

ARCHIVAL

# OUTLOOK

September/October 2013

*Published by the* Society of American Archivists



[www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org)

**4** Archives  
Leadership  
Institute

**6** New Tools for  
Processing

**10** Annual Meeting  
Wrap-Up



Organizing data for eloquent presentation!



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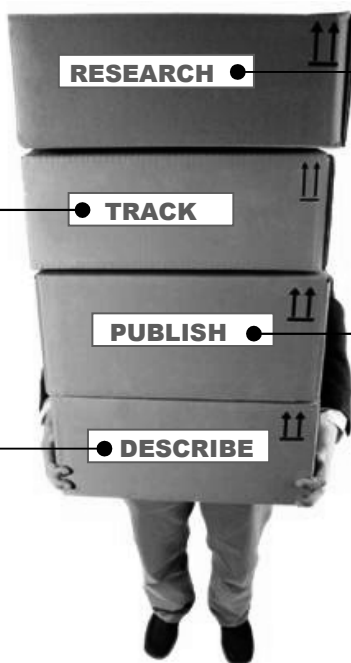
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Courtesy of Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard.

## "That's My Grandpa!"

An archivist describes one of her best days on the job: stumbling on her grandfather's name in an historical document.

**Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard**

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© The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California receives an unexpected donation that has become a source of pride for the archives.

**David Keller**

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**COVER PHOTO: Cute in Kimonos:** Nisei children wearing kimonos in Seattle, Washington, circa 1927. The image is part of the Densho Digital Archive, which holds more than 700 visual histories and more than 12,000 historic photos, documents, and newspapers. Densho is the 2013 recipient of the Philip M. Hamer-Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award, which recognizes individuals or institutions that have increased public awareness of archives documents. For more information on SAA's 2013 award recipients, go to page 18. *Courtesy of the Densho Digital Archive, Ouchi Family Collection.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Danna C. Bell**

dbellr@att.net

# Fixing a Hole

I came back from the Annual Meeting in New Orleans full of ideas, enthusiasm, and a bit of trepidation. It was exciting to see friends I normally see only at the conference, to hear and participate in some fascinating sessions, and to begin my term as president. However, I also heard some rumblings of concern. I think they all boiled down to one question: "Can SAA really meet my needs?" When I sat down to write this column, the Beatles song "Fixing a Hole" from the *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album kept running through my head. I looked up the lyrics and one line stuck with me: "I'm taking the time for a number of things that weren't important yesterday."

SAA is a very different organization than it was when I attended my first conference in New Orleans in 1993. I remember being a new member trying to find my way in an organization that felt incredibly insular. It felt like nearly everyone attending had been an archivist for centuries, and as a young African American woman I didn't "fit." Something was missing, and I wondered if SAA was the right place for me. But I was also a bit obstinate. I asked questions. I looked for help and guidance. My persistence was rewarded when I was paired with an amazing mentor who helped me find my way. She became SAA's first African

American president and she continues to provide guidance and support. I am honored to follow in Brenda Banks's footsteps.

Things have changed tremendously. We are seeing huge increases in the number of students and new professionals in the field. However, at the same time, we are seeing major decreases in available employment positions. The DAS program is extremely successful, and archivists are embracing technology and social media. Yet the proliferation of technology is taxing even the most tech-savvy professional. Also, many of my colleagues who are midcareer archivists are wondering how to position themselves for leadership opportunities and where to obtain training to be effective managers.

Does SAA have ideas about how to fix these holes? Some are within the new Strategic Plan. Advocacy was a hot topic in New Orleans and will continue to be for many years to come. We need to, as noted in Goal 1.2, "educate and influence decision makers about the importance of archives and archivists." This includes developing ways to show how archives provide a strong return on investment for parent organizations. In addition, we must help archivists understand and effectively communicate the importance of archives to thought leaders and funding agents.

To ensure that archivists at all levels of the profession—new professionals, midcareer archivists, and elder statespersons—get the support they need, SAA must continue to hear from its members. We need to learn what skills and experience administrators want to see in potential employees. Perhaps SAA can provide additional professional development opportunities or enhance career development resources to ensure that those looking for positions have the skills they need to succeed in the hiring process and afterward.

The most important step members can take is to communicate concerns *and provide possible solutions*. It's easy to complain, but it's much more difficult to provide solutions. SAA functions within an extremely tight budget. Do you know of funding opportunities that could help the Society try something different? Is there a way to restructure one program that will provide funds and staff support to do another?

Twenty years ago I was more focused on whether I would survive my first SAA conference. Now I'm focused on ensuring that SAA and its members thrive and succeed. I'm strapping on my tool belt. Are you ready to help me fix the holes? ■

# ARCHIVAL OUTLOOK



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American  
Archivists**

The Society of American Archivists serves the education and information needs of its members and provides leadership to help ensure the identification, preservation, and use of the nation's historical record.

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# “THAT’S MY GRANDPA!”



Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard with her grandfather, Lyle Bellrichard.  
Courtesy of Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard.



Lyle Bellrichard with his father, Daniel.  
Courtesy of Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard.

## Finding Loved Ones in Historical Documents

Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard, Graduate Student, University of Wisconsin–Madison

I had seen my grandpa’s name in writing before. He had written me boxes of letters when I was a kid, telling me how much he loved me and that he couldn’t wait for my sister and me to visit. There is a copy of his obituary in my parents’ keepsake cabinet with his name, Lyle Bellrichard, sprawled across the top in bold letters that I studied after his death. That name was so familiar, so common. I had been surrounded by it in so many ways that it began to lose its uniqueness. I would always think of it fondly, as I was close to my grandpa, but it just became a name. However, that feeling of apathy toward my father’s family name rushed out of me one day while I was working a shift on the processing floor at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS).

Fortunately, my work station at WHS is positioned next to the friendly people working with local government documents who are eager to get to know their fellow

processors. One student worker and I shared conversations about our cats and families and debated who had the strangest name. Since my parents could not decide on whose last name to give their children, a hyphen was stuck between “Dubert” and “Bellrichard,” making me the only student in my grade school who was allowed to abbreviate her last name to a set of initials. Despite my extraordinary case, we quickly realized that we were both blessed with unique surnames that very few people could pronounce but most could remember because of their oddities.

My oddities came in handy that fateful morning at WHS as I was asked by this student worker if I knew a Nettie Bellrichard. I did not recognize the name when I heard it, but because Bellrichard is not a common name around these parts, I inquired about the document she was holding in her hands. The record was a petition for aid for which

this unknown Nettie had applied in 1916. I was slightly intrigued at this point but still unsure of whether I was connected to this woman. As we looked deeper into the document, there was his name—Lyle Bellrichard—listed as a dependent of Nettie. Even though I had seen that name thousands of times, I was shocked. In an instant I turned into the little girl from years ago who was excited to see her grandpa on weekly visits. When I saw that name I yelled out, “That’s my grandpa!”

Suddenly, I was surrounded by senior archivists who had seen this kind of discovery many times in their careers—you’d figure they’d be numb by now—yet they were just as excited. We celebrated by telling everyone within shouting distance about what had just happened. In honor of the good news, my supervisor granted me an excuse from

Continued on page 31 >>

# LEAD ON

## Archives Leadership Institute Reboot

Geof Huth, ALI Steering Committee

The Archives Leadership Institute (ALI) began in 2008 at the University of Wisconsin–Madison as an experiment in cultivating leaders in the archives profession. Working with archivists who demonstrated leadership skills, the weeklong institute focused twenty-five archivists on the process of becoming leaders for their institutions, their profession, and themselves. ALI had such an impact that alumni went on to apply to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for a grant to rethink ALI and make the experience even better and more durable in its effects.

### Charting New Territory

That's what brought ALI to Luther College in the picturesque town of Decorah, Iowa, in June. Participants in ALI@Luther soon discovered this venue was an ideal spot for a leadership intensive. Housed for a week in a series of buildings nestled against a hillside teeming with deer, these leaders learned in a space that supported contemplation. Yet there was so much to do as well. Walking on a log twenty feet off the ground as part of a challenge course. Learning about the archiving of heirloom varieties of plants. Strolling a half mile into town to visit Toppling Goliath, one of the great microbreweries of the Midwest. Yoga. These were some of the benefits ALI@Luther attendees experienced, along with tasty food catered in the classroom.

### Leadership Curriculum

What truly propels ALI, however, is something deeper. The curriculum for

the week is stripped down and focused. Each day is devoted to one subject so the participants can learn the essentials of leadership deeply. The focus started with the important concept of leadership thinking and moved to developing electronic records programs, project management, strategic visioning and team development, and advocacy. The topics were dealt with intensively, and participants learned through lecture and active participation, discussion, and group projects. The glue that held these topics together was both the concept of leadership and instructor Luther Snow's overarching concept of asset thinking. Before and after each session, Snow reviewed what the cohort had learned, put the day to come or the day that had just been into perspective, and guided everyone

to think of the assets they had to work with rather than the gaps that existed in their resources.

Leadership must have a strong foundation, and ALI taught participants to build on a foundation of assets. Bleakness can be debilitating, and a leader as a bleak specter of dismay drains people of desire to excel. ALI participants learned to use the resources they had and develop those that were needed, but never to worry about the resources that were not yet in evidence. Through repetition and storytelling, the group internalized the process of focusing on assets, in whatever form they revealed themselves. Buildings. Money. People. Knowledge. Archival records. Supporters. And the cohort also



On the first day, attendees completed a challenge course, which provided them a chance to work together early on and encouraged them to face their fears. *Courtesy of Luther College.*



Participants in the 2013 ALI@Luther cohort. Visit <http://www2.archivists.org/node/18136> for a list of participants. *Courtesy of Luther College.*



learned more about how to make those assets grow.

### Continuing the Work

ALI@Luther's program staff and the Steering Committee design, direct, and revise the entire program. Consisting almost entirely

of alumni of the Archives Leadership Institute (and one alumnus of the Frye Leadership Institute), this cadre of archivists considered new ways to run the program this year. Each member of this committee also served as a guide to the entire cohort and a mentor to several of the participants.

Although this year's program came to an end on a Saturday morning in June, the work continues. New alumni have begun to work on leadership practicums, most of which are focused on expanding the capacities in their institutions. These real-life projects become the core of attendees' learning experiences and the real test of the success of ALI. No one need succeed fully in his or her goals to successfully complete the practicum, though. The learning is in the doing.

### ALI Alumni

ALI's new vision is also focused on developing a more vibrant and interactive alumni community. This year at *ARCHIVES 2013*, the Joint Annual Meeting of SAA and the Council of State Archivists, the Steering Committee hosted an ALI alumni dinner to bring participants from many years together to share stories. The day after these festivities, the committee held

a Practices Workshop to give alumni a chance to talk about how they implemented what they learned at ALI. Part of this event also focused on helping the current crop of ALI alumni work on their practicums. In addition, the Steering Committee designed an ALI Salon so that alumni could carry out conversations about leadership into the future of our profession.

### How You Can Participate

If you check Twitter, you will have a sense of the learning and fun that made this one week in Decorah such a memorable experience for those involved. Look for the #ALI13 hashtag for an easy review, and ponder a bit on what #lutherspeak means. Ask any member of this year's cohort if you need help.

If you have never been a part of ALI before and you would like to develop your leadership skills, apply for the June 2014 ALI. What awaits you is a life-changing experience. No one has ever departed from a week at ALI without growing as a leader, learning a great deal, feeling empowered to face almost anything, and making a number of new friends. ■

# Make your outreach reach further.



*Can you help me locate a theater poster from the early 1900s?*

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# NEW TOOLS FOR NEW PROCESSING CHALLENGES

Barbara D. Aikens, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

As with any new workflow, More Product, Less Process (MPLP) has presented challenges. Just as we've turned to technology to increase online access to our holdings, we can use technology to better manage and support workflows that will result in increased processing production. Here are automated processing tools in the MPLP/MLP "toolkit" of the Archives of American Art (AAA)<sup>1</sup> and a summary of how we use these tools to achieve more effective planning, prioritizing, managing, and reporting of our processing activities.

## Early MPLP Successes and Failures

AAA converted its card catalog to MARC format in the early 1990s, thereby creating collection-level MARC records for all of our holdings. Our catalog records are maintained in the Smithsonian's bibliographic database and are available via the Smithsonian's *Collections Search Center*, *WorldCat*, and *ArchiveGrid*, and on *aaa.si.edu*.

Because we create or update existing MARC records as part of our accessioning workflow, we do not have a cataloging backlog. Additionally, we have always allowed researcher access to unprocessed collections, believing the benefits of open access to unprocessed collections far outweigh any possible negative fallout.

However, about 55 percent of our holdings do not meet one or more of our standards for preservation housing, physical access, and intellectual access. Although that is a large backlog, the tools outlined below have helped us to systematically define our standards, solidify and codify our workflows and procedures, and identify and articulate our processing needs and priorities.

## The Database (DCD)

AAA started building an in-house database around 2004, primarily as a digital content cataloging and management system. The MS-SQL system evolved to support our Terra Foundation for American Art Digitization Initiative and is now a robust database that incorporates powerful programming to support and integrate archival processing workflows for EAD finding aids, collections scanned in their entirety, pushing content out to the web, and capable of providing us with a variety of reports.

## Finding Aid and Digitization Workflows

AAA's highly successful Terra Foundation for American Art Digitization Initiative is fully integrated into our archival processing

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**Finding Aid / Collections Online Workflow** Logged in as Bar

**Elizabeth McCausland papers**  
(Choose different collection)

Collection Progress Checklist **Check-In (Upload)** **Check-Out (Download)** **Preview** **Image Processing**

**Collections Online Workflow Progress**  
Any tasks that have been ~~crossed-out~~ have been completed. The resource is available to the public once all tasks are completed.

