

Ben Blake

Personal Information

Rank

Librarian II

Education

Digital Archives Specialist Certificate

Society of American Archivists, Chicago, IL, 2013

MLIS, Archives and Records Management

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 2006

MA, American History

Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH, 2000

BA, Social Science

Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, 1978

Continuing Education

Workshops and Training

- "ArchivesSpace / Aeon Interface," campus training session, February 2019.
- "Teaching Workshop - Open Educational Resources," campus training session, November 27, 2018.
- "Fearless Teaching Institute Workshop," campus training session, September 24, 2018.
- "ArchivesSpace Public Interface," campus training session, August 10, 2018.
- "LibGuides Workshop," campus training session, July 10, 2018.
- "Web Advisory Committee: Accessibility Training, campus training session, June 4, 2018.
- "Thriving Workplace Initiative Explore and Act Session," campus training, May 3, 2018.
- "Agile Writing for Archivists & Librarians," campus workshop, 2017.
- "Thriving Workplace Initiative Focus Groups," two campus sessions, 2007.
- "ArchivesSpace Administrative Interface," two campus training sessions, 2017.
- "How to Have Crucial Diversity Conversations," campus workshop, 2017.
- "Libraries Communications," campus workshop, 2017.

Conferences

- American Library Association National Conference, 2017, 2018.
- Society of American Archivists National Conference, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018.
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Spring and Fall 2011, Spring and Fall 2012, Spring and Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring and Fall 2015, Spring and Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018.
- North American Labor History Conference, 2017, 2018.

Employment History

Special Collections Librarian for Labor Studies

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

2016-present

Responsible for labor collections management, development and new acquisitions, digitization and born digital initiatives, instructional and classroom support, engagement and outreach with the broader campus and labor communities, collection stewardship, ongoing donor relations and fundraising, and reference and research assistance. Also, planning and collaborations related to collection accessioning, processing, and online description. Overall responsibility for more than 100 labor collections, encompassing a total volume of over 30,000 linear feet, including approximately 2000 videos and motion picture films, 4500 audio tapes, 250,000 photographs, 2000 graphic materials and 1000 artifacts, including ongoing stewardship and new transfers for the national records of the AFL-CIO.

Collection Development

New Collection Acquisitions

- AFL-CIO Metro Washington Council, new collection, 2018.
- AFL-CIO Office of the President, John Sweeney, accretion, 2018.
- AFL-CIO General Counsel Office, accretion, 2018.
- Patricia Cooper Papers, accretion, 2018
- Thomas Donahue Papers, former Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO, accretion, 2017.
- Saul Schidermann Papers, one of the founders of the Labor Heritage Foundation and the Labor Landmarks project, new collection, 2017.
- Page One Photography Records, specializing in labor movement photography, accretions, 2017.
- Alan Kistler Papers, former Director of the Department of Organizing and Field Services, AFL-CIO, accretion, 2017.
- Joe Uehlein Papers, union organizer and founder of the environmental organization, Labor Network for Sustainability, new collection, 2017.

Engagement with New Potential Collection Donors

- National Football League Players Association, 2016-present.
- Amalgamated Transit Union, 2017-present.
- Laborers' International Union of North America, 2016-present.
- National Council for Occupational Health and Safety, 2017-present.
- Interfaith Worker Justice, 2017-present.

Acquisitions Management

- Developed and began beta testing of a database for tracking new collection leads and control files, 2017-Present.
- Engaged with the AFL-CIO in ongoing negotiations and planning to expedite the opening of records currently closed for 50 years, first at the department level and now on creating a new general rule to reduce the period of closure from 50 to 20 years, 2016-Present.
- Created a worksheet for AFL-CIO officials to identify what material to transfer or not transfer to the archives, 2017.

