

# AACR

Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

Newsletter

Summer 2015

Volume 29, Issue 3



## Pearl Cleage Exhibition at the Alliance Theatre

By Matthew Strandmark, Research Library Fellow, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University



Amber L. Moore with Pearl Cleage on opening night of Cleage's *Blues for an Alabama Sky* at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta

A collaborative exhibition between Emory University's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library (MARBL) and Atlanta's Alliance Theatre is now on display at the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia. "Pearl Cleage: A Time for Reflection" showcases items from Pearl Cleage's collection held at MARBL, which is part of a [NHPRC funded project to process the papers of nine African American women intellectuals](#). The exhibition includes correspondence, photographs, writings, subject files and printed material from the Pearl Cleage papers.

The exhibition, co-curated by Amber L. Moore and Pellom McDaniells, III, Ph.D. is a reflection on Pearl Cleage's life and work as one of the most important and popular writers of the last quarter century. Cleage is a world-renowned novelist, poet, playwright, and essayist. Her writing, both fiction and non-fiction, has been deeply influential and has focused on topics at

the junction of sexism and racism, and on issues like rape and domestic violence in the black community. Many of her novels and stories are set in the south, and in Atlanta neighborhoods. Some of her most popular works include [What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day](#), [I Wish I Had a Red Dress](#), and [Some Things I Never Thought I'd Do](#). Cleage is also an activist and many of her stories are drawn from personal experiences. She has also authored a number of plays, including *The Nacirema Society*, *Flyin' West*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Bourbon at the Border*, and *A Song for Coretta*. The exhibition commemorated the 20th anniversary of *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, which was performed at the [Alliance Theatre](#).

Cleage is the current Playwright-in-Residence at the Alliance Theatre, located in the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta. The exhibition is on display in the Woodruff Arts Center Galleria's north alcove, on the balcony level, and will remain on display through the summer. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

(Continued on page 3)

## ELECTION INFO

AACR is still accepting nominations for individuals to lead the Roundtable's activities for 2015-2016. We are seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Junior Co-Chair/Chair-Elect
- Newsletter Editor

The **Junior Co-Chair/Chair Elect** serves a one year term as Junior Co-Chair (2015-2016) and then will serve as Senior Co-Chair for 2016-2017.

The **Newsletter Editor** serves a one year (renewable) term. The successful candidate will serve as a member of the Roundtable Steering Committee.

Please send questions and/or nominations to [gabriele.dudley@emory.edu](mailto:gabriele.dudley@emory.edu).

The Roundtable will not participate in the online elections process this year, but will prepare a ballot and accept nominations from the floor during the business meeting.

**The election will take place on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 3:00 PM until 4:30 PM.**

## Letter from the Senior Co-Chair

Greetings Roundtable Members:

I am thrilled to welcome you to the latest issue of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable Newsletter. As you will see, this issue is all about increasing access to and awareness of institutions that document communities of color. Through exhibitions, grants, online databases, and everyday outreach, AACR members are boldly declaring that the lives of people of color matter.

While we, as stewards of historic materials and global citizens, grapple with increased violence, discrimination and injustice geared towards communities of color, we must know that our works as archivists matter. In 50 or 100 years our children and grandchildren will likely have big questions about the historic events in Ferguson, Baltimore, or Charleston and I wholeheartedly believe that it will be archives and archivists that help them find the answers they seek. In our work to provide access to materials like the Pearl Cleage papers, African American Religious Archival Collections at the Atlanta University Center, Don Kelly Collection of Gay Literature and Culture, *The Reformer*, Welga Archives, Payne Theological Seminary and A.M.E. Church Archive, and the Lloyd Gaines materials we are doing our part to provide a more representative picture of the world in which we live.

I invite you to participate in SAA President Kathleen Roe's [Call to Action #9: Archivesin5words](#) for the "A Year of Living Dangerously for Archives" campaign. We must use every opportunity to promote the work that we do as professional archivists and advocates for a diverse historical record. In celebrating of this issue, access, and my wonderful colleagues doing tremendous work to document communities of color, here's mine: Access to America's Complicated Present.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Roundtable, please send me a note at [gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu](mailto:gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu).