1. Archivist uploads new XML File to Finding Aid Repository (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 08:57 AM)
2. Supervisor approves XML Finding Aid (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM [Undo](#))
3. Cataloger provides index terms; archivist adds to XML File (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM [Undo](#))
4. Second supervisor approves XML Finding Aid (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM [Undo](#))
5. Create Image Directory / Begin Scanning (Completed by Karen Zorn on 12/18/08 10:41 AM [Redo](#) | [Undo](#))
6. Finished Scanning (Completed by Robin Holladay Peak on 3/4/09 02:46 PM [Undo](#))
7. Process Images (Completed by Robin Holladay Peak on 8/1/11 11:12 AM [Undo](#))
8. Deploy Images to Staging server (Completed by Robin Holladay Peak on 2/2/09 08:07 AM [Undo](#))
9. Archivist Reviews Collection Online on [aaa.si.edu](#) (Completed by Erin Kinhart on 2/6/09 03:23 PM [Undo](#))
10. Archivist reports errors to be corrected (Completed by Erin Kinhart on 2/17/09 08:16 AM [Undo](#))
11. Archivist confirms errors have been corrected and approves Collection Online (Completed by Erin Kinhart on 3/10/09 11:41 AM [Undo](#))
12. Cataloger Updates Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS) (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 3/10/09 11:55 AM [Undo](#))
13. Supervisor deploys XML file, HTML file, and Collection Online to Web (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 3/10/09 11:55 AM [Undo](#))
14. Supervisor verifies pages on Web site (Collections Online, Col. A-Z, & Finding Aids), notifies staff (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 3/10/09 11:55 AM [Undo](#))
15. Archivist re-uploads XML File to Finding Aid Repository (Completed by Eden Orlove on 11/28/11 05:11 PM [Redo](#))
16. Supervisor re-deploys XML file, HTML file, and Collection Online to Web

Automated Workflow Checklist.

## **Why Do Archivists Support Certification?**

*It provides  
a competitive edge*

*It strengthens the  
profession*

*It recognizes professional  
achievement and  
commitment*



In the past decade, more than 1,300 professional archivists have felt it was important to sit for the Certified Archivist examination.

The next Certified Archivist examination will be held August 13, 2014 in Albany (NY), Madison (WI), Phoenix (AZ), Tuscaloosa (AL) and Washington (DC) -- and wherever five eligible candidates want to take it.

For more information about the Certified Archivist examination, please go to the ACA website ([www.certifiedarchivists.org](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org)) or contact the ACA office (518-694-8471 or [aca@caphill.com](mailto:aca@caphill.com)).

# TREA

## Working with a Donor to Add Value to Collections

**David Keller, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**

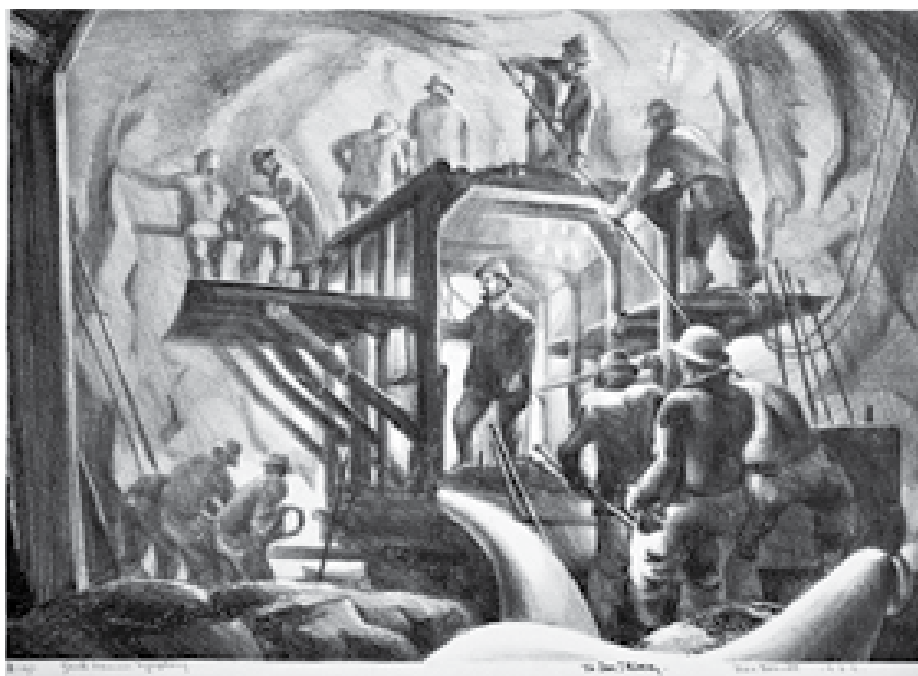
Good things happen when people do the right thing. As the senior analyst in the Records Management Department at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), I've seen infrequent donations to the archives. That's why I was excited to read the contents of a somewhat dog-eared letter that came across my desk not too long ago. A potential donor offered to give a variety of much-coveted items to our archives. Because of notations on the back of the photographs, the donor knew to contact MWD.

After an extensive period of phone tag, I eventually caught up with the potential donor, John Burgess, who had been a psychologist with Kaiser Permanente medical group in California's Inland Empire. He lived nearby with his wife in a post-war tract home in the small community of Upland. When a career opportunity came along, the couple decided to move away from Southern California. While boxing up possessions, they discovered a basement cache of photos, posters, and a drawing.

**Photos at left, top to bottom:** "Jack Hammer Symphony," by Rex Brandt. Inscribed to Don J. Kinsey and dated 1939. © *The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*.

On location for *Thirteen Golden Cities*, Los Angeles, California, 1938. British silent film star Nigel De Brulier plays the old Ranchero and Dickie Jones plays his grandson. A Rodney Giliam Production, Story and Supervision by MWD public relations director Donald J. Kinsey. © *The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*.

Colorado River Aqueduct Route Survey, Los Angeles Survey Team, circa 1927. © *The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*.



# SURED FINDS

They carefully packed up these items, placing them into a family hope chest, where they resided undisturbed and in remarkably good shape for twenty-five(!) years. Now retired, Burgess and his wife wanted to do the right thing and return the items, if MWD wanted them and on the condition the materials would be “put to good use.” I told him that we most assuredly did want these materials and that we would give them a good home. Based on Burgess’s initial brief description of the photographs, I surmised that I’d have to research the metadata for these photographs to place them into the MWD Image Collection digital database.

## The Donation

The donation included twenty 8”x10” glossy photographs, which were publicity stills for *Thirteen Golden Cities*, an MWD film about

the water the Colorado River Aqueduct would bring to Southern California. I knew about the movie, having worked with our audiovisual team to obtain a DVD copy to catalog a few years earlier.

The donation also included ten 16”x20” photographs. One captioned “Engineers camp along Metropolitan Aqueduct route” is part of a series of MWD’s “prehistory” photographs from the mid-1920s that depict Los Angeles City and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power surveys of various potential routes to transport Colorado River water to Southern California. Other photographs depicted *Metropolitan Aqueduct News*, MWD’s first employee newspaper.

MWD also received two color renderings, titled “Boulder City, Nevada” and “Night at the Hoover Dam,” and—most intriguing of all—a pencil drawing of men working

inside a tunnel. Captioned “Jack Hammer Symphony,” it is a 1939 Rex Brandt lithograph of miners at work in the San Jacinto Tunnel along the Colorado River Aqueduct. Inscribed to Don J. Kinsey, it is one of only seven known to exist. This is one of Brandt’s early works, made just after he became famous in April 1937 following the publication of his seven-illustration *Fortune* magazine feature titled “The \$220,000,000 Metropolitan Aqueduct.”

Brandt lived in Corona Del Mar, California, and on Shaw Island off the coast of Washington state. A famous member of the California Watercolorists, he conducted workshops for years from his California home, which was dubbed Blue Sky. MWD’s External Affairs and Records teams are now investigating the possibility of a display featuring Brandt’s “Jack Hammer

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## Knowledge Center for Archives

- Make your collections searchable and accessible
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- Generate EAD finding aids and deeds of gift from your catalog

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# ARCHIVES 2013

New Orleans, August 11–17

CoSA & SAA | Joint Annual Meeting

**Connections were made.** From networking events like the Leadership Orientation and Forum and festive alumni mixers to the All-Attendee Reception at New Orleans's stunning National World War II Museum, *ARCHIVES 2013* gave more than 1,600 archives professionals the chance to strengthen relationships with mentors, colleagues, and friends.

**Lessons were learned.** Plenary sessions offered thought-provoking speeches, preconference workshops reinforced best practices, and seventy education sessions gave attendees the tools to finesse their skills and expand their horizons. **Inspiration was found.** Exhibitors featured fresh ideas and helpful tools, and CoSA and SAA honored individuals and organizations that made outstanding contributions to the profession.

And let's not forget our ever-exhilarating host city. New Orleans, with its rich history, beautiful sites, and delicious beignets, proved again to be an ideal spot to spark imaginations.

Thanks to your support, knowledge, and passion, the CoSA/SAA Joint Annual Meeting was an exceptional week. Read on for some of the many highlights of this year's meeting.

★ **Archives: Principles and Practices** kicked off the meeting, and presenters pinpointed long-standing archival principles and how to implement them. "In addition to local participants, we had attendees from Hawaii, Guam, Saudi Arabia, and Canada representing state government, religious, museum, tribal, business, private school, and academic archives," said workshop presenter Pam Hackbart-Dean. "This presented a unique opportunity for networking with attendees from around the world."

SUNDAY  
AUGUST 11





Five preconference programs took place on Monday, including **Digital Curation Planning and Sustainable Futures**,

which gave participants the chance to review the concepts, principles, and practices necessary for developing a digital curation program to effectively manage digital content across generations of technology.

*Photos by Wayne Catalano and Brian Collins.*



## ★★ My Top NOLA Moments ★★

"Grill burgers, fries, vintage ambiance, funky counter service, people watching, and more at lunch at the very pink 1946 Camellia Grill in the Quarter with Karen Trivette Cannell."

—Daria D'Arienzo, *archives consultant*

"My New Orleans sightseeing adventures—which included beignets at the Café du Monde, the Historic Voodoo Museum, the St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 with the tomb of Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau, and midnight shopping after listening to jazz at the Spotted Cat—were everything I hoped for and more!"

—Natalia Fernandez, *Oregon State University*



★ At the one-day symposium **"Women's Archives/Women's Collections: What Does the Future Hold?"** attendees considered the need for renewed collaboration with historians, women's studies scholars, and librarians; the need to make women's archives and women's collections more accessible; and citizens as archivists. The symposium featured several sessions, including "The Impact of Technology on Women's Archives and Collections—Born-Digital, Digital Humanities, Digital Initiatives, and Social Media." During this session, Leslie Fields, the head of archives and special collections at Mount Holyoke College, discussed the Wikipedia editing project at her institution. Through the help of students,

faculty, and staff, the group created or edited Wikipedia pages about female figures prominent in the college's history.

★ **CURATEcamp** was not your typical Annual Meeting workshop.

"A big feature of [CURATEcamp] is that the issues that are most important and relevant to participants at that particular moment will get discussed," said workshop organizer Cristela Garcia-Spitz. "Anyone can propose a topic, and anyone can add on to [the agenda] throughout the day." Another CURATEcamp organizer, Courtney Mumma, noted that many attendees were interested in discussions about workflows, tool preferences, and administrative handicaps. Visit [http://wiki.curatecamp.org/index.php/CURATEcamp\\_SAA\\_2013\\_Notes](http://wiki.curatecamp.org/index.php/CURATEcamp_SAA_2013_Notes) to read attendees' notes on the workshop and "listen in" to some of the discussions that took place.

★ The Military Archives Roundtable sponsored a **Staff Ride of the Battle of New Orleans**. The roundtable aimed to "re-create as much as possible an event that occurred almost two hundred years before" during the War of 1812, said Mike Miller, former chair of the roundtable. The group visited Fort Pike and Chalmette Battlefield Park, where they "walk[ed] the fields to understand a vital piece of history of the States," Miller noted.



### #SAA13 on Twitter

@JarredRWilson: Danna Bell-Russel: "Turn a complaint into a plan for action." I couldn't agree more. #saa13

WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 14



Darren McKinney (of Lowernine.org), Lisa Calahan, Joan Krizack, Fanny Bastides (of lowernine.org), homeowner Audrey Celius, Bill Ross, Andy McCarthy, and Leah Witherowl at the site of their service project. Courtesy of Bill Ross.

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#SAA13 on Twitter

@pearcmoses: Archival  
advocacy often more effective  
when done by allies, not archivists. #saa13

- ★ The **Leadership Orientation and Forum** gave new SAA component group leaders the chance to learn from experienced leaders. The forum featured presentations from Council members, component group leaders, and Executive Director Nancy Beaumont. "We also included the most important thing: time. Time for the leaders to get to know and connect with one another, and most importantly, the opportunity to ask any questions," said Council member Tanya Zanish-Belcher.
- ★ Thirteen individuals sat for the first **Digital Archives Specialist Comprehensive Examination**.
- ★ Several SAA Roundtables held meetings. The **Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable** welcomed SAA Incoming President Danna C. Bell, who announced her platform for the upcoming year. In addition, roundtable members Andrea Jackson and Courtney Chartier gave a presentation on their success in promoting the Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection at the Atlanta University Center.
- ★ Many attendees chose to give back while in New Orleans through a variety of service projects. Bill Ross, the special collections librarian at the University of New Hampshire, organized one such project in the Lower Ninth Ward. Ross has been visiting New Orleans each spring since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and arranged for four archivists and himself to volunteer with the organization Lowernine.org, which coordinates volunteer labor to reduce home construction costs. The group cleaned and prepared subflooring to install ceramic tile and tackled a few side projects. They had a chance to meet the homeowner, which was "very much an added bonus," Ross noted.



#SAA13 on Twitter

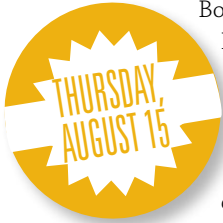
@brilwil Morning spent sitting  
on concrete warehouse floor  
helping to inventory Katrina damaged records.  
Will be most rewarding 4 hrs of my #saa13

## Get the Most Out of an SAA Meeting

Jill Severn admits she's not a "venerated archival veteran nor . . . [a] dazzling new archivist slathered in technical exuberance and winsome charm." But she has solid Annual Meeting knowhow (and a great sense of humor). Here are a few of the secrets she shared for thriving at Annual Meetings at the **New Member/First-Timer Orientation**.

1. Eat at all complimentary events. Choose tchotchkes and literature carefully in the vendor area.
2. Scope out obscure restroom locations to avoid crowds.
3. Identify three to five sessions **at most** that you really want to attend. Use your remaining time to browse section and roundtable meetings. Go to lots . . . that seem interesting or relevant. These will be your people all year long, and these groups will be where you find coauthors for articles, copresenters for sessions, collaborators, friends, and Scrabble opponents.
4. If you are shy, introverted, reserved, or flying under the radar and still want to meet and greet folks, horror films can be instructive. Survey the area. When potential colleagues wander away from their larger group, move in for the kill—I mean, go over and introduce yourself. Look for small groups of people and enter them. Let these people lead you to new victims.
5. If you come to the meeting knowing people already, it may be hard to branch out to meet folks who interest you as opposed to the colleagues that your friends think will interest you. Opt for a mix and be candid with your colleagues. Tell them that you are excited to have them introduce you to lots of great people, but you also want to do some exploring on your own.

