Instrumental Endeavors

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• High School Students in the Archives (pg. 7)
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Instrumental Endeavors...When Lino Bianchi researched and published his “definitive” study of Alessandro Scarlatti in the 1950s, he had no idea that the first version of Scarlatti’s masterpiece *La Giuditta* from 1693 was sitting in a vault at the Morristown National Historical Park in New Jersey. See page 7 to read about Morristown’s collection and how the archives is engaging high school students. Photograph by Morristown NHP volunteer Steve Newfield.
SAA@75: Looking Forward

As announced in the last issue of Archival Outlook, the theme for SAA’s 75th anniversary year is “Then, Now . . . WOW!” This is a great opportunity for SAA members, and the profession at large, to look back, reflect, and see from where we came and the path we have taken to arrive at the present moment. The theme for next year’s SAA conference in Chicago is “Archives 360°.” It focuses on looking back but also looking forward, looking in and looking out. We hope the sessions provide a rich tapestry that reflects the archives profession’s past, present, and future.

I know there are several historians within the SAA ranks, so I rest assured that the historical aspect of the upcoming year and celebration in Chicago are well in hand. This frees me to focus attention on looking forward and outward beyond the archives profession. In this column and elsewhere I will challenge us to go beyond our technological and disciplinary comfort zones. I will ask us to read and consider others’ literature and see our very important role within the wider information professions. I will ask us to extend our thinking about workplace context and ask what SAA can do for its members to enhance and ensure the archivist’s professional relevance in the upcoming decades. All of this requires a firm knowledge of the past and our professional values, an open mind to the future, and a realistic and strategic view of the “now.”

Managing and preserving digital resources are essential to society and are key challenges for the archives community as we enter the second decade of the 21st century. How archivists respond to the digital reality and pressing need for trustworthy digital repositories now will shape the impact and influence of the profession for decades to come. In their American Archivist article, “Practices for College and University Electronic Records Management (ERM) Programs: Then and Now,” NHPRC-UNC Electronic Records Research Fellows Lisl Zach and Marcia Peri discuss how they surveyed archivists and records managers at U.S. academic institutions in 2005 and found that almost no colleges or universities had electronic records programs.” They go on to state that in 2010, they found relatively little change in the development of ERM programs over the past four years and noted that many repositories have not even started to collect digital content, even though all the content they might collect is being produced digitally.

In 2006, SAA President Richard Pearce-Moses led an initiative, “New Skills for a Digital Era: A Colloquium sponsored by the National Archives and Records Administration, the Society of American Archivists, and the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.” Visit www.archivists.org/sites/all/files/NewSkillsForADigitalEra.pdf. It explored the new technology skills needed by the archives profession. That was five years ago and technology has been on the SAA radar screen ever since, but Zach and Peri would indicate that perhaps not much has changed in the intervening years.

Technology is one of the three SAA Strategic Priorities, along with increasing diversity and expanding outreach and advocacy for the profession. The challenge I am looking to explore and address this year as SAA president is how we get from knowing that effectively archiving digital content is important to making this a reality for a wide spectrum of archivists in their everyday work life.

Who should know more about digital preservation than archivists? Archivists are THE professionals who preserve paper-based records for the long term. We need to become THE professionals who preserve digital content as well.

Going forward successfully always requires proper preparation and education—both graduate-level and continuing education. To this end, SAA’s “Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies” is being revised to address the challenges of the next decade for those students whose careers will extend to the year 2050. Also, the SAA Council has created the Digital Archives Continuing Education Task Force of the Committee on Education, which will outline a continuing education curriculum for digital archiving.

In the year ahead we will look back and look forward, and I hope that we will also look inward and outward for solutions to our challenges.
It is my pleasure once again to provide you with the Executive Director’s report—this time for Fiscal Year 2010.

Strategic Priorities: With member input, the SAA Council took a fresh look at the strategic plan in the past year and devised some new goals to pursue the priorities of technology, diversity, and public awareness and advocacy. The plan describes each priority as an issue with which SAA must engage on behalf of its members and the profession. For technology, the issue is rapid change that requires improved archival methods and better communications. For diversity, the especially complicated issue is one of increasing diversity within the profession, of diversifying the users of archives, and of building a more complete documentary record. And for advocacy and public awareness, the issue involves increasing archives’ and archivists’ influence so that you gain the support you need as professionals and as repositories to improve your work.

This new strategic plan aims high—as a good strategic plan should....

Membership: As a result of the economic recession, SAA’s membership declined between April and October 2009. But it rebounded in the second, third, and fourth quarters of FY 2010. I’m happy to report that, as of June 30, we stood at a new all-time high of 5,691 members! (And as of the end of July, we have 5,760 members!) As expected, we saw a dramatic increase in the number of members taking advantage of the one-time “bridge” rate—and we hope that the special rate is helpful to those who are experiencing financial hardship.

That all-time-high number includes 1,296 students, which bodes well for the organization—provided that we can retain these individuals as active members, which in turn means that we need to make sure they are employed as archivists!

Annual Meeting: Although we’re in the midst of DC 2010, let’s recall that we were deep in the heart of Texas when we started our new year. The Austin meeting, which featured an outstanding program, exceeded our expectations for attendance with 1,452 paid registrants.

As for this joint meeting, despite the sour economy, we’re gratified that 1,909 attendees took the time and made the effort to invest in their professional development at this meeting—and that 74 industry partners contributed to the success of the conference with their exhibits and sponsorships.

Internal Operations: In April, we launched a new open-source content management system called Drupal as part of our ongoing effort to enhance online communications. Drupal enables us to improve the look and functionality of the SAA website and provide new content-editing tools to component group leaders. Although technical challenges remain and we have some rather significant distance to go in transitioning content from the old system to the new one, Drupal is and will be a cornerstone in realizing such strategic goals as enhancing public awareness and advocacy, as well as advancing the Society’s e-publishing initiatives.

American Archivist: Journal Editor Mary Jo Pugh and her editorial board published two issues of the American Archivist in FY 10. All back issues of the journal have now been digitized! Issues from 1951 to date are available on the MetaPress site and the final 13 volumes—from 1938 through 1950—will be posted online in the fall. SAA is grateful to the Delmas Foundation for its support of our digitization project.

We learned recently from MetaPress that between April 2008 (when American Archivist Online was launched) and June 2010, journal article PDFs were opened and viewed nearly 300,000 times. Viewership has grown significantly across time and no doubt will continue with the availability of the entire run online. Also, JSTOR, an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to making a wide range of intellectual content available in a trusted digital archives, added the entire run of AA to its collections in March.

Book Publishing: It was another busy year for publishing, both in print and—increasingly—electronically. Rand Jimerson’s Archives Power and Tom Wilsted and Michele Pacifico’s Archival Facilities debuted at Austin 2009. In February we began sale of Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler’s 2nd edition of Preserving Archives and Manuscripts, an immediate bestseller. SAA’s publishing program has been robust for our relatively small size, and we’ve come to rely on book sales as an important source of non-dues income. Despite the new Preservation book, publishing revenues came in at a bit more than 20% under budget. Early in the year
The Ethical Archivist
Elena S. Danielson
Illustrates how daily decisions made by archivists connect to larger issues of social responsibility and the need to construct a balanced and accurate historic record.
440 pp., Soft cover / Product Code: BOOKSAA-0570
List $49 / SAA member price $35

How to Keep Union Records
Edited by Michael Nash
Addresses building relationships with the unions, developing collecting policies that support current labor history scholarship, adapting appraisal theory to the unique challenges of labor union archives, and arranging and describing collections.
236 pp., Soft cover / Product Code: BOOKSAA-0571
List $49 / SAA member price $35

To order: www.archivists.org/catalog
The Value of Public Archives
How Vermont State Archives Leverages Current Events

GREGORY SANFORD, Vermont State Archives and Records Administration

The value of public archives is to provide government and citizens contexts for discussing and acting on today’s vital issues.

The debates over civil unions and gay marriage during 1999–2000 offered opportunities for refining our continuing issues approach. The public debates raised a host of procedural issues. What gave the Vermont Supreme Court the authority to declare our marriage laws unconstitutional? Could we impeach the justices? Shouldn’t the people have a right to vote directly on civil unions through a referendum? Can the governor veto legislation that resulted from a court decision?

To reach the broadest possible audience we created an online “continuing issues” section and populated it with such topics as judicial review, impeachment, referenda, and the veto. The majority of elected officials, reporters, and the public did not have the time, training, or inclination to review either finding aids or reams of records, even if online.

Therefore, we presented an overview of each topic; a summary analysis of trends; and then, for those interested, links to the records. The veto section, for example, highlighted the constitutional basis of the veto; an analysis on how the veto was used over time; and a link to each veto message and whether it was sustained or overridden.

Archives as Public Dialogue

One nice thing about “continuing issues” is that they continue. In an examination of veto trends, we traced veto’s evolution. It has only been in the last 40 years that veto became a policy enforcement tool for Vermont governors. As a consequence, it is more frequently used. Fifty-two of the 137 vetoes enumerated were issued since 1980. Indeed, there have been 19 vetoes since 2000, when we first posted the veto section.

When Governor Jim Douglas vetoed the 2009 budget, politicians, reporters, and commentators repeatedly noted that this was the first time a budget was vetoed and that only six vetoes had ever been overridden. Archival records and information had become part of our public dialogue.

An item to reiterate about “continuing issues” is it’s designed to support—or at least provide context to—government decision making. It is not part of the overwhelming flow of undifferentiated data that we associate with our so-called information age. It is planned to be a tool that can support a legislator’s need to act; a reporter’s need for context against a deadline; or a citizen’s need to know.

“Continuing issues” is actually a suite of efforts. To cite just one, we created an online, searchable presentation of all gubernatorial inaugural and farewell addresses. Inaugurals are very formulaic, and governors always address the economy,

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High Schoolers Meet Archives
Primary Sources Fascinate Morristown, N.J., Youth

JENNY SCHOOLEY, SAA

Getting teenagers to talk about inks, bindings, and wax seals is—surprisingly—not an uncommon sight in New Jersey, where high school students are absorbed in Morristown National Historical Park’s Lloyd W. Smith Archival Collection. Thanks to some forward thinking by Sarah Minegar (archives technician/museum educator, Morristown NHP) and Jude Pfister (chief of cultural resources, Morristown NHP), an educational initiative called Primary Source Seminar has become one way to open the door to a new wave of archives users and prospective archivists.

The program was engineered by Minegar and Pfister, who collaborated on a plan for teaching young learners about archives. Starting from the ground up, much thought went into the seminar’s design.

“Our main objective is to bring historical documents out of archival storage and into the hands of young learners so that they may practice observation and analysis and gain research experience,” says Minegar.

Primary Source Seminar kicked off in the spring of 2009. High school teacher Laurie Johnson was hired to develop lesson plans for Primary Source Seminar and other archives education projects. With the seminar up and running, Pfister (JP) and Minegar (SM) share the details.

