

NEWSLETTER  
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# archival outlook

## Put Your Best Foot Forward . . .

- National Initiatives Target Disaster Training
- 2009 Election Results
- How to Stay Cool in Austin in August



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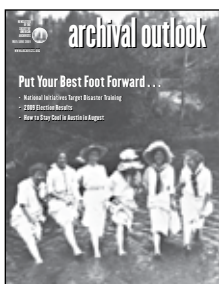
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### On the cover

**Put Your Best Foot Forward . . .** Gertrude, Mystic, Beulah, Ethel, Mamie, and Zula splash in Austin's Bull Creek on a spring day in 1913. Read how you can stay cool at the Joint Annual Meeting in August in "Sustaining the Spirit of Austin" on page 14. Photo courtesy of the Austin History Center at the Austin Public Library.

# 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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## With Malice Toward None

**"W**ith malice toward none, with charity toward all . . ."

With these words Abraham Lincoln expressed the fundamental generosity of spirit that permeated his second inaugural address. In the final days of the Civil War, Lincoln's generosity was inspired in part by his personal beliefs, but also by his pragmatic recognition that the nation needed not retribution but rebuilding, and that rebuilding could be best accomplished with magnanimity rather than vengeance.

**"... we need to work together to face the critical challenges of our future."**

Generosity and advancing the cause of archives has been much on my mind of late. During the last few months I have had the misfortune to hear many angry words and no small amount of nitpicking on a variety of subjects related to both archives and the Society of American Archivists. These outbursts sometimes have demonstrated a profound disillusionment with our colleagues and often a deep distrust regarding the motives of our peers. They divide archivists at a time when we need to work together to face the critical challenges of our future.

My concern is not about disagreement. Disagreement is to be welcomed as part of any profession's life and growth. Nor am I concerned about candor. Candor is to be welcomed, too, particularly when contrasted to coded language that leaves meaning opaque. The problem I perceive is not that we disagree, but rather the way in which that disagreement takes place and the motives assigned to those with whom we disagree. Too often, someone plays "gotcha" over minor points. Too often someone is "outraged" regarding the action (or inaction) of a "powerful" individual or entity. The actions (or inactions) are described as "stupid" or are disparaged as part of an agenda that cannot be justified, but which may reveal some darker shortcoming. And occasionally the author alludes to the personal courage necessary to tell "truth to power."

I am willing to concede that small mistakes sometimes make visible larger flaws; that

occasionally powerful individuals abuse the trust invested in them by seeking retribution; that dark motives can exist; that stupidity is ever with us; and that there are things in the world worth being outraged about. But it seems to me that none of these points applies with the regularity with which I hear them used.

More often, I see fundamental flaws in communications that assert these sorts of claims. Nitpicking is just that. Outrage is asserted in place of facts. Because outrage is so often a shortcut that avoids fact finding, "stupid" becomes an epithet rather than a legitimate conclusion. As for dark agendas, they more honestly go by the name personal beliefs or strategic plans and, while sometimes tedious to listen to or read, they are rarely either nefarious or completely indefensible.

I have never understood why archivists who play "gotcha" or express outrage so often believe themselves to be acting particularly courageously. The penalties for publicly venting one's spleen at either colleagues or the SAA are minimal. In an era of blogs, freedom of expression is all but guaranteed. There are simply too many journals for any malicious individual or group to punish someone by suppressing publications. And anyone seeking a new job who can't find three colleagues to serve as references probably has problems that go well beyond his or her professional life.

These communications are profoundly lacking in the spirit espoused in Lincoln's second inaugural, which calls for healing in part because of its intrinsic value and in part in order to build anew. Embracing Lincoln's philosophy, I'd like to share a few simple suggestions regarding our professional discourse and assumptions:

- Before sending me an email message or posting a flame to a list expressing outrage at a fellow professional or at a professional society, seek facts and perspective. Facts have a happy way of eliminating (or at least mitigating) rage. Perspective often helps one to realize that yesterday's disastrous embarrassment was, in the light of a new day, a minor problem.

*continued on page 25*



from the executive director

Nancy P. Beaumont • [nbeaumont@archivists.org](mailto:nbeaumont@archivists.org)

## She Walked in Beauty



This iconic photo from the '50s could be of many a homemaker and mom. It happens to be from my family archives, and it is of my mother. When this photo was taken in 1957, she was president of the Officers' Wives Club in Bitburg, Germany. She was mad that Dad took the photo—undoubtedly because the bed was unmade. The committed volunteer, taking time out from her busy day to make a few calls, all the while in a skirt, apron, and heels. Those legs!

Mary Jane Fleming Perkin was born in Langdon, North Dakota, in 1919, and died peacefully in her sleep in Tucson, Arizona, on April 19, 2009. The consummate Air Force wife, she was married for 63 years to I. R. "Perk" Perkin (1915–2005), command pilot, administrator, and co-founder of the Pima Air and Space

Museum. Jane and Perk once calculated that they had moved 47 times in their married life as he completed flight training and various assignments throughout the U.S., in Panama, and in Europe. (But Jane was used to it. As the daughter of a construction engineer, she attended more than a dozen schools growing up, despite skipping grades 4 and 6.) Wherever they went, my mom applied her extraordinary talents to ensure that her family had a lovely home—even when, in 1943, with a baby in diapers, that home was a converted chicken coop in Pampa, Texas!

A lover of dogs, antiques, travel, mystery novels, and Mahjong, we will remember her forever for her intelligence, her loyalty, and her personal style. She walked in beauty. ❖

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# Rethinking Emergencies: National Initiatives Help Archivists Prepare for Area-Wide Disasters

AIMÉE PRIMEAUX, Collections Emergency Response Team, American Institute for Conservation

The 2005 hurricane season was an historic wake-up call for the archives community. Until that moment, the profession focused on institutional-level preparedness, filling out disaster plan templates that would help their institution deal with leaky pipes and minor floods. But catastrophic, area-wide disasters are altogether different.

The profession learned the hard way that a traditional approach to emergency preparedness (often called "disaster planning") is not adequate for large-scale disasters. In the case of Hurricane Katrina, archives staff was often not available, either because they evacuated or were trying to manage their own personal losses. Jockeying for assistance from disaster management companies was difficult because everyone needed their services, not just cultural organizations.

These circumstances are not unique to Hurricane Katrina. In fact, similar scenarios took place with Hurricane Ike, and the 2008 flooding in the Midwest. These experiences demonstrated that while institutional-level preparedness is essential, it can't be the only thing done. Archivists must work together at county, state, and regional levels to establish relationships among all kinds of cultural heritage workers and emergency managers. Knowledge of emergency management protocol, and a rudimentary understanding of the Incident Command Structure (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), is essential.

I know what you are thinking: We are all overworked and underpaid. In this economy it's difficult to find money to buy basic supplies, much less invest valuable time into planning for region-wide disasters. But, at the risk of sounding cliché,

**A dollar spent now  
is potentially three  
dollars saved later.**

we can't afford not to. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) maintains data on billion-dollar disasters that have taken place since 1980. If you live anywhere from Texas to Virginia, you are at the greatest risk; these states have experienced 21 to 30 disasters that caused at least \$1 billion dollars in damage. California and

the Midwest are next. There is no area of the country that remains untouched. Remember: Every dollar spent on mitigation saves an average of four dollars on recovery. A dollar spent now is potentially three dollars saved later.

Of course, not all disasters will affect cultural institutions, but as reported in the Heritage Health Index, 80 percent of U.S. collecting institutions do *not* have a written disaster plan with staff trained to carry it out. This study is now four years old, and hopefully that number has changed. Nevertheless, the fact remains that important collections have been unprotected, underfunded, and underappreciated. It is up to us to protect our collections, which are often essential for the recovery of a community. We must do this not by working individually in "silos" and "smokestacks," but in conjunction with emergency managers. Luckily, there are several national initiatives under way that make this an easier task.

## **COSTEP (Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness)**

Managed by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) and funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), COSTEP is a framework designed to help cultural institutions within each state work with emergency managers to prepare for area-wide disasters. Currently in the final stages of development, COSTEP envisions the state library, state archives, and state museum (or equivalent agencies) taking the lead, but representatives from all kinds of institutions within the state should be included. It is also essential that emergency managers within the state eventually come onboard.

COSTEP is a process that will continue over time, rather than a project that begins and ends. It can be built in stages to accommodate busy schedules, and to make the process more manageable, the framework is organized around four components: Building Relationships, Mitigating Hazards, Preparing for Response, and Sustaining COSTEP.

The framework, a "Starter Kit," and other pertinent resources will be offered online free-of-charge and adaptable for noncommercial purposes in order to suit each state's unique needs. Currently COSTEP is being tested in Massachusetts and New Mexico. There will be a panel discussion at the Joint Annual Meeting in Austin on August 15 called "COSTEP Case Studies" which will explore these pilot sites and



Photo: American Institute for Conservation

**A DIRTY JOB** A team member from the American Institute for Conservation's Collections Emergency Response Team cleans an item salvaged from Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas, in September 2008.



**BEFORE AND AFTER** The parking lot in front of the Pass Christian Library in Pass Christian, Mississippi, was littered with objects after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in September 2005 (photo left). The photo at right shows the same area after cleanup.

explain how COSTEP can work with other initiatives—such as the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records project developed by the Council of State Archivists (CoSA). A wiki has been set up for the project at <http://www.statewide-plan.pbwiki.com>, and the final framework will appear at <http://www.nedcc.org/disaster/costep.php>.

## Heritage Preservation

Home to the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, Heritage Preservation has many free resources for the cultural community. Its *Field Guide to Emergency Response* won SAA's Preservation Publication Award in 2006, and its *Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel* is widely regarded as a "must-have" for cultural institutions.

Since 2003, Heritage Preservation has sponsored *Alliance for Response* forums in 13 cities across the country. The forums are funded by the Fidelity Foundation, and emphasize the importance of working with local emergency responders. Many have resulted in regional response networks. Atlanta, for instance, formed Heritage Emergency Response Alliance. As a recent addition to their website, Heritage Preservation is now posting information on each city's accomplishments, as well as a discussion forum for people interested in hosting a forum in their city.

Heritage Preservation's *Guide to Navigating FEMA and SBA Disaster Aid for Cultural Institutions* is an important booklet that has helped many cultural institutions navigate the bureaucracy of these government organizations after disaster strikes. It's available online, as a downloadable PDF or in print. All of these resources may be found on the Heritage Preservation website: <http://www.heritageemergency.org>.

## Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER)

Sponsored by the Council of State Archivists, IPER is an initiative to develop and deliver CD-ROM and web-based emergency training for state and local governments nationwide. Funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), and based on existing training by the National Archives, IPER aims to educate state and local governments about the importance of preparing for disasters before they strike. It maintains a special focus on the records that are essential for the resumption of government operations.

Bringing together archivists, records managers, emergency managers, and chief information officers is a critical part of the IPER model. In July 2008, these representatives from all fifty states and territories came together to form teams that will help deliver the training in their state. Still in development, IPER has continued to build on CoSA's *Emergency Preparedness Initiative*, which began after the hurricanes of 2005. More on the IPER project may be found at the CoSA website: <http://www.statearchivists.org/ipер/index.htm>.

