserve records and establish databases of local records of such information.

Congress Punts on Fiscal Year 2009 Budget

Before leaving for their election campaigns, Congress passed a continuing budget resolution for Fiscal Year 2009 to keep federal agencies and programs running until March 6, 2009. FY 2009 began on October 1, 2008. Aside from defense, homeland security, and veterans programs, all other federal agencies will continue to be funded at the current FY 2008 level.


GAO Questions NARA's Readiness to Accept Bush Records

In a recent report to Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) questioned the readiness of the National Archives to begin accepting the Bush administration's records on January 20, 2009. GAO expressed concerns that NARA has yet to develop a plan to mitigate the risk of not having a fully functional system in place on Inauguration Day.

According to the GAO's report, NARA's proposed schedule for developing a mitigation plan at the end of 2008 will leave it little time to prepare for and implement the plan, "decreasing the assurance that it will be adequately prepared to meet the requirements of the Congress, the incoming President, and the courts for information contained in the previous administration's records."

To preserve and provide access to all types of electronic records, for many years NARA has been developing an Electronic Records Archive (ERA), including a base system for

continued on page 24

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Grant Will Put Alaska Heritage Online

The Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) in Juneau, Alaska, has been given a \$148,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to create an online catalog of its archival and ethnographic collections. The institute's collections encompass materials that document the history, culture, heritage, and language of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people of Southeast Alaska.

Archivist Zachary Jones (left) says the two-year project will, for the first time, give the public a full listing of SHI's collections on the Internet (www.sealaskaheritage.org). SHI is a regional Native non-profit organization founded for the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people of Southeast Alaska. It was established in 1981 by Sealaska Corporation, a for-profit company formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

—*Capital City Weekly*



Photo courtesy Sealaska

Connecticut Puts Veteran's Oral History Online

The Veteran's History Project, which contains oral history interviews of Connecticut veterans, became available to the public in November. The interviews provide firsthand accounts of America's involvement in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the Afghan War, and the Iraq War. The project is the work of the Governor William A. O'Neill Archives at Central Connecticut State University. Digital materials to be released during the next phase will include veterans' photographs, personal and military service records, correspondence, journals, diaries, and other materials. Veterans' stories are available at: <http://library.ccsu.edu/about/departments/spcoll/oneillarch/>.

—*New Britain Herald*

Goodyear Donates Photo Collection to University of Akron

It doesn't look much like history, this pale yellow concrete bunker with stains on the walls, a room, maybe 20-by-25, in a basement corner of Goodyear's vast world headquarters on East Market Street in Akron, Ohio. It doesn't look like a million dollars, either, cramped with rows of old dark green metal cabinets, stray boxes here and there.

It's only when Aaron Vandersommers starts opening drawers and pulling out negatives, gingerly lifting antique glass plates to the light, and only when the names start dropping—Amelia Earhart and Macy's Thanksgiving parade; Richard Nixon and Sally Ride; Babe Ruth and the Battle of the Bulge—that the story begins, which is the 110-year history of Goodyear Tire & Rubber.

A Goodyear photographer for the past 30 years, Vandersommers has spent as much time as anyone in the narrow aisles between these cabinets. And now, with Goodyear in the first stages of a massive overhaul, moving from this building to a new headquarters, the company is donating this collection, appraised at \$1.1 million, to the University of Akron.

The university is moving these 83,000 photographs to the downtown Polsky Building, which offers proper archival controls, a safe and permanent home, and a staff that can organize and catalog the material in a way that will make it more useful to scholars, the public, and Goodyear itself.

Vic Fleischer, director of the University of Akron's archives, calls the donation "extremely significant, important



Photo courtesy University of Akron

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for the scholarly community.' Among the most significant subjects in the collection, he says, are airship history, the development of the company infrastructure, and tire technology. The university's initial work will include creating a catalog from Goodyear's database and stabilizing early acetate negatives, some of which have begun to break down. Archivists will digitize as much of the collection as possible. Eventually, the images will be accessible online.

—*Akron Beacon Journal*

Lorello Gets Prison for Thefts from New York State Archives

An archivist convicted of selling stolen New York artifacts on eBay was sentenced October 2, 2008, to two-to-six years in prison. He paid \$129,500 in restitution and handed over his personal collection to the state. "I apologize to the people of the state of New York, especially to my colleagues, whose public trust I violated," Daniel Lorello said. The 55-year-old former archives and records management specialist for the state Department of Education pleaded guilty to second-degree grand larceny in August. Some 1,600 items have been recovered, and the restitution will be used in part to repay people who bought and gave back some of them, said John Milgrim, spokesman for Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. The investigation was prompted by a Virginia man who alerted authorities after an 1823 letter was offered on eBay.