How does the Primary Source Seminar engage students?
JP: Young students rarely, if ever, get an opportunity to be exposed in any capacity to archival manuscripts, partly because of the inherent fragility of manuscripts, the cost of transporting students, the time involved, and perhaps pervasive myths about archivists and their profession. What we’ve tried to do is create an environment that neutralizes the problems encountered by schools in bringing students face to face with archival manuscripts.

We provide an intense arrangement in which students become immersed in the archival setting and literally get a complete sensory experience through their visit. While the primary purpose is to teach about researching with manuscript resources, we also want to dispel any myths about the archival world and career.

What steps were undertaken to establish the Primary Source Seminar?
SM: I consulted area teachers; researched New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards; pondered the soon-to-be program’s format; finalized the unit, lesson, and activity plans; registered the program as a Professional Development Provider; contacted publishing companies about the use of their published works; put together teacher mailing lists; created teacher evaluation forms; developed a teacher workshop program, materials, and agenda; drafted letters to teachers; and created an information packet and interactive blog—among other preparatory tasks.

What types of archives collections are used in the seminar?
SM: The Lloyd W. Smith Collection, which includes approximately 15,000 printed works and nearly 300,000 manuscripts, consists of documents spanning from the 15th through early-20th century. The original collector of these documents appears to have valued the continuity of history and had foresight into the significance of preserving cultural heritage, as the documents in this collection are many and diverse. We have discovered everything from George Washington to Booker T. Washington, Darwin, and Emerson, among others. Lloyd Smith’s Collection is an amalgam of founding fathers, U.S. and world leaders, authors and poets, scholars and thinkers, social activists, celebrities, and laymen.
What is a typical seminar discussion topic?

JP: I talk about the history or paper—where does it come from, why was it used, why do we use it today. What can different paper types tell us about the people who used it; what type of people used paper anyway? The line of questioning holds true for inks and seals. I try to get more out of paper than just paper—I’m looking for the cultural significance, economic aspects, and the overall societal ramifications of paper and ink.

What is a typical day for a student participant?

SM: Students break into groups of six or seven and rotate through a series of activities that include working firsthand with authentic, unedited 18th- and 19th-century manuscripts from our collection; getting a hands-on talk about historical paper, inks, bindings, and wax seals; completing gallery activities; and completing document analysis activities. The natural favorite is the time that students spend working with actual documents. This rare experience really brings history to life for students and teachers.

What is Archival Ambassadors and its goal?

SM: Laurie Johnson and I are designing a program that, once implemented, will be reproducible each summer. Though the initiative is still under development, we plan to involve various levels of students to create a layered stewardship opportunity. Our main objective is to bring historical documents out of archival storage and into the hands of young learners so that they may practice observation and analysis and gain research experience.

Our vision includes an intensive internship program for graduate students (MA, PhD, MAT) to conduct research and create Traveling Archives boxes (traveling unit plans featuring our collections) and spend one week training high school students (Archival Ambassadors). During their tenure, Archival Ambassadors will participate in various activities on the subjects of preservation, research, and document analysis. Ambassadors will culminate their training with a hands-on day, open to the public, during which ambassadors share with young students (elementary and middle school) and other members of the community what they have learned during their training.

What are your plans for the Traveling Archives series?

SM: Traveling Archives is a community collaboration project aimed at bringing the archives to the students. We are currently developing archival lesson plans containing precision color scans of documents from our collection. We hope to expand this component to include grades four to 10 and American and European history topics. One of my current interns, Karyn Pereny from Rowan University, is developing a 4th and 5th grade box. She is selecting documents from our collection and creating short lessons and activities to accompany them. When it is complete, this box will be available for elementary teachers to check out and bring into their classrooms.

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Archives Bring Forgotten Story to Life Through Film

BREnda S. GUnn, RAMOna KELley, and ALiSoN BECK (Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin)

Barbara Smith Conrad’s life was shaped by a virtually unknown racist incident in 1957. The new documentary film, When I Rise, tells the story of Barbara and her small but significant role in the civil rights movement, which ultimately led to a powerful conclusion in the House Chamber of the Texas Legislature.

Although the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin serves as a repository for history, it also brings history to life—Barbara’s in this case. The film draws on the Briscoe Center’s archives, as well as the American Spirituals Initiative, News Media History, and the Civil Rights and Social Justice Collection.

Barbara’s Beginning

When I Rise recounts Barbara’s journey, particularly a career that led her from small-town Texas to a position of prominence on the international opera stage. Barbara entered the University of Texas at Austin (UT) in the fall of 1956 as part of the university’s first racially integrated undergraduate class. Although she was raised during the height of the Jim Crow era, Barbara was nurtured in what historians refer to as a “safe haven” community.

In Center Point, Texas, the way of life focused on education, church, community, and music. Limitations imposed by the “white world” were held at bay by the close-knit population. Barbara’s parents were highly educated leaders in the community’s school system, at the core of which was an all-black boarding school that attracted students from across the United States. Her extended family, including her church, taught Barbara the importance of education and culture, and within this environment, Barbara developed a sense of spirit and self.

We had researchers scouring film archives around the country looking for footage that we could use in the film.

Barbara entered UT’s School of Music in the College of Fine Arts. Even at the age of 19, her vocal prowess was undeniable. Professors were smitten with her talent, and they encouraged her to audition for that year’s opera, Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas. Barbara won the leading role of Dido, Queen of Carthage, opposite a white male student as Aeneas, her lover. Word quickly spread that a black female and a white male were to play the lead roles in a romantic opera.

Clamor in the Town

First came the anonymous late-night phone calls, then the jeering from small groups of white students, and a “roughing up” by three men. Texas Representative Joe Chapman, outraged over the casting of Barbara, lodged a complaint to University President Logan Wilson, who initiated closed-door discussions with the Dean of Fine Arts William Doty. Mere days before the opera opened in May 1957, university officials succumbed to pressure from a small group of radical segregationists. Barbara was removed from the cast, and a white student assumed the role of Dido.

A flood of media coverage ensued, beginning with the campus newspaper, the Daily Texan, and quickly escalating to the Houston Post, the San Francisco Chronicle, the New York Times, and Time magazine.

Amid the national attention, Barbara refused to discuss the incident in depth. “The ultimate success of integration at the university,” she said with dignity, “is much more important than my appearance in the opera.” This was Barbara’s only quote about the incident; university officials kept quiet.

Laboring On

Despite the pain and humiliation of the racial discrimination waged against her, Barbara stood fast and continued her studies. In 1959, she graduated from UT with a degree in music and moved to New York City to begin a music career. She became a world-class mezzo-soprano, and performed with the New York Metropolitan Opera, the Vienna State Opera,
the Houston Grand Opera, Venezuela’s Teatro Nacional, and countless other opera companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, and South America.

**Behind the Film**

In 2005, the Briscoe Center hosted Barbara’s performance on campus to promote awareness of the American Spirituals Endowment. During Barbara’s visit, Center Executive Director Don Carleton and Associate Director Alison Beck learned more about her experiences at UT in the 1950s and her subsequent opera career. Ideas churned and they began discussing with Barbara the idea of producing a documentary about her life.

In 2006, the Briscoe Center initiated an oral history project with Barbara to record her story for archival purposes. Six hours of on-camera interviews with Barbara soon became the foundation of the film’s storyline.

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**The following year, when Barbara journeyed from her current home in New York City back to Center Point, Texas, for a homecoming celebration at Center Point Baptist Church, the Briscoe Center coordinated a film shoot in East Texas to capture interviews with Barbara and a number of her relatives and to shadow her during her pilgrimage to the Center Point cemetery and church homecoming.**

Later that year, additional footage captured her in her daily life in New York City and interviewed individuals in New York who were involved in Barbara’s story.

In early 2009, when UT’s Butler School of Music brought Barbara back to campus to teach master classes and perform during its Black History Month celebrations, footage was also secured. Planning was underway in the Texas House of Representatives and Senate to recognize Barbara at the State Capitol on February 5, with a joint resolution passed in her honor. The team seized these unique opportunities to film. In April 2009, another

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filming prospect arose when Barbara returned to campus for the 50th reunion of her graduating class. In the fall of 2009, the team conducted its final interview with Barbara in her New York apartment.

**Building a Collection**

As a result of filming, Barbara began transferring documents and photographs from her personal holdings to the Briscoe Center—creating the Barbara Conrad Papers. She initially donated four linear feet, and continues to add to the collection. Bess Pruitt, who managed Barbara’s early career, donated 10 linear feet of photographs, programs, contracts, and recordings documenting her talent.

Resources of this collection featured in the film include original B-roll footage shot in East Texas, New York City, and Austin, as well as first-person interviews with not just Barbara, but members of her family; fellow students during her years at UT; individuals such as Harry Belafonte, who became her mentor in New York City; her opera students; a Texas legislator; and a variety of scholars and subject-matter experts. The film incorporates period documents and photographs, licensed and public domain archival footage, and licensed and original music. Invaluable to establishing the Barbara Conrad Papers are the University of Texas Archives, the American Spirituals Initiative, News Media History, Civil Rights and Social Justice Collections, and the Briscoe Center’s archives.

**Giving Voice to the Past**

*When I Rise* premiered at the 2010 South by Southwest Film Festival, and screened at the Dallas International Film Festival, the Hot Docs International Film Festival in Toronto, and the Indianapolis International Film Festival. The film is also an official selection of the New York City International Film Festival.

While activists, such as Rosa Parks, made history during the Civil Rights era, lesser-known pioneers, such as Barbara Smith Conrad, also faced struggles for equality. *When I Rise* introduces Barbara and her story to the world. The archives provided evidence of the search for the transformational power of hope, forgiveness, and healing.

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Reviving a Dormant Collection
ADAM WINGER, Special Collections Williams Library, Stevens Institute of Technology

Every day is a treasure hunt at the Stevens Institute of Technology’s Special Collections Williams Library in Hoboken, New Jersey. As digital initiatives librarian and head of special collections, I have become much like a sleuth. Before joining the library in April 2010, the archives never had full-time staff—which contributed to my discovery of dormant collection materials. In a setting in which librarians have long worked under several titles, the special collections have waited patiently for attention.

Take the De Divina Proportione by Luca Paciolo. Published in 1509, it is a mathematical examination of the Golden Ratio written by Luca Paciolo and illustrated in woodcut by Leonardo da Vinci! The influence of the book spread outside of mathematical circles largely because of Da Vinci’s beautiful illustrations. In fact, the “M” logo for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City is taken from this book.

Adam Winger (head of special collections) and Stephanie Wilson (archivist) process the De Divina Proportione; a Japanese sword, which is part of a full samurai armor that belonged to Japanese Feudal Lord Asakara from 1504; Frederick W. Taylor’s golf clubs; New Jersey Continental currency; and the indenture agreement for the first John Stevens (1699).

When Williams Library Director Ourida Oubraham converted the former position of assistant library director to digital initiatives librarian and head of special collections, she took a risk and made a bold move. The position is everything an archivist could desire. The collections relate to significant participants in the American Revolution, Leonardo Da Vinci, and technological advances in railroads and ship construction.