## The American Institute for Conservation

In 2007, the American Institute of Conservation (AIC) was awarded an IMLS grant to support an advanced training institute for conservators and preservation professionals. Three week-long workshops took place across the country and trained sixty "rapid responders" who can be called upon in the event of a disaster. Because many cultural institutions are staffed by part-time workers or volunteers, the AIC's Collections Emergency Response Team (AIC-CERT) responders work through whatever means possible to provide assistance at little or no cost to the institution.

Although this program is still new, teams have been deployed to Iowa during the flooding in 2008, and Galveston, Texas, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. Other institutions have been helped via e-mail or telephone. The AIC-CERT maintains a 24/7 hotline, which institutions might call in the event of a disaster: 202-661-8068. More information may be found at the AIC website: <http://aic.stanford.edu/news/aic%20cert.html>.

\* \* \*

These national initiatives are helping to create a strong safety net for the cultural community. Of course, other resources exist. Tools like dPlan™ or dPlan™ Lite allow institutions to better prepare their own collections for disasters. Online and live workshops on emergency preparedness are available through the Regional Alliance for Preservation, the National Archives and Records Administration, and FEMA. Archivists must work beyond the traditional disaster plan "template" and think more broadly about how to work with others to protect collections from future disasters. ❖

# Graduates Need to be Flexible in Job Hunt

HELEN JANOUSEK, SAA Editorial and Production Assistant

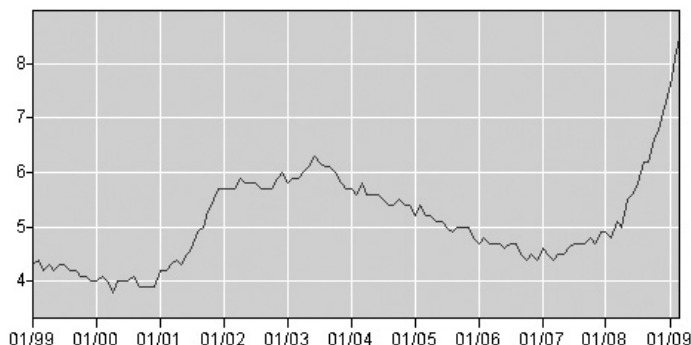
College seniors radiate apprehension and excitement this time of year, pre-occupied with final exams and the crush of last-chance-to-get-together celebrations. This year they may glow with an aura of anxiety too, as many students approaching commencement watch the nation's unemployment rate reach double-digits.

This made "Get That Job Day" at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on April 10, just five weeks out from graduation day, a must-see event. Students crowded into the student union at the School of Information Studies to acquire advice and information on obtaining employment in their field.

**"You need to have realistic expectations, and realize that the first job isn't forever."**

Keynote speaker Rachel Singer Gordon said that worry over not being able to find a job has been building for many students about to face the reality of a tight job market. "While the American Library Association and other associations

have been reeling in new students to meet a recruitment crisis—that even they don't anticipate will occur for some years—this has produced a glut of new grads just as the job market is contracting."



**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** The above graph displays fluctuations in the national unemployment rate from January 1999 (4.3 percent) through January 2009 (7.6 percent) for persons age 16 years and over. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.

Twelve years ago, Gordon created [www.LISjobs.com](http://www.LISjobs.com), a website that provides job opportunities for those seeking library-related positions. It is updated daily and also includes career development resources. Gordon is a consulting editor in the books division of Information Today, Inc., and has written or edited eight books for librarians and information professionals, most recently *What's the Alternative? Career Options for Librarians and Info Pros* (ITI, 2008).

## The Real, Real World

Many libraries are downsizing and replacing full-time positions with part-time hours or are under hiring freezes, she pointed out. Some have decided to fill jobs that once required a master of library sciences degree (MLS) with non-MLS personnel to cut costs. "Students need to be prepared for this reality and do what they can to stand out," Gordon said.

Do not take a scattershot approach in your job hunt, but instead be selective when pursuing employment opportunities, said Gordon. "Employers can easily tell when people are just applying for anything and everything, and you'll stand a much better chance if you take the time to target your applications, cover letters, and resumes," she said. "Show how you stand out and that you have the leadership abilities to take charge of moving our libraries (and your career) forward."

The job market for librarians is shrinking just like other occupations right now, said Gordon. "I'm seeing fewer job postings and more resumes on [LISjobs.com](http://LISjobs.com), and libraries across the country are being forced to cut back." She suggested that new graduates be very flexible in their job search—perhaps consider working for a rural or small library. "The lower salary is often balanced out by a lower cost-of-living. Be willing to move away from areas [near schools with] MLIS programs, as lots of people want to stay there and you'll be facing fierce competition. Keep an eye on the job ads, and you'll start to see areas of the country that tend to have more openings, at any given time," she advised.

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## Counter Your Frustration

Many job seekers—not just students—are feeling high levels of frustration right now, she told her audience. This makes it easy to get stuck in a spiral of negativity, and may have some thinking about going into another profession. Gordon provided some suggestions on how to counter such thoughts and keep moving forward:

- You need to know what employers want, so start by examining job ads long before you start to apply. Make note of commonly-listed skills and the common types of jobs.
- Get real-world library experience whenever possible. New grads are competing against those with experience, especially for desirable entry-level positions, and need to realize that the MLS or MLIS is the bare-minimum requirement.
- Continue to build your skills after graduation by taking advantage of free and low-cost professional development opportunities.
- Be willing to relocate—and if not, be willing to compromise on salary or work environment.
- Take a thorough look at your resume and cover letter, customizing them for each employer's wants and get someone to look them over, too.
- Maximize your use of available resources. Set up RSS feeds for job ads, look beyond ads to find out about particular libraries, and get advice on the process.
- Broaden your view of options available by including alternative careers and different types of libraries.

- Build resilience now to last your entire career.
- Realize that tough economic times don't last forever and the importance of taking a long view of the profession.

Starting salaries vary tremendously, Gordon said, so it's difficult to give an accurate number on what students can expect. "You need to have realistic expectations, and realize that the first job isn't forever. You can do anything for a couple of years, take that salary hit, and then parlay your experience into a better-paying position," she recommended. ❖

## Workplace Update

The following notes were recently received from two members in response to the story "Members Talk About Economy's Effect on the Workplace" that appeared in the March/April issue of *Archival Outlook*.

The Oregon Historical Society reports that its library has reopened to the public with limited hours, Thursday through Saturday, from 1 pm to 5 pm. Two staff members have been retained (with one person's hours reduced to part-time), and two additional staffers have been hired. The original library staff of 10 is now just 3.5 positions.

And, Joseph Malatesta of Long Island University says, "I can tell you one thing, it was not hard to find an internship this summer. For the students looking for an internship, all is well. Now I only worry about when I graduate in August, into this dismal economy." ❖

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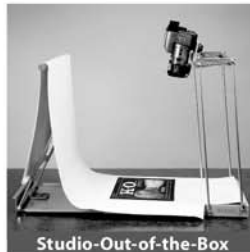
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## 2009 ELECTION RESULTS

# Helen Tibbo Elected Vice President and President-elect

HELEN JANOUSEK, SAA Editorial and Production Assistant

**H**elen Tibbo, a professor in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, has been elected SAA's vice president for 2009–2010. Tibbo will begin her one-year term as VP this August following the Joint Annual Meeting in Austin and then will become SAA's 66th president in August 2010.

Twenty-one percent of eligible voters participated in the election, voting online for the first time. Of 4,932 eligible voters, 1,062 cast ballots from March 11 to April 11 using VoteNet's secure online software. Six votes were cast using a paper ballot.

Tibbo says the Society's leadership must "develop, refine, and maintain a culture that reaches out to the membership and beyond for ideas, feedback, and extensive effort if the goals of a more technologically adept, diverse, and prominent profession are to be achieved."

In her candidate statement, she also addressed the effort to raise public awareness about the profession and said SAA should use contemporary methods to do it. "Archivists, led by SAA, must embrace the amazing communication tools now available for rapid deployment of a unified message and vision. Rather than posters, flyers and mailings, we need YouTube videos, an SAA Facebook page, and links on repository websites.



**"Archivists, led by SAA, must embrace the amazing communication tools now available for rapid deployment of a unified message and vision."**

"SAA's website should become the focal point of an extensive online archival social network that would facilitate communication in the profession and help users and other stakeholders understand the power and importance of the archival profession. This will require a radical rethinking of SAA's role and its responsibility in representing the profession."

Tibbo has worked for the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill since 1989, as an assistant, associate, and full professor in the School of Information and Library Science. She served as an associate dean from 1996 to 2000 and a McColl Term Professor from 2002 to 2004. She earned a PhD in Library and Information Science in 1989, and a master's degree in American Studies in 1984, both from the University of Maryland-College Park.

Her involvement with SAA includes: Research Forum co-founder and co-organizer (2005–present); SAA Council member (1997–2000); *American Archivist* Editorial Board (2001–2008 and 1991–1994); Appointments Committee (2005–2006); Publications Board chair (1994–1997); and member of the Archival Educators Roundtable (1986–present). She won the Fellows' Ernst Posner Award in 1994 and was named an SAA Fellow in 2005. Tibbo joined the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in 1985 and has been a member of the Society of North Carolina Archivists since 1990.

Tibbo said SAA needs "a clearly articulated vision of required technological skills and knowledge" to ensure it can "establish visionary educational guidelines that challenge educators and take a leading advocacy role that will push graduate and continuing education programs forward." If the Society can bring together various constituencies of the archives profession, along with records creators and archive users, it will be able to "develop a vision that is inspirational and achievable even in these fiscally challenging times." ♦

**Voter Turnout** Twenty-one percent of SAA's eligible voters participated in the 2009 election, voting online for the first time. Of 4,932 eligible voters, 1,062 cast ballots from March 11 to April 11 using VoteNet's secure online software. Six votes were cast using a paper ballot. The table below shows the trend in voter participation for 2005–2009.

Year	Eligible Voters	Ballots Cast	Percentage of Voters
2009	4,932	1,062	21%
2008	4,437	997	22.5%
2007	4,088	1,017	24.9%
2006	3,677	1,077	29.3%
2005	3,358	928	27.5%



## 2009 ELECTION RESULTS

# Aimee Felker Is SAA's Next Treasurer



Aimee Felker of California was elected SAA's next treasurer. Felker will succeed Anne Russell, whose three-year term expires in August.

In her candidate statement, Felker said, "The treasurer must protect the organization's assets and work with members, Council and staff to conserve our financial resources and yield the maximum benefit." She outlined the three steps she would take to accomplish this: consolidation and coordination; advocacy and awareness; and diligence and decision-making.

To achieve these steps, she noted: "As treasurer, I will be well-positioned to find additional ways to improve efficiency as I focus on SAA's income and expenses patterns rather than specific program activities. . . . I will work with the SAA Foundation to attract donors and promote cost effective joint advocacy initiatives. . . . [and] I will question spending and if

appropriate, vote against activities that may compromise SAA's future or advocate for less popular ideas that will best serve SAA's long-term objectives."

Felker served as records manager in Sacramento, California, from 2007 to 2009. Prior to that, she was a federal

**"I will question spending and if appropriate, vote against activities that may compromise SAA's future."**

records manager for the Executive Office of the President in Washington, D.C (2004-2006), senior records analyst for the National Archives and Records Administration (2002-2004), consultant for the International Monetary

Fund (2001-2002), and associate archivist for the CIGNA Corporation (1997-2001).