Digitization Projects

- AFL-CIO Audio Recordings Digitization Pilot Project. This project will digitize 24 selected tapes related to social justice issues from AFL-CIO RG97-002 Information Department Analog Recordings collection. These recordings cover civil rights, gender equality, economic justice, the war on poverty, environmental protection, public education, disarmament, voter rights, farmworkers and African liberation. Persons recorded include Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Eleanor Roosevelt, Bayard Rustin, Upton Sinclair, Francis Perkins, A. Philip Randolph, Samuel Gompers, George Meany, Cesar Chavez, Gunnar Myrdal and Humphrey Bogart, 2019-2020.
- The Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union Serials (1888-1997) Digitization Project. The first phase of this proposal for digitizing issues of the union's journal from 1888 to 1915 was accepted by the Libraries Digital Initiatives Committee. Collation completed and the serial is being digitized by a vendor. It will be the most significant primary source for the study of one of America's important unions, particularly with respect to the history of immigration and the struggle for the eight hour day, 2017-2019.
- AFL-CIO Audiovisual Materials Digitization Project, digitized 23 documentary films and videos related to social justice and organized labor, 1953-1994. Selection supervised, metadata created, proposal to Digital Initiatives Committee approved, digitized and are now online in UMD Digital Collections and YouTube, 2017-2018.
- *The Trades Unionist*, Metro DC AFL-CIO, 1896-1973, the first phase of this proposal, covering issues from 1896 to 1910, was approved by the Digital Initiatives Committee, collation supervised, serial was digitized by vendor and is now online via the Internet Archive, 2017-2018.
- AFL-CIO Records Transfer Inventory Forms Digitization Project. This project proposal was accepted by the Libraries Digital Initiatives Committee. When completed, over 18,000 pages of forms and inventories documenting 15,000 feet of AFL-CIO records will be available and searchable in ArchivesSpace, 2017-2018.
- *CIO News*, Congress of Industrial Organizations, 1937-1955, proposal to Digital Initiatives Committee approved, collation completed, serial was digitized by vendor and is now online via the Internet Archive, 2016-2017.
- AFL-CIO international documents related to Brazil, 1960s-1980s, coordinated with Brown University's Brazil Initiative Opening the Archives project to have relevant texts digitized by a Brown team for future posting to the project's university website, 2017.

Born Digital Initiatives

- *Union City*, daily AFL-CIO Metro Washington Council e-newsletter capture for future upload to online collection site.
- *Labor Wire*, daily AFL-CIO e-newsletter capture for future upload to online collection site.
- *Press Associates Union News Service*, weekly e-press release news packet capture for future upload to online collection site.
- U.S. Government Shutdown Documenting Now Project, collection of analog and digital union material during and after the shutdown.

Instructional and Classroom Support

- Information Studies INST604 Introduction to Archives and Digital Curation, Professor Adam M Kriesberg, conducted archives tour and gave a lecture on SCUA operations, October 2018.
- History HIST208R Historical Research and Methods Seminar; Populism, Authoritarianism, and Counterrevolution in the Americas, Professor Eben Levey, presented on using the labor archives for course related research, October 2018.
- Art History & Archaeology ARTH260 Art and Activism, Professor Abigail McEwen, presented on using the labor archives for course related research, including the selection and description of items for a Hornbake Library exhibit created by the students, October 2018.
- History HIST466 Immigration and Ethnicity in the U.S., Professor Julie Greene, acted as a resource person and gave students advice on conducting primary source research, particularly related to the labor collections, September 2018.
- Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities Social Movements Symposium, participated in the series and gave a presentation, "Liberating African American History from the Archives, Digital Projects in Black Migration and Labor Conversation," April 2, 9, 16, 25, 30, 2018.
- History HIST610 Introduction to Museum Scholarship, Professor Mary Alexander, gave For Liberty, Justice and Equality tour, presentation on creating the exhibit and participated in class discussion critiquing it, March 5 and April 2, 2018.
- COMM461 Voices of Public Leadership in the Twentieth Century, Professor Carly Woods, served as a resource person providing labor archives material and answering questions about how to conduct primary source research, February 22, 2018.
- Library Science LBSC731 Special Collections, Professor John Buchtel, helped create and lead a classroom activity evaluating the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit, October 2017.
- History HIST629I Special Topics in History; Race in Latin America, Professor Karin Roseblatt, presented an introduction on doing research in the Labor History Archives and gave a guided tour of the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit, September 2017.
- English/Film Studies Spring Colloquium Film Lab 2: African-American History from the UMD Collections and the Promise of Digital Humanities, Professor Oliver Gaycken, invited guest participant in roundtable classroom discussion, January 2017.