Challenges
As I began working in my new position last spring, I encountered a few obstacles. First and foremost, these collections did not have finding aids or access points for archivists or researchers. I did not know what the collections contained because they were dependent upon the institutional memory of curators long retired from the profession. The second and perhaps more pressing concern was the lack of adequate preservation measures.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard has been an invaluable tool in creating public access points to the collections through standardized finding aids.

Continental currency for New Jersey: Only 182 eight dollar notes were printed and the Williams Library found around 100 of them in a small box tucked away in the archives. Among the currency were notes from March 1776, signed by John Stevens, treasurer for New Jersey.
For example, a stash of Continental currency was placed in shoeboxes, just like a kid’s baseball card collection. At least 300 bills, some of which bore the signature of John Stevens, were haphazardly boxed.

The original indentured service agreement for the first Stevens in America sat forgotten on the bottom shelf of a storage closet next to a cannon ball desk weight and linens from the Castle Stevens. The original plans for the Civil War ironclad warship, the U.S.S. Monitor, were housed in an oversized cabinet with random photographs placed on top. No one had glimpsed the *De Divina Proportione* (1509) in more than five years.

**Taking Action**

Finding items and researching their historical significance is exhilarating—but also daunting. Many of the items had not received basic preservation treatment, such as removing century-old paper clips or using acid-free folders and boxes. To begin, I hired five students to assist with processing. Materials not examined since their donation received basic preservation consideration for their longevity. We processed several collections and discovered more gems embedded deep within decrepit boxes, such as patents, correspondence, and photographs which were housed together without any discernible arrangement.

The next step was to provide basic access points by organizing the materials according to the collection. Sticky notes marked the provenance and offered ideas of what closets and boxes contained. No finding aids existed based upon *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* or any other principle. The familiarity with the collection relied on the experience of the staff.

Currently, research requests take up to six weeks for a response because other priorities have trumped access to the collections. The practice will change, but it requires significant leg work before accessibility is ideal.

The current public access points are very limited and, coupled with limited physical access to the collections, render the special collections as a fortress for researchers. The degree to which the archive is helpful depends in large measure upon the content knowledge of the person processing the request. Too many patrons have been turned away simply because staff did not know the contents of the archive.

**Down the Road**

The special collections continue to face many challenges. Every aspect of a well-designed and well-managed archive must be implemented—from preservation to cataloging to Encoded Archival Description. The diversity of collection materials, limited resources, and limited staff available are just some of the obstacles moving forward. Yet these obstacles are opportunities to implement archival strategies from phase one through completion. What could be more enjoyable for an archivist?

![The De Divina Proportione by Luca Paciolo from 1509.](image)

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More than 2,000 attendees ventured to America’s capital for ARCHIVES*RECORDS/DC 2010: The Joint Annual Meeting of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA), National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA), and SAA, August 10–15, at the Marriott Wardman Park.

Archivists and records managers were greeted by receptions at the National Archives and National Museum of American History, and an array of opportunities to learn, explore, collaborate, and celebrate the world of archives and records.

The week began with 11 diverse preconference workshops addressing topics such as architectural records, electronic records, advocacy, and basic imaging. They were followed by the fourth annual Research Forum and a full lineup of 65 education sessions focused on the latest archives and records management topics—from “Taking on the Big Issues in Government That Affect Us All” to “On the Case with the History Detectives,” “Security Challenges of the 21st Century,” “Real-World Digitizing for Humble Shops,” and many more.

On Saturday morning, C-SPAN arrived to tape “Perspectives on Cartoons: Art, Archival Objects, Assets,” presented by Michele R. Combs, Syracuse University; Susan Kline, Syracuse University; Jon Michaud, The New Yorker; and Martha H. Kennedy, the Library of Congress.

“DC 2010 was another wonderful learning and social experience,” said Donald Force, School of Library, Archives and Information Studies, University of British Columbia. “SAA continues to raise the bar with the variety of intriguing research papers, posters, plenary speakers, and opportunities to share and discuss ideas among friends and colleagues.”

Three plenary sessions, led by Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, news analyst and author Juan Williams, and SAA President Peter Gottlieb were highly attended.

U.S. Archivist Ferriero spoke on August 12 to the transformation of information: “We are faced with the challenge of not knowing the volume of electronic records in the federal government and not knowing the conditions in which they are stored… We are at risk of having a 20-year gap in our history because we failed to properly manage and preserve the electronic records that document that period.”

In his August 13 keynote, “Find Yourself in the Archives,” Williams spoke to the critical role that archivists play in forming the family story of America. In referencing this time of tremendous change—the roles of women, an African American president, immigration, generational divide, educational opportunities, class divisions—“we all need to understand the power of being an archivist in this moment,” Williams said.

In his Presidential Address on August 14, Gottlieb challenged attendees to consider how the profession must change the way it conducts business. His focus on unifying the archives profession called for the development of stronger working relationships with allied professions: “In the U.S. we have an amazing jigsaw puzzle of separate and independent archives associations at the national, regional, state and local level,” he said. “The challenge we
face today is not that we have many organizations, it’s that we have little or no connections among them, no framework to bring them together and to focus our resources and our efforts on our highest priorities. We also need a unified profession and a single national organization to defend archives and archivists.”

All three plenary addresses are available at http://vimeo.com/channels/127627.

Throughout the week, boards, committees, and sections and roundtables met to discuss their agendas, students displayed poster projects, job seekers sought advice in the Career Center, and attendees browsed and purchased the latest professional resources in the SAA Bookstore.

More than 75 exhibitors set up shop at the “Capital Idea! Technology Expo,” which attracted overflow crowds during the grand opening happy hour, brunch, and ice cream social. An Awards Ceremony honored the best and brightest in the field (see related stories on pages 19–21). Group tours at a host of area repositories and networking and social events, such as a Nationals/Diamondbacks baseball game, also brought members together.
Attendees walked away from DC 2010 with practical tips and innovative approaches to archives and records management challenges, as well as a shared experience with colleagues in a truly CAPITAL experience.

“The enthusiasm I saw from the presenters and participants at the 2010 conference was probably what I’ll remember best about this year,” said David Joens, director, Illinois State Archives. There was a real sense of purpose at DC 2010 and I expect that everyone who attended benefitted from it. I know I did.”

Plan now to attend ARCHIVES 360°, August 22–27, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago. As the 75th anniversary of SAA’s founding in 1936, the 2011 event will offer plenty of opportunities for celebration.

E. Brian Real and Jeffrey Eastman, of the University of Maryland take a break during sessions.

F. From left to right: Sonya Rooney, Washington University St. Louis; Jessica Bland, University of Maryland; and Audrey Newcomer, Archdiocese of St. Louis Archives, at the National Museum of American History reception.


H. Bergis Jules (University of Chicago), and Avril Belfon (National Archives of Trinidad & Tobago) took advantage of a repository tour during a night out.

I. Incoming SAA President Helen Tibbo, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, thanks outgoing President Peter Gottlieb, Wisconsin Historical Society.
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J. From left to right: Rebekah Kim, GLBT Historical Society, and Tamar Evangeliisia-Dougherty, University of Chicago, were two of the more than 2,000 conference-goers.

K. V. Chapman-Smith, recipient of the U.S. Archivist Award for Promoting Civic Understanding in a Diverse Society, presents a session on diversity in the archives profession on August 13.

L. From left to right: Dorothy Dougherty, National Archives and Records Administration; Mark Harvey, State Archives of Michigan; Danna Bell-Russel, the Library of Congress; and Julie Daniels, New York State Archives, present the session “Archivist or Educator? Meet Your Institution’s Goals by Being Both.”

M. From left to right: Jesse Lankford, North Carolina State Archives; Simo Spero, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Francesca Perez, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Jessica Mlotkowski, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and David Brook, North Carolina State Archives, gather for a photo opp.

Up-and-coming archivists displayed their fresh perspectives during DC 2010. Thirty-six graduate students exhibited posters that illustrated their research activities in archives and records management programs, as well as projects and activities of SAA Student Chapters. Students were on hand to discuss their posters with attendees.

A. Natasha Zwarich, McGill University, Montreal, presents “Effective E-mail Management at Two Canadian Government Agencies.”

B. Alexis Antracoli, University of Michigan, discusses her poster, “Podcasts in the Archives? Preserving Podcasting Content at the University of Michigan.”


D. Carla Alvarez and Christina Cieslewicz, University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate students, present “Making an Impact Through Blogging: UW-Madison’s Archives Month Blog 2009.”

E. Elizabeth Fox-Corbett, Wisconsin Historical Society, stands with her poster, “Scrapbooking the Cultural Memory of the American Civil War.”

F. Marti Verso (right), Simmons College, speaks with Marta Crilly, Simmons College (center), and an attendee about their poster “Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists at Simmons College.”

G. “Archiving the Obsolete,” presented by Christina M. Thompson, Simmons College (right).
Seven individuals are now among a list of 169 Fellows, the highest individual honor bestowed by SAA for outstanding contributions to the archives profession. Presented at the closing of the Awards Ceremony at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C., on August 13, the honor ended an evening of celebration.

DARIA D’ARIENZO, an archival consultant whose work focuses on local communities and small groups that have traditionally been underserved, has committed her career to bringing archives to public attention. As a mentor to younger archivists, she has also dedicated much of her professional energy to developing and supporting grass-roots archives for local communities.

As one nominator noted, “D’Arienzo has long been an ambassador for our profession, a mentor for young professionals, a leader in our community, and a valued colleague.”

She began her archival career at Yale University on a grant project to develop the university’s own archives and then moved to the University of Connecticut archives for a similar grant project. She left UConn for Amherst College, where she served more than 20 years as college archivist and later head of Archives and Special Collections.

For several years D’Arienzo helped organize and spoke at SAA sessions dealing with management issues, ranging from project management to staffing, using volunteers, empowering women managers, and accommodating people with physical impairments. Her concern for the “unsung heroes” of the profession led to the creation of SAA’s Spotlight Award, which honors individuals who contribute to the profession through “tireless committee or advocacy work, volunteerism, and/or quietly but effectively promoting the profession”—but whose work “would not typically receive public recognition”—an apt description of D’Arienzo herself.

Pennsylvania State Archivist DAVID HAURY’s career is marked by the breadth and significance of his contributions to his work and the archives profession. During 10 years at Bethel College in Kansas, he moved from his first position as assistant archivist to directorships of the college’s research library and the archives of the General Conference of the Mennonite Church. He followed with 15 years at the Kansas State Historical Society, first as assistant, then associate director.

Professionally, Haury has proven leadership not only in SAA but also CoSA and the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC). He is one of the few to serve on both the SAA and CoSA governing councils.

His experience as an editor includes several books, a large number of Mennonite periodicals, Archival Issues, and MAC Newsletter. Haury was involved in the SAA publications program for a decade, during a time in which the Archival Fundamentals Series was launched and the monographs catalog was expanded to include new areas of interest and titles from other publishers. One nominator noted that the result of “a larger and increasingly professionalized publishing program . . . meant so much for SAA’s success, both financially and intellectually.”