✧ At **Plenary Session I**, SAA President Jackie Dooley led the panel “Building a New New Orleans,” which featured Bob Brown, managing director of the New Orleans Business Council, and Helen Regis, a cultural anthropologist at Louisiana State University. The panelists discussed New Orleans’s recovery following Hurricane Katrina. Regis highlighted the “wonderful partnerships and alliances that have come out of the last eight years.” For instance, the House of Dance and Feathers, a small, backyard museum run by Ronald W. Louis in the Lower Ninth Ward, was destroyed by the hurricane. Through partnerships, Louis was able to rebuild the museum and publish a book that extends the masterful storytelling displayed at his museum. The project became a “photographic repatriation,” Regis said, as Louis worked with the Neighborhood Story Project to collect photographs from local archives to illustrate the book. Brown noted that although much of the city was rebuilt following the hurricane, it hasn’t lost its unique charm, saying New Orleans is the “largest city in America that is most unlike any other city in America . . . It will not modernize.”



✧ Also at **Plenary Session I**, CoSA President Jim Corridan presented Victoria Irons Walch with the Inaugural Victoria Irons Walch Leadership Award to honor her service during her twenty-year affiliation with CoSA, most recently as executive director. The award recognizes “sustained leadership and contributions of an individual or institution to the development of state and territorial archives.”

✧ Thursday also kicked off the education sessions, including session 203, “**Lights, Camera, Archives! Working with the Media and Moviemakers,**” featuring a panel of archivists who have worked with documentary filmmakers or television or movie productions or who have made a media appearance. “A recurring theme that emerged during our session was that prominent television shows or documentaries are often in a rush to acquire the items they need, and that archivists should be prepared to fast track these requests,” said panelist Travis Hedges Williams, a student at Louisiana State University.

**Below, left:** Vicki Walch and Jim Corridan. **Right:** Panelists Helen Regis and Bob Brown discuss New Orleans’s recovery following Hurricane Katrina during Plenary I. *Photos by Wayne Catalano.*



✧ SAA President Jackie Dooley delivered her **Presidential Address**, “Feeding Our Young,” which discussed welcoming students and new members to the archival profession.

✧ **Graduate Student Poster Presentations** took place in the Exhibit Hall. Participants explored a range of topics, from “Representing Student Organizations in University Archives” to “Preservation of Archaeological and Zoological Research Data.” “I decided to be a poster presenter because it allowed me to be an active participant at the Annual Meeting,” said Michael Dobbs, who presented “Treasure Chest on the Move: Creating and Leveraging METS Records to Transfer Complex Digital Objects.” Liza Booker, who presented “The Role of Video Game Archives,” added, “I learned that it is vital to present new ideas regularly in the archival field because the new ideas maintain interest and transform stagnant practices.”



**#SAA13 on Twitter**

**@SamiNorling:** Historians often develop close relationships with archivists who have expertise in relevant collection areas **#BefriendYourArchivist #saa13**

**Above, right:** SAA President Jackie Dooley following her Presidential Address. **Right:** Liza Booker discusses her poster, “The Role of Video Game Archives.”

*Photos by Wayne Catalano.*





- \* Education sessions continued, including session 304, **“Training in Place: Upgrading Staff Capabilities to Manage and Preserve Electronic Records.”**



The session explored the curriculum content and delivery methods of three different programs that target working professionals: the Council of State Archivists’ institutes for state archives staff; SAA’s Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) program; and Clayton State University’s online Master of Archival Studies program. Presenter David Carmicheal noted that panelists stressed that “cost, time, and distance should not pose insurmountable barriers to archivists who want to acquire more education and training. . . . Online education, in particular, offers in-place training that is not limited by time and place.”

- \* Session 507, **“Advancing the Ask: Proactive Acquisitions for the Modern Age,”** featured panelists who worked to identify, appraise, and acquire archival materials. Session

Chair Jaimie Quagliano of the Gates Archive noted that recurring themes in the session included the “need to gain trust with donors and to take on new and unexpected roles during proactive efforts.”



**Top to bottom:** Making Annual Meeting memories: Elliot Williams, Steve Duckworth, Steve Ammidown, and Jarred Wilson. *Photo courtesy of Jarred Wilson.*

Bergis Jules and Tamar Evangelistia-Dougherty at the All-Attendee Reception. *Photo by Wayne Catalano.*

The All-Attendee Reception was held at the National World War II Museum, where party-goers mingled in the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center under iconic planes. *Photo by Wayne Catalano.*



#### #SAA13 on Twitter

**@griffingate:** Watching archivists say goodbye on the last day of #saa13 is like summer camp all over again. “Never forget me. Also, stay cool.”

### ★ ★ My Top NOLA Moments ★ ★

“I had a great behind-the-scenes tour of the Historic New Orleans Collection with a particular focus on people of color. . . It was a true delight to view documents, legal cases, maps, and photographs documenting aspects of the African American population in New Orleans since my maternal family hails from Louisiana.”

—Andrea Jackson, Atlanta University Center

“Sipping morning espresso in the Hilton Starbucks, and yes, eavesdropping on a great conversation about archives happening next to me, I politely dared to engage myself, and had a terrific confab with Rand Jimerson and Sonia Yaco, two archivists I had never met and whose work I admire.”

—Donna Guerra, Trinity University

- \* In a packed room, session 601 panelists discussed **“ArchivesSpace: A Next-Generation Archives Management System.”** The presentation, Session Chair Katherine Kott said, “covered the history of the ArchivesSpace project, specifications for the software, and the development process that allowed project teams to create a product in one year.”

- \* On a different note, session 609, **“Thinking Beyond the Box: How Military Archivists Are Meeting 21st Century Challenges,”** informed attendees about military records and how they can be applied to nonmilitary uses. “Military records can reside in nonmilitary archives, and finding ways to tie these records to nonmilitary areas will enhance their use,” said Session Chair Paul Oelkrug.

### Missed a Session of Interest?

Go to [www2.archivists.org/2013/schedule](http://www2.archivists.org/2013/schedule) and click on the session title to access a description and materials. Most education sessions and both plenaries were audio recorded; visit <http://www.conventionrecordings.com> to purchase a CD-ROM of all recorded sessions.

There were many more highlights from the memorable week in New Orleans. For more on this meeting, visit [www.archivists.org/2013](http://www.archivists.org/2013) or search the hashtag #saa13 on Twitter. Thank you to everyone who attended or assisted with the meeting to help make it a success. Let’s repeat it next year in Washington, DC!



# Streaming Is Believing

## Live Broadcasting a Roundtable Meeting from New Orleans

Sasha Griffin, Luther College

At the 2013 CoSA/SAA Joint Annual Meeting, the Archivists' Toolkit/Archon Roundtable (ATART) successfully streamed its meeting to roundtable members who were unable to come to New Orleans. The ATART meeting is highly attended, averaging around one hundred attendees in 2011 and 2012. This year was even more impressive with two hundred people in the room.

### The Idea

With the imminent release of ArchivesSpace and recent announcements that Archivists Toolkit (AT) and Archon will no longer be supported, the ATART discussion list had been buzzing with questions. In particular, conversations on the list centered on ArchivesSpace's membership and governance structures. As a result, 2012–2013 ATART Chair Cassie Schmitt led the Steering Committee in gathering feedback and organizing it into a community letter to the ArchivesSpace project team.

Although the ArchivesSpace team addressed ATART member questions in a detailed response, the Steering Committee thought it was important to invite the team to the roundtable's meeting in New Orleans to participate in a Q&A panel to clarify any lingering or new questions. In addition to the ArchivesSpace panel, the meeting agenda included a discussion about the identity of the Roundtable as ArchivesSpace continues to develop and replace AT and Archon. Member engagement on the discussion listserv rose dramatically during spring 2013, so the New Orleans conference proved an ideal time to host a participatory-based meeting.

This meeting was an important opportunity for ATART community members to weigh in on how the roundtable's goals and mission might evolve. Because many of the 1,358 members—including current and incoming members of our Steering Committee—would not be attending the CoSA/SAA Joint Meeting, we wanted

to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate. With the announcement earlier in the year that the 2013 Annual Meeting would offer wireless Internet, the idea to stream our roundtable meeting was born.

### The Method

There are several different streaming providers that allow for broadcasting via webcam, including Google Hangouts on Air, Livestream, and Justin.tv. I chose Ustream because I was familiar with it. Ustream offers a free account that is ad supported, allows for 10GB of video storage, basic social sharing, and a video display resolution of 480p SD for live broadcasting and recording.

On the day of the ATART meeting, I arrived approximately an hour beforehand to set up the computer, streaming software, and AV, and also to troubleshoot problems. However, the setup was quite easy and took five minutes. My only hardware was a Macbook Pro with an embedded webcam, and I made sure that I was within reach of a power outlet. Even though the setup was as simple as clicking "Start Broadcasting," I learned a number of logistical lessons.

### Lessons Learned

**Lesson #1: Use a designated streaming laptop.** We needed to use my laptop to display the agenda and meeting information via the AV projector *and* to stream. To make matters more difficult, the provided display cord was very short and limited the laptop placement to the podium. I decided to use the projector screen as if it were a dual monitor and positioned the laptop below the podium, facing up. Although not the most flattering perspective, it did the trick!

Continued on page 36 >>

# SAA Welcomes Four New Fellows

Four members were named distinguished Fellows, the highest individual honor bestowed by SAA for outstanding contributions to the archives profession. These accomplished individuals were recognized on August 15, 2013, during Plenary I at ARCHIVES 2013 in New Orleans.

**LYNN HOLDZKOM**, the former head of the Technical Services Department of the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC–Chapel Hill), began her archives career in 1987 as technical services archivist at the Manuscript Department at UNC–Chapel Hill after earning a master of library science degree at the school. Between 1987 and 1996, she processed 468 manuscript collections, the most of anyone working at UNC–Chapel Hill to date. She assumed the position of head of the Technical Services Department in 2008.



Lynn Holdzkom

Holdzkom played a critical role in the Canadian-U.S. Task Force on Archival Description (CUSTARD), which attempted to develop an archival descriptive standard. When CUSTARD disintegrated, Holdzkom refused to accept defeat, pulling together American colleagues to create Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS), a set of rules for describing archives, personal papers, and manuscript collections.

Holdzkom worked tirelessly to champion DACS, collaborating on a 2006 SAA Annual Meeting session and a highly important article published in *The American Archivist* in 2008.

One recommender wrote: “While DACS was definitely a group effort produced by like-minded individuals, [Lynn] was the heart and soul of the rules. . . . DACS has had an enormous impact on archival description—not just in the United States—and much of that impact is due to Lynn’s promulgation and ongoing support of the standard.”

Holdzkom also influenced the next generation of archivists as a mentor and as an instructor for the SAA workshops Archival Cataloging as a Component of Description and MARC According to DACS. As another nominator noted, “Lynn is a gifted teacher—approachable, patient with questions, always willing to share her experiences or help work out a thorny descriptive problem.”

Sadly, Holdzkom passed away on July 12, 2013. Prior to her passing, she received news of her induction as a Fellow and received her Fellow’s plaque and pin. Holdzkom’s nominator and colleague, Jackie Dean, accepted a certificate on her behalf during the ceremony in New Orleans.

**DEBORRA A. RICHARDSON**, chair of the Archives Center at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH), received a bachelor of music degree from Howard University and a master of library science degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Richardson has worked at NMAH for twenty-three years, previously serving as

the assistant chair of the Archives Center and archives specialist for the Duke Ellington Collection. During her time at NMAH, Richardson has implemented projects to educate young adults about the profession through internships and volunteer opportunities. She also has worked with Archives Center colleagues who teach an “Archival Practices” class, introducing students in the Museum Studies Program at George Washington University to the profession and to archival theory and practice using hands-on experience with archival materials.



Deborra A. Richardson

Richardson has served the profession in a variety of leadership positions; she was a member of the SAA Council from 2009 to 2012 and she helped bridge the gap between affiliated professional organizations as a representative and then chair of the SAA / American Library Association / Association of American Museums Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums from 2004 to 2008.

In 2011, Richardson published *Treasures at the Museum*, a children’s book targeting students in grades K–4 that encourages intergenerational interaction among family members as they learn together about archives and museums. The book also has been used as a basis for in-school and after-school activities as well as museum visits for

students in grades K–6 in the Philadelphia and Washington, DC, metropolitan areas.

For Richardson's most recent work, she contributed to the New York metropolitan area hip hop symposium "Documenting History in Your Own Backyard" held at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, for which she and colleagues introduced participants to new issues in documenting and preserving the history of hip hop culture.

One recommender noted that Richardson is "a fine exemplar of the importance of diversity in the field of archives and a strong advocate for a more participatory and outreach-oriented profession."

**MARGERY N. SLY**, director of special collections at Temple University, earned a master of arts in American history and a master of library science from Case Western Reserve University in 1981. One supporter noted that Sly made a "commitment to archives as her profession at a time when the majority of archivists still received on-the-job training."

Throughout her career, Sly has worked with the papers of government officials, senatorial records, women's history, institutional archives and manuscript collections, and religious archives, and has worked at the National Archives, Western Historical Manuscripts Collection at the University of Missouri–Columbia, Smith College, the Presbyterian Historical Society, and now Temple University's Special Collections Research Center.

More impressive than her work history, Sly's service to the profession is exemplary. New England Archivists, Midwest Archives Conference, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Society of Georgia Archivists, and Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special



Margery N. Sly

Collections Libraries have all benefitted from Sly's energetic leadership. A Certified Archivist, Sly is the president-elect of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Sly also has enriched SAA; she has been an active member for thirty years, serving multiple leadership positions in SAA, most recently on the Council where she was elected to the Executive Committee and served as liaison to the Standards Committee; as a member of the Publications Board; and on the SAA Foundation Board of Directors.