Cheers,

Gabrielle



### Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library Increases Access to Audio-Visual Materials through Three Grant Projects

By Andrea Jackson, Head of Archives Research Center

The Atlanta University Center (AUC) Robert W. Woodruff Library recently became the recipient of three grants to fund archival projects which will increase access to materials among their holdings, with particular emphasis on "hidden" audio and visual recordings, and photographs.

The [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#) awarded the AUC Woodruff Library \$300,000 in grant funding for a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources implementation of a three-year project entitled *Spreading the Word: Expanding Access to African American Religious Archival Collections at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library*. The Library's Archives Research Center and Digital Services Unit will organize, describe, digitize, and prepare for research access fourteen collections of rare materials on African-American religion spanning from the late 19th century to early 20th century, and from the 1950s to 2000s. Recordings of prominent speakers and religious leaders such as Pauli Murray, Cornel West, Malcolm X, and W. E. B. Du Bois are included in the project. Once completed, 126 linear feet of archival records and personal papers will be available for research, along with 2,139 photos and 1,163 video and audio recordings to be made accessible online.

*(Continued on page 3)*

“Pearl Cleage Exhibition at the Alliance Theatre” continued...

Sample panels of “Pearl Cleage: A Time for Reflection” exhibition on display at the [Alliance Theater](#)



In 1969, she moved to Atlanta, GA, where she married Michael Lomax, a rising star in local politics. She continued her development as an artist by enrolling at Spelman College in the playwriting and drama program. Under the guidance of professor and playwright Carole Mattheis, Pearl completed her bachelor of arts degree in 1971.

Cleage also served the Atlanta African American community during this time period, through her work collecting materials at the Martin Luther King Jr. Archival Library in support of what is now the King Center.

In 1972, Cleage's first book, a collection of poems entitled *We Don't Need No Music*, was published by Broadside Press.

**1966-1972**  
**ACTIVIST | PLAYWRIGHT | STUDENT**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968

In 1990, Pearl published a book of essays entitled *Mad at Miles: A Woman's Guide to Truth as a Statement Against Domestic Violence and the Silence that Supports It*.

*Either we think it's a crime to hit us or we don't. Either we think our brothers have to take responsibility for stopping the war against us, or we don't. And if we do, can we keep giving our money to Miles Davis so that he can buy a Malibu beach house and terrorize our sisters in it.*



In her 1992 play *Flyin' West*, Cleage explored African American history, the role of women within the African American community, and the gendered violence experienced during the post-Reconstruction era Exodusters movement. The play is a compelling dramatization of the world three hopeful, resilient, and determined African American women are forced to negotiate in order to claim the promises of untapped opportunities found “out west.”

**1990-1993**  
**WRITER | ACTIVIST | PLAYWRIGHT**

After nearly three decades, South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, Nelson Mandela is freed from the infamous Robben Island Prison, 1990



In her second novel, *I Wish I Had a Red Dress* (2001), Cleage continued her exploration of African American women's emotional, spiritual, and mental strength, as well as the need to share lessons about life, love, and womanhood with adolescent and teenage girls.

With two additional novels, *Some Things I Thought I'd Never Do* (2003) and *Babylon Sisters* (2005), Cleage maintained her intention to use her writing to *make it easier for...[black women] to create better lives and communities for ourselves.*

**2001-2004**  
**NOVELIST | FREE WOMANHOOD**

Shirley Franklin becomes the first African American woman elected mayor of Atlanta, 2001

“Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library” continued...

Along with four other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) – Hampton University, Fisk University, John C. Smith University, and Tuskegee University – the AUC Woodruff Library was awarded \$56,000 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to participate in the Round III HBCU Preservation Project to support the preservation of photographic and audio-visual materials. The projects have been administered by [LYRISIS in partnership with the HBCU Library Alliance](#), the Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware, the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, and the Image Permanence Institute. The AUC Woodruff Library will digitize over 1,000 items to include rare audio recordings from chapel services, convocations and special speaking engagements from the Interdenominational Theological Center Collection, as well as photographic materials and audio and video recordings from the Vivian W. Henderson Collection, documenting his presidency at Clark College and other personal and professional activities. An important aspect of the grant is an internship for two undergraduate students at each institution to work on the project. Interns have attended a summer institute during which they were exposed to art, photograph, and audio-visual conservation and preservation through a summer institute, and they will continue hand-on experience working in the archival profession through the summer and fall of 2015.