DIANE KAPLAN, head of public services in the Manuscripts and Archives Department at Yale University, has been an archivist for almost 40 years, with much time spent in Manuscripts and Archives in the Yale University Library. There, she has acquired extensive expertise in preservation microfilming, arrangement and description, and public services.

She is a master collaborator who has worked willingly with others to advance the professional discourse on topics from collection policies for faculty papers and minimal processing standards, to archival metrics and archives revenues, to issues of access versus privacy.
Kaplan developed the first online tutorial for using archives and manuscripts in the United States, and has played a leading part in diversifying the profession. Her impressive contributions to the profession also include serving for 10 years on SAA’s Membership Committee and being a founding member of the New England Archivists.

One supporter noted: “In addition to her pioneering work on many aspects of archives, Diane has served as a mentor to generations of archivists at Yale; to members of the New England Archivists . . . and to the archival community as a whole through her service on the SAA Membership Committee.”

LEON MILLER, head of the Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University, chaired the membership committee of the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA), where he tripled membership in two years. He went on to serve as SSA’s vice-president and president, and received its Distinguished Service Award in 1994.

Miller has shared his interest in archival membership, outreach, and mentoring with other organizations. During his term as Regent for Outreach for the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA), the number of people taking the certification exam increased by 200% in two years. He went on to become ACA president and received ACA’s Distinguished Service Award in 2004. In addition, he has chaired or served on more than a dozen SAA committees, including serving on SAA Council and chairing the SAA Membership Committee, where he created the SAA Mentoring Program. After more than 15 years, the SAA Mentoring Program is still helping to welcome newer archivists into the profession.

Miller’s résumé includes a list of exhibits and publications on historical and archival subjects. For nearly 20 years he has served as editor of various archival publications, including the Southwestern Archivist, ACA News, and Reach Out!

CHRISTOPHER J. PROM is an assistant university archivist and associate professor of library administration at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is also the co-director of the ARCHON™ project, which developed award-winning software for archivists and manuscript curators. The software automatically publishes archival descriptive information and digital archival objects in a user-friendly website. During the 2009-10 year, he was Fulbright Distinguished Scholar at the University of Dundee [Scotland], where he conducted the “Practical E-Records” project, seeking to develop cost-effective approaches to identifying, preserving, and providing access to born-digital records.

One of his nominators said: “Prom represents the best of the archives profession—he is a pragmatist practitioner who consistently looks above the trees of daily work to envision and shape the larger forest that gives our efforts meaning and purpose. He is a scholar who grounds his research in efforts to make archives work more efficient, more forward-looking, and more practical. He is an effective collaborator, both within the profession and in helping to bridge the gap between archivists and librarians.”

continued on page 39
Awards Ceremony Honors Excellence in Field

During the 2010 Awards Ceremony, held August 13 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., individuals were honored for their accomplishments, innovations, and over-the-top efforts made in the archives field. Seventeen awards recognized those selected by their peers for raising public awareness and advocacy; writing and publishing excellence; academic achievements; and exceptional contributions to the field. 2010 yielded the most submissions to date; a summary of recipients follows.

Outstanding Contributions to the Archives Profession

Distinguished Service Award

The AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER (AHC), UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes an archives institution, education program, nonprofit organization, or governmental organization that has given outstanding service to its public and has made an exemplary contribution to the archival profession. Director Mark A. Greene accepted the award on behalf of the Center.

Over the last two decades, the AHC has evolved into an exemplary archival institution that serves as an inspiration to the profession in many respects. The "More Product, Less Process" (MPLP) theory of archival processing, which the AHC co-developed, has amounted to nothing less than a revolution in practice, and has made a significant impact on the entire archives profession. In a similar vein, the AHC has contributed to the development of archival theory and practice by promoting reappraisal and deaccessioning as standard collection management tools.

Since 2003, AHC has adopted an accessioning process that ensures new collections do not disappear into an invisible backlog; launched a pilot project to apply MPLP theory to digitization efforts; and is currently experimenting with a new model for its acquisitions program.

Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award

SISTER JANE AUCOIN received the Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award, which honors an individual archivist who has made a significant contribution to the field of religious archives. Upon becoming the archivist for the Congregation of St. Joseph, Aucoin embraced professional membership and archival training and began employing principles of arrangement, description, access, and preservation to the congregation's collections.

“Sister Jane Aucoin has been a faithful sister of the Congregation of St. Joseph for 66 years, and she served as archivist for the Congregation from 1999 to 2009,” said one Awards Committee member. “She organized archives from the Congregation of St. Joseph from Minnesota, Ohio, and Louisiana into a single repository in New Orleans.”

Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, forced the evacuation of the sisters from the city of New Orleans due to widespread floodwaters, and the collection had to be moved. Preparing the collection required four weeks of 10-hour days in a difficult environment. Sister Jane persevered and succeeded in safely housing and moving the collection. In 2008, Hurricane Gustav brought a second challenge to their collection. This time water threatened from above due to roof damage. Sister Jane enlisted volunteers and collaborated with the Diocese of Baton Rouge Archives to temporarily relocate the most vulnerable items in the collection until repairs could be completed. Upon her retirement late in 2009, she again directed the movement of the collection to Wichita, Kansas, where the materials remain today.

Created in 1974, the award is funded by the Society of Southwest Archivists and honors Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P.

Spotlight Award

ANN RUSSELL took home the honor of the Spotlight Award, which recognizes the contributions of individuals who work for the good of the profession and archives collections—work that does not typically receive public recognition. Between 1978 and the present, Russell worked for archives, special collections, and historical societies nationwide in staff training; emergency planning and collections salvage work; digital project planning; digital conservation; advocacy and outreach to grant funders; as well as teaching, writing, and consulting.

One nominator noted her as "one of the moving forces and creative mothers of preservation in the United States. She has shown herself to be creative, collaborative, innovative, effective, flexible, and tireless in service of the archival profession and the records we hold."

As director of Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), Russell initiated the Center’s field service office and obtained ongoing grant funding to support staff positions. She launched internship programs that seeded at least 50 conservators into the profession at labs across the country.
Russell envisioned and raised funds for dPlan, an innovative online disaster planning tool used by cultural heritage repositories, particularly archives nationwide. In May 2009, after 30 years of service, Russell retired as executive director of NEDCC.

Council Exemplary Service Award

DAVID CARMICHEAL, director of the Georgia Archives, was a recipient of the Council Exemplary Service Award, which is given for outstanding service to SAA and the archival profession. Carmicheal was honored for his advocacy efforts, including: serving on the Joint Task Force on Preserving the American Historical Record (PAHR) since its inception in August 2006; collaborative advocacy efforts between and among SAA, CoSA, NAGARA, regional archives organizations, and affiliated organizations; development and support of PAHR legislation; and support of passage of PAHR in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.

Carmicheal is a Fellow of SAA and a past president of CoSA, and has led a disaster assessment team that reported on the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Mississippi coast.

KATHLEEN ROE, director of archives and records management operations at the New York State Archives, was awarded the Council Exemplary Service Award for her advocacy efforts, including: serving on the Joint Task Force on Preserving the American Historical Record (PAHR) since its inception in August 2006; collaborative advocacy efforts between and among SAA, CoSA, NAGARA, regional archives organizations, and affiliated organizations; development and support of PAHR legislation; and support of passage of PAHR in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.

Roe is a Fellow of SAA and has served on or chaired a number of SAA committees. She has been honored by the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College, for her contributions to documenting New York’s Latino communities, awarded three NEH-Mellon Fellowships for the Study of Archival Administration, and been a member of several national and international archives practices research projects.

U.S. SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY (D-VT) also received a Council Exemplary Service Award for his long-standing support for the Freedom of Information Act.

Advocacy/Public Awareness

J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award

The GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS FOUNDATION was awarded the J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award, which honors an individual, institution, or organization that promotes greater public awareness, appreciation, or support of archives. The Delmas Foundation was honored for its long-term support of and involvement in the archival profession’s work to address the challenges of managing, preserving, and providing access to archival records, and to fostering the development of the archival profession.

As one nominator noted, “The Foundation has had a true broad and long-term impact on the archival profession by 1) making it possible for a group of American archivists to meet with their Canadian counterparts to discuss the possible creation of a common North American descriptive standard; 2) funding the Primary History Project at the University of Glasgow and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to address the questions of how best to configure electronic access tools to support research; and 3) funding the 1999 Working Meeting of Graduate Archival Educators held at the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Studies.”

Established in 1989, the award is named for the noted American historian J. Franklin Jameson.

Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award

The GIZA ARCHIVES AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, received the Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award, which recognizes individuals or institutions that have increased public awareness of archives documents. The award was established in 1973 and is named for two SAA Fellows and former presidents.

The Giza Archives was honored for its outstanding efforts in promoting its vast holdings of early-20th-century archaeological expedition records. The Giza Archives and its accompanying website provided unprecedented access to the records of the Museum of Fine Arts archaeological expeditions of the early 1900s. The digitization of thousands of glass plate negatives, expedition diary pages, object records, maps, and manuscripts allows people from all over the world to virtually explore Giza and learn more about the history of archeology.

“The website’s creative display, visual search, and high-resolution zoom features effectively use today’s technology to provide insight into the ancient Egyptian civilization during the Pyramid Age,” wrote one nominator.

2011 Awards Competition, Scholarships, and Fellow Nominations

The submission deadline is February 28, 2011, except for the Theodore Calvin Pease Award (May 31, 2011).

Writing/Publishing Excellence

C.F.W. Coker Award

The NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER was awarded the C.F.W. Coker Award for its finding aid redesign project. The award recognizes finding aids, finding aid systems, innovative development in archival description, or descriptive tools that enable archivists to produce more effective finding aids. To merit consideration for the award, nominees must set national standards, represent a model for archives description, or otherwise have a substantial impact on national descriptive practice.

“With its robust search functionality including full-text searching, faceted browsing, and a virtual book-bag for saving collection information, the NCSU Libraries Special Collections finding aid redesign project sets a new benchmark for both the accessibility and usability of archival finding aids,” wrote one nominator. Using state-of-the-art web technologies, the Center builds on standard descriptive practices to place collections more directly in users’ pathways and research expectations.

Established in 1984, the award honors SAA Fellow C.F.W. Coker.

Waldo Gifford Leland Award

The Waldo Gifford Leland Award was presented to KAREN D. PAUL (United States Senate), GLENN R. GRAY (Federal Reserve Board), and L. REBECCA JOHNSON MELVIN (University of Delaware) for their editorship of the book An American Political Archives Reader. The award is given for writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the fields of archival history, theory, or practice.

This volume, published by Scarecrow Press in 2009, addresses very real and immediate needs within the American archival community. Editors Paul, Gray, and Melvin bring together recent scholarship pertaining to the unique challenges of documenting complex and voluminous congressional collections. The work covers a broad landscape while offering fresh perspectives in the areas of arrangement and description.