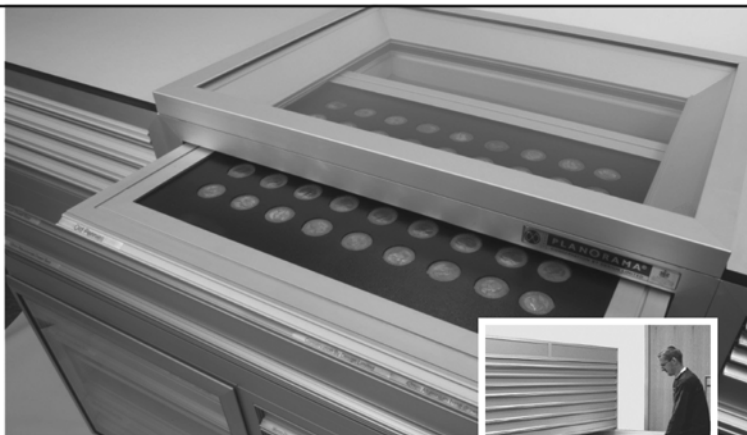
One recommender wrote: "Deeply versed in archives, history, and literature, Margery is one of the rare individuals who can work with anyone. She fearlessly takes on even the most volatile situations and expertly diffuses them with humor and good sense."

Sly generously shares all she has learned, through her years of teaching seminars and workshops and her participation as an instructor/mentor for the rigorous internships that are part of all archival studies programs.

Continued on page 35 >>

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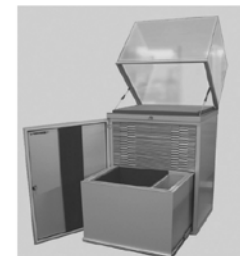


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## Leaders Who Inspire

At *ARCHIVES 2013*, SAA honored individuals who went above and beyond the call of duty. Their innovative thinking, dedication, and passion have bettered the profession and called attention to the significance of archives. Read on to learn about their outstanding contributions to the field.

### Advocacy/Public Awareness

#### J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award



Dr. Warren Stewart

**AARP Virginia and Dr. Warren Stewart** are the 2013 recipients of the J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award, which honors an individual, institution, or organization that promotes greater public awareness, appreciation, or support of archives. AARP Virginia and Stewart, its past president, provided support for Desegregation of Virginia Education (DOVE), a

collaboration of archives and libraries that finds and encourages the preservation of material related to school desegregation in Virginia. AARP formed a partnership with DOVE and civil rights groups to promote public awareness of the importance of preserving this history. The partners held “School Desegregation: Learn, Preserve, and Empower” events throughout Virginia, which featured an exhibit on the history of school desegregation, documentaries, and workshops.

#### Philip M. Hamer–Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award



Caitlin Oiye and Geoff Froh of Densho.

**Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project**, led by Executive Director Tom Ikeda, is the 2013 recipient of the Philip M. Hamer–Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award, which recognizes individuals or institutions that have increased public awareness of

archives documents. The Awards Subcommittee noted that Densho’s mission, to preserve the testimonies of Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during World War II, is realized in “rich and wonderful detail” on the Densho website ([www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org)). In addition to more than fourteen hundred hours of video testimonies, Densho created a digital archive of more than twelve thousand historic photos, documents, and newspapers. The subcommittee expressed high regard for the “invaluable firsthand accounts of the Japanese American experience [that] document a dark period in our nation’s history that deserves to receive the thorough, compelling examination that Densho provides.”

### Outstanding Contribution to the Archives Profession

#### Council Exemplary Service Award



Peter Wosh

**Peter Wosh**, director of the Archives/Public History program at New York University, was honored for his work as the SAA Publications Editor from February 2007 through February 2013. SAA President Jackie Dooley surprised Wosh with the award during the opening plenary session of the conference.

During Wosh’s six-year tenure, SAA published twenty books and pursued collaborative opportunities with allied publishers. Wosh also pursued collaborations with the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library to publish *Campus Case Studies* and with Brigham Young University to publish *The Interactive Archivist*—both of which are complimentary online publications. In addition, Wosh positioned SAA to launch the new modular series Trends in Archives Practice following a three-year research and development process. He also led by example during his tenure, writing *Waldo Gifford Leland and the Origins of the American Archival Profession* and editing *Public Relations and Marketing for Archives*, both published in 2011.

Continued on page 20 >>



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



Award presenter Amanda York Focke with Gary Newcomer.

**Audrey Newcomer**, the former director of archives and records at the Archdiocese of St. Louis, is the 2013 recipient of the Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award. The award honors an individual archivist who has made a significant contribution to the field of religious archives. Sadly, Newcomer passed away in December 2012, but not before leaving her mark on the archives profession. Newcomer had been active in the library and archives fields since 1981 and joined the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 2001 as the director of archives and records. In addition to her leadership within the archdiocese, Newcomer served in a variety of leadership positions, including positions with the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists, St. Louis Area Religious Archivists, and SAA's Archivists of Religious Collections Section. She also taught records management workshops and served as the director of education for the St. Louis Chapter of ARMA International. Newcomer is survived by her husband, Gary, who accepted the award on her behalf.



Terry Brown

## Spotlight Award

**Terry Brown**, volunteer archivist for the Houston Symphony and an archives volunteer for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), is the 2013 recipient of the Spotlight Award, which recognizes the contributions of individuals who work for the good of the profession and archives collections. Brown

led the effort to establish an archives for the Houston Symphony after seeing the devastation Tropical Storm Allison wrought on the group's historic records in 2001 and to salvage records damaged in the storm. Volunteering on an almost-daily basis, Brown has cultivated donations from the Symphony's supporters and musicians, created an institutional records management program, and designed the archives' website. On the one weekday that she is not at the Symphony archives, she can be found at the MFAH Archives, where she has volunteered for more than two decades.

## Emerging Leader Award

Vermont State Archivist **Tanya Marshall** is the 2013 recipient of the Emerging Leader Award, which celebrates and encourages early career archivists who have completed archival work of broad merit, demonstrated significant promise of leadership, performed commendable service to the archives profession, or accomplished a

combination of these requirements. Marshall joined the staff of the Vermont State Archives in 2005 and was appointed the Vermont state archivist last year. The Award Subcommittee noted Marshall's impressive contributions to core archives and records management work. Most notably, Marshall developed a groundbreaking classification system that focuses on functional analysis and macroappraisal. Implementation of the system has enabled Marshall to forge strong ties with members of the Vermont state government, technologists, legal experts, and others. Her adoption of this collaborative approach has resulted in unprecedented support for the archives in her state.



Tanya Marshall

## Diversity Award



Janice Liao of the A/P/A Institute

**The Asian/Pacific/American (A/P/A) Institute at New York University (NYU)**, consulting archivist **Joan Krizack**, and **Karen Underhill**, former head of Special Collections and Archives at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library, are the 2013 recipients of the Diversity Award, which

recognizes an individual, group, or institution for outstanding contributions in advancing diversity.

**The A/P/A Institute** offers graduate fellowships, public programming, exhibitions, and publications that promote the long-term development of diversity within the archives and the archives profession. The Institute also completes archives-building initiatives that center on conducting archival surveys of Asian/Pacific American (A/PA)-related collections. Through the surveys, which bring graduate scholars into contact with community-based organizations and individuals, the Institute has been able to map and create a record of the documentation available on East Coast A/PA history, share information about A/PA-related collections on its project website, and facilitate the donation of A/PA collections to archival repositories.

**Joan Krizack** has worked tirelessly to advance diversity throughout her career. As Northeastern University's first professional archivist, she focused on documenting underrepresented social justice organizations and activists in Boston's African American, Chinese, Latino, and GLBTQ communities. When Krizack came to Northeastern, the university archives held just one collection documenting a social justice organization; eighteen years later, that number has increased to about 120 collections, of which 95 have been processed with collection guides available online.



Joan Krizack

Krizack recently appraised and accessioned for Northeastern the records of the Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation (HOPE), a community-based organization that provides educational, health and human services, and community development programs for the Hispanic/Latino community of Massachusetts.

For the past twenty years, **Karen Underhill** has been committed to helping African American, Hispanic American, and Native American cultures of the Colorado Plateau capture, preserve, and make accessible their histories for future generations. Her tireless advocacy, exceptional abilities to acquire funding, and skillful project management have enriched the archival record with more than two hundred oral history interviews from a wide range of cultural perspectives. Underhill's leadership in drafting the *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials* contributed greatly to fostering discussion and increasing awareness of the topic. Underhill collaborated with a team of Native American and non-Native American archivists to draft the *Protocols*, which work to identify best practices for culturally responsive care and use of American Indian archival material held by non-tribal organizations.



Karen Underhill

### Distinguished Service Award

**The Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC)** is the 2013 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. Founded in 2005, the BMRC is a consortium of libraries, universities, and other archival institutions in the Chicago area; its mission is to provide access to unprocessed or underprocessed African American collections housed in area repositories. The organization is now engaged in the Color Curtain processing project, an initiative to process more than 100 collections (10,000 linear feet of material). In addition, the BMRC will further its objective to recruit new archives professionals by hiring undergraduate students to assist in processing collections.



BMRC Executive Director  
Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty

### Archival Innovator Award

#### **The APT (Augmented Processing Table) Research Team**

is the first recipient of the Archival Innovator Award, which recognizes archivists, repositories, or organizations that show creativity in approaching professional challenges or the ability to think outside the professional norm or that have an extraordinary impact on a community through archives programs or outreach. The APT project is an ongoing and collaborative effort at The University of Texas at Austin's School of Information led by researchers in archives (Dr. Ciaran B. Trace) and human-computer interaction



Dr. Ciaran B. Trace



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(Dr. Luis Francisco-Revilla). The main objective of APT is to enhance and accelerate archival curation and, in the process, enhance online access to reliable, accurate, and trustworthy collections of information. The APT research team is focusing on devising a working solution to clear the backlog of hidden collections residing in archival repositories and set up infrastructure for managing ongoing accessions of born-digital, digitized, and paper-based materials. The team's work has included the development of two prototype large-scale surface computing devices for processing and making accessible collections of digitized material.

## Writing and Publishing Excellence

### C.F.W. Coker Award



Don Thornbury, Daniel Santamaria, and Maureen Callahan

**The Princeton University Library Archival Description Working Group** was awarded the 2013 C.F.W. Coker Award for its new finding aids interface. The C.F.W. Coker Award recognizes finding aids, finding aid systems, innovative development in archival description, or descriptive tools that enable archivists to produce more effective finding aids. Princeton's finding aids interface was released in September 2012. The system describes every archival collection held within the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton. The site includes a number of innovations, including direct access to digital content, sortable inventories, and user commenting at every descriptive level. Maureen Callahan, John Delaney, Shaun Ellis, Regine Heberlein, Dan Santamaria (chair), Jon Stroop, and Don Thornbury serve on the Princeton Working Group.



Astrid M. Eckert

### Waldo Gifford Leland Award

**Astrid M. Eckert**, an associate professor at Emory University, is the 2013 recipient of the Waldo Gifford Leland Award for her book, *The Struggle for the Files: The Western Allies and the Return of German Archives after the Second World War*, published by Cambridge University

Press. The award is given for writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the fields of archival history, theory, and practice. *The Struggle for the Files* provides a rich and engaging narrative of the role of archival records in politics, world affairs, and diplomacy.

Eckert focuses on the events surrounding the Allies' capture and repatriation of German records after World War II, as well as the interactions among numerous government agencies spread across multiple nations.

### Preservation Publication Award

#### **Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation**

edited by Dr. Nancy Y. McGovern (the volume editor) and Dr. Katherine Skinner (the series editor), is the recipient of the Preservation Publication Award, which recognizes outstanding work related to archives preservation. Published by Educopia Institute in 2012, *Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation* provides a comprehensive synthesis of current thinking in the field of digital preservation and proposed methods of action and cooperation that "support the preservation of our collective cultural memory." The publication contains a collection of peer-reviewed essays that were developed by conference panels and attendees of the 2011 "Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation" conference in Tallinn, Estonia.



Dr. Nancy Y. McGovern



Dr. Katherine Skinner

### Fellows' Ernst Posner Award



Scott Cline

**Scott Cline**, city archivist and director of the Seattle Municipal Archives and Records Management Program, is the 2013 recipient of the Fellows' Ernst Posner Award, which recognizes an outstanding essay dealing with some facet of archival administration, history,

theory, and/or methodology that was published during the preceding year in *The American Archivist*. Cline was honored for his article "Dust Clouds of Camels Shall Cover You': Covenant and the Archival Endeavor," which appeared in the Fall/Winter 2012 issue of *The American Archivist* 75, no. 2. The stated goal of Cline's essay was to analyze "meaning in our individual lives and how we transmit personal value to our archival work and create value through our actions." The article demonstrates how the concept of the covenant—which, Cline writes, "binds people together in relationships that allow the individual to remain and live freely, but correspondingly fosters mutual respect and natural duty to community, polity, and civil society"—can and should be applied to the archives profession. ■

*Photos courtesy of Wayne Catalano and Katherine Skinner.*

# THE TOP OF THE CLASS



SAA student award recipients in 2013 (from left to right): Kimberly Springer, Barrye Brown, Rhonda Jones, Alex H. Poole, Maria Angel Diaz, Catherine L. Miller, Weimei Pan, Samantha Norling, and Lori E. Harris. *Photo by Wayne Catalano.*

Nine exceptional students were honored during Plenary II at the CoSA/SAA Joint Annual Meeting on Friday, August 16, 2013. Each of these students has demonstrated scholastic and personal achievement, as well as the potential to become an influential member of the archives profession.

**Kimberly Springer** is the recipient of the Josephine Forman Scholarship, which provides financial support to minority students pursuing graduate education in archival science. Springer is pursuing a master of science in information degree at the University of Michigan's School of Information. Previously, she spent seven years as a senior lecturer in American studies at King's College London.

**Barrye Brown** received the Mosaic Scholarship, which provides funding to students who demonstrate potential for scholastic and personal achievement and who manifest a commitment both to the archival profession and to advancing diversity concerns within it. Brown is a master's student in the School of Information and Library Science at the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Brown also holds a bachelor of arts degree in American history from Dillard University and a master of arts degree in Atlantic world history from Rice University.

**Rhonda Jones** also was awarded the Mosaic Scholarship. Jones entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall to pursue a degree in library science and serves as an assistant professor and the director of public history at North Carolina Central University, which offers an archives track.

**Alex H. Poole** is the recipient of the Theodore Calvin Pease Award for superior writing achievement. Poole, a PhD student in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was recognized for his paper "The Strange Career of Jim Crow Archives," which was nominated by Alumni Distinguished Professor Helen R. Tibbo. Tibbo noted that the paper "will become an important piece on social justice and how archivists handled their ethical responsibilities in light of a very challenging political landscape . . . exploring issues of open and equal access and viewing archival

policies and practices from the user's perspective." The paper will be published in the Spring/Summer issue of *The American Archivist* 77, no. 1.