Engagement and Outreach

For Liberty, Justice and Equality, Unions Making History in America Exhibit Events and Tours

- Held an all-day exhibit open house for the Washington DC LaborFest, 2018.
- Responsible for the overall organization of the exhibit opening, including arranging for the AFL-CIO Co-General Counsel and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters to speak, over 150 people attended the event, October 6, 2017.
- Arranged for the Metro DC AFL-CIO to hold a "Montgomery and Prince Georges County Candidates Meet-and-Greet" event in conjunction with the exhibit, over 125 people attended and viewed the exhibit, October 30, 2017.
- Conducted a group guided tour for the University of Maryland Legacy Leadership Institute, 2017.
- Toured faculty group visiting campus from Chongqing Normal University, China, 2017.
- Conducted personal guided exhibit tours for representatives of the AFL-CIO offices of the Secretary-Treasurer, Legal Counsel and Digital Initiatives; and the UMD offices of Strategic Communications and Libraries Communications, 2017.

AFL-CIO Outreach

- Washington DC LaborFest, organized the annual Labor History Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon, 2016-present.
- AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Council meeting, operated an information table on the labor archives program and the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit, December 2017.
- AFL-CIO Convention, operated an information table on the labor archives program and the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit for three days, October 2017.
- Greenbelt Labor Day Parade, marched in Metro DC AFL-CIO contingent and passed out flyers promoting the labor archives program and the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit, September 2017.
- AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting, operated an information table on the labor archives program and the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit, July 2017.

Social Media

- Launched a new Instagram labor archives account in September. To date we have 152 followers. We have been pushing out scans of labor archives material that links to current labor events or historic anniversary dates related to the movement. The goal is to interest more researchers into visiting the archives and to increase our visibility and credibility with the labor movement.

Special Collections and University Archives Open House

- Curated an exhibit section on immigration and organized labor, November 2018.
- Created an exhibit segment on national healthcare and the labor movement, November 2017.

Stewardship and Fundraising

- Raised \$500 in external funding to digitize the documentary film, *Freedom Ride*, 2018.
- Received \$100 UMD Campus Club donation for support of the labor archives.
- Secured \$4000 in internal funding for the AFL-CIO Audiovisual Materials Digitization Project, 2017.

Reference and Research Assistance

Management

- Designed and implemented a database for tracking reference requests making possible quick searches for repeat inquires and detailed user statistics and information reporting.

Recent Individual Assistance of Note for Forthcoming Books and Films

- James Benton, Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation Fellow at Georgetown University, history of North Carolina textile workers.
- Amanda Hughett, Professor and Harvard Fellow, University of Buffalo, AFL-CIO's work around prison reform and prison labor from the 1960s to the present.
- Simon Stevens, Professor, University of Sheffield, boycotts and sanctions against South Africa by the global anti-apartheid movement.
- Leon Fink, Professor, Georgetown University, labor and liberals in the making of postwar foreign policy.
- Daniel Branch, Professor, University of Warwick, Kenya and international relations.
- Vicki Ruiz, Distinguished Professor of History and Chicano/Latino Studies and History, University of California at Irvine, biography of Luisa Moreno, pioneering labor organizer.
- Wlodzimierz Batog, Professor, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, AFL-CIO activities in Chicago and Detroit in the 1920s and 1930s, especially relations between AFL and Communist dominated unions.
- Kenneth Burt, History Professor, University of California at Berkeley, history of Hispanic workers in the tobacco and cigar industries.
- Julia Riechert, Academy Award winning independent film maker, documentary on the feminist women's office worker organization, 9 to 5.
- Ellen Pechman, independent film maker, documentary on the desegregation of Glen Echo Park in the 1960s.
- Stephen Silvia, Professor, American University, the United Auto Workers union organizing in the south.
- Hidetaka Hirota, Professor, City University of New York, immigrant guest worker and contract labor.

Mentoring

Erin Berry, iSchool Graduate Assistant, who was a member of the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit team, handled reference requests and a variety of other tasks. She completed her MLS and has obtained employment as an archivist, 2017-2018.

Jen Wachtel, iSchool Graduate Assistant, who was a member of the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit team, handled reference requests and a variety of other tasks. She is completing the HILS program and has obtained employment as an archivist, 2017-2018.