Felker currently is co-chair of the 2009 Program Committee. She served on the Council from 2004 to 2007 and has been a member of SAA since 1989. ♦



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## 2009 ELECTION RESULTS

### Four to Join Council: Cline, Frusciano, Lawson, and Richardson

**F**our members will join the SAA Council after the Joint Annual Meeting in August: Scott Cline, Tom Frusciano, Brenda Lawson, and Deborra Richardson. More than 1,000 SAA members cast their votes in the 2009 election.

Cline, Frusciano, and Richardson succeed outgoing members Rebecca Hankins, Leon Miller, and Nancy Lenoil and will serve three-year terms. Lawson, who will serve for two years, replaces Sara "Sue" Hodson, who stepped in last year when Robert Spindler resigned.

The candidates for the Council were asked to respond to the following question posed by the Nominating Committee: "What factors should a Council Member consider when evaluating specific proposals that aim to put the Society's strategic priorities into action?" In 2005, SAA identified three priorities as critical to the ongoing success of the profession: Technology, Diversity, and Public Awareness/Advocacy.

"Governance done well is a challenging endeavor. It must be waged with seriousness tempered with good humor, uncompromising integrity, and a strong faith in the future of our profession. Any work undertaken by SAA on behalf of its members and the profession must be engaged with attention to archival values and the creation of value," says **Scott Cline**. "Ultimately, Council must continually ask 'What are SAA's priorities?' and determine whether proposals fall in line with its answer. Faith in the future and faith in the value of archives drives our work and it should drive our governance." Cline is currently the director and city archivist for the Seattle Municipal Archives, a position he has held since 1985. He has been a member of SAA since 1982. Cline says "In evaluating specific proposals to implement the Society's priorities, Council members should look at three overlapping considerations—program evaluation, the realities of governance, and SAA's national leadership role on records and information—and the series of questions that arise in each."



**Tom Frusciano** named the primary factors he thinks the Council should focus on when mulling over a proposal: its impact on the Society and the profession, feedback and contributions from members, and financial implications. "SAA consists of talented individuals who take the archival mission and their professional responsibilities seriously. Thus, the feedback of SAA members regarding proposals should also be a factor in

their undertaking, as should the ability of a proposal to identify and recruit members who can assist in putting plans into action." The final factor is money. "SAA's finances are limited and new projects and initiatives may require financial support. Funding opportunities should be investigated for projects that warrant support from SAA leadership." Frusciano is the university archivist in Special Collections and University Archives for Rutgers University in New Jersey. He has been at Rutgers since 1989. He has been a member of SAA since 1976.

**Brenda Lawson** says Council members must be mindful of the long-term effect of the strategic initiatives as they weigh the value of short-term proposals. They must also weigh the financial implications against other goals and objectives of the Society. "With today's shrinking budgets, economic considerations are more important than ever, but SAA must not be shortsighted. The Society must continue to think about the long-term success of our profession." On advocacy: "Leadership in the area of electronic records not only fulfills our professional mission to keep and maintain records in all formats, it also gains recognition for the importance of archivists and archival records in a wider arena. This is more critical than ever as public funding for archival grants is endangered and archivists must advocate for their positions even within their own institutions." Lawson is director of collections services for the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, where she has worked since 1988. She has been a member of SAA since 1988.



**Deborra Richardson** is another newly elected Council member who is prepared to examine all aspects of a proposal. "Whenever I make judgments about proposed action plans for organizations, I consider a series of questions," she says. "I pose these questions to myself and I discuss them with my colleagues, depending upon the circumstances. When these questions are answered to my satisfaction, through investigation and discussion, I feel equipped to exercise good judgment in evaluating action plans and trust that I would assist my colleagues to select proposals that would serve the best interests of the Society and the profession," Richardson says. Richardson is the chair and chief archivist for the Archives Center of the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. ♦

## 2009 ELECTION RESULTS

# Nominating Committee to Look Beyond “Usual Suspects”

In April members elected three individuals to serve on the 2010 Nominating Committee: Terry Baxter, Amy Cooper Cary, and Daniel Santamaria. Three new members are elected to the committee

every year, which selects a slate of candidates to present for membership vote and drafts questions for inclusion in the candidates' statements. Their service begins upon election.

This year's candidates were asked to present their ideas on the following: "What qualities are necessary for service as an elected officer in the Society? How would you help develop a qualified and diverse slate of candidates for the 2010 election?"

**Terry Baxter** is a records analyst and archivist for the Multnomah County Records Program in Portland, Oregon. A member since 2000, he thinks that an elected officer requires wit and verve, and an ability to provide leadership.

"In the modern organization, effective leadership requires officers willing to involve as much of the membership in decision-making as possible. These leaders will be open to new ideas and ways of doing things. They will be flexible and willing to share both power and expertise, understanding that vision is a communal action, not an individual one. They will be member-centered, remembering that the society exists to serve its membership. They will be technology friendly and literate, especially where technology can increase collaboration and communication. And they will be willing to take risks in advancing both the profession and its individual members."

Baxter says developing a slate of candidates that meet these criteria could involve "looking beyond the usual suspects to people who may not have traditional backgrounds or work settings."

"The growing body of archivists finding new ways to use the Web for social networking can play a key role in helping develop this slate, said Baxter. "Nominations are not some trade secret. An open discussion of both the Society's needs and the people required to meet those needs will only benefit us all."

**Amy Cooper Cary** is the archival studies program director and a senior lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies. She has been a member of SAA since 1998.

Cooper Cary says that because officers should be advocates for the profession and the membership, it's important



Terry Baxter



Amy Cooper Cary



Daniel Santamaria

to find people who can communicate effectively. "Fundamentally all elected officers, regardless of position, serve as advocates for the profession and for SAA's membership. Therefore, officers must prize communication with members and the public,

openly addressing the challenges and issues facing SAA and the profession," she said.

Cooper Cary says she will work toward "... not only identifying individuals with the specific talents necessary for each position, but also identifying how potential candidates will promote the larger goals of SAA and its members."

"In striving for diversity, we must engage in a dynamic process that asks us to challenge our own perceptions. I anticipate and trust in my ability to think outside of the confines of my own professional experience, not only to consider the specific needs of each position and the talents of my colleagues, but also to uphold SAA's commitment to representation of diverse voices and communities, and to recognize the importance of our varying professional views and institutions."

**Daniel Santamaria** is an assistant university archivist for Technical Services in the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library at Princeton University. He has been a member of SAA since 2000. He says SAA will have to evolve to meet the challenges the profession currently faces. "SAA needs leaders who possess an openness to new ideas and a willingness to take risks, and who will embrace and foster change."

Upcoming leaders should have an understanding of what it's like to enter the field today to adequately represent the association's student membership, he says, and look at people who have the ability to lead, if not the experience.

"The pool of talent for mid-level and management positions seems increasingly smaller and I fear many talented people are leaving the profession. To sustain and strengthen the profession we need to tap into that talent, and facilitate involvement within SAA, before people get discouraged," he says.

"When filling leadership positions in SAA, we need to seek out and provide opportunities to archivists who want them and who can make significant contributions. This may involve taking a few risks on people who are clearly capable—but unproven in association leadership. The rosters of section and roundtable leadership are a good source for identifying new candidates, but even those who have not yet served in such positions should be considered." ♦



# Sustaining the Spirit of Austin

SUSAN EASON, Catholic Archives of Texas, and BRENDA GUNN, University of Texas-Austin

*Water. Rocks. Trees. Wildflowers. Mix these together and you have a powerful and persuasive celebration of nature. These are the elements that sustain the spirit and soul of a community. We hope you take advantage of your time in Austin during the Joint Annual Meeting of SAA and the Council of State Archivists on August 11–16 — experience our natural treasures and capture the spirit of Austin.*

## A River Runs Through It

The Colorado River springs from the old rock of the Texas Hill Country and meanders through Central Texas on its lazy way to meet the Gulf of Mexico at Matagorda Bay. To Austinites, the river doubles as a lake in the city's center, and serves as a reservoir formed by Longhorn Dam to the east and Tom Miller Dam to the west. The lake offers a dramatic backdrop and a scenic southern border for downtown Austin, as well as providing numerous recreational opportunities—kayaking, rowing, and canoeing most notably—for Austinites and visitors.

With just a short walk from the conference hotel, visitors can discover the lovely Lady Bird Lake, recently renamed in honor of Lady Bird Johnson. In the early 1970s, the former First Lady chaired a beautification project charged with removing the trash and debris littering the lakeshore, while planting hundreds of new native shrubs and trees along the circumference of the lake. That beautification project also provided the impetus and funds to finish a hike-and-bike trail that today completes a ten-mile circuit around the lake.

## The People's Park

Indiana native Andrew Jackson Zilker settled in Austin in 1876 and within several months had embarked on his ice-making business, the Austin Ice Company. During the first two decades of the 20th century, Zilker bought several parcels of land just to the southwest of downtown, some of which he used as pasture land for the horses that pulled his ice wagons. Beginning in 1918 and continuing until 1934, Zilker donated 360 acres to the city for a public park and, in recognition of Zilker's philanthropy, the city named the park in his honor. During the Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps built park trails and picnic areas and laid rockwork for ponds. Park attractions include: the Austin Science and Nature Center, located on the far northwestern part of the park; the 80-acre Zilker Nature Preserve; and the Zilker Botanical Garden, which features rose, herb, and Japanese demonstration gardens and a re-creation of a dinosaur habitat. The park also offers a wonderful playground for kids and the Zilker Zephyr, a miniature train that takes youngsters on a ride overlooking Barton Creek, Lady Bird Lake, and the Hike-and-Bike Trail.

## "The Soul of Our City"

The hallowed jewel in Zilker Park's crown remains Barton Springs Pool. The name for this spring-fed pool originates from early settler William "Uncle Willy" Barton, who built his cabin in the area in 1837. Barton named the three springs on his property after his three daughters: Parthenia, Eliza, and Zenobia. The largest spring eventually became known as Barton Springs Pool. Long before Uncle Billy, the springs were visited

Photos: Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau



(Left) Pedestrians walk across a trail bridge that spans Barton Creek. (Right) A Tyrannosaurus rex stands in a re-creation of a dinosaur habitat in the Zilker Botanical Garden.



by Native Americans (who are said to have considered them sacred) and Spanish missionaries. Shaded by majestic live oaks and pecan trees, Barton Springs is the fourth largest spring in the state, pumping an average of 27 million gallons of water a day, and remains a constant temperature of 68 degrees. Some modern-day swimmers approach the pool with an almost religious fervor, and report that a glance at the main spring reminds them of a pulsating heart.

James A. Michener, who lived in Austin for a brief period, succumbed to the spell of Barton Springs. Michener wrote in 1993, "Barton Springs, worthy of both preservation and studious protection, is an area of beauty that provides wonderful natural swimming and recreation facilities that give pleasure to thousands of Austinites of all ages and visitors from all over the world. Barton Springs heads the list of our natural treasures, and, as such, can indeed be called the soul of our city."