**Maria Angel Diaz** received the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award, which recognizes minority graduate students who, through scholastic achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of SAA. Diaz is pursuing a master of library and information science degree at the University of California, Los Angeles, and has been involved with several archival community service initiatives that document and preserve the Mexican-American experience.

**Catherine L. Miller** was awarded the F. Gerald Ham Scholarship, which offers financial support to a graduate student in his or her second year of archival studies at a US university. Miller is a graduate student in the Master of Archival Studies Program at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia. Miller also works as an archives technician for the National Archives and Records Administration.

Continued on page 31 >>

# Adventures in Appointments

## SAA Volunteer Appointment Wrap-Up

SAA President Danna C. Bell

with Herbert Hartsook and Sharmila Bhatia, 2013 Appointments Committee

Whenever I meet a newly minted archivist, I always encourage him or her to get involved with SAA. Whether or not an individual can afford to attend the Annual Meetings, there are many opportunities to become active in roundtable and section leadership and eventually in the committees, task forces, and working groups that support the SAA leadership. A lot of people are interested in these positions and wonder how the appointments process works.

### The Appointments Process

Because SAA is a volunteer-based and volunteer-driven organization, it was wonderful to see so many applicants for the available appointed positions in 2013–2014. The depth of talent of our membership is amazing. A major challenge of the appointments process (which is, quite frankly, exhausting, frustrating, and seemingly never-ending) is that there are

many more outstanding applicants than there are positions.

The 2013–2014 Appointments Committee is populated with members who have served SAA in a variety of diverse roles. They have knowledge of the needs of SAA and the skills of its members. SAA staff provides a variety of tools to the committee, including a schedule to help streamline the process. Staff also supplies the chairs of various boards and committees with lists of individuals seeking appointment to their group. Those chairs then may alert the Appointments Committee to any individuals whom they think might make particularly strong contributions.

### Observations

As the Committee reviewed applications, we were reminded of the comments of Jackie Dooley and Scott Schwartz in their article in the July/August 2012 *Archival*

*Outlook*. We discovered, as Jackie and Scott learned in 2012, that more than half of the applicants did not provide all the information requested in the application. We also agreed that it would be helpful if volunteers indicated which of their specific skills, knowledge, and experience would make them a good fit for a committee appointment. Although having archival experience is beneficial, we are also looking for other skills that will support the work of an appointed group.

In addition, instead of applying for those positions that truly excited them, a number of people applied for every position available. It is helpful for applicants to choose committees they are interested in and also to do a bit of research to learn more about the activities of the committee. For example, serving on a Host Committee is more than just sitting behind the Annual Meeting registration desk and handing

**Continued on page 35 >>**



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## SAA Honored with 2013 APEX Award

SAA is pleased to announce that the September/October 2012 edition of *Archival Outlook* received an APEX Award for Publication Excellence in the Magazine and Journals category. The APEX



Awards are an annual competition for publishers, editors, writers, and designers who create print, web, electronic, and social media. Entries were judged on editorial

content, design, and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. Thank you to all those who helped make this publication a success!

Check out the winning issue at [http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/2012-5-AO\\_0.pdf](http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/2012-5-AO_0.pdf).

## Council Creates Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy

The SAA Council has approved creation of a new Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy to “provide strategic information and advice to the SAA Council to enhance SAA’s capacity to address public policy issues and concerns affecting archivists, archives, the archival profession, and its stakeholders.” CAPP replaces the Government Affairs Working Group. For more information, visit <http://www2.archivists.org/news/2013/council-creates-committee-on-advocacy-and-public-policy>.

## New Reads at the SAA Bookstore

SAA recently debuted two new titles, *Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections Libraries* by Jessica Lacher-Feldman and *Perspectives on Women’s Archives*

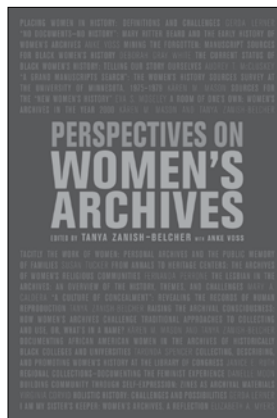
edited by Tanya Zanish-Belcher with Anke Voss. In *Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections Libraries*, longtime special collections exhibits curator Lacher-Feldman advises archivists at all levels on developing exhibits. The resource

provides easy-to-follow advice on each step of the exhibit process, including formulating exhibit policies and procedures, crafting



well-written labels, and promoting exhibits through conventional media, social media, and giveaway items.

In *Perspectives on Women’s Archives*, eighteen essays written by noted archivists and historians illustrate the origins of a women-centered history, the urgent need to locate records that highlight the diverse experiences of women, and the effort to document women’s experiences. Visit [www.archivists.org/bookstore](http://www.archivists.org/bookstore) to purchase these enlightening titles!



# PHOTO OP CONTEST

Thanks to many ARCHIVES 2013 attendees, our Annual Meeting album on Facebook is filled with fun snapshots of the event and sights around New Orleans. The Visual Materials Section pored over submissions to choose three winners, plus an honorable mention entry. Go to [www.facebook.com/archivists](http://www.facebook.com/archivists) to view all the photos from ARCHIVES 2013.



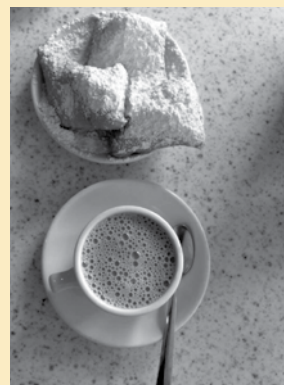
Does Jarred Wilson know that Lorrie Dong has a dagguerotype boyfriend? Courtesy of Helen Kim.



Jackson Square. Courtesy of Elizabeth Hollenbeck.



High over the SAA reception at the National WWII Museum, New Orleans. Courtesy of Daria D'Arienzo.



Honorable Mention: Café au Lait and beignets at Café du Monde. Courtesy of Brittany Turner.

# Cheers to 25 YEARS!

## A Tribute to Teresa Brinati



In September 2013 Teresa Brinati achieved a milestone: twenty-five years as SAA's Publishing Director. Teresa is talented, passionate about SAA (and many other things), enthusiastic, funny, a triathlete—truly a force of nature! She dwells in possibility . . .

To view more comments about Teresa's contributions or to share your own, go to <http://www2.archivists.org/node/18138>.



Teresa with her father Will, son Luca, mother Liz, and sister Mary Kay following the 2013 Life Time Triathlon in Chicago.



All smiles with Meyer Fishbein (Washington, DC, 2006).

### Mary Jo Pugh, Editor, *The American Archivist*, 2006–2011

Teresa and I were introduced at the SAA Editorial Board meeting in Atlanta on September 29, 1988, and we had breakfast the following day. She was so bright, engaging, and funny—and also proved to be utterly competent. I fell in love.

She has been my lifeline for decades of writing and editing. I first worked with her as editor of the *Archival Fundamentals Series* (1988–1992) and author of *Providing Reference Services* for that series. She helped me revise and publish the second edition of the book in 2005. From 2006 to 2011, she was the managing editor as I was the editor of *The American Archivist*. Teresa is a charged particle, energetic, optimistic, creative, original, intelligent, and supportive. To quote E.B. White, "It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer."

### Christopher Prom, Publications Editor, 2013–

During the time in my career when I was working on a key publication, I decided rather late in the game—at the layout proof stage—that the article I was working on needed some serious corrections. I dutifully submitted the edited proofs with all sorts of corrections and annotations, fully expecting that Teresa would push back at the changes. Even though what I was asking required a lot of work on her part, and even though she was under her own set of pressures, she never complained. She's no pushover, but she sees the best in people and really wants others to succeed. Throughout my involvement with SAA, I've seen again and again that Teresa goes the extra mile for SAA and its members!

**Gregory Hunter,**  
**Publications Editor, 1997–2000;**  
**Editor, *The American Archivist*, 2012–**

Editors and authors have come and gone during Teresa's twenty-five years on the SAA staff, but she has been the constant in SAA's publications program—the person balancing editorial vision with budget realities, all the while maintaining the friendship and respect of her colleagues. Whenever the Publications Board or Editorial Board meets in Chicago, Teresa spends long days with us, including accompanying us to dinner. While we usually are pleasant dinner companions, I know that Teresa has had personal commitments that probably should have taken precedence. Thank you, Teresa, for the many times that you have put SAA and its members first!

**Peter Wosh,**  
**Publications Editor, 2007–2013**

Teresa and I both root for historically hopeless baseball teams (the Chicago Cubs and the New York Mets, respectively). Neither ball club has won much of anything in the twenty-five years that Teresa has worked for SAA, and our annual optimistic outlook in March always seems to dissolve during the dreary dog days of August. Though we may have bonded over our teams' futility between the foul lines, it quickly became obvious to me that the archival community hit a collective grand slam when Teresa became director of publishing for SAA. Cool under pressure, she always keeps her eye on the ball. She enjoys working with diverse personalities, nurturing everyone's individual talents to advance the publications team's collective goals. If (God forbid) she ever leaves SAA, Teresa would do quite well in another profession entirely. It seems to me she is the perfect manager that the Chicago Cubs have never had but desperately need. Forget Ryne Sandberg; my money is on Brinati. Book your World Series tickets now!



Scouting at a Cubs/Padres game (San Diego, 2012).

**Joan Krizack,**  
**Publications Board**  
**Member, 2004–2011**

Breakfasts in New Brunswick, clandestine cocktails, Santa Monica Pier carousel rides, Publications Board summits—always upbeat and with a great sense of humor, Teresa made what could have been dull meetings entertaining. What a delight it has been to know and work with her over the last (can it really be?) twenty-five years. *Cin, cin, Teresa!*



Demonstrating her unparalleled knowledge of technology (San Diego, 2012).

**Richard Cox,**  
**Editor, *The American Archivist*, 1991–1995;**  
**Publications Editor, 2002–2006**

For twenty-five years, I've been impressed by Teresa's professionalism, knowledge, meticulous attention to detail, and good sense of humor in even the most difficult times. But while I have turned from silver to gray haired, seen more wrinkles appear, and felt my energy ebbing away, Teresa looks the same today as she did in the late 1980s. Her enthusiasm and energy seem unabated, and she seems to be well preserved—a good attribute for one working within the company of archivists.

**Philip Eppard,**  
**Editor, *The American Archivist*, 1996–2005**

Teresa took maternity leave while I was editing *The American Archivist* and the job of interacting with the printer fell to my editorial assistant. Teresa provided such detailed, step-by-step instructions that there was no chance that there could be a mishap in the production process. Nevertheless, we were very happy when Teresa returned to work! And I'm not at all surprised that her son Luca has been an enthusiastic worker in the SAA Bookstore at the annual meeting.



In the SAA Bookstore with her unpaid (but talented!) assistant Luca and staff member Lee Gonzalez (Chicago, 2007).

**Dennis Meissner,**  
**Publications Board**  
**Chair, 2003–2007**

At one particular Publications Board meeting, a rep from a prominent East Coast publishing house graced us with a visit to talk about “partnering” on a few titles. As the pitch unfolded, it became obvious that “partnering” was a happy euphemism for something else. The carpetbagger made a regrettable misstep toward the end of his presentation, averring that the proposed arrangement was a pathway toward stabilizing and professionalizing an also-ran press like SAA's. At that moment I noticed a hard, shiny glint in Teresa's eyes, followed almost immediately by something that stumped me—a soft, tranquil, and euphoric look. And then I realized that she was simply giving unvoiced thanks for the innocent victim that had been delivered unto her, as momentary exercise for her teeth and claws. After another fifteen minutes of lively discussion, the rep was escorted out of the meeting by Teresa, who cheerfully showed him the way to the street. I was happy and privileged to witness the swordsmanship of a master.



## FROM THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

**David S. Ferriero**

National Archives and Records Administration  
david.ferriero@nara.gov

# National Archives Readies New Strategic Plan

At the National Archives, we are in the midst of a multiyear transformation into a more dynamic and responsive agency. The transformation, which has involved an agency-wide reorganization, will have six results:

We will work as **one NARA**, not as component parts. We will be **out in front** in embracing the primacy of electronic information in all our work. We will foster a culture that results in **an agency of leaders**.

We will turn NARA into **a great place to work** by empowering our staff, our most vital resource. We will **focus on our customers** and find ways to serve their needs more effectively. And we will be an **open NARA**—open to learn from others outside the government.

This transformation is proceeding apace, but to get where we want to be as a transformed agency, we needed to establish some goals . . . realistic goals that could be met. Practical goals that would serve us and our customers. And simple goals that everybody could understand.

\*\*\*

To ensure our transformation's success, we're now in the final stages of creating a new Strategic Plan for 2014–2019. We recently requested input from our employees, our stakeholders, and the public, and we have received many thoughtful comments and suggestions. Thanks should go to the Society of American Archivists (SAA) for contributing comments that are helping us to improve the draft plan.

In the past eighteen to twenty-four months, as we have been crafting this new Strategic Plan, the White House has announced a number of directives and executive orders that have influenced our thinking and provided a context for our work. These include Creating a Digital

Future, Big and Open Data Initiatives, the Open Government Directive and Citizen Engagement, and the Managing Government Records Memorandum and Directive. And so we all understand what's going on, Congress passed the Plain Writing Act.

Within this context, we have developed four goals for the new Strategic Plan:

**Make Access Happen.** We need to make easily accessible all the records we have, including traditional paper records that we will digitize.

**Connect with Customers.** We want to build strong relationships with our customers, who are not only individuals, but also outside organizations, such as SAA.

**Maximize NARA's Value to the Nation.** We will continuously drive to improve our efficiency and effectiveness, which ultimately supports public access to government information and the measurable economic value that it creates.

**Build Our Future through Our People.** We will, through training, coaching, and mentoring, empower our staff to act to support our mission and customers. NARA is an agency that provides services, and it is our terrific staff that delivers those services with the utmost quality and professionalism.

\*\*\*

As I said earlier, to develop the Strategic Plan, we have drawn upon the expertise of our staff and stakeholders, including SAA. As our allies, your views are important to us. And from your vantage point, you see things that we may not see.

Our stakeholders showered us with very perceptive and challenging comments, many favorable and complimentary, some of which will assist us in making the plan even better. Some of those who commented believed we might be setting some goals that realistically

cannot be met. For example, they said we are overambitious in thinking we can get all our traditional records digitized. I truly believe that the plan should have “stretch” goals, and this is one of them.

There are in our holdings about 12 billion pieces of paper that document the story of our nation from its founding in 1776, through wars, westward expansion, and the fight for the rights of all Americans. It is important that these records be available online.