Barbara Perceval, LBSC703 Field Study, iSchool graduate student, created discovery tools for hidden collections, Fall 2016.

University Archivist

University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

2014-2016

Managed collections and provided daily reference service for the UB institutional archives and the architectural, lineage society, popular music and local history book collections. Responsible for the ongoing university records management program, including accessioning, inventory and processing work. Provided instructional support for history, law and information literacy graduate and undergraduate classes as the library faculty liaison for the Division of Legal, Ethical and Historical Studies. Trained and managed student workers performing reference duty, collection inventorying and metadata entry work.

- Revised the collection development and records management policies to provide better guidance for transferring material to the University Archives.
- Migrated legacy metadata from PDF/Word collection guides to a new [ArchivesSpace Repository](#), resulting in the successful launch and ongoing development of the system, including test exports of EAD finding aids and MARC records.
- Gave numerous classroom presentations on using the archives for research. For example, the [History 295, The Historian's Toolkit](#) course.
- Organized a successful community outreach event launching the [LGBT Baltimore](#) book showcasing material from the archive's LGBTQ collections. The event included a talk by Kurt Schmoke discussing his role in the struggle for LGBTQ equality during his time as Baltimore mayor and now as the President of UB.
- Supervised the first UB internship of a UMD MLS graduate student, who processed the papers of a local progressive political activist, A. Robert Kaufman.
- Lead the Langsdale Institutional Repository Team, which launched [KnowledgeWorks@UB](#), the local instance of the Maryland Shared Open Access Repository.
- Planned and managed the UB student newspaper digitization project, which created surrogates for issues spanning 1935-1976.
- Supervised student workers and technical staff digitizing collection material to meet scan-on-demand orders. In one busy month, over 4100 images were created and posted on collection LibGuides for researcher access. For example, the Baltimore City Public Schools, Social Work Department Collection.

Head of Special Collections

University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

2013-2014

Managed the Special Collections department of the Langsdale Library, including supervision of the Digital Collections and Audiovisual Archivists. Shared management and daily reference service responsibilities for all department collections, including the Baltimore Regional Studies Archives. Responsible for supervision of student workers, interns and volunteers.

- Responsible for all new accessions, including lead work and donor relations for the acquisition of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Baltimore Records and the Women's Union of Baltimore Records.
- Coordinated the transfer of the entire holdings of the department to a new location (over 28,000 items, 7500 linear feet) including floor and shelf configuration planning.
- Organized a public screening and panel discussion of the recently released Baltimore civil rights documentary, *All the King's Horses*, which was attended by over 100 students, faculty, staff and community members and featured veteran local civil rights leader and filmmaker, Pete O'Neal.
- Shared responsibility for a comprehensive shelf read, including the verification of all collection locations and container volumes.
- Sponsored a public arts performance and speakers event, "The Untold Story of Baltimore's Cultural Arts Program," attended by over 120 students, faculty, staff and community members, which honored Branch Morgan III, who founded the program and is a legendary figure in the local dance community.
- Chaired the successful Audiovisual Archivist search committee.
- Created the department's first formal accession and reference procedures, improving service speed and efficiency.
- Initiated the creation of an online Google form for recording reference queries, allowing for quick searches for repeat inquires and detailed user statistics and information.
- Created the department's first strategic plan focusing on improving online management and digital access to collections.
- Shared responsibility for weeding and compressing 37 collections from 995 to 576 linear feet for a 42% space savings.
- Hosted biennial Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference Steering Committee meetings.

Records Manager/Archivist

Northeast Ohio Medical University, Rootstown, OH

2012-2013

- Re-established the university archives and records management program, creating new policies, procedures, forms and a survey questionnaire, and extensively revised the records retention schedule.
- Arranged and described the university photograph collection.
- Surveyed and inventoried the institutional archives, allowing for reliable access to the collections for the first.
- Researched, selected and prepared a wide variety of materials in various formats for the University's 40th anniversary activities.

University Archivist and Head of Archives and Special Collections

William F. Maag Jr. Library, Youngstown State University (YSU), Youngstown, OH

2010-2012

Managed the University Archives and Special Collections unit of Maag Library, including supervision of three archivists and three student assistants and responsibility for the institutional archives, the university-wide records management program, the Rose Melnick Medical Museum, the rare book collection, the local history archives and a major regional oral history collection.