### Keeping Austin Cool

Not far from Barton Springs Pool—and definitely worth a visit—is another popular Austin swimming spot called Deep Eddy Pool. It is the oldest man-made swimming pool in Texas and, like Barton Springs Pool, is spring-fed with a temperature that varies between 68 and 72 degrees. Originally the site was a swimming hole in the Colorado River where a large boulder formed an eddy, but in 1915 A.J. Eilers, Sr., bought the land and built a concrete pool. The site became known as Deep Eddy Bathing Beach and featured cabins, camping, and concessions. The City of Austin purchased the land in 1935 for \$10,000. Flooding on the Colorado River destroyed the site two weeks after the purchase. Works Progress Administration workers built the Depression-era bathhouse, and the pool and bathhouse reopened as a public park in 1936. In 2002, Friends of Deep Eddy began fundraising to renovate the bathhouse to its historic conditions. Completely renovated, the bathhouse reopened on June 2, 2007. Deep Eddy Pool is a registered landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

### Greenbelts

The Barton Creek area features a great creek and a deep canyon, both of which delight outdoor enthusiasts with opportunities for hikers, jogger, birders, mountain bikers, and rock climbers, among others. With sheer cliffs and wooded hillsides, the Barton Creek greenbelt stretches eight miles over 713 acres and is easily accessible from the downtown area. Among the 400 species of plants found in the greenbelt, seven are listed as endangered. Many birds can be spotted and heard, including: cardinals, mockingbirds, canyon and Carolina wrens, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, blue-winged teals, and several species of owls. An abundance of butterflies delight, too. The city extended the greenbelt to the west with the purchase of what is now known as the Wild Basin, a 227-acre preserve dedicated to preserving the urban wilderness and promoting the importance of environmental education, research, conservation, and preservation.

### Sustaining Natural Landscapes

Joined by actress Helen Hayes, Lady Bird Johnson founded the National Wildflower Research Center in 1982, proclaiming a mission of protecting and preserving North America's native plants and natural landscapes. (In 1997, the center was renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.) The Wildflower Center's display gardens feature native plants of the Texas Hill Country, South Texas, and West Texas, while its Plant Conservation Program seeks to preserve the plant heritage of Texas through conservation of the state's native flora and fauna. The Wildflower Center works with other national and international conservation programs to conduct and disseminate research on green living, resource stewardship, and the sustainability of our environment. In 2006, the Wildflower Center became an official research unit of the University of Texas-Austin. ❖



Photos: Brenda Gunn; Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau

(Left) Barton Springs Pool in Zilker Park is spring-fed water that keeps Austinites cool in the summer with its constant temperature of 68 degrees. (Right) A windsurfer catches a warm breeze on Lake Travis.

# Mechanics of Governance: Working Groups Get It Done

RENÉ MUELLER, SAA Project Assistant

The "Mechanics of Governance" is a series of brief articles that looks at various SAA groups, explains their function, and lets members know how they can participate. Second in the series, this story looks at a "Working Group." A working group is an appointed group of experts who advise the Council and who may serve for an unlimited period. A working group falls somewhere in-between a task force and a committee. (Remember, a task force only takes on one task and disbands when that task is complete. A committee has an ongoing responsibility for a key area of the Society's interest.)

Working groups can accomplish steep tasks quickly without (too many) administrative blocks and or indoctrinating new members to the work every couple of years. By allowing an unlimited appointment and giving the group time to focus on the projects at hand, working groups add a dimension to the types of component groups in SAA.

## Define It

The definition of a working group is also necessarily broad to enable different components to develop one if needed. For instance, tasks for the Website Working Group are filtered through the Council and members often work closely with SAA staff to manage electronic content. The Intellectual

Property Working group also receives tasks through the Council and tends to work more as a unit that can respond to the Council upon task completion.

Conversely, the newly established Native American Protocols Forum Working Group reports to the Diversity Committee, and the DACS Working Group reports to the Standards Committee. To see all of SAA's working groups and their tasks, visit [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org) and select "Working Groups" from under the yellow tab labeled "Groups."

So who exactly are the "experts" appointed to these groups—and why do we need them? To illustrate, let's focus on a working group that has been around for many years.

## Who They Are

Established in 2001, the main purpose of the Intellectual Property Working Group (or IPWG) is to "make sure that timely expertise is readily available to the Council." The charge further states that "Intellectual property issues are complex and require a special expertise. They often require a very quick response, such as when SAA is asked to join litigation or respond to draft legislation . . . The Working Group responds to requests for assistance from the Council, tracks intellectual

*continued on page 29*



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# Grassroots Effort Produces Resource Manual for Working with Congressional Collections

LINDA A. WHITAKER, CA, Arizona Historical Foundation

Congressional papers are an acquired taste. They are not for the weak of heart, nor should they be confused with other large, complex collections. Repositories and archivists beware—they come with high profiles, higher donor expectations, significant costs, unique obstacles to access and generate a political climate all their own. Invariably, it falls to the least experienced among us to somehow navigate these troubled waters, with many archivists cutting their teeth on these collections and vowing never to do it again.

For nearly 200 archivists nationwide, however, these papers draw a passionate following precisely for the challenges. Congressional collections span gender, race, party affiliation, geographical distribution, and media format. The records are at once local, regional, and national in scope. They are ubiquitous, yet unique. They can be found in repositories large and small in every corner of the country. Many languish due to lack of funding, and can be hidden treasures that require a lot of help.

Congressional collections also epitomize every management problem associated with twentieth- and twenty-first-century records. They are *huge*. (It is estimated that a U.S. Senator will generate 100 boxes of archival material for each year in office.) They are historically important, yet often remain under-utilized and poorly understood by their donors, researchers, and repositories.

And now there is an excellent resource available for addressing these challenges head-on: *Managing Congressional Collections* by Cynthia Pease Miller (SAA, 2008).

## Grassroots Activism

Getting this manual written and published is the culmination of a 30-year odyssey of grassroots activism by scholars, archivists, librarians, and administrators seeking to improve the management and use of these significant resources.

**1978** A conference on the Research Use and Disposition of Senators' Papers is attended by historians, archivists, and congressional staff aides who meet to consider "who uses Senators' papers and why?" *American Archivist* (41:3) includes three articles on congressional papers discussing their unique characteristics and challenges.

**1983** An ad hoc Planning Group on a Manual for Congressional Papers submits a report to SAA calling for guidelines designed to help archivists with the decisions and procedures required to manage congressional collections.

**1984–Present** Congressional papers emerge as the poster child for the ills associated with twentieth-century collections. Six articles in the *American Archivist* cite these papers as: bulky, redundant, under-utilized; hidden and unprocessed; and competitively solicited yet poorly managed. They contain every conceivable format and are often the subject of public disputes and tricky donor relations.

**1984** The first official meeting of the SAA Congressional Papers Roundtable is held in Chicago.

**1985** Nineteen historians, archivists, and administrators convene in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, to examine issues relating to congressional papers. Barely discussed, and certainly not resolved at Harpers Ferry, were the issues of appraisal, negotiation, acquisition, transfer, processing, and servicing these collections.

The first edition of the *Records Management Handbook for United States Senators and Their Archival Repositories* is published. Recommendations within the handbook are voluntary and, as such, subject to uneven adoption. The handbook becomes the only reference available for repository-based archivists faced with unprecedented backlogs. Many Congressional collections currently held by repositories bear little resemblance to the recommended records management guidelines.

**1991** *Guidelines for the Disposition of Members' Papers* by Cynthia Miller is published by the U.S. House of Representatives Historical Office and has been continuously updated.

**2002** The Congressional Papers Roundtable (now more than 200 members) forms a task force to draft archival guidelines for repositories. Smaller repositories fear the guidelines will favor larger repositories. The project stalls for lack of funding, consistency, and coordination.

**2003** The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress is formed. It currently has 39 institutional members. Its focus to date has not included basic archival issues of preservation and access to congressional collections, so no study of Congress is possible.

**2005** Mark Greene and Dennis Meissner's article "More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing" (*American Archivist*, 68:2) resonates for those coping with intractable backlogs of twentieth-century materials. There are striking similarities between this article, previous calls for change, and the 1983 Ad

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# Improving Record Processing at Three Presidential Libraries

In the past few years, the National Archives has been engaged in a major project to eliminate the huge backlog of unprocessed records in its Washington, D.C., area facilities.

The results have been impressive, and 37 percent of this backlog has been processed and appropriately described in our Archival Research Catalog and made available for efficient research at NARA over the past two years.

Now, we're launching a project to deal with a backlog of unprocessed records and unfulfilled Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests at the three presiden-

**This plan for the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton libraries represents a significant staff commitment to meeting our goals of getting more information about these administrations out to the public.**

tial libraries governed by the Presidential Records Act of 1978 and whose records are currently subject to FOIA requests—the Ronald Reagan, George Bush, and William J. Clinton libraries.

In the aftermath over the dispute of ownership of the presidential materials of Richard M. Nixon, Congress passed the Presidential Records Act of 1978. It declared all official presidential records to be government property, beginning with the first new presidential administration after the bill was enacted. It also stipulated that anyone could file a FOIA request for access to these

records five years after the end of an administration.

The president's budget request for Fiscal Year 2009 and the subsequent Congressional appropriation included funding for fifteen new archivists and six new archives technicians to increase the archival staffs at these libraries to speed up the processing of the records and shorten our response time to FOIA requests.

Here's the plan: First, we are compiling and reviewing folder-level inventories for all presidential records to make those inventories publicly available on each of the libraries' web pages. We believe this will result in requests for fewer records since researchers will have a better guide as to content and context of our holdings and be able to identify more precisely the records they want us to process—and within those records to prioritize what they want processed first. The Reagan Library

has already posted the majority of these titles on its website, [www.reagan.utexas.edu/](http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/).

Second, we will limit the number of textual pages that we will provide an individual requester at any given time to no more than 50,000; after that, the requester will have to go to the back of the FOIA queue. As a result of limiting the number of pages per requester at any one time, we will be able to service more customers since requesters won't get stalled behind very large FOIA requests. For the same reasons, we have also limited the number of electronic records we will process for any one requester to 500 hits or 15,000 pages and have placed caps on the number of full-time equivalent staff that will be dedicated to processing electronic records.

Third, each of the libraries has committed staff to systematically reviewing records, which is significantly faster than processing in response to individual FOIA requests. Systematic review of series and sub-series of records has the added benefit of getting more records into the public domain, decreasing the number of records that need to be processed in response to FOIA requests.

Under this plan, we expect to see significant results in 2010.

In 2010, we expect to process 150,000 to 200,000 more pages than this year, for a total of 1.5 million pages to be processed at the Reagan Library. At the Bush Library, we're expecting a 100 percent increase in processed pages of records. At the Clinton Library, we expect 400 percent increase in processed records.

We believe that these new procedures will, when fully implemented, result in a yearly increase of more

*continued on page 29*

## SAA Submits Comments to National Archives on Alternative Models for Presidential Libraries

Responding to a *Request for Information* from the National Archives and Records Administration, SAA provided comments on "cost effective ways of modifying the present system for archiving and providing public access to Presidential records." Read the letter at: <http://www.archivists.org/news/SAA%20Comments%20re%20Presidential%20Libraries%20041709.pdf>. SAA President Frank Boles solicited SAA member comments via a request in the March 31 issue of *In the Loop*.



## Congress Finally Enacts Fiscal Year 2009 Budget

President Obama signed into law in March the omnibus budget legislation for fiscal year (FY) 2009 (H.R. 1105), which provides funding for federal agencies covered under the nine appropriations bills left unfinished by the last Congress. The omnibus package finalizes spending levels for the current fiscal year that began on October 1, 2008. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will receive its highest level of funding in recent years, with a 12 percent jump from the current \$411 million to \$459 million. Included in that budget are the following:

**Operating expenses (increased by \$15.3 million to \$330.3 million).** The FY 2008 Appropriations Act included funding for an increase in archivist staff, and these additional staff will be funded in FY 2009 within this appropriation. The bill also includes \$875,000 to further increase the number of archivist staff in order to continue to reverse the staffing reductions that occurred from FY 2002 to FY 2007. NARA is directed to report to the House and Senate Appropriations committees, within 30 days of enactment of the bill, regarding the specific steps it is taking to restore its archivist workforce to pre-2002 levels.