Through funding from the Knight Foundation, the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) partnered with the AUC Woodruff Library to digitize historical materials for inclusion in the [Digital Public Library of America](#). Over 350 photographs from Atlanta University, Clark College and the Interdenominational Theological Center are now accessible online. The images span from the late 1800s to 1925, and provide documentation of historical Atlanta University Center, to include buildings and grounds, faculty and staff, students, alumni, and sports.

## Member Spotlight

*The Annual Business Meeting should not be your only opportunity to get to know members of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable! A new "Member Spotlight" will appear in each issue of AACR Newsletter and monthly via social media sites.*



*Dominique Luster*

**Name:** Dominique Luster

**Position Title & Institution:** Diversity Resident and Fellow at University of Pittsburgh University Library System

**Hometown:** Louisville, KY

**Current City:** Pittsburgh, PA

**In your own words, describe what you do:**

I do a little bit of everything. As the Diversity Resident, I rotate every few weeks around several departments within the Library System including preservation, scholarly communications and publishing, special collections, reference, external lending, archives, specialized libraries, research and educational services, assessment, digital scholarship, and technical services. It can be quite the whirlwind but I have gained a unique perspective on how all the moving parts of a major research institutional library come together for the benefit of our students.

**How do you work with communities of color?**

During my time in the Archives MLIS program at PITT I was a member of the iSchool's Diversity Student Organization. We were a small group of minority students who supported and encouraged each other both professionally and socially.

On my campus, I am working to establish a library liaison program for our students of color. My goal for this program is to reach out to unique students of diverse backgrounds and provide both encouragement and academic support in whatever ways the library system is able.

Finally, I am a member of a number of graduate and young professionals of color organizations including the Carnegie Mellon/PITT Black Graduate Student Union, the PITT Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Student of Color series, and the Pittsburgh Urban League Young Professionals.

**What are you listening to and/or reading:**

Recently, I have been addicted to the Outlander Series by Diana Gabaldon, which is now also a very popular STARZ television show. In terms of music, I seem to be going through an Ariana Grande phase which has been both fun and slightly embarrassing when I realize that I am humming or singing out loud in public places.

I have also just begun research into a project called #BlackLibrariansMatter (of course to include Black Archivists) and have been knee deep in reading all the literature I can find related to the power people of color have in the support of our peers, in the advancement of our careers and institutions, and in the recruitment and retention of young professionals of color into Librarianship.

*(Continued on page 5 )*

Member Spotlight continued...

**What is something that you are most excited about in the archives profession?**

I am most excited about exploring new and innovative ways to increase the discoverability of primary source materials both within singular intuitions and externally between larger consortiums. I primarily work directly with students and faculty so I am always looking for way to improve their experience working with archival materials.

**What professional organizations, besides SAA are you a member of?**

I am a member of ALA (American Library Association). Within ALA, I am also a member of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the Library Leadership and Management Association, and the Social Responsibilities Roundtable. I am also a member of ACRL (Association College and Research Libraries), in which I participate in the Digital Humanities Interest Group, the Library Marketing and Outreach Interest Group, the Residency Interest Group, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section and the University Libraries Section. I also serve as a Tweeter for my regional ACRL chapter.

**Do you have any hobbies or special talents or skills?**

I love theatre! Before working professionally in libraries and archives, I worked as a lighting designer and electrician for a number of theatre companies in Kentucky and in New England for about five years. In fact, my undergraduate degree is in Theatre Design and Technology. From an archivist standpoint, having a design background makes me really good at designing exhibits!

**Why did you choose to become an archivist?**

I am a proud Kentuckian and did my undergraduate degree at the University of Kentucky in Theatre Design and Technology, Art History, and German. After my freshmen year I was accepted into two humanities fellowship programs and studied in Germany as a Fulbright scholar. These experiences lead me to an interest in research, scholarship, and working with primary sources. From here I worked as a learning lab intern in my University's Special Collections library where I began processing collections and was introduced to all that one could do and be in librarianship.

**Anything else you want to share?**

I am always looking to connect with other professionals of color. Feel Free to reach out!