—*Associated Press*

Archivists Ready to Work on Brooklyn Abolitionist Trail

Brooklyn will soon get its own Abolition Trail, thanks to a just-announced \$3 million project to commemorate the borough's rich history in the battle against slavery. A self-guided "abolitionist trail" is part of "In Pursuit of Freedom," the formal name of the four-pronged approach to memorializing the history of abolitionism and the Underground Railroad in Brooklyn, New York.

The project was first conceived last year as part of a settlement with Brooklyn resident Joy Chatel, who fought to keep her Duffield Place house saved from the wrecking ball. City planners had hoped to tear down the home and others along Duffield and Gold streets to create Willoughby Square Park, a 1.8-acre centerpiece of a redesigned downtown Brooklyn. But after historians showed that Chatel's house was once a stop on the Underground Railroad, the city did an about-face, co-naming Duffield Street "Abolitionist Place," and promised \$2 million to commemorate the fight against slavery.

Historians and archivists are already at work on the self-guided trail and are brainstorming sites throughout the borough and how best to represent them, said Historical Society President Deborah Schwartz. There will be a combination of markers at physical places where historically significant buildings once stood or in general areas that are relevant to the history.

—*The Brooklyn Paper*

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Global Archives Management Delegation Visits China

ELIZABETH W. ADKINS, CA, Ford Motor Company

It was my pleasure and honor to recently lead a delegation of archivists to China. From October 10 to 20, the group traveled to Beijing and Shanghai and learned about the archives profession in China. The trip was organized under the People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs. People to People was founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in an effort to better promote cultural understanding through the efforts of individuals. For more information about the organization, see <http://www.ambassadorprograms.org>.

Twenty-two delegates and five guests participated in the trip. The delegates visited with our Chinese archival counterparts from various host institutions, while the guests took in some of the local sites. All 27 of us were able to enjoy certain sightseeing highlights. In Beijing, these included Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wall. Other places of interest were the Shanghai Museum, the Jade Buddha Temple, and a silk rug factory in Shanghai. On our last day in the coun-



Elizabeth W. Adkins presents a certificate of appreciation to a faculty member of the School of Information Resource Management at Renmin University of China.



The delegates and their guests pose in front of the entrance to the Forbidden City in Beijing, China. Bottom row, from left: Mark Thiel, Patricia Poskie-Thiel, Dianne Brown, Nurit Lifshitz, Eric Hartmann, Mo-Ching Cheung, Helen Wong-Smith, Kathryn Pereira, Kathleen Marquis, D. Claudia Thompson, Dee Stout. Top row, from left: Mary Evans, Max Evans, James Petersen, David McCartney, Stacy Belcher Gould, Fred Adkins, Laetitia Yeandle, Elizabeth Adkins, Patricia Scott, Kathleen Leary, Kenneth Schlesinger, Alison Bridger, Diane Dimkoff, Leon Stout. Not pictured: John Treanor and Cynthia Treanor.



The staff of the Beijing Municipal Archives formally welcomes the delegation.

try we spent time with local families who generously shared wonderful home-prepared meals with us.

The SAA office contributed "archival gifts" for our hosts: copies of *The American Archivist*, *Archival Outlook*, SAA-published books, and American Archives Month public relations kits. Each host institution also received a complimentary institutional membership in SAA for the next year.

In Beijing we met with the Society of Chinese Archives (which has more than 7,000 individual members), the Beijing Municipal Archives (the equivalent of a large state archives in the U.S.), and the School of Information Resource Management at Renmin University of China. At Shanghai we visited the

Shanghai Municipal Archives and the Shanghai Museum, where we were debriefed on the vast and impressive museum collections by the museum's education director.

One of our delegates, Max Evans, has launched a blog on which we are in the process of posting information about our visit: <http://p2p-aa2c.blogspot.com/>.

The time we spent with our Chinese archival colleagues was all too brief. We were delighted by the thoughtfulness and hospitality extended to us, and look forward to an ongoing email exchange with those we met. We all enjoyed ourselves tremendously, and many of us left vowing to return. ❖



AMERICAN ARCHIVES MONTH ALIVE AND KICKIN'

On October 11, 2008, a community-wide celebration of archives was held at Indiana University in South Bend to kickoff "Archives Alive." Above, Scott Schuler (center), archivist of the Northern Indiana Center for History and Andy Beckman (right), archivist of the Studebaker National Museum Archives, discuss their collections with visitors. To find out how your colleagues celebrated American Archives Month this year, go to <http://www.archivists.org/archivesmonth/index.asp>.