Also included is \$1,000,000 for NARA's new Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which will serve as the Freedom of Information Act ombudsman for the federal government. The Administration had proposed to fund OGIS within the Department of Justice; the bill funds the office at NARA as authorized by the OPEN Government Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-175).

The bill includes \$650,000 (available until September 30, 2010) to complete review of U.S. Government documents pertaining to the activities of the Nazis and the Japanese Imperial Government. Following declassification and review of thousands of files containing newly disclosed information about the Nazis and the Japanese Imperial Government, NARA issued a 2007 report summarizing the new historical insights gained as a result of the NARA-supervised review of these documents. But a number of additional U.S. Army and CIA/OSS documents were discovered too late in the process to be included in the report. NARA has 90 days to report back to Congress with a proposed schedule for completing the review and historical analysis of these documents and releasing a supplemental report, which will serve as a companion to the 2007 report.

Congress also provided \$6,325,000 to operate the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas. It is temporarily located in a facility in Lewisville, Texas, until the permanent library is built with private funds on the campus of Southern Methodist University.

**Electronic Records Archives (ERA) project (increased by \$9 million to \$67 million).** The ERA went online last year and federal agencies are being phased into the system over the next year or so. The bill requires NARA to submit, and for the Appropriations committees to approve, a GAO-reviewed

spending plan for ERA prior to the obligation of funds. The agency also was required to provide quarterly progress reports on ERA to Congress and the Government Accountability Office and to alert them to any potential delays, cost overruns, and other problems with the development of the ERA.

**Repairs and restoration (increased by \$22.1 million to \$50.7 million).** The bill includes 1) \$17.5 million for repair and renovation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York, which NARA has listed as its top capital improvement priority; 2) \$22 million to complete construction of an addition to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston; and 3) \$2 million to complete repair and restoration of the plaza that surrounds the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin.

## National Historical Publications and Records

**Commission.** In a major victory for archivists and historians, the NHPRC will receive its highest level of funding in five years under the FY 2009 omnibus spending bill: \$9.25 million for grants (plus \$2 million for administrative costs), or \$1.75 million more than in FY 2008. In his FY 2009 budget submission, President Bush proposed zero funding and elimination of the NHPRC.

## Transparency Initiatives Continue in Obama Administration

Attorney General Eric Holder issued comprehensive new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines on March 19 that direct all executive branch departments and agencies to apply a presumption of openness when administering the FOIA. The memo rescinds guidelines issued in October 2001 by former Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Announced in a memo to heads of executive departments and agencies, the new guidelines build on the principles announced by President Obama on his first full day in office, when he issued a presidential memorandum on the FOIA that called on agencies to "usher in a new era of open government." At that time, the President also instructed Holder to issue new FOIA guidelines that reaffirm the government's commitment to accountability and transparency. The new guidelines address both application of the presumption of disclosure and effective administration of the FOIA across the government. Holder's memo:

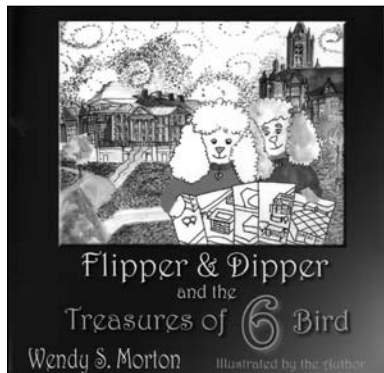
- Directs agencies not to withhold records simply because they can technically do so. He encourages agencies to make discretionary disclosures of records and to release records in part whenever they cannot be released in full.
- Establishes a new standard for defense of agency decisions to withhold records in response to a FOIA request. Now, the Department of Justice will defend a denial only if the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the statutory exemptions or if

*continued on page 27*



## Children's Book Tells Tale of Two Dogs in the Archive

*Flipper & Dipper and the Treasures of 6 Bird* tells the story of two dogs who visit Syracuse University's archives to learn something about the school's history. "It's full of SU traditions and we hope will be a fun way for alumni to share their memories with their children and grandchildren," says Edward Gavin, director of archives and records management. The children's book was written and illustrated by Syracuse alum Wendy Morton, who lost a friend (also an SU student) in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am



Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Proceeds from the book's sale support the Pan Am 103 Archives at Syracuse. To learn more about the book, go to: <http://syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/email/flipper.html>.

## Academy of Certified Archivists Celebrate 20th Anniversary

The Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2009 and is planning several events to mark the milestone, including a conference on August 13 during the Joint Annual Meeting in Austin. It will be held in Salon K of the Governor's Ballroom on the 6th Floor of the Austin Hilton Hotel. More information about ACA's anniversary events can be found at [www.certifiedarchivists.org](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org).

## National Archives Is a "Cool Place"

On April 15 *ReadersDigest.com* ran a brief story titled "Six Cool Places Your Tax Dollars Go." Among the six is the National Archives. Said the *Digest*: "Yes, Tax Day is a tough milestone for many Americans this year, what with high unemployment, recession, and those hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out Wall Street types we'd rather see behind bars. Yet, April 15 also heralds the arrival of spring, a time for baseball, flowers, renewal. So here are six reasons to celebrate—and not curse—the money that goes to the Internal Revenue Service."

It goes on to list the National Park Service, the United States Navy, NASA, the Peace Corps, Social Security, and tucked in at number four is the National Archives. The *Digest* elaborates: "National Archives: Handling everything from the original Declaration of Independence to the email traffic of former White House aides—and making it available to the public at museums, presidential libraries, and touring exhibits—that's the job of the nation's under-staffed and under-appreciated archivists. It's democracy's drudgery, but this bureaucracy brings history to life."

## Getty Research Institute Will Improve Access to Hidden Collections

The Getty Research Institute (GRI) in Los Angeles recently launched "Uncovering Archives and Rare Photographs: Two Models for Creating Accession-level Finding Aids Using the Archivists' Toolkit." This cataloging project will allow scholars across disciplines to access GRI archives and rare photographs previously out of reach. The project should improve access to seven archives that document the intersection of art and language in the twentieth century, and thirty-four collections and albums of rare nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century photographs in three subject areas: Asia and Orientalism, Cities and Sites, and Expositions and World Fairs. At the project's conclusion, the Institute will host a workshop to share its findings with Los Angeles-based archivists. The project was made possible by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR).

—Getty Research Institute

## History of Vancouver Archdiocese Marks 100-Year Anniversary

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is marking its history in *Traditions of Faith and Service—Archdiocese of Vancouver 1908–2008*, published to celebrate the archdiocese's 100th anniversary. More than 500 photographs are included and come from the archdiocesan photograph collection, the City of Vancouver Archives, British Columbia Archives, and the OMI Archives in British Columbia. Order online at [www.rcav.org](http://www.rcav.org) for \$39 (CND) plus \$10 (CND) for shipping.

—Archdiocese of Vancouver

## Labor Beat Makes DVD of Studs Terkel Footage

Labor Beat, an independent rank-and-file labor forum, has compiled selections from its footage of writer and radio personality Studs Terkel appearing at union picket lines and rallies for the past twenty years and placed it on DVD. It is narrated by Alan Harris Stein, Labor Beat's archivist and chair of SAA's Oral History Section. To view the video: <http://video.google.com/video/play?docid=-4300072321039477704>. Copies of "The Elder Studs Terkel" can be ordered for \$15 at [www.laborbeat.org](http://www.laborbeat.org). ❖

**SUDSY** At the Biltmore Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island, retired archivist John Fleckner found a bottle of shampoo in the shower meant just for him. "The place is noted for its friendly service, but I never expected such custom attention," he notes. Archive Aromatherapy Essentials and Archive Just Add Water are in the Joy of Sleep Bath and Spa Collections.



Photos: John Fleckner





## Guatemala Scans Police Archives for Civil War Clues

For years the national police in Guatemala City dumped millions of old files in a onetime munitions depot inhabited by bats. In late March, authorities opened the door to the warehouse, stacked floor to ceiling with musty papers. Now Guatemalans are using the documents to search for information about loved ones murdered or disappeared in the long dirty war against critics of security forces.

**Guatemalan human rights advocates describe the files as the largest such archive ever released in Latin America.**

The files were hidden by the national police and their protectors until 2005, when civil authorities accidentally discovered the warehouse. Some of the logs date to the 1880s, but the most significant archives were amassed during Guatemala's civil war, when an estimated 200,000 people died and 40,000 disappeared between 1960 and 1996. Guatemalan human rights advocates describe the files as the largest such archive ever released

in Latin America. Archivists believe there are more than 80 million documents. Many pages are in chaotic, unsorted piles, green and yellow with mold. Others are stacked neatly.

About 7.5 million documents have been cataloged and digitized so far. The files give detailed accounts of the shadowy world of police disappearances of activists, with photographs of students and labor leaders arrested by police and explicit instructions on how to spy on military critics who were later clandestinely seized and murdered.

The police archives might have been destroyed before their discovery in July 2005 had it not been for Ana Corado, an unassuming, bespectacled police officer. Corado said she had been assigned to the archive six months earlier as punishment by a police supervisor she refused to date. She found a filthy, depressingly dark concrete-block building strewn with papers soiled with rat and bird droppings. When a police munitions depot blew up nearby, worried residents demanded a search of the mysterious facility. One investigator, historian Heriberto Cifuentes, spotted the papers through a window and asked to take a look.

Guatemalan President Álvaro Colom said his government is bracing for the declassification of military archives of the scorched-earth campaigns against leftist guerrillas, in which entire villages were destroyed and their inhabitants massacred. For those who could be held responsible, Colom said, "these archives raise a lot of fears."

—*The Washington Post*

## United Kingdom's National Archives Releases Security Service Files

The National Archives of the United Kingdom released 60 files in March from the British Security Service (MI5) that deal with German and Russian intelligence agents, right-wing extremists, and suspected Communists. The "Gastao de Freitas Ferraz" file records the arrest of a German agent who served

as a radio operator on a Portuguese cod-fishing boat that plied the waters of the northwestern Atlantic Ocean. De Freitas Ferraz's job was to keep watch on weather conditions and shipping movements for the Abwehr (German military intelligence). In July 1942 British intelligence received communications indicating that de Freitas Ferraz was a spy and sought his arrest. He escaped arrest in Canada but was caught at sea in late 1942 around the time that the American and British Navies were carrying troops for the Allied North Africa landings of November 1942 (Operation TORCH). De Freitas Ferraz's arrest prevented him from learning of the troop convoys and alerting the Germans.

The Security Service also kept a file on wartime photojournalist Lee Miller. Early in her career Miller had been a sought-after New York fashion model who studied photography on the side. In Paris in the late 1920s and early '30s she became involved with the Surrealist photographer Man Ray. When World War II broke out she became a war correspondent and photographer for *Vogue* and followed American troops across Europe. According to her file, an unnamed colleague at *Vogue*'s London office fingered her as a Communist sympathizer after which she was kept under surveillance. Despite her friendships with several Communists, MI5 concluded that Miller's Communist beliefs were idealistic rather than subversive. A watch was kept on her, however, until 1958.