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*If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else as the "Member Spotlight" please email*

[gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu](mailto:gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu)

## Don Kelly Research Collection of Gay Literature and Culture at Texas A&M University

By Rebecca Hankins, Africana Resources Librarian/Curator, Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University's Cushing Memorial Library has acquired the Don Kelly Research Collection of Gay Literature and Culture, an 8000+ collection of books, serials, manuscripts, and posters that document the LGBTQ community nationally and internationally. This collection, with some affiliated holdings in our University Archives, science fiction, fantasy, and zine collections, Africana, Area Studies, and literature, positions A&M as one of the premiere research collections on the LGBTQ communities.

As a social activist for much of his life, Kelly says that he has always had an interest in the advancement of gay rights and the desire to understand the history of gay people—which sparked his interest in collecting gay literature and publications. With items ranging from important works of the Victorian era to the “lost gay novels” of the early twentieth century, and the campy gay pulps from the 1950s and 1960s, the collection contains a wealth of significant and unique research materials. Fittingly, Kelly describes the collection as “broad, but in-depth.”



*Don Kelly, Dr. Francesca Marini (Associate Dean and Cushing Director), Lauren Schiller (exhibit leader), Rebecca Hankins (curator of the collection), and Michael Jackson (cataloger and exhibit assistant)*

The acquisition of the Kelly collection was met with widespread support from the local community, who provided numerous letters speaking to its importance and value. The final step for acquiring the collection was made possible by financial contributions from several campus stakeholders, including David H. Carlson, Dean of University Libraries; Dr. Karan L. Watson, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Mark A. Hussey, interim president of Texas A&M; Dr. Christine A. Stanley, Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity; and Dr. Pamela R. Matthews, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

“The process of acquiring this collection was among the most satisfying since I have come to Texas A&M,” Dean Carlson said. “With just this single collection, the University Libraries becomes one of the premier collections in the country for scholarly resources in LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) literature.”

In celebration of this acquisition and the GLBT Awareness Week Cushing hosted a [grand opening exhibition](#) of the collection titled *Lives. Liberation. Love. The Don Kelly Research Collection of Gay Literature and Culture* was yesterday and will run through May 2016. This exhibition was timed to also commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M University's Supreme Court decision that required universities nationwide, to recognize gay student groups under the First Amendment in 1985.

If you have any questions or would like a catalog for your collection, please contact the curator of the collection Rebecca Hankins ([rhankins@tamu.edu](mailto:rhankins@tamu.edu))

## The Reformer Newspaper Online

By Alison Stankrauff, Archivist and Associate Librarian, Franklin D. Schurz Library



The St. Joseph County Public Library is proud to announce that *The Reformer*, a newspaper printed by the local African-American community during the height of the Civil Rights era, will be the first available in our new *Historic Newspapers* collection in [Michiana Memory](#).

*The Reformer* was produced by the South Bend African-American community from August 1967 until the end of 1971. Published as the turbulent 1960s rolled into the 1970s, it includes local responses to area, state and national events, along with community news, photographs and profiles.

The *Historic Newspapers* collection in *Michiana Memory* will contain digitized newspapers from St. Joseph County, Indiana and the neighboring communities. Each issue is name and keyword searchable with full transcripts and complete page images available for printing or downloading.

Search hint: When searching for a name within *The Reformer*, use the Advanced Search in the upper middle of the screen, and limit your search to the transcription field. If you have questions about searching the database, talk to us in Local & Family History Services at the library, or call us at 282-4621.

Image Courtesy of St. Joseph County Public Library, [Michiana Memory Collection](#)

Alison Stankrauff, Archivist and Associate Librarian for the Indiana University South Bend Schurz Library Archives, said, "Digital access to *The Reformer* means that we can now see the city of South Bend's part in a key part of a time in which our nation was changing rapidly in terms of race relations, civil rights, urban development: 1967 to 1971."

*The Reformer* is available through an LSTA Indiana Memory Digitization grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services of the Indiana State Library. *Michiana Memory* includes a *Civil Rights and African American History* collection, which was also produced in part by funding through the LSTA grant. The books and documents there come from the archives of the St. Joseph County Public Library and the Indiana University South Bend Archives' [Civil Rights Heritage Center collections](#).