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CHRYSTAL CARPENTER BURKE recently joined the University of Arizona Libraries as an assistant librarian and processing archivist in Special Collections. Burke was previously a photo archivist at the Arizona Historical Society.



MEGHAN PETERSEN became the new A&A List Coordinator in October. She is an assistant archivist for technical services at the American Institute of Physics in College Park, Maryland. She replaces **KERWIN SO** of the National Archives-Pacific Region, who completed a two-year term of service.



ANN RUSSELL retired November 1, 2008, as president and executive director of the Northeast Document Conservation Center. She will assume the title of director emeritus during the transition of leadership. Russell was appointed executive director of the center in 1978 and led it to undertake the conservation of significant documentary and photographic objects in the country such as the State Charter, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights from the Massachusetts Archives; and the Lewis and Clark Journals from the Missouri Historical Society. Highlights of her career at the NEDCC

include: initiating the center's field service office and obtaining ongoing grant funding to support staff positions; launching internship programs that have brought more than 50 conservators into the profession at labs across the country; organizing conservator exchange programs in Eastern and Central Europe, Mongolia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and South Africa; launching and raising funds for free, online preservation courses; and, over a thirty-year period, raising more than \$20 million for the center from outside sources. She will remain professionally active in advocacy efforts for preservation and conservation and currently serves as treasurer of SAA.

MARK SHELSTAD became head of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Texas-San Antonio in July. His previous position was associate archivist and information manager at the University of Wyoming.



HOLLY SMITH has been named a Grace McSpadden Overholser Archival Fellow in African American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She will work on expanding and improving African American-related materials in the Southern Historical Collection. Most recently, Smith served as an archival and research assistant at Tufts University.

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Around SAA...

SAA's Annual Report Available Online

With a focus on meeting members' increasing needs for information, education, and representation, SAA continued to grow in numbers and influence in Fiscal Year 2008. You can find an overview of SAA activities and accomplishments as well as a financial summary at www.archivists.org/periodicals/2008AnnReport.pdf.



February Deadline for Professional Recognition

SAA recognizes outstanding achievement in the archives profession through an annual competition that includes awards, student scholarships, and the naming of Fellows. This year SAA will offer 18 opportunities for professional recognition in the following areas: outstanding contributions to the archives field, public awareness, publishing excellence, academic scholarships, and travel assistance. Completed forms must be postmarked by February 28, 2009 (with exceptions noted). For more information on selection criteria and nomination forms, go to: www.archivists.org/recognition/awards.asp (awards and scholarships) and www.archivists.org/recognition/fellows.asp (Fellows).



Check out the Fall/Winter 2008 *American Archivist* (vol. 71, no. 2)

This issue provides timely and informed perspectives on the archival enterprise in the 21st century. Editor Mary Jo Pugh has assembled ten articles that explore a variety of topics: the archival role in the digital universe, the destruction of the 1890 federal census and its consequences for the preservation of important government records, documentation strategy, a pioneering

description initiative at the Vatican

archives, how reference archivists can participate in educating undergraduate students about archives and how to use them, the discipline of film studies and its influence on moving image archives, barriers to EAD implementation, and details of legal proceedings in which a copyright holder attempted to limit scholarly use of archival materials. Eight book reviews, which illuminate the work done in the archives field and related disciplines, round out the issue.

American Archivist Online may be accessed at <http://archivists.metapress.com/home/main.mpx>. The print edition is being mailed in November.

"EAD@10" Proceedings Available

SAA and RLG Programs sponsored a symposium in August to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Encoded Archival Description (EAD). European speakers discussed how EAD has been implemented in their countries and a group of innovative archivists presented their forward-thinking views about what the next ten years may bring. You can listen to an audio version of the panel discussion or download a PDF at <http://www.archivists.org/publications/epubs/EAD@10.asp>.

Confirm Your Roundtable Membership

SAA membership includes membership in two sections and two roundtables, and participation in an unlimited number of roundtable discussion lists. Members may review and confirm their active selections by logging in at www.archivists.org/login.asp, clicking "My SAA Profile," and choosing the menu option "Active SAA Group Roles." If you wish to join a roundtable, contact the SAA Service Center at servicecenter@archivists.org. To subscribe to a roundtable discussion list, go to www.archivists.org/listservs/. ♦



ARE YOU RETIRED AND LOVING IT? Dennis Harrison takes a break on the ski slopes in western New York. Formerly the president of Archival Consultants, Harrison now teaches English as a Second Language at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland. SAA wants to know what its retired members are up to now. Are you out of the archives and out in the sun? What are your hobbies? Do you still have a hand in the profession, or miss anything about working in the field? Send your photos and anecdotes to hjanousek@archivists.org and we'll include them in an upcoming issue of *Archival Outlook*.