Ralph Dawson's file details the movements of a British Union of Fascists (BUF) supporter during and after the war. Dawson was a professional actor and Canterbury antiques dealer. He joined the BUF in 1939 and came to the Security Service's attention in 1940 when he joined the Army and served as an artillery gunner in Kent. Dawson frequently expressed his support for BUF leader Oswald Mosley and his doubts about Britain's ability to win the war. When he was found to be a member of a particularly extreme faction of Mosleyites (the so-called Hail Mosley Fight 'Em All Association) he was placed in interment but ultimately released due to the ill-health of his mother. MI5 watched Dawson until 1951.

Also released in March (though not Security Service documents) was a set of seven files relating to UFO sightings in Britain from 1987 to 1993. One file tells of an unidentified Norfolk woman who reported being approached by a man who claimed to be from another planet, similar to earth, whose people were responsible for creating crop circles in the English countryside. As she ran home she heard a loud buzzing noise behind her and turned to see a large glowing spherical object rising and moving steadily out of sight. Another file tells of two air traffic controllers who reported seeing a black inverted boomerang-shaped UFO from the Heathrow control tower early one morning in December 1992. Other sets of UFO files were released in May and October 2008.

The United Kingdom's National Archives regularly reports on new document releases. Go to the Archives website at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and click on the "News" tab to read of other releases.

*continued on page 25*

# Around SAA . . .

## Preliminary Program for Annual Meeting is Available Online

SUSTAINABLE ARCHIVES—the Joint Annual Meeting of SAA and the Council of State Archivists—will be held August 11–16 in Austin, Texas, and in keeping with the conference theme of “Sustainability” the preliminary program will not be printed and mailed this year. Members can find the electronic version on SAA’s website at [www.archivists.org/conference/austin2009/](http://www.archivists.org/conference/austin2009/). Available as a PDF, it includes a helpful “Schedule-at-a-Glance,” as well as instructions on how to register. Because some items (such as the plenary sessions) were not finalized at the time the program was completed on April 17, prospective attendees should continue to look for the most up-to-date information on SAA’s website. If you have questions or need assistance, contact the Service Center at 866.722.7858 or [servicecenter@archivists.org](mailto:servicecenter@archivists.org).

## Guidelines for ePublishing with SAA

SAA’s ePublications program offers members high-quality professional literature that includes edited monographs, case studies, formal papers, research reports, proceedings of symposia and conferences, and digital versions of print materials. ePublications are available online, free-of-charge. If you are interesting in ePublishing with SAA, submission guidelines are at: <http://www.archivists.org/publications/Guidelines4ePublishing.pdf>.

## Deduct Annual Meeting Expenses from Your 2009 Income Taxes

According to the Internal Revenue Service’s website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), “Travel expenses for conventions are deductible if you can show that your attendance benefits your trade or business.” Tax Topic 511—“Business Travel Expenses”—lists deductible travel expenses while away from home that include the cost of: Travel by airplane, train, bus, or car between your home and your business destination; Using your car while at your business destination; Fares for taxis or other types of transportation between the airport or train station and your hotel, the hotel and the work location, and from one customer to another, or from one place of business to another; Meals and lodging; Tips you pay for services related to any of these expenses; Dry cleaning and laundry; Business calls while on your business trip (this includes business communications by fax machine or other communication devices); and Other similar ordinary and necessary expenses related to your business travel.

## SAA Offers Bridge-Rate Memberships for Unemployed Members

SAA offers a \$44 “bridge rate” membership fee for renewing members who are unemployed. For more information, go to <http://www.archivists.org/membership/benefits.asp> or talk to a Service Center member at 866.SAA.7858.

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# Replumbing SAA's Website with Drupal

BRIAN DOYLE, SAA Director of Member & Technical Services

Managing a website for information professionals is both an exciting and humbling experience. SAA boasts some very tech-savvy members. In fact, in the mid-1990s, it was member volunteers who developed the Society's first Web pages. In the past two years, members have also pioneered the use of "unofficial" wikis, blogs, and social networking sites—tools that have become essential as archivists seek to share and contribute knowledge in an increasingly wired (and wireless) society.

You might ask, what is SAA doing to officially support its members' Web communication needs? We're pleased to let you know that a major project is now underway to overhaul the SAA website and deploy a new open-source *content management system* (CMS) that will greatly enhance the collaborative editing tools provided to component groups and add some social networking capabilities for individual members. The alpha site will be ready for review by the Joint Annual Meeting of SAA and CoSA August 11-16, 2009, with final revisions and launch scheduled for September.

## The Promise of Drupal

In order to assist staff in identifying needs and selecting the right CMS solution, the SAA Council appointed a Website Working Group (WWG), comprised of members with expertise and experience in the use of Web 2.0 tools. The group reviewed and analyzed the capabilities of more than a dozen popular content management systems, including Plone, Joomla, WebGUI, and DotNetNuke. General application requirements included good documentation, availability of commercial support, comprehensive functionality, and a preference for the open-source development model.

Working group members decided that Drupal ([www.drupal.org](http://www.drupal.org)) provides the best balance of programming power, ease-of-use, and longevity in terms of having an established and dynamic development community. A growing number of SAA members also have practical experience using Drupal in their own repositories.

In contrast to proprietary systems, key advantages of open source are the avoidance of the dreaded "vendor lock" (i.e., being stuck with one contractor) and, conversely, the availability of an ever-growing number of extension applications that, commensurate with their own popularity and utility, are refined and supported by the development community itself. The net result is a robust Web development toolkit that puts the organization in a much better position to be responsive to emerging trends.

## "Free" vs. "Free"

Open-source systems are widely hailed for being "free" solutions—as in, freely licensed. But, as anybody who has worked on configuring and deploying a complex Drupal

installation knows, free does not necessarily mean cheap. Drupal is a sophisticated product akin to a box of Legos. Inside the box are many pieces of different shapes and sizes. With the right skills and knowledge, it's possible to assemble a highly customized site tailored to an organization's specific needs. In order to accomplish this, SAA has contracted with Boston-based Common Places, LLC, a Web-development firm that specializes in building Drupal websites for nonprofit associations in accordance with best practices. Project expenses to launch the site are estimated at \$40,000-\$50,000.

## Where's the Beef?

So, enough theory, right? What's it gonna do? During this project phase, SAA identified a number of important fundamental needs required for overall site performance. Using Drupal's application programmer interface (API), we will be integrating with select data in SAA's member database in order to achieve a single login scheme and provide information on leadership roles that govern content permissions for group sites. We will be configuring a taxonomic structure by which all site content can be categorized upon creation. These categories will also be tied to the site navigation in order to deliver "faceted browsing" functionality. In addition, the system will provide a mechanism to attach metadata to stories and articles in order to assist in search and retrieval, as well as basic records management functions.

Other applications targeted for development include secure document workspace and sharing capabilities for boards, committees, sections, and roundtables, support for structured online lexicons like the *Thesaurus for Use in College and University Archives* (2009) and the *Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology* (2005), redesign of the *Directory of Archival Education*, and support for posting of comments by authenticated users to select stories and articles.

These developments will help put SAA on a solid footing to continue advancing its electronic publishing initiatives and put the power of the digital pen directly in the hands of its members. Stay tuned for more! ♦

## Do You Haiku?

Can you write verse—on archival topics—in a 5-syllable / 7-syllable / 5-syllable format? If so, you could win a fabulous prize and have your verse read aloud at the SAA Annual Meeting in Austin this August during the session "Archives After Hours! The Light, Literary, and Lascivious Side of Archives." To enter, just send your haiku to Kathy Marquis at [kathymarquis@gmail.com](mailto:kathymarquis@gmail.com). Entry deadline is July 15, 2009. Please include contact information to receive your prize. ♦



**MICHAEL COURTNEY** recently joined the Archdiocese of New Orleans as a processing archivist and records analyst. He previously worked as a cataloging assistant for Loyola University's School of Law library in Chicago, and recently earned his master's degree in Christian Ethics from Loyola.

**CONNIE VINITA DOWELL** is the new dean of libraries for Vanderbilt University's Heard Library in Nashville, Tennessee. She earned her master's degree in library science from Vanderbilt's Peabody College in 1979 and has three decades of experience working in academic libraries. Dowell previously served as dean of the library and information access at San Diego State University.

SAA has appointed **TIMOTHY ERICSON** as its new representative to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. He replaces Lee Stout, who has served on the commission since 2002. Ericson was the former director of the graduate Archival Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he now serves as an adjunct faculty member. He was president of SAA in 2003/2004.

**MAHNAZ GHAZNAVI** has been appointed director for technology initiatives for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Her previous position was records manager for the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles. Ghaznavi has served on the adjunct faculty in the Information Studies Department at the University of California-Los Angeles, and as an archivist for the California State University system.



**AMANDA KLAUS** is the second recipient of the Colonial Dames Scholarship awarded by SAA in 2009. Klaus works as a graduate assistant archivist for the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is pursuing a master's degree in museum studies and earned a bachelor's degree in history from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. Klaus will attend the Modern Archives Institute in June at the National Archives and Records Administration. She will be recognized during an awards ceremony in August at the joint SAA/CoSA Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.



**Do you have an item for  
Currents or Around SAA?**

Send to: Editorial/Production Assistant  
Helen Janousek at [hjanousek@archivists.org](mailto:hjanousek@archivists.org).



**CHRIS PROM** has been awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award. He will spend the 2009-2010 academic year on sabbatical as a research fellow at the Center for Archive and Information Studies at the University of Dundee in Scotland. Prom will pursue a project titled "Practical Methods to Identify, Preserve, and Provide Access to Electronic Records."

The project aims to gather firsthand information about electronic records standards and software, to evaluate the standards and tools using records from individuals and community groups in Scotland, and to begin assembling an open-source toolset that will facilitate day-to-day archival work with electronic materials. He is currently assistant university archivist and instructor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he co-developed Archon software.

**MEGHAN PETERSEN**, who coordinates the A&A List for SAA, gave birth to a daughter (and potential future archivist!) on March 25. Marguerite Louise Petersen weighed 5 lbs., 2 oz. This is the first child for Meghan and her husband.



**JONATHAN ANDREW UHRICH** of New York University is the 2009 recipient of the F. Gerald Ham Scholarship. The award gives Uhrich \$7,500 to put toward his archives studies in NYU's Moving Image Archiving and Preservation graduate program. "Allow me to express my gratitude on receiving this scholarship. It makes going to school in New York possible," he said upon learning of his selection. Uhrich earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of South Carolina-Columbia in 1994, and has worked for the Gene Siskel Film Center, the University of Chicago's Film Studies Center, and the Chicago Film Archives. He is currently on an internship at the Anthology Film Archives in New York.



**IAN E. WILSON** retired as Librarian and Archivist of Canada, effective April 24. He will continue to serve as the president of the International Council of Archives, a two-year term he began at the end of July 2008. Wilson will continue working on projects of interest to libraries and archives—he has

been involved with the Canadian archives community for more than 31 years. Wilson became National Archivist of Canada in 1999 and in 2004 was appointed the country's first Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

## President's Message

continued from page 3

- In place of epithets such as "stupid," other forms of disparagement, assertions of dark motives, and the occasional full-blown archival conspiracy theory, listen carefully to what others say and read carefully what they write. I believe that virtually all archivists truly wish to advance the profession and SAA, but they sometimes have differing, and occasionally contradictory, visions of how best to do it. They are good people who simply view the world through an alternate lens. If criticism is called for, criticize the lens, not the individual.
- Most importantly, embrace the notion that the most courageous professional act is not to criticize or exaggerate minor flaws, but rather to propose an idea knowing that others may criticize you or your ideas.