Archival and Special Collections Facilities: Guidelines for Archivists, Librarians, Architects, and Engineers, edited by MICHELE PACIFICO and THOMAS WILSTED, received the Preservation Publication Award, which recognizes the author(s) or editor(s) of an outstanding published work related to archives preservation.

Archival and Special Collections Facilities, published by SAA in 2009, is the product of the SAA Task Force on Archival Facilities Guidelines and the SAA Standards Committee. The book, which includes contributions from archivists, architects, conservators, and construction specialists, is intended as a working document toward development of a national standard for archival facilities, and serves as a resource for archival facilities design, construction, and renovation. The book covers topics such as the building site and construction, archival environments, fire protection, and security. Contributors include Patrick Alexander, Nick Artim, Ernest Conrad, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Scott Teixeira, and Diane Vogt-O’Connor.

The Preservation Publication Award was established in 1993.

Fellows’ Ernst Posner Award

The Fellows’ Ernst Posner Award was presented to SCOTT CLINE, city archivist at the Seattle Municipal Archives, for his article “To the Limit of Our Integrity”: Reflections on Archival Being in American Archivist (vol. 72, no. 2). Established in 1982, this award recognizes an outstanding essay dealing with some facet of archival administration, history, theory, and/
or methodology that was published during the preceding year in American Archivist.

The Awards Committee noted that this work was “innovative and thought-provoking, integrating a breadth of sources and personal experience into a coherent and eloquently written piece on what it means to be an archivist in the world today. The four values proposed for archivists to inform how they do their work in a moral and ethical manner (faith, radical self-understanding, intention, and integrity) is a provocative invitation to engage in self-examination.”

An Honorable Mention was awarded to JEFFREY MIFFLIN, Massachusetts General Hospital Archives, for his article, “‘Closing the Circle’: Native American Writings in Colonial New England, a Documentary Nexus between Acculturation and Cultural Preservation,” American Archivist [vol. 72, no. 2].

The Fellows’ Ernst Posner Award is named for Ernst Posner, an SAA Fellow, former president, and distinguished author.

THEODORE CALVIN PEASe AWARD

EMILY MONKS-LEESON, a student in the Archives and Records Management Path within the Master of Information Program at the University of Toronto, was named the winner of the Theodore Calvin Pease Award for her paper, “Archives on the Internet: Representing Contexts and Provenance from Repository to Website.”

Monks wrote the paper in a second-year course, “Archival Representation,” during the winter term of the 2009–10 academic year. Associate Professor Heather MacNeil nominated the paper, which provides an in-depth analysis of the representation of archives, but also to the way in which archivists conceptualize the key tenets of archival theory and practice.

The paper explores an important topic relevant to different types of repositories making their holdings available online. Professor MacNeil noted, “It is a worthwhile contribution to contemporary discussion surrounding the ‘archival turn’ in the humanities disciplines and the impact of that turn on archival theory and practice.”

Established in 1987, the award is named for Theodore Calvin Pease, the first editor of the American Archivist.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mosaic Scholarship

LANESHA DEBARDELABEN and SUSAN GEHR were each awarded the Mosaic Scholarship, which offers financial support to minority students who manifest a commitment both to the archives profession and to advancing diversity concerns within it. DeBardelaben and Gehr both received a $5,000 scholarship, a one-year membership in SAA, and complimentary registration to DC 2010.

DeBardelaben has a Master of Arts degree in History from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and is a student in the Master of Library Science Program in the School for Information Science at Indiana University-Bloomington. In her past work with the Missouri Historical Society’s Through the Eyes of a Child Project she taught students and teachers how to incorporate the program’s curriculum unit within the classroom to develop oral history projects. As project manager of the Teaching American History Grant for Flint (Michigan) Community Schools, she organized history summer institutes and speaking engagements for and about diverse ethnic communities.

“LaNesha’s goal is to further the work of documenting, archiving, and digitizing the records of African American women’s history,” said one Awards Committee member.

Gehr is earning a master’s degree in Library and Information Sciences at San Jose State University. As member of the Karuk Tribe (California), she acted as the Tribe’s tribal language program director where she co-published with linguist William Bright a dictionary of the Karuk language. After attending the Western Archives Institute, she prepared a preservation and use report for Humboldt State University’s Center for Indian Community Development as the Center planned its Native Languages Archive. Currently, she volunteers with Humboldt State’s Special Collections Unit, where she processes an anthropologist’s collection that includes field notes and recordings gathered in preparation for a book on Yurok Indian spirituality.

“Susan’s goal is to understand and address the comprehensive archival needs of tribes in the northwestern California region and to contribute to the field of archival studies for Native American/Alaska Native people,” noted one Awards Committee member.
F. Gerald Ham Scholarship

VENUS E. VAN NESS, a student in the combined MSIS/MA program at the State University of New York (SUNY), was awarded the F. Gerald Ham Scholarship, which offers $7,500 in financial support to a graduate student in his or her second year of archival studies at a U.S. university. Scholarship selection criteria include the applicant’s past performance in her or his graduate program in archival studies as well as faculty members’ assessment of the student’s prospects for contributing to the archives profession. Van Ness received a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University and a Juris Doctorate from Marquette University Law School before returning to graduate school at SUNY to pursue archives.

“Among a large number of deserving applicants, Ms. Van Ness distinguished herself by her outstanding writing and analytical skills in her paper ‘Legal Liabilities and Archives: Orphan Works and Copyright Issues,’” said one Awards Committee member.

The award was created in 1998 by SAA Fellow and Past President F. Gerald Ham and his wife Elsie.

Modern Archives Institute

SARAH L. PATTERSON of the Maryland State Archives received the Modern Archives Institute Scholarship to attend the Winter 2010 Modern Archives Institute of the National Archives and Records Administration. The two-week program provides an introduction to archives principles and techniques for individuals who work with personal papers and the records of public and private institutions and organizations.

The institute seeks to help archivists acquire basic knowledge about caring for archival materials and making them available.

Patterson received her Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University in 2008, before starting her professional career at the Maryland State Archives. As an appraisal and description archivist, Patterson largely works with colonial records.

“It is her love for history and the records that tell the story of the past that influenced her decision to make archives her profession,” said one committee member. “Sarah’s desire to become a more well-rounded professional prompted her to apply for the Modern Archives Institute Scholarship.”

Travel Awards

Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award

ELAINE GOH, a doctoral student at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia, took home the Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award, which enables overseas archivists who are already in the United States or Canada for training to build upon their experience by traveling to SAA’s Annual Meeting.

Goh earned her Master of Archival Studies degree at the University of British Columbia and her bachelor's degree in sociology at the National University of Singapore. Her research interests concern the impact of organizational culture on recordkeeping and the management of financial records. Her nominator described Goh as "a proactive colleague, always emphasizing the value of theory and its capacity to improve practice. She is a natural leader, both in a professional and in an academic sense."

Established in 1979, the award honors SAA Fellow and former President Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award

MIRANDA N. RIVERS and VIVIAN WONG were each awarded the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award, which recognizes minority graduate students of African, Asian, Latino, or Native American descent who, through scholastic achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of SAA.

Rivers earned a bachelor’s degree from Spelman College and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in history and library science in archive management at Simmons College. She was a Mellon Librarian Recruitment Fellow at the James B. Duke Memorial Library at Johnson C. Smith University in 2008, and received the Mellon Graduate Library School Scholarship in 2009.

“She is learning everything she can about the archives profession, and was an intern for Project SAVE: The Armenian Photo Archive Collection, and received an internship at the Fredrick Law Olmsted Archives National Park in Boston,” said one Scholarship Committee member.
Wong is currently pursuing a PhD at UCLA in Information Studies. She earned her bachelor’s degree in East Asian studies at Bryn Mawr College and a master’s degree from UCLA. Her interests include documenting, collecting, preserving, and disseminating historical and cultural records in Asian American communities and archives in the Asian Diaspora.

“She comes to the profession as a filmmaker, and when she created a film in 2005 about her grandmother from Malaysia titled, ‘Homecoming,’ it spurred her interest in documenting underrepresented communities,” said one Scholarship Committee member.

Established in 1993, the award honors the late Dr. Harold T. Pinkett, who served with distinction during his tenure at the National Archives and Records Administration.

In 2009, she founded the first SAA Student Chapter at New York University, and has served for two years as an intern at the American Philosophical Society, working as an archivist, researcher, and metadata consultant on a digital archive of Ojibwe Indian material. Duggan’s involvement in the “Protocols for Native American Archival Materials” particularly impressed the Peterson Award Subcommittee.

“As part of her master’s thesis, she developed a website featuring case studies for archivists, museum professionals, and tribal communities grappling with issues surrounding Native American archival materials,” said one Scholarship Committee member. “Despite her young age, she has already made a significant contribution to building bridges between archives and Native American communities.”

The Donald Peterson Student Scholarship was established in 2005, and honors the memory of New York lawyer and philatelist Donald Peterson.

Donald Peterson Student Scholarship Award

KEARA DUGGAN was awarded the Donald Peterson Student Scholarship, which recognizes a graduate student or recent graduate for exceptional leadership and the desire to become actively involved in the archives profession. Duggan, a recent graduate of New York University, completed her master’s degree in archives and public history in January 2010.

In 2009, she founded the first SAA Student Chapter at New York University, and has served for two years as an intern at the American Philosophical Society, working as an archivist, researcher, and metadata consultant on a digital archive of Ojibwe Indian material. Duggan’s involvement in the “Protocols for Native American Archival Materials” particularly impressed the Peterson Award Subcommittee.

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NO TRICKS!
Just send stories and ideas for our next issue of Archival Outlook!
Send ideas to Jenny Schooley, jschooley@archivists.org.
At its August 9 meeting held in conjunction with DC 2010, the SAA Council:

• Reviewed member feedback on the draft “SAA Statement on Diversity,” agreed to changes that help to explain its context vis-à-vis SAA’s strategic planning activities, and adopted the statement.
• Approved a Standards Committee recommendation to endorse “Best Practices for Working with Researchers/Archives Employees with Physical Disabilities,” pending revisions regarding specific ADA facilities requirements regarding clearances. The best practices documents were developed by the Archives Management/Records Management Roundtables’ Joint Working Group on Accessibility in Archives and Records Management.
• Discussed proposed revisions to the “Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies” and referred the revisions to the Committee on Education for feedback.
• Discussed the revised “Core Values of Archivists” document prepared by the task force to Develop a Statement of Core Values for Archivists, agreed to minor language changes suggested by legal counsel, and charged staff to circulate the statement for member feedback, with a comment deadline of October 15.
• Discussed voting methods for dues increases, constitutional matters, and other issues of broad interest to the membership, and charged a subgroup of the Council and staff to develop options and recommendations for amending SAA’s Constitution to enable all members to participate in major organizational decisions via electronic voting.
• Approved a proposed revision to the mission statement of the EAD Roundtable.
• Discussed the history of institutional membership in SAA in light of an apparent inconsistency in “primary contact” benefits and referred questions to the Membership Committee for further analysis and recommendation(s).
• Reviewed and approved a proposal for Strategic Plan monitoring by Council members.
• Reviewed officer, committee, and staff reports. SAA Treasurer Aimee Felker reported that SAA ended FY10 with a net loss of $17,502. Revenue fell short of budget by 4.23% and expenses were contained at 3.02% under budget.