## Welga Digital Archives Available Online

By Allan Jason Sarmiento, Project Archivist, Welga! Filipino American Labor Archives

In anticipation of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1965-1970 Delano Grape Strikes, the Welga Project launched the [Welga Digital Archives](#).

The Welga (meaning *strike* in Tagalog) Digital Archives strives to preserve and present primary sources regarding the immigration of the Filipino labor force to the United States, including migrant farmworkers, canner workers, longshoremen, nurses and U.S. military personnel. Hosted on Ome-ka.net, the digital archives features documents, oral history interviews, photographs, manuscripts and artwork related to Filipino American labor history.



*"The Manongs of Agbayani Village," Lorraine Agtang collection*

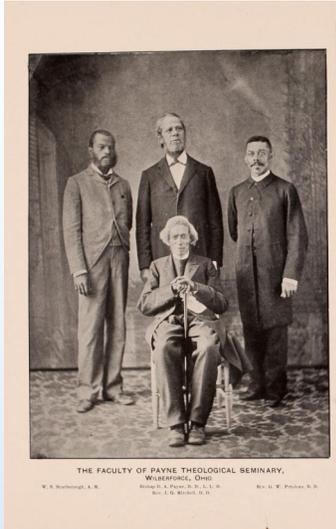
Currently, the Welga Archives is specifically focusing on Filipino American involvement in the Delano Grape Strikes and the United Farm Workers. In 2014, the Welga Project was awarded the Community Stories grant from Cal Humanities for the project phase *Filipino American stories of the Great Grape Strike of 1965. A portion of the grant funded the digital archives.*

The Welga Digital Archives features digitized collections related to the Filipino American farmworker history and activism. Collections include the Lorraine Agtang collection and the Linda Mabalot collection, which features oral histories, photographs and documents related to the 1965-1970 Delano Grape Strike, the Agbayani Village retirement home for elderly Filipino strikers, and the 1973 UFW strike. Both collections feature documents regarding Philip Vera Cruz, a Filipino American activist who served as second vice president to the United Farm Workers during the 1960s and 1970s. To supplement the archival materials, the Welga Archives is conducting and publishing oral history interviews from farmworker activists, including Roger Gadiano, Lorraine Agtang, and Greg Padilla.

The Welga Digital Archives is collaborative effort between the Welga Project, the Eastside Arts Alliance and the George Kagiwada Reserves Library at the University of California, Davis. The project was made possible from generous support from Cal Humanities and the University of California Humanities Research Institute. The physical repository, the Welga! Filipino American Labor Archives, will debut on Fall 2015.

# African Methodist Episcopal Seminary Archives Available Online

By Shanee' Murrain, Payne Seminary Archivist, Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom Memorial Library, Payne Theological Seminary



*The Payne Theological Seminary Catalogue 1893-94, And An Account of Its Origin and Organization, Payne Theological Seminary 1893*

The history of Payne Theological Seminary, one of the nation's oldest African American seminaries is now at your fingertips, thanks to a collaboration between Payne and Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey.

Today, anyone – anywhere – can retrieve primary documents about Payne and the A.M.E church by simply logging onto the Princeton Theological Commons. The joint venture between the two seminaries was launched May 21, 2015. "The initial digital library includes materials related to the A.M.E. denomination and a selection of Payne archive materials that showcase the breadth and depth of our holdings," said Shanee' Murrain, Payne Seminary Archivist. "Examples include blueprints, handwritten manuscripts, rare books, bulletins and photos that date back to the 1800s." The archive at the Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom Library houses a range of artifacts- letters, photographs, programs, newspaper clippings, books, manuscripts, and other ephemera- ranging from those that document the establishment of the Black Church in America to the physical changes and developments of a number of AME Educational Institutions.

This digitization project is the next step in the Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom Library's larger strategic plan to improve and enhance intellectual access to holdings in the archive to those who are or expect to conduct research in African-American literature, culture, and religion. These unique records will have a broader interest among American-Christianity scholars, African-American historians, other Methodist traditions, overseas and local churches, and additional interested scholars of American History.