Yale Archivists

continued from page 7

archivists outside our own repositories, and we collaborated well and produced high-quality work.

This Is Who We Are and This Is What We Do

The project increased Yale's visibility and involvement in the community. The library exhibit drew participants, colleagues, and many visitors, as well as created a New Haven presence not often seen there. Overall, the project engendered in the students, family members, teachers, and observers an awareness of the importance of archival work that could lead to better-educated researchers, new supporters of local archives, and potential donors of important family papers.

The archivists at Yale were provided with an enriching opportunity to interact with students who come from backgrounds and cultures often different from our own. It taught us much about our ability to explain to others what we do and why it is important. The school administration provided a supportive environment and we have already begun to take what we learned from the pilot program and the session we held at SAA's 2008 Annual Meeting to plan how and what we will do next spring. We are well on our way to developing an annual program to connect with diverse communities and encourage their multi-faceted participation in the archival endeavor.

The SAA website includes an online resource, "Celebrating the American Record with Young People" (www.archivists.org/news/AmKit_2007.pdf), which includes ideas for reaching out to students. ❖

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Teacher Learns Something from Students' Stories

HARRY MURPHY, History Teacher, COOP High School, New Haven, Conn.

"Know Thy Student"—most teachers recognize this as the primary commandment of effective instruction. Although I thought I knew my students well, I was truly unprepared for the kinds of the stories they chose to tell: The Yale Family and Community Archive Project enabled me to learn more about my students than I ever could have imagined.

I was fascinated, charmed—and sometimes shocked—by the stories my students researched and chose to share. I had some idea of what many students were researching,

Working with Yale on the Family and Community Archive Project has been the singular highlight of my teaching career.

but I was overwhelmed on the day they presented their exhibit projects. Some students had created family archives that documented histories back to their Mayflower descendents. Others chronicled more recent journeys from far-away Laos, Peru, and Russia.

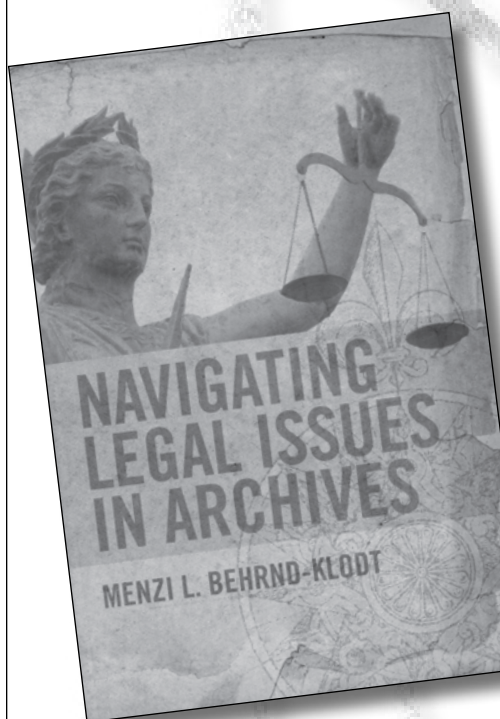
Not all of my students chose to document their achievements; instead, a few chose to tell their stories of violence and crime. Many—most—were proud of and curious about their heritage. One student chose to share her personal history, even when she was disenfranchised from the parents whose stories she was telling. Some projects, thankfully, helped bridge generations or distance and brought families closer together.

Other students chose to document the institutions that nurtured and supported them through recent difficult times: a basketball team, a church, a business. Each student had a story to tell and each just wanted the time and the audience with which to share it. The atmosphere on that presentation day was intoxicating. Students who had waited until the last minute (and there are always some) begged for more time and, for once, I relented. It was that important.

Working with Yale on the Family and Community Archive Project has been the singular highlight of my teaching career. I was able to connect living, breathing history to the lives of my students in ways I never imagined possible. Not only did we teach students the importance of archives, but we also taught and encouraged them to begin, create, and preserve their own archive—their own history.

But the most important benefit for me? I was able to know my students, and share with them a time of tangible self-discovery. For that, I am most grateful. ❖

DO THE RIGHT THING!