At its August 14 meeting, the Council charged SAA Executive Director Nancy Beaumont to negotiate a contract renewal with MetaPress for continued hosting of American Archivist Online.

Minutes of the August 9 and 14 Council meetings will be posted on the SAA website no later than 60 days after the meetings. The SAA Council will meet again in Chicago in late January 2011 and late May 2011.

Members attending the August 14 Annual Membership Meeting held in conjunction with DC 2010 approved three motions brought forward by the SAA Council:

• A constitutional amendment that grants “foreign associate” members eligibility to be elected SAA Fellows.
• A constitutional amendment that changes the member “grace period” from 90 to 28 days.
• Implementation of a graduated dues increase, phased in over a three-year period beginning July 1, 2011. (For an explanation and analysis of the rationale, see SAA Treasurer Aimee Felker’s article, “Sustaining SAA: New Dues Proposed,” in the July/August issue of Archival Outlook, pages 16-17.)

For background on each of these issues, see www.archivists.org/news/2010.
The Fiscal Year 2012 budget request for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was one of our biggest challenges this summer. The National Archives and Records Administration—like all non-defense, non-security discretionary funded federal departments and agencies—was asked to make significant reductions to its request.

Our appropriation for the current fiscal year, which ended September 30, is $469.87 million. The president’s request for FY 2011, which began October 1, is $460.29 million—a 2% decrease. So far, action in Congress on FY 2011 requests is not encouraging, not just for NARA, but across the government.

The OMB instructed NARA to cut an additional $41.7 million in FY 2012 from the FY 2011 request—a 9.1% decrease. We were asked to identify five significant program terminations, reductions, and administrative savings to lessen agency costs. We also needed to submit an alternate plan that identifies an added $23.5 million in cuts, bringing the potential reduction to $65.2 million, or 14.2% from the FY 2011 requested level.

Highlighting reductions in our budget that total $41.7 million, let alone $65.2 million, is not easy. We must weigh the cost savings of reducing or eliminating a program or activity against the benefits of each program and activity as it relates to our core missions. Details of these cuts will be embargoed until the president sends his FY 2012 budget request to Congress next February.

We hope the OMB recognizes that such heavy budget cuts are detrimental to a small agency that is not program-heavy, but service-oriented. Nonetheless, we must comply with the guidance and propose serious reductions in agency activities.

For starters, I have directed all senior managers to look for ways to reduce spending in their respective areas. President Obama’s Open Government Initiative, which calls for more transparency, participation, and collaboration in government, as well as my own inclination in this situation, make it important to involve our staff. After all, the staff knows the agency at all operational levels at our 45 locations from Atlanta to Anchorage and Boston to California. Staff members will have to continue to perform our core missions under much tighter fiscal constraints.

Given this, we asked for their suggestions. A software application called IdeaScale enables staff to submit ideas for budget cuts while other staff comment on and vote for or against those ideas. At the end of this "budget brainstorming" exercise, we culminated 371 ideas and 921 comments from 794 users. All suggestions are under evaluation.

Although we don’t yet know which programs and activities at NARA will be reduced or eliminated, we do know that Congress is not waiting until it gets the president’s FY 2012 budget request to make cuts; cuts are already underway.

The Senate Appropriations Committee, in its version of our spending bill, already cut $13.5 million from the $85.5 million the president requested for the Electronic Records Archives for the coming fiscal year. Many of the appropriations subcommittees in both the House and Senate have less money to spread among the departments and agencies they fund, and thus they are not able to provide the level of funding the president requested.

The Obama Administration’s concerns and the equally strong concerns in Congress over the nation’s budget deficits at the federal level are similar to what has already occurred at the state and local government levels, where drastic cuts were made in many programs and services.

What NARA must do, however, is continue with our core mission: To preserve and make accessible the important records of our government that document the rights and entitlements of our citizens, hold our government officials accountable, and provide a complete record of our nation’s history.

NHPRC Reauthorization Bill Mark-Up

On July 30, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee’s scheduled markup of legislation (H.R. 5616), to reauthorize the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) at a $20 million level from fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2015, was postponed indefinitely.

Although no official reason was given as to why the bill was pulled from the agenda at the last minute, apparently republican members of the committee planned to offer amendments. These included cutting the authorization level for the NHPRC in the bill to $10 million and limiting eligibility and the scope of projects the NHPRC could fund.

For example, days before the hearing Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) introduced H.R. 5865, the “Stop Wasting Archive Grants Act of 2010.” The bill would prohibit the Archivist of the United States from making grants to preserve or publish non-federal records.

On July 1, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee’s Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and the National Archives cleared the bill by a vote of 6 to 1. The Senate already passed a bill (S. 2872) to reauthorize the NHPRC at a $10 million for fiscal years 2010-14.

Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Survey

In August, the Partnership for Public Service released its “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government” rankings. The rankings are based on the results of the 2010 Employee Viewpoint (FedView) Survey, which was administered to federal employees by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management earlier this year.

NARA tied for the lowest ranking (31st) with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the category of large federal agencies. NARA finished second to last in the 2009 survey. While NARA slipped one slot, its overall score improved from 56 in 2009 to 57.1 this year. The survey was distributed to more than 500,000 executive branch full-time permanent employees. It achieved a response rate of 52%, resulting in a final sample of more than 263,000 employees.

Agencies and subcomponents are ranked according to a Best Places to Work index score, which measures overall employee satisfaction. In addition to this employee satisfaction rating, agencies and subcomponents are scored in 10 workplace categories such as effective leadership, employee skills/mission match, pay, and work/life balance.

The Smithsonian Institution finished 4th among large federal agencies and the National Endowment for the Humanities ranked 6th out of 34 small federal agencies. To see an analysis of NARA’s ranking, visit http://bestplacetowork.org/BPTW/rankings/detail/NQ00.

Immigration “Alien Records”

For the first time, more than 300,000 case files on alien residents of the United States who were born in 1909 and prior to are now open to the public at the National Archives at Kansas City. These files, known as “Alien Files” (commonly referred to as “A-Files”), were transferred to the National Archives from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) and are only a small part of the millions of case files that will eventually be transferred and opened to the public.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the predecessor agency of USCIS, began issuing aliens Alien Registration numbers in 1940, and on April 1, 1944, began using this number to create the A-Files.

A-Files are eligible for transfer to the National Archives when 100 years have passed since the birth date of the subject of a file. The National Archives at Kansas City will maintain A-Files from all USCIS district offices except San Francisco, Honolulu, Reno, and Guam. These files will be housed at the National Archives at San Francisco because of the significant research use of related immigration files there. A-Files may be viewed in person by appointment at the National Archives at Kansas City or copies of files may be ordered for a fee.

NDC Issues Initial Status Report

The National Archives National Declassification Center (NDC) recently issued its first status report, covering the reporting period of January 1- June 30, 2010. During this time, nearly 8 million pages of material were processed and made available to the public.

The creation of the NDC is specified in the Executive Order 13526 on Classified National Security Information signed by President Obama on December 29, 2009. The NDC is charged with streamlining declassification processes, facilitating quality assurance measures, and implementing standard training for declassification reviewers. Of course, the major benchmark by which the NDC will be measured is the progress it makes in reducing the 400 million-plus pages of materials awaiting declassification.

The major benchmark by which the NDC will be measured is the progress it makes in reducing the 400 million-plus pages of materials awaiting declassification. EO 13526 requires the NDC eliminate the backlog by December 31, 2013.

To date, the NDC has made little progress in reducing the backlog. However, human and IT infrastructure, prioritization policies, business processes and personnel training procedures are still being developed and implemented. As a result, the NDC expects greater progress will be made over the next six months as these continue to come online.
Plan NOW to participate — reserve the dates!

Submit your proposal for a session or pre-conference workshop by October 1, 2010. See www.archivists.org/conference for details.
Taiga and CLIR/ DLF Join Forces

The Council on Library and Information Resources’ Digital Library Federation Program (CLIR/DLF) announced a new affiliation with the Taiga Forum, a community of associate university librarians and associate deans who meet to share ideas and strategies for developing organizational structures for research and academic libraries that are more flexible and explore the impact and potential of digital information. Visit http://taiga-forum.org.

ARMA Releases Salary and Compensation Survey Results

ARMA International published its 2010 Records and Information Management Salary and Compensation Report. More than 2,000 respondents from ARMA International’s North American membership participated. Results indicate pay (69%) and benefits (62%) are the two most important factors for job satisfaction, with professional challenge (50%) and financial stability of the company (47%) being the most frequently chosen attributes. The median salary base reported that men in the information and management field make an average of $72,000, while their female counterparts make $62,000.

Chicago History Museum Assesses Holdings

The Chicago History Museum received a $138,175 Basic Projects Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to survey the museum’s manuscripts holdings and begin processing priority collections to the series level. The project team completed the assessment and preliminary re-cataloging of 1,112 collections totaling 17,909 linear feet.

Visit Wright Brothers Online

The Wright Brothers Collection made its way to Wright State University in 1975 and today, the university’s special collection and archives consist of documents that showcase the development of flight, portions of the brother’s library, personal financial records, and papers of Wright family members. Photographs have been digitized and posted here, www.libraries.wright.edu/special/wright_brothers/photographs.

RIT Awarded Two Grants

The Image Permanence Institute at Rochester Institute of Technology received two grants totaling $648,405 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This three-year project investigates the best methods to ensure that library, archives, and museum collections are not harmed by short-term environmental fluctuations made to reduce energy costs.

IMLS Grants for Libraries and Museums

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) released guidelines for Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries and Museums, which provide one-year grants of $10,000 to $25,000 for innovative projects that respond to the challenges and opportunities facing cultural heritage institutions in a rapidly changing information environment. The submission deadline is November 15, 2010. For guidelines, visit www.imls.gov/apPLICants/grants/sparksIignition.shtm.

David B. Gracy II Student Scholarship Formed

The Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) created the David B. Gracy II Student Scholarship, which awards books and tuition to SSA student members in archives programs. The first $1,500 in donations received will be matched by a donation from Laura and David B. Gracy. Please make checks out to the Society of Southwest Archivists, and indicate the “Gracy Scholarship.” P.O. Box: 720960, Oklahoma City, OK, 73172. For more details, contact John Slate at john.slate@dallascityhall.com.