These are difficult times for archives and archivists. They are times that call for us to work together. Times that call for us to seek to understand and learn from each other. And they most assuredly are times when it would benefit all archivists to eschew malice and embrace charity in our professional lives. ❖

## World View

continued from page 21

### World Digital Library Covers the Globe

The world's priceless historic treasures can now be accessed through your fingertips. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Library of Congress (LOC), and thirty-two other groups launched the World Digital Library (WDL) project on April 21. The website ([www.wdl.org](http://www.wdl.org)) offers information about "every country in the world, no matter how small that country is," WDL Director John Van Oudenaren said. Aimed at expanding non-English and non-Western content online, the WDL is available in six other languages—Chinese, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. Searching the WDL is like using Google. Users can browse and search the topic, time, place and type of item, which may include prints, photographs, musical scores and architectural drawings, among others. The website also features videos from curators explaining the importance of each collection and how it reveals the country's culture. The WDL concentrated on presenting collections that are physically stored in geographically dispersed locations. To accomplish this, the LOC (the world's largest library) partnered with national libraries from Brazil, Egypt, Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Uganda to provide additional content to the website. Other examples of treasures that came from national libraries overseas are the Arabic scientific manuscripts from Egypt; the Hyakumanto Darani, a woodblock print dated 764 from Japan; and the famous 13th-century "Devil's Bible" (with a striking portrait of the devil) that originated in Bohemia. To see these and other items, go to: [www.wdl.org](http://www.wdl.org)

—The Library of Congress

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**JOHN EDWARD DALY** died March 7, 2009, at his home in Rochester, Illinois. He was 74. Daly earned a doctorate in history from the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the staff of the Philadelphia City Archives in 1963, where he was assistant city archivist for several years. In 1974 he was

appointed director of the Illinois State Archives, where he worked for 30 years until retiring in 2004. The archives conference room was named in his honor in 2008.

Daly was on the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association, an SAA Fellow, and a member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and the Sangamon County Historical Society. Daly was also on the adjunct faculty at the University of Illinois, Springfield.

—*The State Journal Register*

One of the pillars of American folklore has died. **ARCHIE GREEN** was an author, teacher, folklorist and shipwright. He was also one of the driving forces behind the creation of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Green died March 22 at his home in San Francisco. He was 91.

Green moved comfortably through the halls of Congress and the halls of ivy, but he preferred life on scaffolding or in a welder's shed or machine shop. Work was where his heart was—doing it and convincing others to document what they did. He coined the term "laborlore" and actively encouraged filmmakers, steel workers and pile drivers, among many others, to keep the stories of working people alive.

Green's infectious enthusiasm and firm belief that labor culture had a place in what he called "a marble mansion" was largely credited with convincing Congress to pass the American Folklife Preservation Act of 1976. It established the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

—*National Public Radio*

**JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN**, the scholar who helped create the field of African-American history and dominated it for nearly six decades, died March 22 in Durham, North Carolina of congestive heart failure. He was 94.

Franklin, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History, was a scholar who brought intellectual rigor as well as an engaged passion to his work. He wrote about history and he lived it. Franklin worked on the *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) case, joined protestors in a 1965 march led by Martin Luther King, Jr. in Montgomery, Alabama, and headed President Bill Clinton's national advisory board on race.

He is perhaps best known to the public as chairman of Clinton's 1997 task force, "One America: The President's

Initiative on Race." The seven-member panel was charged with directing a national conversation on race relations.

But his reputation as a scholar was made in 1947 with the publication of his book, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, which is still considered the definitive account of the black experience in America. At the time *From Slavery to Freedom* was published, there were few scholars working in African-American history and the books that had been published were not highly regarded by academics. To write it, he first had to give himself a course in African-American history, then spend months struggling to complete the research in segregated libraries and archives—including Duke's, where he could not use the bathroom. He spent thirteen months writing it.

Franklin accumulated many honors during his long career, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. He shared the John W. Kluge Award for lifetime achievement in the humanities and a similar honor from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. He received more than 130 honorary degrees, and served as president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the American Studies Association, the Southern Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians and the American Historical Association.

—*Duke University*

**JOHN FREDRICK ZWICKY** died March 10, 2009, at his home in Lombard, Illinois. He was 62. Zwicky was the archivist for the American Academy of Pediatrics in Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

He earned his bachelor's degree in history from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1968, and a master's in history from DePaul University in 1976. He worked for the Social Security Administration in Chicago during the 1970s, and for the Museum of Science and Industry while studying for his PhD in history at Loyola University in Chicago. He received his doctorate in 1989.

Zwicky became an archivist for the American Medical Association in the early '90s. He also worked for the Barrington Historical Society and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and was the founding archivist of the American Academy of Pediatrics History Center.

Zwicky was a member of the Science, Technology and Health Care Roundtable and served on its steering committee. He organized and chaired the roundtable's program for the 2007 Annual Meeting and was a regular contributor to its newsletter. "John and his contributions will be missed," said the committee's co-chairs, Tim Pennycuff and Stephen Novak.

—*The Fond du Lac Reporter*



disclosure is prohibited by law. Under the previous defensibility standard of the rescinded rules, the Department had said it would defend a denial if the agency had a "sound legal basis" for its decision to withhold.

- Emphasizes that agencies must be sure to have in place effective systems for responding to requests. The Attorney General calls on each agency to be fully accountable for its administration of the FOIA.
- Emphasizes that FOIA is the responsibility of everyone in each agency, and that in order to improve FOIA performance, agencies must address the key roles played by a broad range of personnel who work with each agency's FOIA professionals. The memo highlights the key role played by agency Chief FOIA Officers who will now be reporting each year to the Department of Justice on their progress in improving FOIA administration.
- Directs FOIA professionals to work cooperatively with FOIA requestors, to anticipate interest in records before requests are made, and to make requested records available promptly.

The Office of Information Policy will conduct training and provide guidance on the new FOIA guidelines to executive branch departments and agencies, as well as to interested groups, in order to maintain a comprehensive approach to greater government transparency.

## Presidential Records Update

On April 1, with no debate, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee by voice vote cleared an amendment in the nature of a substitute for the "**Presidential Records Reform Act of 2009**" (H.R. 35). The bill is now ready to go to the Senate floor for consideration. The original H.R. 35 was approved by an overwhelmingly bi-partisan vote of 359-58 in January 2009. Although the two versions of the bill are very similar, some changes will have to be worked out between the House and Senate—either in conference or informally—before the legislation can be enacted.

Major differences between the two bills are the length of time that an incumbent and former president have to review any records upon notice of intended release by the Archivist of the United States. The House bill had a 20-day review period with the possibility of an extension for an additional 20 days. The Senate bill changes those time frames to 60 days for the initial review with a 30-day extension. Thus the total review period goes from 40 days in the House version to 90 days in the Senate version.

The Senate substitute also includes language from the House-passed bill requiring the Archivist to deny access to original presidential records by any designated representative of a former president if the designee had been convicted of a crime relating to the review, retention, removal, or destruction of records of the archives. The bill language was inspired by the well-publicized theft of documents from the National

Archives by President Clinton's former National Security Advisor, Samuel R. (Sandy) Berger. In April 2005, Berger pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents.

More than 245,700 pages of **Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush Presidential records** were opened for research at their respective libraries on April 13. These records were still pending at the end of the George W. Bush administration on January 20. They were released in accordance with the Presidential Records Act and the new Executive Order 13489, signed by President Obama on January 21.

In making the announcement, Acting Archivist of the United States Adrienne Thomas said, "I am delighted that the Obama administration has cleared the way to open these Presidential records. This action allows the American people to view historical records relating to the Presidency and judge for themselves the actions of federal officials."

The Ronald Reagan library opened 244,966 pages of records processed in response to hundreds of FOIA requests. These records include the Presidential Briefing Papers collection, Office of Speechwriting research material, and approximately 13,000 pages of declassified records on numerous foreign policy topics. To date, more than 10 million pages of Presidential records have been processed at the Reagan library. See <http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/archives/research.html>

The George H. W. Bush library opened 797 pages of records that deal with Saudi Arabia. To date, more than 6 million pages of Presidential records have been processed at the Bush library. See <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/research> ❖



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# Managing Congressional Collections

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Hoc Committee recommendations. Congressional paper collections are prime subjects for this type of review.

- 2006** The Congressional Papers Roundtable Steering Committee agrees to apply for a grant to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to support the writing, publication and distribution of a repository-based *Guidelines for Managing Congressional Papers*.
- 2008** *H. Con. Res. 307* is passed by the U.S. Senate, stating that: members' Congressional papers (including papers of delegates and resident commissioners to the Congress) should be properly maintained; that each member of Congress should take all necessary measures to manage and preserve their papers; and that members of Congress should be encouraged to arrange for the deposit or donation of their papers with a research institution that is properly equipped to care for them and to make these papers available for educational purposes at a time the member considers appropriate.

## Getting It Done

First, the Congressional Papers Roundtable had to not only sell, but fast-track, the idea of a manual to the SAA Publications Board. The biggest obstacle was overcoming the widely held notion that Congressional collections are no different than other big collections. This begs the question: *How was this manual going to differ from the previous processing manuals?* Let me list the ways:

- Incorporate best practices as they relate to these collections;
- Outline standards for acquisition (includes calculating costs, space, personnel, and budget);
- Offer ideas for sustainability and outside funding sources;
- Propose cost-saving strategies;
- Discuss access issues of classified, declassified, and reclassified documents; include FAQs with responses taken from the field; and
- Use clean, no-nonsense prose in an easy-to-read format.

Long-distance grant writing under the gun is no small feat. The submission deadlines were short (six weeks). Miss them and the manual would be delayed for another year. Dan Stokes at the NHPRC understood this and was instrumental in paving the way. It pays to call ahead and discuss the project with NHPRC before it's submitted.

Information does not marinate well with time. Thirty years into the making and previous drafts had to be scrapped in favor of new concepts, new formats, new technology, and emerging best practices. It was important that the manual would make its debut in an election year (2008), especially

in light of Congress's resolution urging members to save their papers for public use. (Note that this move by Congress was also the product of years of grassroots advocacy.)

From the NHPRC application to final publication (one year, eleven months), seven roundtable members serving on the Editorial Advisory Board worked with the author, Cynthia Pease Miller. To avoid the previous pitfalls of "writing by committee," it was important that the manual have one voice with timely input from those working in the trenches. Each individual weighed in at crucial points along the way. Miller rewrote the product at least six times. We responded. When one faltered, another took over—often without being asked. Needs were anticipated, turnarounds were short (typically 72 hours), and editing skills were at a premium. But it was Miller who had the fortitude and wisdom to knit the whole thing together. Bottom line: this was work bound by a passion for the subject and a commitment to fulfill a promise made thirty years earlier.

