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**ARCHIVISTS
AND ARCHIVES
OF COLOR**

NEWS



George A. Towns and family, circa 1990, Grace Towns Hamilton Papers at the Atlanta University Center's Robert W. Woodruff Library (See Page 4 for details)



Dorothy Berry

Letter from the Senior Chair

Greetings Friends and Colleagues,

It is with bittersweet pride I write this, my final letter as the Chair of the Archivists and Archives of Color Section. This has been a year of tremendous change and effort, but throughout it all I have remained proud to take on this responsibility. As a fond farewell, I would like to introduce the incoming Chair, as of August 2019, Barrye Brown. Brown serves as a processing archivist at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

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Her commitment to the field is an unimpeachable as her commitment to preserving the history of people of color across the archival record.

I would also like to call special notice to Ashley Stevens, the outgoing editor of this newsletter. To be quite fair, “editor” underplays Stevens’ labor and influence, as she manages everything from recruiting contributors to sending very polite emails to Section Chairs who may be delinquent on their own letter contribution! Stevens will be missed as a productive and insightful committee member. It should be no surprise that Stevens’ work is of the highest quality, as the entire committee is made up of dedicated leaders. Aaisha Haykal, Sonia Yaco, Kellee Warren, Brittany Newberry and our amazing intern Kelli Yakabu have provided the guidance and labor I have needed this past year to serve effectively as chair.

Moving into the next terms of office, the Archivists and Archives of Color Section will be holding elections for a new Co-Chair/Chair Elect as well as a new Newsletter Editor. I invite everyone who has any interest in serving to throw their hats into the ring for these rewarding experiences. I also invite everyone to keep their eyes open for a new survey updating information for the Archivists and Archives of Color Directory. Both volunteering for committee work and volunteering information for the directory serve our, hopefully shared, goal of creating and stewarding a great community of Archivists and Archives of Color.

Fondly,

Dorothy Berry

Archivists and Archives of Color Chair-Elect

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About AAC



The Changing Face of California State University, circa 1970s. Public Affairs Photo Collection. Courtesy of the California State University Archive.

The Archivists and Archives of Color Section (AAC) is an interest group within the Society of American Archivists. SAA is the oldest and largest archival association in North America, serving the educational and informational needs of more than 5,500 individuals and institutional members. The AAC Section helps to identify concerns and promote the needs of archivists and archives of color.

Announcements

Chicago Area Archivists Send Two Archivists of Color to Midwest Archives Conference in Detroit

By Jerice Barrios, Kheir Fakhreldin, and Rebekah McFarland

In November 2018, the Archives and Archivists of Color interest group of Chicago Area Archivists (<http://chicagoarchivists.org/>) launched a fundraiser for a travel fund to send an archives student or early-career professional to Detroit to attend the 2019 Midwest Archives Conference (<https://www.midwestarchives.org>). The goal of the AAC Travel Fund Award is to help new archivists make professional connections and build bridges toward future employment, through which they can contribute to a body of archival collections that truly represent the rich, ethnically diverse heritage of America.

Thanks to the generosity of the Chicago archives community, the Travel Fund Award was able to support the conference attendance of two archivists of color, Kheir Fakhreldin and Rebekah McFarland. In his application for the award, Kheir Fakhreldin, an archives assistant at WBEZ Chicago Public Radio, wrote that he hoped that "by attending the Midwest Archives Conference, I will be able to meet more archivists of color as well as non-minority archivist allies who are working toward making our historical record reflect American cultural diversity."



Kheir Fakhreldin and Rebekah McFarland receive the CAA AAC Travel Fund Award from Jerice Barrios (center). Photo courtesy of Hathaway Hester.

Rebekah McFarland, archivist for the Sisters of the Living Word, participated in her first-ever panel while at MAC. *"My Comeback Story: Overcoming Imposter Syndrome in the Archival Profession"* will be reprised at SAA 2019 in Austin. Summing up her experience, Rebekah writes, "I am so happy to have attended MAC this year. I came away feeling like a part of something bigger--a feeling I always welcome, especially as a lone arranger."

Institutional Profile

New Exhibit—Black Interiors: Envisioning a Place of Our Own at the Robert W. Woodruff Library



The Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library's GLAM Center for Collaborative Teaching and Learning is pleased to announce our latest digital exhibit, "Black Interiors: Envisioning a Place of Our Own" is now online! This exhibition showcases artwork as well as archival documents including: photographs, correspondence, memorabilia, and newspaper articles related to the continuous efforts of those within the African Diaspora to designate and create communities of their own within the United States and abroad. Artwork by Jacob Lawrence, Beverly Buchanan, and Sheila Pree Bright from Clark Atlanta University Art Museum and Spelman College Museum of Fine Art's permanent collections offer a glimpse into private rooms of the home to depict precious moments of solitude and contemplation while personal letters from James Baldwin, family photos of Grace Towns Hamilton in front of her childhood home, and diary entries collected and preserved by the Atlanta University Center Archives Research Center disclose intimate details of life as an African American. By unpacking the politics and poetics of the often racialized and gendered space within and around the household, the works included critically examine how our social relations

and cultural practices are shaped. Like all of the digital exhibits created by the GLAM Center, "Black Interiors" also has a corresponding LibGuide which provides resources for our visitors to dig deeper into the topics and themes brought up in the exhibit through: supplemental questions, lists of articles and books related to each theme and other online resources.

You can view "Black Interiors" online at <http://glam.auctr.edu/exhibits/show/black-interiors>

Notes from the Field

Pivoting Perspective of a Second Career Professional

I'm Tamera Coleman, a Digital Archivist and Content Creator whose professional experience are Archives projects related to broadcast media | audiovisual (NBC News) and Government (DOD and NASA). However, my interest and passion is African American history, arts, media, film and culture. With education (MA and BA) and completed coursework for the DAS (exam in May, 2019), I've found it very challenging securing opportunities in the Archives profession without an MLIS or Ph.D. I've had to be my own advocate, market my skills, and showcase previous success managing comprehensive Archives projects.

That said, I've been researching project(s) to align/join where I can contribute my Digital Archives experience.

That being said, a door has opened. Monica O. Montgomery, Executive Director, *Prince George's African American Museum + Cultural Center* has given me the opportunity to come aboard as a part-time project manager to work on a digital archives grant-sponsored project. The focus is to digitize all of the collections, enter them into past perfect and create a digital exhibit called, "*Building Community Through Collections (BCTC)*." The digital exhibit is expected to launch Fall 2019.

My '*takeaway*' is to NOT accept 'No'. Diversity & Inclusion within Archival institutions means opening doors to not just early career or undergraduate students, but transitioning professionals, as well. Don't say "No" to a candidate because all your boxes aren't checked. Rather, look outside the box, draw outside the lines. Potential doesn't fit inside a box.

Thank you, Monica O. Montgomery for coloring outside the lines and offering an olive branch to a seasoned, transitioning professional. I look forward to working with the Prince Georges African American Museum + Cultural Center to help bring the BCTC to fruition.

In the words of filmmaker Ava DuVernay, who didn't pick up a camera until age 33, "*Inviting people into a project or maybe giving people opportunities they hadn't had, that feeds me. It's like why would you not want to do that.*"



Your 2019 AAC Steering Committee



Dorothy Berry
Co-Chair



Barrye Brown
Co-Chair



Petrina Jackson
Council Liaison



Aaisha Haykal
Member-at-Large



Brittany Newberry
*Steering Committee
Member*



Kellee Warren
*Steering Committee
Member*



Kelli Yakabu
AAC intern



Sonia Yaco
Web Liaison



Ashley D. Stevens
Newsletter Editor