It is imperative we remember that the work we do aids and supports the lifecycle of federal records from creation, through use and management, and their final disposition. We must give guidance to government offices for their born-digital documents to ensure that our holdings will be available for future generations.

Records processing, preservation, description, and digitization are all very important. They are the essential components of reaching the goal of “Make Access Happen.” That's where we want to be and that's what is in our minds.

So, let me say: We've heard you. We're working to provide more clarity to the plan, and we'll provide more detail and explanation on how we're going to reach our goals.

\*\*\*

An update: The crafting of the new Strategic Plan is on schedule, and it will be published no later than February 2014.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on a document of utmost importance to us—and to all those who depend on the National Archives for quick and easy access to documents and records that they need.

Stay tuned. ■

## A Century of North Carolina City Directories Now Online

North Carolina city directories from the years 1860 through 1963 are now online via the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center (NCDHC). The collection at <http://www.digitalnc.org/collections/north-carolina-city-directories> consists of 939 volumes, covering 108 cities in 64 counties. A cross-directory search feature allows users of the collection to find all instances of a single name, business, or industry in the entire collection.

The NCDHC is a statewide digital library based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library and sponsored by the State Library of North Carolina. Through cooperative projects with libraries, museums, historical societies, and cultural institutions, the center has, since its founding in 2010, digitized more than two million pages of North Carolina history.

## Stanford University Libraries Debuts New Digital Collection

Stanford University Libraries is now providing digital access to large portions of the Musical Acoustics Research Library (MARL), making available research papers from eminent acousticians of the twentieth century (<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt6h4nf6qc/>). The MARL collection consists of nearly 60 linear feet of materials and is dedicated to the study of all aspects of musical acoustics. The collection includes correspondence, research papers, photographs, media, digital materials, wood samples, clarinet mouth pieces, and lab equipment.

## Upcoming Cornell Collection Publicly Archived

The Afrika Bambaataa Master of Records vinyl archive will move to its permanent home at Cornell University's Hip Hop collection in fall 2013, but this summer it took up residence at Gavin Brown's enterprise, where it was publically archived by Johan Kugelberg/Boo-Hooray Gallery. Kugelberg and his team organized, catalogued, and documented Afrika Bambaataa's peerless vinyl collection in front of viewers, allowing them to experience the process of documenting history. Originally from the South Bronx, Afrika Bambaataa is among the most influential American DJs and was instrumental in the rise of electro funk and break-beat deejaying beginning in the 1980s. For more on this project, visit <http://gavinbrown.biz/home/exhibitions/2013/afrika-bambaataa.html>.

## Comma Special Issue on Standards for Records and Archives

The latest issue of *Comma*, International Journal on Archives, edited by Margaret Proctor and published this summer by the International Council on Archives, is devoted to standards for records and archives. It includes ten engaging articles, including a piece by SAA Fellow and past president Trudy Huskamp Peterson on "Access Principles: Developing a Statement of Best Practice." For more information, go to <http://liverpool.metapress.com/content/122452/>. ■

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**Jason R. Baron**, the director of litigation at the National Archives and Records Administration, was named one of the top fifty legal innovators of the past fifty years by *The American Lawyer* magazine. The editors praised Baron's "obsession" with finding an efficient way to retrieve relevant electronic information.

**Gwynedd Cannan** has retired from her position as archivist at Trinity Wall Street in New York City. In her twelve years at Trinity, Cannan organized the entire archives of Trinity Church, launched a records management program, oversaw the digitizing of registers of official acts, and dramatically increased patron use of the archives.



**Maria R. Estorino** has been appointed the Esperanza Bravo de Varona chair of the Cuban Heritage Collection (CHC) at the University of Miami. In her new role, Estorino will provide leadership for the development of the CHC as a center for scholarly inquiry and for its continued growth. She will manage resources, programs, and services that include collection development, preservation and access, digital initiatives, research services, teaching and learning, and outreach, all with an emphasis on expanding the reach of the CHC within the university and the broader scholarly community.



**Lois Hamill**, university archivist at Northern Kentucky University's (NKU) W. Frank Steely Library, recently published *Archives for the Lay Person: A Guide to Managing Cultural Collections*. She wrote her book for people who manage archival collections but are not formally trained to do so, whether volunteers at the local historical society who want to help preserve their community's heritage, trained librarians who manage the public library local history room, or museum curators at a historical property with archival documents. Hamill has also been promoted to associate professor at NKU.



**Meg Phillips** has been appointed the new external affairs liaison for the National Archives and Records Administration. In this position, Phillips will manage NARA's relationships with stakeholder groups, including professional organizations of archivists, records managers, and historians, as well as public interest groups.



**Anne Petrimoulx** is the new archivist at Trinity Wall Street in New York City. She has served as assistant archivist since 2008 and succeeds Gwynedd Cannan.



**Kim Schroeder** has been awarded one of four 2013 Library of Congress National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) Innovation Awards, which recognize contributions to innovation in digital stewardship. Schroeder received the award for her work as a mentor to future digital stewards in her role as lecturer in digital preservation at Wayne State University School of Library and Information Science.



**Fred Stielow**, vice president and dean of libraries and electronic course materials at the American Public University System (APUS), was appointed by the American Library Association to a two-year term as its library representative on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



**Karen Underhill** has retired after twenty-three years with the Cline Library at Northern Arizona University. Underhill also received SAA's Diversity Award this year; for more on her career, go to page 21.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Lynn Holdzkom** passed away on July 12, 2013, at her home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, surrounded by family and friends. Holdzkom retired in April after working at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for twenty-five years. Holdzkom was named a Fellow of SAA this year; for more on Holdzkom's life and her admirable work as an archivist, see her entry in "SAA Welcomes Four New Fellows" on page 16.

**Sister Margaret Mary Quinn** passed away in July 2013 at the age of 92. Sister Margaret earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in modern European history from St. John's University and earned her doctorate in U.S. history from Catholic University. A Sister of the Congregation of St. Joseph for nearly seventy-five years, Sister Margaret began serving as the congregational archivist in 1977.

**Jane S. Long** passed away in July 2013. Long was a champion of emergency preparedness at Heritage Preservation and, more recently, at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), earning her the nickname "Disaster Maven" among her colleagues. Long, who was the National Preservation Program officer at NARA, shaped and sustained the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a partnership of government agencies and national associations, and created and obtained funding for Alliance for Response, a national initiative to build relationships with emergency first responders. Long's husband, Richard, has requested the establishment of the Jane S. Long Memorial Fund for Emergency Programs to honor her life and work. Contributions will be used to fund Heritage Preservation's emergency preparedness and response initiatives.

## "That's My Grandpa!" continued from page 3

work for five minutes to photocopy this record; later I found free time to call my dad with the story. My elation continued through five hours of classes and the evening until I went to sleep that night.

Why was this document such a big deal? I wasn't joyous about the fact that my great-grandmother had to sign up for the dole after her husband died, leaving her to care for two children. I wasn't thrilled to learn that my grandpa was only two years old when he suffered the loss of his father. Nettie's petition for aid both saddened me

and raised many questions, but even so, I still grinned like a lunatic, similar to the time I met the actor Kevin Bacon when I was in high school (an eighteen-year-old girl couldn't ask for anything more).

To me, this document was a broken story that I had to piece together. When I spoke with my father shortly after the discovery, he started filling in some of the missing information: Nettie's husband died of tuberculosis and they had to leave Canada and move back to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, to be with family. Even though I know very little of the Bellrichard half of my name, I started tracing their story in my head with the little information I was

given that day. In mere seconds I was given a name for my great-grandmother, a woman I had no prior knowledge of, and I learned how her family struggled but still managed to survive, despite so many tragedies. And the only reason I was able to understand the people listed on this petition was because of my grandpa and his name.

This piece of my family's past did indeed make me proud. It showed the hardships my grandpa faced in his life, and somehow I feel like his determination to persevere has been passed on to me. This has been one of my favorite days at work, and it reaffirmed why I want a place in the archival profession. ■

## The Top of the Class continued from page 23

**Weimei Pan** is the recipient of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award, which enables overseas archivists who are already in the United States or Canada for training to augment their experience by traveling to the SAA Annual Meeting. Pan is a first-year doctoral student in the Archives Studies PhD Program at the University of British Columbia. Pan also works as a research

assistant for the Records in the Cloud project.

**Samantha Norling** received the Donald Peterson Student Travel Award, which supports students and recent graduates from graduate archival programs within North America to attend SAA's Annual Meeting. Norling is a joint-degree student pursuing master of library science and master of arts in history degrees. Norling shared her perspectives as a dual-degree student at the Joint Annual Meeting during

session 607, "Archival Education from the Student Perspective."

**Lori E. Harris** is a recipient of the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award. Harris is a graduate student in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is involved with "Project RIGHT Now—Carolinas!," an organization dedicated to preserving local African American history in North Carolina and South Carolina. ■

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## New Tools for New Processing Challenges

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workflows. The EAD finding aid serves as 1) the only descriptive metadata for fully digitized collections; 2) the online presentation/navigation format; and 3) the digital file directory. Thus much of our database functionality is designed around EAD.

Automated workflows that support large-scale digitization include the initial uploading of the XML EAD finding aid into the database; creation of an internal “stub” site for a collection that will be fully digitized; generation of the digital file directory based on the finding aid container listing; batch processing of the TIFF files to create JPG derivatives; saving and linking digital files to the appropriate folder headings; generation of a PDF version of the finding aid; and finally, deployment to the website.

Additional innovative features include versioning support for finding aid edits, staff preview options, automated notifications, and a variety of statistical reporting features.

Modifying Accession "Hay Yoshida papers"

Accession Info Acquisition/Donor Info Restriction Info Contents Appraisal/Processing Accession Workflow Review/Print

**Identify the Contents of the Collection**  
Select the categories/series. Check all that apply.  
For each category/series, include approximate dates, and extent, and optionally include a brief summary.  
(This information will form the basis for the archival arrangement and description of the collection.)

**Oral History Contents**  
For Oral History Program only, e.g.: An interview of Kenneth Jay Lane conducted 2011 June 9-10 by Mike Riedel for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Lane's office, The Factory, in New York, N.Y.)

☒ **Biographical Materials**  
Extent: several folders  
Inclusive Dates: 1930-2009  
Summary: Resumes, personal files, artist statements, official documents  
Container Numbers:  
Biographical materials are generally only found in personal, family papers and may include:  
life documents  
family papers  
appointment books  
address lists  
scattered membership documents (sometimes these make their own series)  
interview transcripts and recordings (unless there is an AV category as well)

☐ **Administrative Files**  
☒ **Correspondence**  
Extent: about 1 box  
Inclusive Dates:  
Summary: Letters from colleagues and artists friends including Roger Brown, Jim Nutt, Gladys Nilsson, Art Green, Christina Samberg, Karl Wexner, Mueko Ito, Jo Soe Kim, Barbara Bossi, Vera Berdich, and Tom Kapsalis among others.  
Container Numbers:  
Correspondence may include:  
illustrated letters  
Greeting and holiday cards  
Postcards  
Memoranda  
Letterpress books  
Email copies  
Note in the Summary:  
Whether the category includes only letters received, only letters sent, or a combination  
Types of correspondents: Family Friends, Artists, Business Colleagues, Museums and Galleries, Colleagues, etc.  
Specific names when appropriate

☐ **Writings**

Partial view of data entry form for new accessions.

## Accessioning

Staff and contract collecting specialists enter basic content descriptions of new acquisitions directly into the DCD. Some of our collecting specialists have formal archival training, but others are art historians who struggle to understand archival methodologies and jargon. Rather than trying to train art historians to become archivists, we created a new **Accessioning Module**. The data entry form “forces” the collecting specialist to describe the contents of the collection via checklists that are prepopulated with typical archival

series titles and formats. The information supports the immediate creation of a MARC catalog record and is nearly sufficient for creating a series-level finding aid. We have not developed an automated mapping workflow that would allow this, but it would be a desirable enhancement.

Unique to the accessioning module are automatic notifications that alert the AV archivist if there are audiovisual formats and the digital assets manager if there is born-digital content. If the new accession is an addition to a collection that already has a finding aid online, an alert goes out to immediately update the finding aid.

## Assessment

The assessment module was created for a fully comprehensive backlog survey in 2006–2007, based on the methodology of the “PACSL Survey Tool” that is also available in The Archivists Toolkit™. Our assessment module similarly evaluates and rates the physical condition of the collection materials and housing, the levels of physical and intellectual access, and the research value/significance.

After completing the backlog survey, we quickly realized the value of assessing all new accessions and upgrading assessment ratings for individual collections as work is completed. Thus our assessment data are not static and continue to provide us with up-to-date reports that inform management decisions and help us to efficiently balance our ever-tightening resources. Most importantly, we have concrete empirical data that we can use to clearly articulate our processing and preservation needs to senior management and potential funders.

## Audiovisual Assessment Survey

Reports from the assessment module provided us with critical data needed to begin to systematically identify and assess audiovisual materials “hidden” within larger archival collections.

Prior to 2007, we were not effectively addressing the processing and preservation needs of our audiovisual materials and didn’t really know the full extent of our AV holdings, the majority of which are scattered throughout mixed-format collections. Often AV content was incorrectly or inadequately identified and described in our catalog records and finding aids. Worse, researchers were often either denied access or forced to pay for duplication when no access copies were available.

So we created an AV assessment methodology and supporting Access database. Initially, our new AV archivist looked at a few beta AV survey methodologies, but they were either not ready

to be shared or were more granular than what we envisioned being able to accomplish. Also, we wanted to take a more “archival” approach because our goal was to integrate audiovisual “processing” into our regular processing and description workflows. Thus the methodology focused on identifying intellectual groupings of AV within collections, which allowed us to cover a lot of collections fairly quickly for top-level information. The AV archivist could then identify formats and count and assess the physical condition of AV items, but describe (in the database) each group of items as one component. The process resulted in identifying 800 archival collections that contain 1,740 groups of AV totaling more than 15,100 AV items.

We now know the formats and condition of nearly all of our AV items, and which ones can be safely dubbed in-house and which must be reformatted by conservation labs. We have used these data to write successful grant proposals to fund conservation reformatting of at-risk items and for processing collections that consist primarily of AV. We record and track all AV conservation, cataloging, and additional processing work in the Access database. We also continue to survey new accessions, ensuring there will be no future backlog of hidden films, sound, or video recordings.