NEH Grants for Sustaining Cultural Heritage

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers two grants: 1) Planning grants of up to $40,000, that help institutions identify approaches for mitigating risks to collections; examine passive and low-energy alternatives to conventional energy-intensive systems for managing environmental conditions; and analyze existing climate control systems and energy efficiency. 2) Implementation grants of up to $400,000, that support managing interior relative humidity and temperature by passive methods; installing or re-commissioning heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems; installing storage systems and rehousing collections; improving security and the protection of collections from disasters; and upgrading lighting systems and controls to achieve energy efficient levels. The deadline is November 16, 2010. For guidelines, visit, www.neh.gov/apPLICants/grants/guidelines/SparksIgnition.shtm.

Read up on Social Media Usage


www.archivists.org
SU KIM CHUNG, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was honored with the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists Service Award, presented at the 2010 Western Round-Up Joint Conference in Seattle.

TERRY COOK, University of Manitoba, was elected a member of the Royal Society of Canada—the highest distinction one can receive as a scholar or scientist in Canada. Only a handful of archivists have been members of the prestigious Royal Society of Canada since it was established in 1882, and they were elected for their outstanding scholarship as historians. Cook is the first to be recognized for scholarship about archives. He has transformed archives from being perceived as storehouses of old records to sites of power worthy of scholarly attention. Cook developed, nationally and internationally, a distinctive voice for Canadian archival scholarship through rethinking appraisal to decide what records become archives.

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Someone You Should Know: Suzanne Singleton

Putting a name to a face is often helpful, and now SAA members can do just that. “Someone You Should Know” spotlights one member in each issue of Archival Outlook to help SAA members get to know each other.

Stumbling upon a photo that authenticated local lore on a campsite was just another day at work for Suzanne Singleton. As a reference librarian at the James A. Rogers Library, Francis Marion University, in Florence, S.C., Singleton catalogs the photographs in the archive and manuscript collections. One in particular that she unearthed (of Snow’s Island) portrays the site that Gen. Marion and his militia used as a hideout from the British army.

As a member of various archives and library groups, read on to learn more about SAA member Suzanne Singleton.

SAA: Please provide detail on the James A. Rogers Library at Francis Marion University.
SS: Francis Marion University is a small liberal arts university. The academic library has 22 faculty and staff members with a special collections containing rare books, manuscripts, and university archives. We collect books relating to our section of the state—the region where the Pee Dee River flows. We also collect books relating to the university’s namesake, Revolutionary War Gen. Francis Marion. My work includes library instruction, disaster preparedness, and preservation.

SAA: Are you witnessing any trends in the profession that are affecting you?
SS: The change from paper to electronic formats is making my job interesting! Documenting e-mail correspondence is quite a challenge.

SAA: How and when did you get involved with SAA.
SS: When I began my first job in archives, my predecessor in the occupation loaned me his complete set of SAA Basic Manuals. Wow, was this ever a help! I was mostly on my own in figuring out how to process. The manuals were a lifesaver. Of course, I joined SAA after graduating.

SAA: How has SAA helped you personally or your institution?
SS: Reading the literature that SAA publishes keeps me in touch with latest practices, makes me aware of current issues, and helps me to think about my challenges in new ways. I read American Archivist cover to cover.

SAA: What do you think is the major issue that the archives profession faces, and how do you think it will play out in the future?
SS: We are facing a major change in the way information is processed and relayed. The tremendous potential of telecommunications technology will advance collections access like never before. Through interactive websites, patrons have the ability to be actively involved in documentation of collections, posting their own collections, and storytelling. I think we will see patrons becoming collaborative with archivists.

Archival Outlook Gets New Look

Archival Outlook is changing as we speak! The publication is currently undergoing a graphic redesign that will launch with the January/February 2011 issue. What better way to look at the fresh layout, on new paper, in the New Year, than by advertising in it?

Show an audience of more than 5,800 archivists how your products or services can meet their needs. E-mail jschooley@archivists.org today to reserve ad placement in the newly redesigned issue, and learn how you can receive a free ad in 2011.
American Archives Month

October is American Archives Month—an opportunity to raise awareness about the value of archives and archivists. There is strength in numbers and our collective voice can be more powerful than individual voices when we set aside time throughout the month to celebrate our collections.

Since 2006, SAA has provided members with public relations kits that provide practical information and ideas to help you make your archives program more visible. Whether you’re interested in planning an event, issuing a press release to attract media coverage, or preparing for a media interview, these resources will assist you in taking the steps needed toward enhancing public awareness of your repository.

We’re doing some retooling for 2010, just as SAA approaches its 75th anniversary. We invite you to join in a common effort “I Found It In the Archives” to reach out to those who have found their records, families, heritage, and treasures through your collections. Stay tuned for details on this year-long campaign, which launches October 2010. Visit www.archivists.org/initiatives/american-archives-month.

2010 Research Forum Content on Web

If you’re interested in research and innovation, check out slides, abstracts, and posters from SAA’s day-long Research Forum at DC 2010. Topics cover a full spectrum of research activities of value to the archives community. Visit www.archivists.org/proceedings/research-forum/2010.

Correction

A list of SAA Sections and Roundtables was published in the July/August issue of Archival Outlook. Three Roundtables were inadvertently left off that list:

• Visual Materials Cataloging & Access Roundtable
• Women Archivists Roundtable
• Women’s Collections Roundtable

Book a Month


Now You Can Read Every Issue of American Archivist

The entire run of the American Archivist, from its founding in 1938 to the present, is now online and available for searching, browsing, and downloading at http://archivists.metapress.com/home/main.mp. We invite you to dive into the journal’s content to broaden and deepen your understanding of your profession—particularly as SAA celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2011.

Getting 242 back issues—or roughly 36,000 pages—digitized has been a group effort led by the American Archivist Editorial Board. It began in 2007 with the collection of all 242 back issues and an assessment of the content in each issue. The spreadsheet that resulted became the blueprint for metadata about each issue and assisted in the batching of volumes by decade for production purposes. Five vendors were identified and invited to submit bids. OCLC was selected and the digitization process began in June 2009. Volumes were digitized in reverse chronological order and posted in five batches to the MetaPress website, which hosts American Archivist Online. The final batch, which contained the first 13 volumes, was posted in September 2010.

SAA is grateful to the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation for the grant we received in support of providing universal online access to the complete contents of the American Archivist. In addition, Erin Hvizdak (a graduate of the master’s program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) was instrumental in the issue assessment process. Kate Elgayeva (Adler School of Professional Psychology) reviewed digital files. Philip Heslip (University of Michigan) also assisted with review of digital files.

An announcement in the first issue of the journal noted that “The editorial policy of the American Archivist can be simply defined: to be as useful as possible to the members of the profession. At all times its editors will welcome suggestions to this end.” So go ahead and take a peek inside. You’ll discover lots of useful information. From that very first issue edited by Theodore Calvin Pease in 1938 through SAA’s 75th anniversary in 2011, you can chart the growth and evolution of the American Archivist, your professional association, and the archives profession.

And if you dare, help shape the future! Send your article ideas and prospective content for publication consideration to AmericanArchivist@archivists.org. ❖
The Reviews Department is growing at *American Archivist*! Reviews Editor Amy Cooper Cary and Associate Reviews Editor Danna Bell-Russel are teaming up to revamp this department by implementing new ways of conveying information about valuable resources in the archival literature and related areas.

The two new reviews editors joined the journal team last spring with the goal of responding to the information needs of members and subscribers by releasing reviews on the newest resources as quickly as possible.

“Our shared goal is to make reviews more prominent and more accessible,” explained Cary. “While we will not abandon the traditionally published reviews that appear in *American Archivist*, we will begin using tools, such as the SAA website and Facebook page, to bring you more relevant news . . .”

Amy Cooper Cary, Reviews Editor

**Survey Says**

Earlier this year, the *American Archivist* Editorial Board asked 6,000 SAA members and subscribers to share their opinions about the journal and their reading habits in a web-based survey that was available from April to May 2010. The 541 people who responded represent 10% of the population surveyed. Respondents expressed overall satisfaction with the journal. Responses to the questions regarding the Reviews Department were very useful, and they provided a basis from which to expand the traditional approach.

According to the survey, the majority of readers would like to see reviews of archival tools, such as OAIster or Archivists’ Toolkit. In addition, many want to see reviews of online reports from organizations, such as NARA, OCLC and CLIR, as well as information on software products such as D-Space, Meta-Archive, ArchivesGrid, OMEKA, and Drupal. Others are interested in seeing reviews of special issues of periodicals related to but not directly involved in the archival community, and reviews of websites, blogs, legislative overviews, and reports from organizations such as ARMA International, American Library Association, and Special Libraries Association.

**What to Expect**

In the next few months you will notice more of these kinds of reviews on the SAA website and Facebook page. In addition, the Reviews Team hopes to include literature reviews, topical essays or bibliographic essays on subjects of interest to the membership, and alerts on useful resources that, though they will not be fully reviewed in the journal, you may want to research. We’ll develop information on virtual exhibits, a list of books that will be reviewed in upcoming issues of *American Archivist*, and information on publications created by members.

**Calling All Reviewers!**

In order to meet these goals, the cadre of reviewers must increase. Are you interested in reviewing monographs, periodicals, or web resources? If so, send an e-mail, including your résumé, subject areas of interest, and a brief statement indicating that you are interested in reviewing materials for the *American Archivist*, to Reviews Editor Amy Cooper Cary (amycary@uwm.edu) or Associate Reviews Editor Danna Bell-Russel (dbell@loc.gov). They look forward to hearing from you soon!

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Publications Editor Peter Wosh, the Publications Board, and Publishing Director Teresa Brinati took on some very strategic thinking about the future of SAA’s publication offerings and in June submitted a grant proposal to NHPRC for re-envisioning the Archival Fundamental Series.

On the e-publishing front, we’re now up to 12 cases in the Campus Case Studies Series, which are reports by university archivists on working solutions for born-digital records. And we’re using the website to provide members—free of charge—with proceedings of content generated at conferences.

In the Loop, our every-other-Tuesday e-blast, is sporting a new look. The May 25th issue featured a redesign with new graphic elements, links that lead to more information on the SAA website, and an image box that invites members to identify the person(s) in the photo to help us better maintain our digital photo collections.

Education: The Education Department had another strong year, with 53 face-to-face programs and four Web seminars that served more than 1,160 attendees. Members who are not able to travel have taken advantage of audio CDs and archived online, on-demand presentations of SAA web seminars to meet their professional development needs. In addition, Education developed 11 new program topics and secured 7 new co-sponsors to work with us in bringing programs to their institutions. This schedule of workshops is truly remarkable for an organization of SAA’s size and resources. Please contact SAA Education Director Solveig De Sutter if you’re interested in bringing an SAA workshop to your institution. She’ll be delighted to work with you to make it happen.

We’re grateful to the Committee on Education for taking on revision and update of the “Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies,” the task of searching for ways to enhance the online Directory of Archival Education, and its ongoing commitment to reviewing our continuing education offerings with a view to addressing any critical gaps.

Advocacy: A leap forward in SAA’s advocacy efforts occurred in August 2008 when the Council established a Government Affairs Working Group to take on the tasks of tracking government affairs issues of concern (or potential concern) to archivists, and drafting for the Council’s approval responses or position statements as needed. The Working Group’s first task was to draft an Advocacy Agenda with recommendations for priorities. Unfortunately our grand plan for achieving the evergreen PR materials that reside on the SAA website, and an image box that invites members to identify the person(s) in the photo to help us better maintain our digital photo collections.