- Encouraged and supervised web-based innovations by the curator of the Melnick Medical Museum, including the integration of oral history interviews of doctors and nurses into the museum's physical exhibits using [QR codes](#).
- Created a collections management database for recording and tracking metadata related to acquiring, accessioning, appraisal, acknowledgement, volume, description and level of processing of the archives holdings.
- Re-organized the university's records management program to improve and simplify policies, standards and procedures for appraising, retaining, destruction and archiving of institutional records. This work included the creation of a new board of trustees' policy, a revised retention schedule, new forms, a streamlined three-step procedure for employees to evaluate records, [a new training slide show](#) and a completely re-designed website.
- Created a collections management database for recording and tracking metadata related to acquiring, accessioning, appraisal, acknowledgement, volume, description and level of processing of the archives' holdings.
- Improved the arrangement and description of an oral history collection of over 2300 interviews, including the creation of the first comprehensive inventory of the collection. Managed the digitization of the cassette tapes and the preparation of the files for unloading into Digital.Maag (DSpace repository). Participated in an oral history graduate course, which included interviewing workers and management about their life on the job in a local steel mill. These interviews were added to the collection.
- Created a queries database to continuously improve reference service. This database was used to track, manage and expedite the processing of reference service requests from a broad range of researchers, including university professors, staff, graduate and undergraduate students and the general public.
- Managed projects involving the onsite appraisal, acquisition, accessioning and processing of university central administration records, department records, and faculty papers, including the onsite appraisal of over 1000 cubic feet of papers containing the life's work of an emeritus professor studying the geology of our national parks and coal mining in northern Appalachia.
- Prepared a research guide and gave presentations on how to use the library's research resources for first year students in Communication Foundations classes.
- Supervised the practicum experiences of two Kent State University MLIS students. One student processed an emeritus history faculty member papers. A second student evaluating the care and handling of our special collections books, including a shelf read and conditions assessment of the entire holdings.

- Evaluated Digital.Maag, a DSpace institutional repository for the YSU community, and recommended improvements in the overall structure and user friendliness of the site and supervised the digitization and uploading of selected content. For example, "Steel Valley Voices, An Ethnic Community Archive."
- Chaired the Maag Library Web Committee, which re-designed the library's website, updating and migrating content to a new Drupal structure.
- Hosted a travelling exhibit and speakers panel, "Women of the World: A Photographic Journey of New Americans in the Mahoning Valley," which documented the experience of recent immigrants to Youngstown through photographs and oral history interviews.
- Conducted tours and created an associated slideshow on how to do research in the archives for alumni and genealogists.

Reference Archivist

Labor Archives and Research Center (LARC), San Francisco State University, CA

2008-2010

Responsible for reference service, collection management, accessioning, digitization projects and the supervision of student assistants, interns and volunteers at the largest labor archives on the West Coast.

- Created LARC's first collections management database and conducted the first shelf read of the entire repository's holdings (4641 cubic feet).
- Accessioned 42 new items and collections, including the SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West Records (1957-2008, 112.5 cu. ft.).
- Based on my proposal, LARC was selected by the Online Archive of California as a test site for a successful pilot project using Archivist Toolkit for the integrated accessioning, management, processing, and description of collections, including the generation of EAD guides and MARC records.
- Performed an onsite appraisal of over 750 cubic feet of Bay Area Teamster Records and then re-boxed, inventoried and coordinated the transfer to the archives of selected Local 70 Records (1937-2006, 155 cubic feet). This project also involved collaboration with the national Teamster archivist, Tom Connors, to transfer a second set of records related to the West Coast Conference of Teamsters to union's national archives in Washington, DC (1948-2004, 56 cubic feet).
- Conducted classroom presentations orienting students to doing research at LARC for SFSU graduate and undergraduate classes in a variety of subjects. For example, see a labor studies classroom presentation.
- Maintained and improved a set of over 50 bibliographies for researchers to make it easier to access LARC collections and other sources. For example, see the research guide for the 1934 San Francisco maritime and general strike.
- Created a rights management database to track copyright information regarding photographs, which expedited access to the images.
- Conducted an onsite appraisal, inventory work and transfer preparation for the papers of former San Francisco Mayor and Speaker of the California House of Representatives, Willie Lewis Brown, Jr. (1965-1995, 200 cubic feet).