## Automated Tools for Analyzing, Documenting, and Reporting on MPLP

Data from the comprehensive assessment were used to strengthen three successful grant proposals to an SI funding source dedicated to collections stewardship projects. These projects afforded us the opportunity to fully identify, test, analyze, and document minimal-level processing tactics, which prompted us to further analyze our entire processing workflow.

Because most of our processing work is grant-funded and supports our large-scale digitization initiative, we knew we could not replace full-level with minimal-level processing. Thus any new minimal-level processing workflows and products needed to integrate fully with our existing processing workflows.

First, we identified the major primary tasks associated with each level or type of processing—minimal, full, and AV. We then created three corresponding Excel spreadsheets in which processing archivists enter the number of hours spent on each task for each collection processed. The spreadsheets easily calculate the average number of processing hours per linear foot for each type of

processing. We also can determine the number of processing hours associated with individual tasks, which can help us determine where efficiencies might be needed.

Most recently we developed a Processing Jobs Module in the DCD. For each collection processed, the archivist selects the collection from the database and completes the data entry form as shown below. Each job can be linked to predefined projects and/or grants. A project can be anything we would like to further analyze and get reports about, such as “accession-level minimal processing” or “intern processing.” Grant projects were added to enable project managers to quickly and easily gather accurate data for progress reports.

A completed processing job: A grant project collection was fully processed for digitization to a level 4 at 28 hours per foot.

MPLP has changed the way we approach fundamental archival work in many ways. As we implement new strategies and create new tools to do so, we start to understand that process + product = production. And we can look to modern business practices, such as assessment, statistics, tracking, and workflow and gap analysis, to help us increase production. ■

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> The Archives of American Art (AAA) is one of fourteen individual manuscript and archival repositories at the Smithsonian Institution. We are a national repository of primary sources documenting the history of the visual arts in the United States. Our archival holdings comprise 4,400 individual collections that measure nearly 15,000 linear feet. AAA's mission is documented and supported by a Collections Plan, a Collections Management Policy, and a living five-year Strategic Plan for 2011–2015.

## Treasured Finds

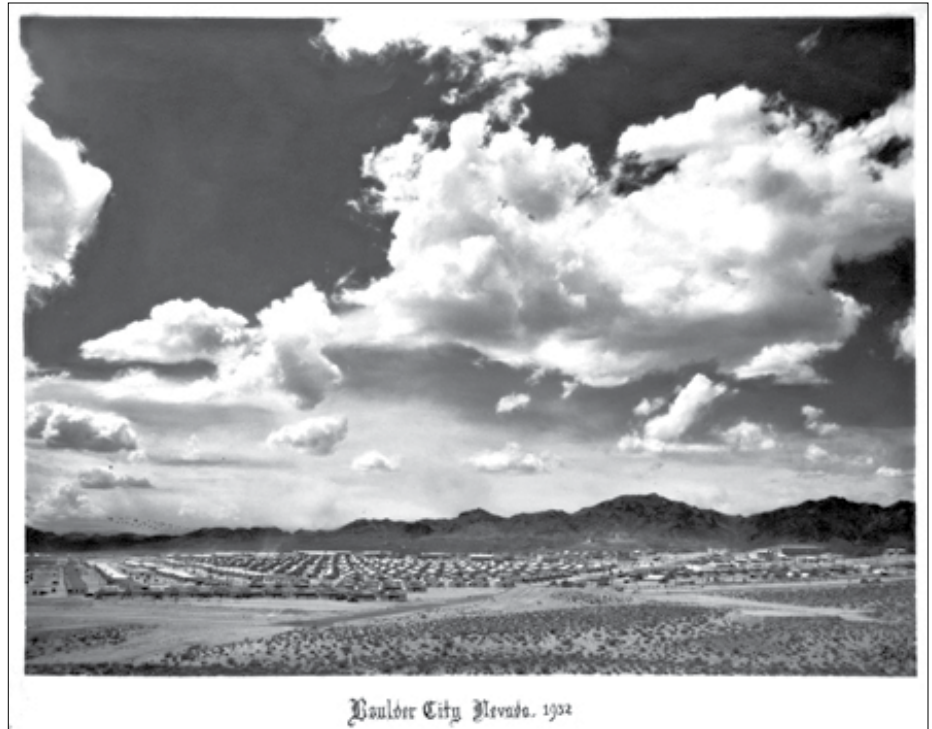
continued from page 9

Symphony” along with several other MWD-related Brandt paintings and drawings. He created these when he was given *carte blanche* to tour and paint scenes of the Colorado River Aqueduct following his *Fortune* magazine story.

### Sleuthing

More difficult sleuthing was required to find background information about an unknown photographer named J. Frederick Romig. Through the donation, we received three gorgeous, hand-tinted, colorized 16”x32” Romig photographs. Additionally, they were captioned in a calligraphic script no longer seen.

Checking through our MWD Image Collection—now at 21,000-plus images—I found no photographs by Romig. A quick Internet search produced no other matches for his work. Then I queried colleagues on the Western Archivists Listserv. In short order, Stephanie George at California State University and Gwen Granados at the National Archives at Riverside, California, provided me with 1935 and 1940 Federal Census information on Romig. Born in Wichita on November 7, 1895, Romig worked in Los Angeles as a “photographic artist,” was widowed and living in Pomona, California, by 1940, and died in Honolulu on December 19, 1968. (If any other archivists have this artist’s photos in their collection, I would be interested in hearing from you.)



Boulder City, Nevada, 1932, by photographer J. Frederick Romig. Boulder City was the workers camp for those involved in the federal construction of the Hoover/Boulder Dam. MWD contracted in 1930 for 36 percent of its electricity for water transportation along the Colorado River Aqueduct. © The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

### A Source of Pride

Several questions remain about this entire donation. For example, how did these materials, which all seem to be public relations-related, end up in a house in Upland, California? (A title search provided no answers.) Additional questions concern photographer Romig and his Boulder Dam work.

But we do know that this acquisition has become a source of pride for MWD and

its Records Team. It also has helped build relationships, both internally within MWD and externally. In the latter category, we have begun to work with the Laguna College of Art and Design, where the Brandt Papers have recently been archived by Jennifer Martinez-Wormser. Finally, it’s reinforced the value of forming relationships with the public and potential donors. You never know when a fascinating donation will come to your repository, or who it will come from. ■

### Reach Out to Potential Donors

Sometimes donors simply need a little guidance—or maybe even a push—to give their records to a repository. SAA recently debuted new editions of three brochures to assist with your outreach efforts: *Donating Your Personal or Family Records to a Repository*, *Donating Your Organization’s Records to a Repository*, and *A Guide to Deeds of Gift*. Revised and updated by SAA’s Manuscript Repositories, Acquisitions and Appraisal, and Electronic Records sections, the brochures

provide a comprehensive and straightforward look at donating to repositories. They are designed to educate potential donors about materials they can donate, to explain the donation process, and to advocate for archives and contributing to the public record. The brochures can be purchased in bundles of twenty-five at [www.archivists.org/bookstore](http://www.archivists.org/bookstore).



## SAA Welcomes Four New Fellows

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**ELLEN SWAIN**, associate professor of library administration and archivist for student life and culture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (U. of I.), earned a bachelor of arts degree from Earlham College; a master of arts degree in American history from Indiana University, Bloomington; and a master of science degree in library and information science from U. of I. She began her career as a professional archivist in 1996, working first as a project archivist and then assistant archivist for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Archives. She moved on to serve as archivist for student life and culture at U. of I. and continues to serve as the leader of this specialized archives program. U. of I. University Archivist William Maher wrote in his

nomination letter, "She has moved the program from nascent effort to a vibrant and expanding program with growing national credibility among both archival researchers and the creators of records of enduring value."



Ellen Swain

Swain's progressive commitment to educational programming has had a profound impact on professional archives organizations, particularly SAA and the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC). Her work as chair of MAC's Education Task Force is helping to establish a speakers bureau pilot project that will provide members of the profession with a mechanism to connect

lone arrangers and new archivists directly with leaders across the archives discipline to address both theoretical and practical questions that arise. One nominator wrote that Swain's work in building collaborative partnerships is "integral to the overall continued success of the archival profession in the twenty-first century."

Swain has been a member of SAA since 2000 and has served on the Education Committee, Student Program Subcommittee, and Program Committee. She served as chair of the Reference, Access, and Outreach Section, vice chair of the College and University Archives Section, and co-chair of the Women's Collections Roundtable. Swain also has published on numerous topics, including documentation strategies, oral history, and teaching with primary sources. ■

*Photos courtesy of Wayne Catalano and Lynn Holdzkom.*

## Adventures in Appointments

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out name badges. It involves exploring venues, writing blog posts to encourage attendance, and rallying local members to offer repository tours and find community service opportunities. It is not a job that can be done remotely by someone who can volunteer for an hour or so a week.

### By the Numbers

We received applications from 285 members, and while we strive for diversity in all our appointed groups, it can be very hard when our applicant pool skews one way or another.

For example, we had three times as many women apply for positions as men.

Female	200	70%
Male	56	20%
Prefer not to say	5	2%
Not reported	24	8%

Nearly double the number of archivists from colleges and universities applied as did archivists from all other kinds of repositories combined.

Consulting Firm	4	1%
Corporate	10	4%

College & University	187	66%
Federal Government	13	5%
Local Government	16	6%
Museum	6	2%
Nonprofit	13	5%
Religious	5	2%
State Government	5	2%
Unknown	26	9%

Geographically speaking, the largest number of applicants came from the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic region, followed by the South.

Midwest	53	18%
Northeast/Mid-Atlantic	100	35%
South	79	28%
West	50	18%
Unknown	3	1%

We were thrilled to see the number of new members and new archivists who applied.

1-5 Years in Profession	119	42%
6-10 Years in Profession	46	16%
11-15 Years in Profession	37	13%
16+ Years in Profession	41	14%
Unknown	42	15%

But we still have much work to do to encourage people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds to apply to serve on appointed groups.

American Indian or Alaska Native	2	1%
Asian	8	3%
Black or African American	6	2%
Hispanic or Latino	13	5%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1	1%
White	199	70%
Other	4	1%
Race/Ethnicity Other	6	1%
Unknown	46	16%

The appointments process is nearly complete. If you weren't appointed this year, please apply again. Vice President/President-Elect Kathleen Roe will begin her appointments process with a call for volunteers this fall.

### Shout-Outs

Special thanks go to the Appointments Committee—Herbert Hartsook (Chair), Sharmila Bhatia, Thomas Rosko, and Teresa Mora—for their hard work during this process.

And to those who applied for an appointed position: Thank you for your patience throughout this long process! Our association could not do its good work without your talent, contributions, and commitment. ■

## Streaming Is Believing

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When it came time for the Q&A Panel, I turned the laptop toward the participating panel members, and then returned it to its original position after the segment was over. In hindsight, a separate laptop should have been used for projecting. The streaming laptop would have been better positioned at the front and center of the room. This also would have assisted the computer microphone to better pick up audience comments and questions.

**Lesson #2: Run a test broadcast.** I did not run a test before I arrived to the meeting room, and that was a mistake. About five to ten minutes into our streaming broadcast, some individuals Tweeted that there was no sound on the users' end. I don't know exactly what happened, but I believe it was related to browser and Flash settings. Ultimately, I ran the old version of the Ustream broadcaster, which caused some glitches but fixed the sound problem. If I had run an initial test with friends earlier, I would have caught the problem ahead of time and adjusted my settings accordingly.

**Lesson #3: Remember to hit "Record."** I began streaming about forty-five minutes prior to the start of the ATART meeting to distribute the URL via our discussion list. However, I did not realize that I had forgotten to hit "Record" until about thirty minutes into the meeting! This did not affect the live streaming, but users who watched the video on demand were unable to view the beginning of the meeting.

**Lesson #4: Consider if and how Internet viewers will communicate with you.** We used Twitter as our official means of communication with our audience. We asked that they use the hashtag #SAAATART to direct any questions or comments to us. While this worked for many ATART members, not everyone tuning into the meeting had a Twitter account. Ustream has a built-in social sharing/chat widget, but we were unable to moderate that space because we had only one computer doing double duty.

Unfortunately, that resulted in losing some of our viewers' comments. Next time, we will investigate other ways that feedback can be offered, such as having a Google Form available for viewers to add comments, regardless of platform and with optional anonymity. We'll also have a designated person to moderate all of the communication channels to prevent lost comments.

**Lesson #5: Be prepared with a backup Internet connection.** The idea of streaming the ATART meeting was possible because there was free wireless Internet in the meeting rooms of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside hotel. Without knowing exactly how reliable or fast the connection would be, I came prepared with a Mobile Hotspot MiFi device. This device is provided by my institution to help defray travel costs related to professional development. If you don't have access to a MiFi device, many smart phones today offer Mobile Hotspot capabilities as a free service (though it will

most likely count toward your data usage). For our meeting in New Orleans, the wireless connection was reliable, so there was no need to use the MiFi. However, for future meetings, wireless Internet isn't a guarantee, so I'll be bringing my MiFi just in case.


## Conclusion

Despite being highly experimental, streaming the ATART meeting resulted in increased member engagement by keeping our community connected across physical locations. Through streaming, we increased our "attendance" to the meeting by nearly 85 percent. Our streaming broadcast had 29 unique live viewers, and the recorded video had 113 views by the end of the day and more than 140 views by the end of August.

With the Council's adoption of "Principles and Priorities for Continuously Improving the SAA Annual Meeting,"<sup>1</sup> wireless Internet will be a stated need for future meetings. I hope that our successful broadcast inspires other SAA component groups and committees to do the same in the future to enhance participation opportunities for those unable to attend the Annual Meeting. ■

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> <http://www2.archivists.org/news/2013/council-adopts-principles-and-priorities-for-continuously-improving-annual-meeting?>



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nancy P. Beaumont

nbeaumont@archivists.org

# FY 2013 Year in Review

*The following report was presented at the Annual Membership Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 17, 2013.*

It is my pleasure to provide you with a “State of the Association” report for Fiscal Year 2013 (from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013). FY 13 was very much about rethinking how we do things. **Rethinking how we present information**, for example.

- The Annual Meeting Task Force came forward with many good ideas for both tweaking and making fundamental changes in how we develop and implement the Annual Meeting, leading to Council adoption on Monday [August 12] of “Principles and Priorities for Continuously Improving the Annual Meeting.”
- The Communications Task Force conducted an environmental scan and brought forward to the Council a set of recommendations for improving and enhancing the ways in which SAA communicates with members and others. On Tuesday [August 13], the Council adopted a directive to staff to implement the ideas of the task force as feasible.
- The Publications Board launched a number of e-publications in response to members’ requests for information presented in alternative formats.
- And the Finance Committee has been discussing how we might present financial information in a more user-friendly way.