To access historical documents from Payne Theological Seminary, visit the

[Princeton Theological Seminary Library Theological Commons](https://www.princeton.edu/libraries/department/theological-commons/)

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Seminary > Library > Digital Initiatives > Theological Commons > Featured Collections > Payne Seminary & A.M.E. Archive

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Titles

### Payne Theological Seminary and A.M.E. Church Archive

The Payne Theological Seminary and A.M.E. Church Archive includes two subcollections organized into twenty-one thematic categories of images and textual materials for the study of the history of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) denomination and Black Church tradition while chronicling the leadership and legacy of Payne Theological Seminary. Some materials are cross-referenced in multiple subcollections.

Funding for digitization of materials from Payne Theological Seminary archives is provided by a grant from the Arthur W. Vining Davis Foundation. Digitization is ongoing, and content will be added to this digital collection over time.

#### Payne Theological Seminary

**Payne History** presents primary documents about the creation and development of the institution, the oldest freestanding seminary in the world, founded by Bishop Daniel Alexander Payne and guided by sixteen deans and presidents since 1834. Additional materials contributed by Wilberforce University Archives connect the two historically African American institutions and relate the establishment of the seminary as an outgrowth of the Theological Department at Wilberforce University.

#### African Methodist Episcopalism

**A.M.E. Church** details the spiritual, moral, social, and civic affairs of African Methodist Episcopalism, founded by Rev. Richard Allen in 1816, the oldest and largest Christian Church denomination composed chiefly of persons of African descent, which sprung chiefly from sociological rather than theological differences.

## Lloyd Gaines: The Man, The Mission, & The Mystery

By Mark Schleer, Lincoln University Archivist

When great Civil Rights pioneers are discussed, the name Lloyd Gaines deserves to be mentioned. A man of humble beginnings, Gaines had dreams and goals for which he was willing to overcome outdated legal, social and educational systems do not only better himself but make a stand for his fellow man. The story of Lloyd Gaines is one of struggle, hope, success and injury. It is a life and legacy to be recognized, admired and celebrated.



*Lloyd Gaines: The Man, The Mission, & The Mystery” exhibit*

The Archives and Ethnic Studies Center of Lincoln University’s Inman E. Page Library recently opened an exhibit honoring one of its most esteemed alumni, Lloyd L. Gaines. The exhibit, entitled *Lloyd Gaines: The Man, The Mission, & The Mystery*, displays biographical information, images and text regarding Gaines’ legal battle against not only the University of Missouri but the looming entity known as Jim Crow. Also depicted are the aftermath of Gaines’ US Supreme Court victory, his sudden and mysterious disappearance in 1939 and the legacy he left behind.

Lloyd Gaines graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City Missouri in 1935 with a degree in history. In the fall of that year, with encouragement from his college advisor, Dr. Lorenzo Greene, he applied for admission to the University of Missouri School of Law. Denied entry to the institution, the state of Missouri offered to pay Lloyd Gaines’ tuition to attend law school in another state; this being the status quo in previous situations. Gaines refused, insisting that as a citizen of the State of Missouri he should be allowed to attend the school of his choice. A legal battle of historical proportions faced Mr. Gaines.

Backed by the NAACP and its legal team, led by Charles Hamilton Houston, the case made its way to the United States Supreme Court in 1938. In a 6-2 decision, the court declared to the state of Missouri that they were responsible for providing education for its citizens within the borders of the state. The court gave the state a choice; they could allow Mr. Gaines to attend the University Missouri or they could provide a “separate but equal” institution. The decision, which had nationwide ramifications, demanded that professional and graduate schools, previously unavailable to African-Americans, would have to be provided either by integration or construction. The NAACP’s strategy of fiscal responsibility by the Jim Crow states hampering the cause of segregation began with the Gaines case; serving as the first steppingstone from *Plessey v Ferguson* to *Brown v Board of Education*.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Accolades



Camille Ann Brewer

**Camille Ann Brewer** has been named executive director of the [Black Metropolitan Research Consortium](#), a Chicago-based association of libraries, universities and other archival institutions that document African American and African diasporic culture, history and politics, with a specific focus on materials relating to Chicago.

“Our mission is to make accessible the holdings of our 11 BMRC member institutions to those who wish to conduct primary source research,” said Brewer. As the new executive director, Brewer brings 20 years of professional experience in the field of cultural heritage management. Her management expertise comes from experience in a range of areas, including museum and private fine art collections, artists’ papers and libraries.