Navigating Legal Issues in Archives

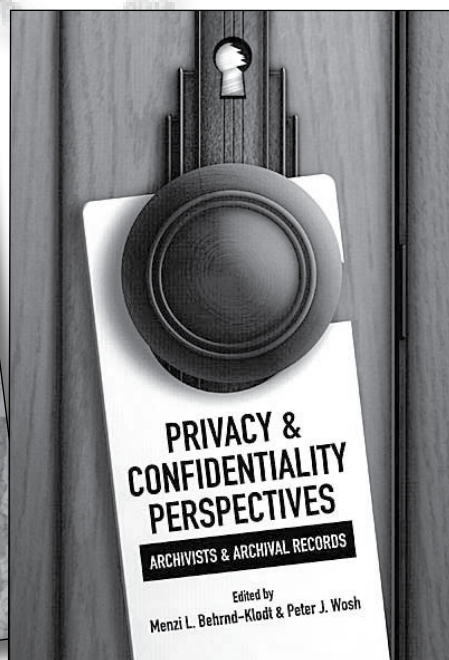
Menzi Behrnd-Klodt

Society of American Archivists (2008)

340 pp., Soft cover

Product Code: BOOKSAA-0530

SAA Member price: \$49.95 (List: \$69.95)



Privacy & Confidentiality Perspectives: Archivists & Archival Records

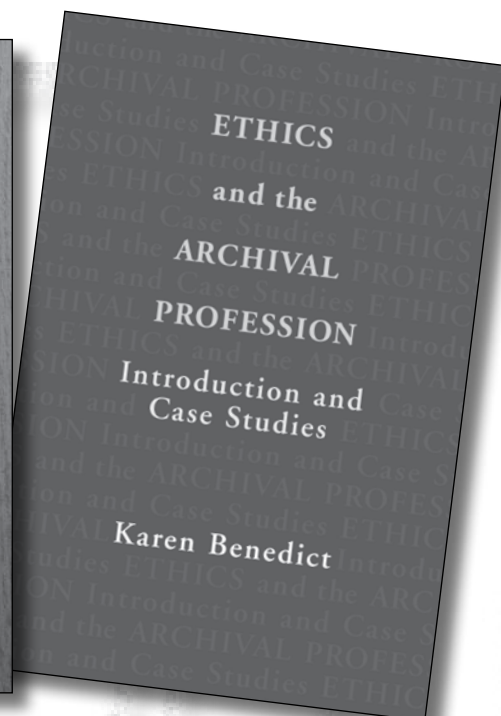
Edited by Menzi L. Behrnd-Klodt
and Peter J. Wosh

Society of American Archivists (2005)

400 pp., Soft cover

Product Code: BOOKSAA-0461

SAA Member price: \$40 (List: \$56)



Ethics and the Archival Profession: Introduction and Case Studies

Karen M. Benedict

Society of American Archivists (2003)

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"Accessibility in Archives"

continued from page 8

although most institutions are more than willing to make accommodations for *employees* with disabilities, few are made for *patrons* with disabilities, beyond what is mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

According to survey responses, some of the biggest challenges faced by employees with disabilities are workplace ergonomics. In terms of patrons' challenges, the biggest issues seem to be mobility-related. Most of the survey respondents indicated that they have had some experience with either co-workers or patrons with disabilities and most are happy to help out a co-worker or patron when needed. This includes accommodations beyond the standard communication devices and software programs. The most common accommodation adjustments are building structure and design; it appears that when designing new spaces, disability accommodations are taken into consideration. As the survey information is more fully analyzed, respondents who have indicated they would be willing to further discuss their responses will be contacted.

Disability-Specific Resources on Wiki

The goal of the working group is to make information and resources readily accessible, to bring awareness to the greater community, to offer innovative solutions for archivists and records managers to some of the common problems faced by those with disabilities working in and using their facilities, and to create a comprehensive group of resources for all major disabilities, including hearing, vision, mental, and mobility. A private wiki has been created by the group to place sources for research.

The survey questions are available in the November issue of the RMRT newsletter, *The Records Manager*, at www.archivists.org/saagroups/recmgmt/newsletters.asp and the AMRT newsletter at www.archivists.org/saagroups/archmgmt/newsletters.asp.

How to Contribute to Project

If you are interested in contributing to this project, please contact the working group's coordinators: Casey Edward Greene, CA (Rosenberg Library, Galveston and Texas History Center) at cgreene@rosenberg-library.org or Debra Kimok (Feinberg Library, Plattsburgh State University of New York) at debra.kimok@plattsburgh.edu. ❖

Making a Collection Great

continued from page 9

And That Goes for Electronic Records, Too

These principles should be adapted for electronic records too, said Eshelman, curator of multimedia collections at the University of Connecticut. Records managers cannot be passive collectors either.

"The challenges we face in acquiring and managing electronic records are so great that to appraise and accept them passively, as though they were the same as traditional paper-based records, is irresponsible," she stated.

Eshelman defined "passive" collecting as a lazy application of appraisal criteria or no appraisal at all—just a quick evaluation of the record's relevance to the institution's collection development policy.