Archivist

Pictorial Collections Department, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, DE

2006-2008

Responsible for research and reference services for photographic and audiovisual materials in one of the nation's largest archives of American industry, technology and business. Provided daily scan-on-demand digital copies of imprints, documents and images for a wide variety of scholarly uses. Managed over 100 photograph, audio and moving image collections.

- Participated in major digitization projects involving photograph collections of Sun Shipbuilding Company, the Dallin Aerial Survey Company and Hagley's most popular images. These projects included helping supervise hundreds of hours of work by staff members, volunteers and interns scanning and entering metadata to Dublin Core standards for over 6,000 images.
- Created a database to track, manage and process reference service requests from a broad spectrum of researchers, including professors, graduate, undergraduate, high school and junior high students, amateur historians, genealogists and hobbyists.
- Managed a growing directory of collection inventories and supervised their revision and preparation for web posting.
- Constructed a master collection database by merging information from a number of sources, including accession records, a shelf list, an online catalog and over 20,000 Rolodex cards.
- Chaired the Hagley Library Reference Services Committee and actively participated in the institution-wide Web Design Committee.

Graduate Student Assistant and Intern

Archives of Industrial Society, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

2005-2006

Processed a variety of labor-related collections, including cataloging meeting minute books for United Steelworkers Local 2746 and United Mine Workers Local 6777 and the creation of a finding aid for the Beaver Valley Labor History Society. In addition, processed a major part of the personal papers of Father Charles Owen Rice, a Pittsburgh priest active in the founding of the CIO, William C. Frederick, an industrial relations professor and Thomas M. Kerr, a local civil liberties lawyer.

Graduate Student Assistant

School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

2005-2006

Conducted research on a variety of topics for Professor Richard J. Cox, including archival ethics and accountability, war, memory and archives, information science education and business archives.

Assistant Curator of Manuscripts

Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), Cleveland, OH

2000-2004

Responsible for all new acquisitions for one of the most important regional history archives in the country. This work included appraisal, transfer, accessioning, and preliminary arrangement and description of all new collections. Managed over 31,000 cubic feet of unprocessed collections, including location control, security, environmental monitoring and reference services. Acting head of the nine-member Manuscripts Division for over one year, supervising the work of the division's African American, Irish American, Jewish, Philanthropic and Sports archivists.

- Accessioned over 550 items and collections in a four year period, (11,000 cubic feet), including the records of local business, government, civic, social reform, labor, religious, sports and cultural organizations, and the personal papers of prominent politicians, professors and lawyers in a six county region in northern Ohio.
- Authored a successful National Endowment for the Humanities grant (\$252,330) for the "Providing Access to Collections Documenting the History of the American Steel Industry" project. As part of this project, I had primary responsibility for appraising over 40,000 boxes of LTV Steel Corporation Records (1830s-2001) and coordinated the transfer and inventorying of 4700 cubic feet of selected material to WRHS for further processing. This material represents one of the most important set of records documenting American industrial history.
- Conducted on-site appraisal and shipment preparation, and subsequently implemented the transfer, accessioning and inventorying of the records of United Steelworkers Locals 185, 1098, 1157 and 2265 (1930s-2002, 279 cubic feet), Painters and Allied Trades Local 639 and District 6 (1940s-1970s, 105 cubic feet), Communication Workers, District 4 (1950s-1990s, 25 cubic feet) and the Greater Cleveland Labor History Society (1930s-1990s, 50 cubic feet).
- Conducted a shelf read to increase the accuracy and completeness of information contained in six collection databases.
- Coordinated a number of special events including a two-day conference on the life and works of Langston Hughes, and a celebration of the public unveiling of the Agora Rock and Roll Recordings Collection.
- Taught workshops and gave lectures on various topics, including doing historical and genealogical research based on archival sources, photograph conservation and the history of the United Steelworkers.
- Project manager for the acquisition of the records of Cleveland Mayor Michael White, the second largest mayoral collection in the country (1980-2000, 985 cubic feet). Coordinated a five member on-site team, who identified, appraised, inventoried, prepared and transferred the records to WRHS.
- Supervised high school and college student interns and adult volunteers, including the coordination of a public service program for Case Western Reserve University sororities and fraternities.
- Directed the installation of the first digital audio and image laboratory at WRHS and supervised the initial use of the lab by staff and interns, including the first transfers of audio recordings to a digital format.