For 15 years, Brewer operated her own business, CAB Fine Art, providing fine art advising and collection management services for individual, non-profit and corporate clients. She also has worked on projects with the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Research for Arts and Culture at the National Center for Creative Aging, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the Detroit

Children’s Museum, and the Estate of Max Roach.

Brewer earned a BFA from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. She has a master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Valdosta State University and an MFA from the University of Michigan. Before she began her appointment as executive director of the BMRC, Brewer was an adjunct professor at Chicago State University, teaching weaving in the art department.

“It’s great to have new leadership at the BMRC,” states BMRC Board President Leroy E. Kennedy. “We are excited about Camille’s plans for engaging the community along with our member institutions and taking the BMRC to next level of public programming.”

### “Lloyd Gaines: The Man, The Mission, & The Mystery” continued...

Complementing the main exhibit are three displays that add information and insight to Lloyd Gaines and his legacy. The first section depicts handwritten letters to his brother, George and a final one written to his mother three weeks before he disappeared in March 1939. These missives express the personality, hopes, goals and concerns of a young man driven by a dream. The next section provides images and text regarding a byproduct of the Lloyd Gaines decision; the Lincoln University School of Law, which opened in 1939 and closed its doors in 1955. The final portion, entitled “From Plessey to Brown”, details a number of important and influential cases regarding education and Civil Rights.

Although the legacy of Lloyd Gaines may not be as well-known as some participants of the Civil Rights movement, his actions and unselfishness helped pave the way for equal education for all Americans. A digital version of *Lloyd Gaines: The Man, The Mission, & The Mystery* will be placed on the Lincoln institutional repository at the beginning of the fall semester and 2015.

## Accolades

**Adrena Ifill Blagburn** is the 2015 recipient of the J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award given by the Society of American Archivists (SAA). The award will be presented at a ceremony during the SAA Annual Meeting in Cleveland, August 16–22. The award honors an individual, institution, or organization that promotes greater public awareness, appreciation, or support of archival activities or programs.



*Adrena Ifill Blackburn*

Since founding the cultural heritage and multimedia production firm [Ifill/DoubleBack Global Group](#) in 2002, Ifill Blagburn has been a leading advocate for the preservation of archival records documenting African American Congressional history. As a result of her efforts to educate black lawmakers about record retention policies, Ifill Blagburn has increased public awareness on the importance of not only preserving these records, but of the benefits of utilizing them for educational and historic programs.

As a consultant, she directs the Avoice Project of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She has developed several exhibits, videos and events for organizations to reach diverse audiences and empower them “to take history off the shelf.” Ifill Blagburn’s many strategic partners include the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, the Robert J. Terry Library at Texas State University, the DC Archives and the Center for Legislative Archives.

**Rebecca Hankins** has been invited to participate in an NEH Summer Institute, “American Muslims: History, Culture, and Politics,” to be held at George Washington University on July 13-31, 2015.

As one of the 25 finalists accepted as an NEH Summer Institute Scholar, she will study with eminent scholars and prominent Muslim contributors to American arts, media, music, education, and government.

Seminar presentations and discussions will be supplemented with site visits to Islamic centers in the vibrant Muslim community of Washington, D.C. The goal of this institute is to catalyze the study and teaching of the Muslim presence in the United States.



*Rebecca Hankins*

## AACR “Meet and Greet” Activities

*In an effort to engage members, friends and supporters of the Archivists & Archives of Color Roundtable we have begun to host “Meet and Greet” activities in cities across the country. If you are interested in hosting an activity in your city, please contact Gabrielle M. Dudley at [gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu](mailto:gabrielle.dudley@emory.edu).*

**March 26, 2015: HMS Bounty Bar and Restaurant (Los Angeles, CA) co-hosted by Angel Diaz and the Los Angeles Archivists Collective (LAAC)**



*Over 40 people attended the event and the crowd was a mix of AACR members, archival/MLIS students, and professional archivists working at a diverse range of institutions in the Los Angeles area.*

***Thanks for reading— See you at SAA!***  
***The deadline for the next newsletter is July 31, 2015***