"If you are a passive collector and bringing in electronic records to your repository, then now is the time to stop and consider what you are doing. Hoping that someone else with the expertise will deal with the legacy of your collecting decisions in the future is a crime and can only result in neglect and possible loss of the records."

Records managers need to make appraisal considerations before saying yes to everybody and everything they want to send. Eshelman suggested first figuring out why the potential records need to be appraised and then how to do it. Then, determine where and how best to acquire the information.

She said that the University of Connecticut conducted a case study to develop a set of guidelines for appraising their electronic records, with questions centering on the problems of evaluating and examining potential electronic records. The results showed their system's inadequacies and what their institution needed to do the job right, such as more technology infrastructure and staffing.

"It helped us figure out what we didn't have in place," Eshelman said. She recommended looking at other appraisal models, lobbying the administration for support, and building partnerships with key institutional staff. "Until you have what you need, just say 'No.' Don't collect records that you don't have the resources to care for," she said. "And if you are saying 'No' to electronic records, know why and be able to explain your rationale. Be responsible and ethical in your approach and you will ultimately build a better collection." ❖

Washington Beat

continued from page 15

federal records. Because of delays in the rollout of the ERA, a separate system for presidential records was developed. The Executive Office of the President (EOP) system uses a different architecture from that of the ERA base. It is being built on a commercial product that is to provide the basic requirements for processing presidential electronic records, such as rapid ingestion of records and the ability to search content. NARA

officials believe the development of the EOP system will adequately handle most incoming presidential records.

The GAO raised similar concerns at a NARA oversight hearing before a subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. At that time it said, "It is uncertain whether the EOP system will be developed to the point that it can receive the Bush records in January 2009." ❖



SAA EDUCATION CALENDAR

Basic Electronic Records

November 3 • San Antonio, TX

Management Workshop Series

November 6–7 • Knoxville, TN

Understanding Photos: Intro to Archival Principles and Practices

November 13–14 • Bellevue, WA

Digital Objects Modeling & Representation: Using the Archivists Toolkit™

November 14 • Boston, MA

Advanced Appraisal for Archivists

November 17 • Chicago, IL

Managing Literary Manuscripts

December 12 • Provo, UT

Implementing DACS in Integrated Content Management Systems: Using the Archivists Toolkit™

January 15–16, 2009
New York, NY

Arrangement and Description of Manuscript Collections

March 5–6, 2009
Newport News, VA

An Introduction to Archival Exhibitions

March 6, 2009 • Chicago, IL

For details or to register, visit www.archivists.org and click on Education. **Questions?** Contact us at education@archivists.org or 312-606-0722. We are continually planning and adding programs to our schedule; check the website periodically!

CALENDAR

November 14–15

The New England Archivists will hold their Fall Meeting at Simmons College in Boston. Theme is "For All Time (And in All Media?): Preserving Cultural Heritage in New England." For more information, go to: www.newenglandarchivists.org.

November 17

The General Assembly of the European Regional Branch of the International Congress on Archives will meet in Paris, France. Hosted by Direction of the Archive of France. For more information, go to www.ica.org.

November 20

The North Carolina Preservation Consortium hosts its annual conference at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. "Cultural Respect in Preservation and Conservation" is the theme of the conference, to be held at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. For more information and a registration form, go to: <http://www.ncpreservation.org>.

December 1

Deadline to register for the Modern Archives Institute to be held January 26–February 6, 2009, at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. For more information, go to: www.archives.gov/preservation/modern-archives-institute/.

December 9–10

The Northeast Document Conservation Center will hold a two day-conference on "Persistence of Memory: Sustaining Digital Collections" in Chicago. Co-sponsored by the American Library Association, Center for Research Libraries, and SAA. For more information, go to: www.nedcc.org.

April 30–May 2

The Midwest Archives Conference 2009 Annual Meeting in St. Louis at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront. The conference will be a joint meeting of MAC, the Association of St. Louis Area Archivists and the St. Louis Area Religious Archivists. For more info, go to: www.midwestarchives.org or contact Scott Grimwood at Scott_Grimwood@ssmhc.com.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Organization of American Historians

The Organization of American Historians invites submissions on a session or single paper proposal for its 2010 Annual Meeting, to be held April 7–10 in Washington, D.C. The call for papers

and a link to the proposal system is available on the organization's website at: <http://www.oah.org/meetings/2010/>.