## How YOU Can Do It, Too

For those who may now be persuaded that managing Congressional collections is not routine, add the manual *Managing Congressional Collections* to your resources. For those who know their Congressional delegation and consider them donors, friends, and supporters of archival work, send them a copy of the manual. For all those working with administrators, development officers, and department heads, urge them to check out *Managing Congressional Collections* in the SAA online catalog (<https://www.archivists.org/catalog/>). There is something here for everyone. Don't acquire or process a Congressional collection without this manual! ❖

\* \* \*

*Linda Whitaker is currently chair of the Congressional Papers Roundtable Steering Committee and is in the last phase of processing the Personal and Political Papers of Senator Barry Goldwater at the Arizona Historical Foundation.*



## Want to Write a Book?

If you are thinking about submitting a book proposal to the Society of American Archivists, check out the guidelines "Publishing with SAA" at: <http://www.archivists.org/publications/Guidelines4PublishingWithSAA.pdf>.

## Mechanics of Governance

*continued from page 16*

property issues of concern to archivists, and drafts for Council approval responses or position papers as needed" (view the full charge on the Web under the aforementioned Working Groups link).

The IPWG's members currently include Heather Briston (chair, University of Oregon), Jean Dryden (University of Maryland), Mark Greene (University of Wyoming), Peter Hirtle (Cornell University), Bill Maher (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Aprille McKay (University of Michigan), and Richard Pearce-Moses (Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records).

### What They Do

So what specifically does the IPWG do? (Well, you can go to their website and read about their various projects at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/ipwg/>.) In general, they offer annotated copyright resources including recommended introductory reading; direct links to copyright law; a concise

and updated chart of copyright terms and public domain in the U.S.; various materials on Section 108 (copyright and libraries); and frequent updates on pending issues that involve SAA.

### And Why

IPWG members encompass various levels of experience in the archives profession, in the Society, and with copyright law. Each is quite passionate about intellectual property— which, apparently, is "not everyone's cup of tea." Thus, as a group, they keep each other abreast of current issues and have a kaleidoscope of 'takes' on each issue. Because the group is small and agile enough to respond quickly to an issue but large enough to share the work associated with a good response (all members are volunteers with jobs and families), having IPWG on-call for SAA enables archivists to develop well-researched and articulate responses to emerging copyright, patent, and other intellectual property issues in a very timely manner. ❖

## From the Acting Archivist

*continued from page 18*

than 1.3 million pages processed, a 100 percent increase over FY 2008. We are also studying other methods of improving records processing to open even more records to the public.

At the same time, the additional staff will help us deal with the larger and larger quantities of electronic records that we must process, especially with the Clinton administration, and even more with the records of the George W. Bush administration. George W. Bush's library is being built on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and is now located in a temporary site in Lewisville, Texas. Under the 1978 legislation, the Bush records will be available to FOIA requests on January 20, 2014.

NARA's other presidential libraries, from Hoover to Carter, are not subject to the 1978 legislation. All of their papers were deeded to the government by the former presidents, except in the case of Nixon. In the aftermath of the Watergate controversy, which led to Nixon's resignation, Congress seized those materials in 1974 and held them in the Washington, D.C., area. With the transfer of the private Nixon library to NARA in 2007, those records are being moved to the NARA-operated Nixon facility in Yorba Linda, California.

This plan for the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton libraries represents a significant staff commitment to meeting our goals of getting more information about these administrations out to the public to and provide a framework for efficient operation of the George W. Bush Library when it opens.

We will continue to work on improving our plans as we learn from our efforts what works and what doesn't. Our goal is to open as many presidential records as possible—in the shortest time possible—to the American public. ❖

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## SAA EDUCATION CALENDAR

### Sustainable Archives— Joint Annual Meeting Pre-Conference Workshops

@ HILTON AUSTIN

#### August 9 and August 10

- Understanding Archives: An Introduction to Principles and Practices
- Records Management for Archivists

#### August 10

- Meeting Patron Needs: User Centered Design & Usability Studies
- Research Skills Tutorial
- Understanding Digital Scanner and Camera Imaging Performance

#### August 11

- Achieving Email Account Preservation with XML  
Session One: 8:30 am–12:00 pm  
Session Two: 1:30 pm–5:00 pm
- Raising Private Monies to Support Archival Programs
- Visual Literacy for Photograph Collections

@ UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

#### August 10 and August 11

- Implement DACS in Integrated CMS: Using Archon
- Style Sheets for EAD: Delivering Your Finding Aids on the Webs
- Rare Books for Archivists

#### August 11

- Big E-Reference on a Little Budget

### Style Sheets for EAD—Delivering Your Finding Aids on the Web

May 14–15 • Ithaca, NY

### Association Archives: Managing Your Institutional Memory

May 15 • Minneapolis, MN

### Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)

May 15 • San Antonio, TX  
June 17 • Philadelphia, PA

### Encoded Archival Description

June 11–12 • Denver, CO

### Implement DACS in Integrated Content Management Systems: Using the Archivists Toolkit

June 18–19 • Philadelphia, PA

### Using Oral Histories:

### Publications, Exhibits, Internet

June 19 • University Park, PA

### The Essentials of Digital Repositories

June 19 • East Lansing, MI

### An Introduction to Archival Exhibitions

June 22 • University Park, PA

### Implementing “More Product, Less Process”

June 26 • Austin, TX

### Managing the Digital University Desktop

July 17 • East Lansing, MI

### Electronic Records “Summer Camp”

July 27–31 • Chapel Hill, NC

## CALENDAR

### June 3–5

The New York Archives Conference will host their 2009 Annual Conference at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York. Program includes workshops, a plenary speaker, conference sessions, Thursday evening reception, Friday luncheon, and tours. On-campus housing available and scholarships for attending the conference will be offered. More information is available at <http://www.nyarchivists.org/>.

### June 4–5

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts will present a two-day program in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Managing and Preserving Archival Collections. The program is an overview of archival best practices and is intended for anyone who works with archival collections. For more information and to register online, go to [www.ccaha.org](http://www.ccaha.org), or call 215-545-0613.

### July 15–18

The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) will hold its Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. Conference theme is “Meeting the Information Challenge.” For more information, go to: <http://www.nagara.org/>.

### July 29–30

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts will present “A Race Against Time: Preserving our Audiovisual Media” in Denver, Colorado. The program is for curators, collection managers, librarians, archivists, and others involved in managing machine-based media collections in cultural institutions. Fee for the two-day program is \$200; a second seminar will be held in Atlanta in October. To register online or for more information, go to [www.ccaha.org](http://www.ccaha.org), call 215-545-0613.

### September 8–11

The International Council on Archives’ “Section on University and Research Institution Archives” will hold its conference and fourth meeting on scientific archives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Theme is “Nature of University and Research Institution Archives: An International Perspective.” For more information, see <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/archives/SUV2009/welcome-eng.htm>.

### September 20–25

The International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives will hold its 40th Annual Conference in Athens, Greece. The theme of the 2009 conference is “Towards a new kind of Archive? The Digital Philosophy in Audiovisual Archives.” It will be hosted by the Hellenic National Audiovisual Archive. For more information, go to: <http://www.iasa2009.com/>. Find information on IASA travel grants at: [http://www.iasa-web.org/travel\\_grant.asp](http://www.iasa-web.org/travel_grant.asp).

For more information, visit [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org) and click on Education & Events. Questions? Contact us at [education@archivists.org](mailto:education@archivists.org) or 312-606-0722.

**October 19–22**

The Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums 2009 National Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon. Theme is "Streams of Language, Memory and Lifeways." For more information, visit [www.tribalconference.org](http://www.tribalconference.org).

**FUNDING****Save America's Treasures**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is seeking applicants for the Save America's Treasures 2009 grant program. These grants support the preservation and conservation of nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts such as collections, documents, sculpture, art, and historic structures and sites. In 2009, grant amounts range from \$25,000 to \$700,000 for collections. All awards must be matched 1:1. For more details and instructions, go to: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/>.

**American Institute of Physics**

The Center for the History of Physics and the Niels Bohr Library and Archives at the American Institute of Physics announces the 2009 "Grants to Archives." The grants are available for physics, astronomy, and geophysics

collections. The grants are intended to make accessible records, papers, and other primary sources that document the history of modern physics and allied fields (such as astronomy, geophysics, and optics). Grants may be up to \$10,000 each and can be used to cover direct expenses connected with preserving, inventorying, arranging, describing, or cataloging appropriate collections. Expenses can include staff salaries and benefits and archival storage materials but not overhead or equipment. **Application deadline is August 14, 2009.** The center's mission is to help preserve and make known the history of modern physics, astronomy, and allied sciences, and the grant program is intended to help support significant work to make original sources in these fields accessible to researchers. Preference will be given to medium-size or larger projects for which the grant will be matched by the parent organization or other funding sources. For grant guidelines see <http://www.aip.org/history/grntgde.htm> or call (301) 209-3165. Inquiries are welcome, and sample proposals are available.

**National Endowment for the Humanities**

National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grants of up to \$6,000 are available to support the preservation of materials in smaller libraries, archives, museums, and

historical societies. The **deadline for application is May 14, 2009**, for projects beginning in January 2010. Note that no cost share or matching funds are required and that applicants to this program generally have a high success rate. NEH guidelines are available at: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>.

**CALL FOR PAPERS****Dorothy Day Letters Project**

For a forthcoming edition of Dorothy Day's selected letters, to be published by Marquette University Press, seeking copies of letters in other repositories or still in private hands. Please contact Phil Runkel at (414) 288-5903 or email [Phil.Runkel@marquette.edu](mailto:Phil.Runkel@marquette.edu).

**8th European Conference on Digital Archiving**

The International Council on Archives' (ICA) European Regional Branch and the Section on Professional Associations, together with the Swiss Federal Archives, invite proposals for presentations at the 8th European Conference on Digital Archiving. The conference will be held April 28-30, 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. Find information on topics, procedures, and deadlines at: [www.bar.admin.ch/eca2010](http://www.bar.admin.ch/eca2010).

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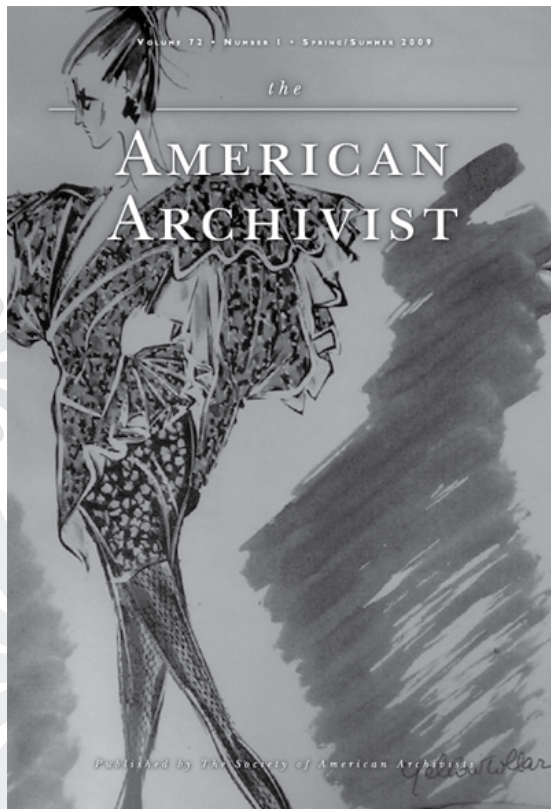
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Editor Mary Jo Pugh has put together an ensemble of articles in the Spring/Summer 2009 issue that will put you on trend in the preservation of mixed-format collections, embracing Web 2.0, cell-phone-generated records, archivists' values and value in the postmodern age, evidence and inference in archival arrangement and description, and a review essay on secrecy in the archives. Find it online at <http://archivists.metapress.com/home/main.mpx> and in your mailbox soon.