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Advocacy work certainly did get done when it comes to PAHR, the Preserving America’s Historical Records Act. This legislation would provide formula-based funding to states, territories, and the District of Columbia for statewide projects and redistribution to local governments, historical societies, universities, and other organizations. In the past year we obtained 64 co-sponsors for the House version of the bill and persuaded Orrin Hatch and Carl Levin to introduce the bill in the Senate, with 6 co-sponsors. Unfortunately PAHR was not taken up in this very challenging legislative environment. As you heard during the Awards Ceremony last night, PAHR Task Force Chair Kathleen Roe and member David Carmicheal have done yeoman’s work in leading the charge to get PAHR passed. This is what grassroots advocacy is all about. And we will continue to build on this progress until PAHR is a reality.

In June, Peter Gottlieb provided testimony before the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives in support of NHPRC reauthorization at $20 million.

And speaking of grassroots advocacy, now in its fifth year and gaining momentum is our grassroots initiative, dubbed “MayDay,” to encourage members to do something—even if it’s something small—on May 1 to prepare your staff and your repository to respond to an emergency and help save our archives. Check the SAA website for resources and ideas for observing MayDay.

In February, SAA responded to an invitation from the ALA, the IMLS, and the Library of Congress to co-sponsor National Preservation Week in mid-May. We’re pleased that Preservation Week in 2011 will immediately precede MayDay, and we hope to achieve some nice synergy as a result.

Since the appointment of David Ferriero as 10th Archivist of the U.S. last November, Peter Gottlieb and I have been in regular contact with him and his senior staff. We met with David in early January to get acquainted and have participated in monthly conference calls since then to discuss a wide range of issues—from NHPRC reauthorization, the NARA budget and declassification to the planning for this conference and NARA’s very generous invitation to all of us for the reception last Wednesday night. It’s a good relationship on which I’m sure we will continue to build.

Public Awareness: We couldn’t resist Lincoln’s bicentennial as the image and theme for the 2009 American Archives Month. The fourth annual edition of our “Public Relations Kit” focused on attempting to measure the impact of archives. We’re grateful to those 140-plus members who provided us with data about their users, and we hope to translate those data into the BIG statistic about how many people visit an archives—either physically or virtually—in October.

We’re seeing increased levels of participation and adoption of the evergreen PR materials that reside on the SAA and CoSA websites. And we hope you’ll use these free materials to inform and supplement your own PR efforts.

You didn’t receive the American Archives Month Public Relations Kit and Poster with this year’s May/June issue of Archival Outlook because we’re busy re-tooling it to support a new desired outcome adopted by the Council in May. The new outcome would use American Archives Month as one communication vehicle in a PR campaign, directed to users of archives, whose goals are to increase users’ appreciation of
The Society of American Archivists annually names Fellows and recognizes outstanding achievement in the archives profession through an awards competition. SAA offers 17 opportunities for professional recognition and financial assistance, with concentrations in the following areas:

### Outstanding Contributions to the Archives Field
- Distinguished Fellows
- Distinguished Service Award
- Sister M. Claude Lane, OP, Memorial Award
- Spotlight Award

### Publishing Excellence
- C.F.W. Coker Award
- Fellows’ Ernst Posner Award
- Preservation Publication Award
- Theodore Calvin Pease Award
- Waldo Gifford Leland Award

### Public Awareness
- J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award
- Philip M. Hamer—Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award

### Scholarships
- F. Gerald Ham Scholarship
- Mosaic Scholarship
- Josephine Forman Scholarship

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

For more information on selection criteria and nomination forms, go to:
- Scholarships, Awards, and Travel Assistance: [www.archivists.org/recognition](http://www.archivists.org/recognition)
- Fellows: [www.archivists.org/recognition/fellows.asp](http://www.archivists.org/recognition/fellows.asp)

Completed forms must be postmarked by Feb. 28, 2011, with exceptions noted.
From the Executive Director
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archives and increase archivists’ involvement—your involvement—in public awareness activities. This outcome spans 2010 to 2014. That campaign will be built on the idea—expressed so beautifully in a recent article about SAA member Kevin Anderson—that what you do “has consequences.” Watch for it soon after the annual meeting.

Recognition: Among the many volunteers who commit significant time, energy, and expertise to your professional association are SAA’s Council members. Four of them are retiring from the Council today.

Oh, sure, Bruce Ambacher can be a bit curmudgeonly. He actually likes that image. Bruce enjoys challenging the status quo, pushing the envelope on our thinking—and that’s to the great benefit of the Society. Bruce’s daughter is an association executive, so he “gets” the challenges that professional associations face and he especially understands the role of staff.

Margery Sly, too, “gets” association and foundation management, given her real-life responsibilities with the Presbyterian Church USA. She knows that our major purpose is to support what’s really important, and she is brilliant at focusing on that. Margery keeps her eye on the overarching principle rather than getting mired in what she calls the “mind-numbing details.” Although she’s perfectly capable of handling them, too—to her occasional distress.

If you’ve ever worked with Diane Vogt-O’Connor, you probably noticed that she is a prolific and energetic thinker. Diane has a bibliography of resources waiting in the wings on nearly every subject, and she’s always willing to share her resources with others. You’d be hard-pressed to find anyone who knows—or cares more passionately—about preservation of records.

Peter Gottlieb is confident, but not egotistical. He is firm, but kind. He hates to waste time, yet is a patient listener. He appears to be reserved, yet when he speaks about archives and archivists, his passion for advocacy and PR is contagious. He has been—for SAA—an unselfish and outstanding leader. It’s been my privilege to work with you, Peter. Thank you.

And my deepest thanks to all of you—for your membership in, and ongoing support of, the Society of American Archivists.

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taxation, education, etc. The addresses provide longitudinal views of continuing issues. Anecdotally, the addresses have been used by some legislators and reporters, particularly in tracing public education issues.

Vermont Functional Classification System

In 2008, in part because of growing appreciation of our institutional value, the general assembly, with the support of the governor, consolidated records management with the archives, creating the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA).

The acquisition of records management brought our institutional role and outreach to a new phase. Functional analysis shows how things are related and dependent on each other for their existence or value. Faceted classification, then, breaks down these relationships and dependencies into basic concepts (facets). A system called the Vermont Functional Classification System (VCLAS) consists of five core facets: agencies/departments; legal requirements; government functions; activities/services; and record types.

VCLAS provides a mechanism for uniformly and systematically defining, describing, and managing public records. It also enables VSARA to look across the universe of Vermont’s public records and identify relationships and dependencies not only among records, but also among agencies and departments, legal requirements, government functions, and the activities or services performed.

As with most state governments Vermont is looking at various ways to restructure itself in response to the weak economy and declining revenues. We are presenting our record and information management products to executive and legislative leaders. We are again providing a tool to support decision making. The response has been positive.

The growing awareness of our institutional value has led to positive results from the consolidation of records and archival management to a completion of a new building in 2010. It has also provided us with an exciting and evolving answer to our initial question: The value of public archives is to provide government and citizens contexts for discussing and acting on today’s vital issues.

Safe Sound Archive
“Preserving the Sound of History”

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High Schoolers Meet Archives

What is the classroom demographic of the seminar?
SM: Right now we mostly cater to high school students. Within that group, we primarily attract Advanced Placement US History teachers and students who are studying primary documents in their own classrooms. I recruit student seminar participants through paper mailings and e-mail flyers. I also advertise on our Primary Source Seminar blog and on our park website. We require participating teachers to have attended one of our teacher workshops before bringing their students in for a visit.

Describe the teacher/workshop resources you offer.
SM: Our teacher workshops are designed for all teachers and education majors. We attract mainly middle and high school teachers and secondary history and social studies education majors. Teacher workshops familiarize educators with the Primary Source Seminar and provide resources and valuable training in primary source use in the classroom. Several times a month we post information pertaining to online resources we think teachers will find useful. Many of these Web resources contain high-quality scanned images of primary documents, document-based lesson and unit plans, and links to timelines, streaming video and audio, and other multimedia teaching aids. Workshops are free and we offer professional development certificates to attendees.

Reaching Out to Students

• “YIVO'S Treasures Uncovered by High School Students,” March/April 2007 Archival Outlook.

Seven SAA Fellows

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Prom has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the archives profession through service on a variety of committees in SAA and the Midwest Archives Conference, ranging from technical standards to editorial boards.

SCOTT SCHWARTZ, archivist for music and fine arts and adjunct professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, is a principal developer of ARCHON™, award-winning software for archivists and manuscript curators that automatically publishes archival descriptive information and digital archival objects in a user-friendly website.

“It’s hard to overstate the transformative impact that ARCHON™ and the Archivist’s Toolkit™ are having on facilitating the control and description of archival holdings,” said one nominator.

His transformation of the Sousa Archives into a vibrant Center for American Music has been recognized by the more than 15 awards and grants he has received to advance his activist archives vision. This activist vision led Schwartz, in 2004, to engineer one of the decade’s most important archival outreach programs: convincing the United States Senate to declare November “American Music Month.”

Prior to joining the University of Illinois in 2003, Schwartz worked for 10 years as archivist at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History and as technical archives specialist at East Tennessee State University.

Since serving on the Program Committee in 1993, Schwartz continues to be an active member of SAA. He has chaired the Membership Committee and the Nominating Committee. He was also instrumental in establishing and securing funding for SAA’s Donald Peterson Student Scholarship Award.

BECKY HAGLUND TOUSEY, archives senior manager at Kraft Foods Inc., currently runs a global corporate archives program with repositories and staff in several countries. She has gained respect for her outstanding professional standards and execution. She has shared her knowledge and best practices around the world, by presenting at conferences in North America, Scotland, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, and Japan.

As one of her nominators noted, “Becky’s management of Kraft’s archives has served as a beacon of excellence and adaptation.”

Tousey is well known for advancing the goals and activities of regional, national, and international archival associations through her exemplary service in numerous positions, including terms on SAA’s Council and the Midwest Archives Conference’s Council, as co-chair of SAA’s Program Committee and Host Committee, and as secretary of the International Council on Archives Section on Business and Labour Archives.

Less well known are her frequent unsung volunteer activities, such as the 15 years she spent leading teams of ballot counters for SAA elections.
Pitch In!

Just like the baseball cards you may have collected years ago, the SAA 75th Anniversary Task Force is creating a set of 75 “trading cards” featuring prominent 1) people, 2) places, 3) events, 4) concepts that changed archival thinking and practice over the past 75 years, and 5) any archives/history organization that has played a major role in the profession. SAA needs your help to create these cards.

See your ideas in print! This limited-edition set of trading cards will be available at the 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Chicago in August 2011. Send prospective content and images (like the sample here) for consideration by the task force to jschooley@archivists.org by Nov. 1, 2010.