FUNDING

Research Travel Grant—Duke University

The Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, part of the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library at Duke University, announces the availability of Mary Lily Research Grants for research travel to our collections. The Sallie Bingham Center documents the public and private lives of women through a wide variety of published and unpublished sources. Collections of personal papers, family papers, and organizational records complement print sources such as books and periodicals. Particular strengths of the Sallie Bingham Center are feminism in the U.S., women's prescriptive literature from the 19th and 20th centuries, girls' literature, magazines, artist's books by women, gender and sexuality, and the history and culture of women in the South. Mary Lily Research grants are for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and independent scholars conducting research using collections held by the Sallie Bingham Center. Applicants must live outside of a 50-mile radius from Durham, NC. The maximum award per applicant is \$1,000. **The deadline for application is January 30, 2009**, and recipients will be announced in March 2009. For more info: <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/bingham/grants>

Art Libraries Society of North America Offers Gerd Muehsam Award

Sponsored by the Art Libraries Society of North America, the Gerd Muehsam Award is given annually in recognition of excellence in a graduate student paper or project on a topic relevant to art librarianship. The award includes \$500; up to \$300 travel reimbursement to attend the society's 2009 conference in Indianapolis; and a one year membership to the society. For details on project requirements and judging criteria, go to: <http://www.arlisna.org/>. **Application deadline:** Entries must be postmarked by the end of the day, Friday, November 21, 2008. They will not be returned. All applicants should receive notification of the results by the end of February 2009.

2009 Doctoral Fellowships in Archival Studies

Doctoral Fellowships in Archival Studies are currently available through a new eight-campus initiative for individuals who are interested in pursuing careers as educators and scholars and who would be entering doctoral programs in Fall 2009. Applicants must apply for both the Fellowship and admission to one or more of the eight participating doctoral programs: University of California, Los Angeles; University of Michigan; University of Maryland; University of Texas, Austin; Simmons College; University of



Wisconsin, Madison; University of Pittsburgh; and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Each Fellowship will provide full tuition and annual stipends of \$20,000 to Fellows for the first two years of their doctoral study at partnering academic programs. Those academic programs will provide full tuition and stipends to their Fellows for two additional years of study.

To underscore the Fellowship initiatives, emphasis on strengthening archival education and scholarship, all Doctoral Fellows will attend, expenses-paid, annual Archival Education and Research Institutes (AERI). These week-long summer institutes will be held each year for doctoral students and faculty in Archival Science from academic institutions nationally and around the world and will address a broad range of research methodologies, pedagogical techniques, and curriculum development. The first institute will be held at UCLA during the week of July 6th, 2009. A limited number of additional scholarships to attend the institutes will be available each year for doctoral students who are enrolled in any U.S. Program. Further information about the AERI is available at <http://aeri.gseis.ucla.edu/>.

Application deadline is January 9, 2009.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident in the U.S. Persons of minority racial and ethnic backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply. Further details on the Fellowship and how to apply may be found at <http://aeri.gseis.ucla.edu/fellowships.htm>. Information on each participating university's specializations in Archival Science as well as contact information may be found at <http://aeri.gseis.ucla.edu/institutions.htm>. For questions about the Fellowship application process, please contact Joshua Sternfeld: joshuas@ucla.edu.

This initiative is directed by the UCLA Center for Information as Evidence and is made possible in part by support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) invites applications for its 2009–2010 Scholars in Residence Program, including applications for collaborative residencies. The Scholars in Residence Program provides support for up to eight weeks of full-time research and study in manuscript and/or artifact collections maintained by any PHMC facility, including the Pennsylvania State Archives, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, and 25 historic sites and museums in the state.

Collaborative residencies fund research that relates to the interpretive mission and advances the goals of a PHMC program or facility, including the agency's historic sites and museums. The application must be filed jointly by the interested scholar and host program/facility. Residency programs are open to those conducting research on Pennsylvania history, including academic

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For more information on submission deadlines and editorial policies visit www.archivists.org and go to "About SAA," Advertising and Sponsoring Opportunities. You can also e-mail jobs@archivists.org. Job announcements can be submitted online at www.archivists.org/forms/jobs.asp.

DIGITAL ARCHIVIST

*John Portman & Associates
Atlanta, Georgia*

Job Type: Contract position. Hired to lead the project for the duration of the project only. No benefits.