## Strategic Planning

Rethinking how we present information, yes, and **rethinking SAA’s goals and strategies** to position the association to meet archivists’ needs in the future.

Strategic planning isn’t for everyone, but like it or not it’s a critical aspect of the governing body’s role in imagining and planning for the future of an organization. SAA has accomplished a great deal since implementation of its 2005 strategic plan, but it was time to take a fresh look and the SAA Council started that process in January 2013.

You learn a lot about people during strategic planning. You learn about their fondest hopes and dreams, their deepest fears and pet peeves—and sometimes you learn about their loathing of strategic planning. . . .

What I’ve learned about the Council and the organization’s members during the past six months of brainstorming (and commenting) and retooling (and commenting) is that you’re both comfortable thinking big and (in most cases) willing to be practical.

To establish the basis for its strategic thinking, **the Council adopted a new Vision and Mission and developed a set of Core Organizational Values** that in turn guided development of Goals and Strategies (see <http://www2.archivists.org/governance/strategic-plan/2013-2018>). Those values set a very high bar for SAA and have at their core some major themes, including:

- Collaboration and participation
- Diversity

- Continuous improvement
- Transparency
- Nimbleness
- Fostering a culture of creativity and experimentation

You’ve seen and commented on the Goals and Strategies, and most recently had several opportunities to comment on draft Actions (see [www2.archivists.org/governance/strategic-plan/2013-2018/actions](http://www2.archivists.org/governance/strategic-plan/2013-2018/actions)). The Council will be adopting the full Strategic Plan soon, and we hope to develop effective ways of updating you on progress toward the strategic goals via a “dashboard” of some sort.

The planning process was informed along the way by the work of the **Annual Meeting Task Force**, whose subgroups researched such aspects of the conference as:

- Site selection and contract requirements
- Social responsibility concerns
- Online access and delivery of meeting content
- New approaches to meeting content and structure

You may have noticed some changes implemented in time for this meeting in New Orleans. On the site selection front, we have issued requests for proposals based on the task force’s recommendations for the 2015 to 2017 meetings. And some of you may have heard a rumor about the 2015 meeting. It’s true—we’re going to Cleveland!

The planning process also was informed by the early work of the **Communications Task Force**, created in June 2012 to advise the Council on practical ways to enhance SAA's communications with a focus on three areas: intended audiences, content/messages, and tools/channels. As I mentioned, the group's very thorough research and recommendations will be implemented as feasible based on our human and technology resources.

In May, the Council created a **Task Force on Member Affinity Groups** to consider the most effective structures to encourage flexible, inclusive, and participatory opportunities for the membership. Are our current models for sections and roundtables, for example, as effective as they might be? The task force's final report is due in August 2014.

## Governance

In FY 13 we took care of several **governance matters as a means of increasing transparency**. Most notably:

- The Governance Manual underwent wholesale review and revision by intrepid second-year Council members Terry Baxter, Beth Kaplan, and Bill Landis, ably assisted by staff member René Mueller.
- We established bylaws for all roundtables so that members are aware of how these component groups are governed. Those of you who belong to multiple roundtables are no doubt pretty referendum-weary by now.
- And Treasurer Mark Duffy discussed with the Finance Committee and staff how we might refine the presentation of financial information to ensure it's as transparent as possible for all members.

## Education

**The Digital Archives Specialist Curriculum and Certificate Program**—or DAS—was launched in October 2011 in direct response to our previous strategic

priority of Technology. Thanks to the remarkable efforts of the Committee on Education, its DAS Subcommittee, and Education Director Solveig De Sutter, the DAS program grew significantly in FY 13:

I reported last year that 1,100 registrants had attended a DAS course offering (including webinars) in FY 12; today I can report a total of 2,174 DAS registrations as of the end of FY 13. The program grew from 370 individuals pursuing the DAS certificate to 808. Fifty-four individuals have completed the nine-course requirement for the certificate. And thirteen individuals sat for the first comprehensive examination here in New Orleans last Wednesday [August 14].

We're also gratified that twelve local, state, and regional archival organizations—nationwide—and the Association of Research Libraries have signed up to **co-sponsor DAS courses**. Clearly the DAS curriculum is meeting a pent-up need—one that the Council identified as early as 2005.

DAS isn't the only thing going on in Education, however. In 2013 we had **26 offerings on other topics**, ranging from DACS and EAC-CPF to Grant Proposal Writing and Reappraising and Deaccessioning Archival Materials. For FY 14, we've already scheduled fifty-seven programs, are in the process of finalizing another sixteen, and are working with twenty-four additional interested co-sponsors to bring courses to their locations, including the Illinois and Kentucky SHRABs. In all these areas, we're very, very grateful to our instructors for their commitment to SAA's professional development program.

## Member Communication

On the member communication front:

- We continued to work with component groups to manage their member communications via their **discussion lists and microsites**. Several groups expanded their communication

capabilities via external websites and social media.

- We're using **RSS feeds** from the main SAA website that incorporate the component group microsites so that all members are notified when additions are made to the sites.
- We increased use of **Facebook and Twitter**—and I think made good progress in crafting our messages to be more suitable to those mediums. Of course, we had a very active Tweeter in Jackie Dooley, and we'll be challenged to remain THAT engaged.
- Our member communication efforts certainly were enhanced by Jackie's active engagement in **Off the Record**, a leadership blog that launched just before the 2012 Annual Meeting. I know that Danna is excited about continuing the tradition that Jackie established. Stay tuned as guest bloggers share information and pose questions for discussion and feedback.
- And, of course, just in time for *ARCHIVES 2013* was our brand new **Sched.org conference app**, thanks to the efforts of our new Web and IT Systems Administrator Matt Black. We hope the app enhanced your conference experience and facilitated networking.

## Diversity

Last year I reported that we had begun discussions with the Association of Research Libraries about collaborating on a grant proposal to pursue expansion of **SAA's Mosaic Program**. We had approached ARL based on the good work done by a subgroup of the Diversity Committee in imagining what the Mosaic Program might become, a vision that was adopted by the Council a couple of years ago. ARL's Diversity Office (and Diversity Officer Mark Puente) have considerable experience with implementing diversity programs. We were delighted that the Institute of Museum and Library Services granted our collaborative effort

more than \$487,000 to pursue expansion of the Mosaic Program to include scholarships, internships, and leadership development.

In addition, the Diversity Committee has been working on a call for proposals for **case studies on diversifying the archival record**, which will be posted and made available free via the SAA website. Watch for that call—and please consider submitting a case study.

## Advocacy and Public Awareness

Advocacy and Public Awareness took a back seat in FY 13 as we focused on strategic planning and governance. Of course, they figure prominently in our new Goal 1—and we will simply have to do better in addressing them. A strong start in that direction was a decision by the Council this week to create an Advocacy and Public Policy Committee, the charge for which will be developed in the next two weeks. Stay tuned. . . .

I needn't go into detail about the challenges of dealing with the United States Congress these days. Suffice it to say that we were once again active in efforts to restore funding to the NHPRC and NEH. We signed on to numerous communications issued by the National Coalition for History and Open The Government.org on issues of mutual interest and concern and worked to rally SAA members to support the Georgia Archives.

We promoted for the third year our **I Found It In The Archives!** public awareness initiative. You met the winner of our national competition, Misty Hurley of Nacogdoches, Texas, at Plenary I. We've had mixed feedback about the initiative and will be looking carefully at how it might be made simpler and more effective.

If you're interested in learning more about the basics of public relations for archives, please take a look at the **American Archives Month** page on the SAA

website ([www2.archivists.org/initiatives/american-archives-month](http://www2.archivists.org/initiatives/american-archives-month)), which includes an abundance of information about media relations, writing press releases, developing a campaign, and so on. We hope that you'll find some ideas to implement for American Archives Month in October—or whenever you can during the year—to increase public awareness of your institution and of archives and archivists.

## Finances

As SAA Treasurer Mark Duffy will describe, FY 13 was a successful year financially. Participation in the DAS program exceeded our wildest expectations and the 2012 Annual Meeting exceeded the budget in terms of number of attendees and vendor support.

And despite tough economic times, **SAA membership** reached a new high of 6,189 on June 30, up a modest but positive 2 percent from the same time last year. We saw growth in every category of Active membership—from ID 1 through ID 7—and particularly at the lower salary levels. Institutional membership grew as well. But we also saw a nearly 10 percent drop in student members on the heels of a similar decline between FY 11 and FY 12. Students remain an important part of our membership, of course, and we'll be exploring whether this continuing decrease reflects a smaller universe of archival students, dissatisfaction with or lack of awareness of SAA, or some combination of these factors.

The substantial net gain from the fiscal year was designated by the Council to the **Technology Fund**, where it will be used to upgrade our association management software system (that is, our membership database and e-commerce function). The new Strategic Plan acknowledges the importance of our technology infrastructure in meeting our goal to be an agile association that delivers outstanding service.

## Periodicals and Publications

With the Spring/Summer 2013 issue of **The American Archivist** we debuted a responsive new design. By moving from footnotes to endnotes as part of that redesign, we're well-positioned to move into e-reader publication. Subscription revenues for the journal increased by nearly 7 percent in FY 13.

**Archival Outlook** attracted both more member-written articles (i.e., nearly one hundred members contributed to the publication in FY 13) and a nice uptick in paid advertising. Ad revenue exceeded budget by \$14,000 thanks to the addition of a half-dozen new advertisers.

Relentlessly, **In The Loop** has brought you news and information about SAA and the wider world of the profession via your email inbox every other week. We hope that you're opening and scanning this resource. The value of this communication tool, too, is being recognized by our industry partners, as we now have four paid ads per issue.

As many professional associations are experiencing (notably the American Library Association), sale of print books continued to decline in FY 13. The good news is that we saw this trend developing and took steps to create the **Trends in Archives Practice** series. The first three modules update Kathleen Roe's classic *Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts*. In the pipeline are four modules on Digital Preservation Essentials and three modules on Rights in the Digital Era.

It's clear from the Member Needs Survey that some members want technology-driven options for receiving information. We must all understand, of course, that "electronic" does not mean "free," as there are significant expenses associated with creating and producing content even when it's distributed online.

We produced several new publications during the year:

- In March, we launched the first installment in the new SAA Sampler Series with the *Law and Ethics Sampler*, compiled with an introduction by Lisa Mix.
- We converted two existing publications, Cal Lee's *I, Digital* and Verne Harris's *Archives and Justice*, to e-reader formats.
- *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* was revised by the Technical Subcommittee on DACS and made freely available via the Standards Portal; the print version was launched in June.
- And just in time for this conference, two print books: *Perspectives on Women's Archives*, edited by Tanya Zanish-Belcher with Anke Voss, and *Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections Libraries* by Jessica Lacher-Feldman.

We're very grateful to all these authors and editors for choosing to publish with SAA.

And we're especially pleased that **Christopher Prom** of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, hit the ground running in February 2013, beginning a three-year term as Publications Editor.

## Annual Meeting

**SAA's Annual Meeting** occurs near the beginning of our fiscal year, and in FY 13 we had the good fortune to meet in beautiful, sunny, temperate San Diego. A total of 1,577 paid registrants and 49 exhibitors joined us for that conference, making it

the second-largest West Coast meeting in SAA's history.

As for *ARCHIVES 2013*, we're pleased once again to be partnering with our Council of State Archivists colleagues and to have returned to New Orleans. Many thanks to those of you who volunteered your time for one of our six service projects earlier this week—our small attempt to give back to this remarkable community. Registration for this meeting totaled more than 1,650 and we were supported by 54 industry partners in the Expo Hall.

## Recognitions

**And speaking of volunteers:** 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, but I hope that all will remain actively engaged in SAA for many years to come.

My thanks to **Donna McCrea**, for her poise, her commonsensical approach to leading and governing, and her wisdom beyond her years.

My thanks to **Dennis Meissner**, for his hard-won wisdom and his balanced leadership perspective. With apologies to Meissner and Greene (or Greene and Meissner, depending on who's within hearing distance), I'd sum up that perspective as: More progress, less fussing.

My thanks to **Kate Theimer**, for challenging the Council—and challenging

me—to think differently. We will all benefit from her persistence for years to come.

And my thanks to **Jackie Dooley**, for her boundless energy and enthusiasm and her positive outlook, and for helping me understand as never before how at least some "description" folks think.

Each of these individuals has committed time and intellectual energy to serving SAA for your benefit. Please join me in thanking them!

Typically I would also thank the **SAA staff** for their outstanding work throughout the year. But this year, they crossed me. I took a week off in early July, and while I was gone they announced—via the SAA website—that I would soon be celebrating my tenth anniversary with SAA. That's akin to revealing my age! They're very, very sneaky people. And they're also very talented and very committed to serving you and SAA. I would add to this handsome group our partners at **Conference and Logistics Consultants**—Paul Henning, Allison Perrelli, and Jacqui Dixon—who, since our 2004 annual meeting, have had it all under control.

I'm grateful for and honored by the hundreds of calls, email messages, and notes that I received in July from SAA members—a good many of whom I've never met—as a result of that unapproved announcement on the website. You make me want to come back every day, and to continue our work together, with open minds in a culture of participation, nimbleness, creativity, and experimentation!

Thank you. ■

# wanted

## Archival Outlook Content

Has your repository successfully implemented a new practice? Did you take part in an interesting project? Do you have an eye-catching photo to share? Or perhaps you'd like to get the word out about a program in which you participated. We'd like to hear from you! Send your content ideas to Anne Hartman, [ahartman@archivists.org](mailto:ahartman@archivists.org).

*R e s p e c t   f o r   F i l m*

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# CELEBRATE! OCTOBER IS AMERICAN ARCHIVES MONTH

Since 2006, American Archives Month has given the profession an opportunity to tell (or remind) people that items that are important to them are being preserved, cataloged, cared for, and made accessible by archivists. If you're interested in spreading the good word about archives and archivists—in October or throughout the year—check out <http://www2.archivists.org/initiatives/american-archives-month> for helpful tools, including:

- Talking points on the value of archives
- Event planning guide
- Tips for media interviews
- Outreach ideas from your colleagues
- And more!

Be sure to share your American Archives Month activities by sending a note about what you did to participate to [saahq@archivists.org](mailto:saahq@archivists.org).

You celebrate the American record every day at work. American Archives Month is the time to let the public know about the fascinating treasures archives hold!