Scope of Work: John Portman & Associates seeks an experienced, professional archivist to assist in implementing a manageable system for the digital archiving of photographs, renderings, negatives, slides, transparencies and videos, as well as integration of existing digital images. Duties include the organization, documentation and preparation of the original materials to be preserved and stored following scanning. **Essential**

Functions: Manage and supervise the processing of an archival collection into an organized, searchable digital library. Collection of images include photographs, renderings, negatives, slides, transparencies and videos, as well as a smaller collection of existing digital images. Digital library must accommodate hi-res (suitable for high-quality print production) as well as low-res (for online, PowerPoint and screen viewing) versions of each image; Create policies and procedures to accommodate sharing of digital images in such a way that allows access to the images while also protecting the integrity of the files in the digital library; Collaborate with Information Technology and Marketing staff to develop standards for digitalization of materials and procedures for long-term access to digital images; Supervise assistant/scanner (a project employee yet to be hired); Organize, catalog and prepare original materials for preservation and stor-

age after they are scanned. **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:** M.L.S. from an ALA-accredited program, M.A. in archival studies, or equivalent degree with at least 12 hours of graduate level coursework in archival methods and a practicum or internship; Two years required (five years a plus) of professional experience arranging, describing, preserving and cataloging archival materials and preparing finding aids; One year minimum of supervisory experience; Demonstrate familiarity with current trends in archival theory and management through literature review and conference involvement; Knowledge of best practices for digital preservation including capture, data migration and metadata creation; Experience with preservation standards for digital media; Experience managing and completing digitization projects; Experience using digital asset management systems; Experience coordinating efforts with Information Technology staff; Adept at communicating well with others who may not be as "computer savvy"; Certified Archivist a plus; Familiarity with Adobe Photoshop, resizing, retouching and print production requirements a plus; Ability to work independently, take initiative, and problem solve; Must be hardworking, meticulous, dedicated, accountable and time-conscious.

Resumes and compensation requirements should be forwarded to Nikki Strayer, HR Administrator. Salary Range: Not specified.

To apply, contact: Nikki Strayer, Portman Holdings.com; 303 Peachtree Center Ave., NE, Suite 575; Atlanta, GA 30303; 404-614-5129; nstrayer@portmanholdings.com.

scholars, public sector professionals, independent scholars, graduate students, educators, writers, filmmakers, and others.

Residencies may be scheduled for up to eight weeks anytime from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010; stipends are awarded at the rate of \$375 per week. For a full description of the residency program and application materials, as well as information about Commission research collections, go to the PHMC web site: www.phmc.state.

pa.us. You may also write: Scholars in Residence Program, Bureau of Archives and History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 350 North St., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0090; phone: 717-772-3257; or email: RA-PHMCscholars@state.pa.us.

Application deadline: January 9, 2009.

Notification of awards will be made in March 2009.



College Archivist Oberlin College

Oberlin College invites nominations and applications for the position of College Archivist. The incumbent administers the operations and services of an outstanding archival program serving a highly selective liberal arts college with an institutional history of national and international significance.

The Archivist is responsible for the integrity and protection of the essential records of Oberlin College. He or she recommends, establishes, and implements procedures for the acquisition, arrangement, description, physical processing, and preservation of archival materials; trains and supervises Archives staff; coordinates public service and teaching programs; administers the Archives budget; develops resources through fundraising and grants; plans the overall development of the Archives program; and is the Archives' principal public voice.

Required qualifications: Advanced degree in American history or related field (e.g., African-American studies, American studies, gender and women's studies, educational history); formal archival training; minimum of three years professional archival experience, preferably in a college or university environment; working knowledge of advanced archival description, archival digitization processes and computer applications as well as archival standards and best practices in records management, preservation, and micrographics; strong user service orientation and successful public service experience; excellent supervisory ability; superior interpersonal and communication skills; ability to work collaboratively with various campus units and diverse community constituencies; evidence of initiative, creativity, and leadership in past activities.

Desired qualifications: Ph.D. in American history or related field; masters degree in library or information science or masters in archival studies; professional archives and records management certification; experience with fundraising and grant proposals; successful experience engaging and teaching with archival resources and in public presentations. Salary competitive, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Generous fringe benefits include medical, long-term disability, and life insurance; TIAA-CREF retirement program; 22 days annual vacation; and tuition support for children.

Oberlin College, an independent coeducational institution with 2,800 undergraduates, is one of the most distinguished American liberal arts colleges, deeply committed to academic and artistic excellence, social justice, and service learning. Founded in 1833, the College has a heritage of respect for the individual and active engagement with the larger society. Oberlin was the first institution to admit African-Americans on a regular basis and the first to grant bachelor's degrees to women. Oberlin graduates have attained Ph.D. degrees in larger numbers than any other liberal arts college. Its Conservatory of Music is internationally renowned for preparing students for careers as professional musicians and music educators.

To Apply: Submit letter of application, résumé, and the names and contact information for three references to: Archivist Search Committee, Mudd Center, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074. Applications may also be submitted electronically to: archivistsearch@oberlin.edu

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. To insure full consideration, apply by February 1, 2009.

Complete position description available at <http://www.oberlin.edu/HR/APSopenings/APS09-216.html>

Oberlin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.

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