Artifact Research Assistant

Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), Cleveland, OH

2000

- Conducted research and assisted in the selection of content for a planned museum exhibit on the history of the Cleveland steel industry.
- Created a preliminary inventory for the LTV Steel Photograph Collection (1890s-2001, 65,000 images).

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH

1999-2000

- Teaching assistant for African American History and the History of Western Civilization classes. Initiated a tutorial program to improve student study skills and research methods and presented a guest lecture on Frederick Douglass.

Service

Library Service

Diversity Advisory Committee, January 2017-present, member, appointed by the Dean of Libraries.

Helped facilitate Diversity and Inclusion Town Hall meetings and served on the subcommittee which authored the Libraries' first diversity, equity and inclusion statement.

Campus Service

University Senate, May 2018-present, Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senator, elected by the University faculty.

Attended, actively participated and cast votes in all Senate sessions, including the emergency sessions related to the death of Jordan McNair and the reforms needed in the Athletics Department.

Professional Service

Memberships

- American Library Association (ALA), 2007-2008, 2016-present.
- Society of American Archivists (SAA), 2004-2008, 2011-present.
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC), 2006-2008, 2013-present.
- The Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA), 2014-present.
- United Association for Labor Education (UALE), 2018-present.
- Working-Class Studies Association, 2018-present.
- Oral History Association (OHA), 2018-present.

Committees

AFL-CIO – ALA Labor Committee, 2007-2008, 2016-present, member; 2018-present, appointed co-chair by ALA's Reference and User Services Association.

Organizing the forum, "Amplify Your Voice: Advocacy in the Workplace," for the ALA national conference, 2019.

Assisted with the organization of three days of information tabling promoting the Committee's activities to the ALA membership at the national conferences, 2016-present.

SAA Labor Archives Section, 2006-present, member.

Presented the keynote lecture, "Documenting Labor as a Social Justice Movement in the Digital Age," at the annual section meeting, 2018.

MARAC Scholarship Committee, 2016-2018, member.

MARAC Program Committee, Fall 2016, member.

Organized the panel, "Lessons from the Shop Floor: Innovations in Labor Archives that May Be Useful to You."

USMAI Institutional Repository Consortium Committee, 2013-2016, University of Baltimore representative, appointed by the Library Director.

ArchivesSpace National Membership Meeting Program Committee, 2015, member.

Print Resources Management IRAG Subgroup, 2013-2015, University of Baltimore representative, appointed by the Library Director.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference Local Arrangements Committee, Fall 2014, member.

Community Service

AFL-CIO Metro Washington Council LaborFest Organizing Committee, 2016-present, invited member.

Participate in planning the annual month long DC LaborFest, including selection of films to be shown, the Labor History Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon and other events.

Baltimore City Historical Society Board of Directors, 2014-2016, elected member.

Friends of the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor Board of Trustees, 2011-2013, elected member.

New Deal and Labor Art Exhibition Steering Committee, 2012-2013, invited member.

Awards

Outstanding Management Award

Western Reserve Historical Society, 2003.

Award given by the library for my work as Assistant Curator of Manuscripts.

Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities

Books Edited

Louise Parker Kelley. *LGBT Baltimore, Images of Modern America*. Associate editor Benjamin S. Blake. New York: Arcadia Publishing, 2015.

Articles in Refereed Journals

Blake, Benjamin S. "The New Archives for American Labor: From Attic to Digital Shop Floor," *The American Archivist*, (Spring/Summer 2007): 130-150.

Blake, Benjamin S. "Ohio's Steel Mill War: The Little Steel Strike of 1937," *Crooked River*, Issue 3, December 2001:
<https://academic.csuohio.edu/clevelandhistory/CrookedRiver/Index.htm>.

Talks and other Professional Papers Presented

Invited Talks

Blake, Benjamin S. "Documenting Labor as a Social Justice Movement." Keynote address to the Society of American Archivists Labor Archives Section annual meeting, 2018.

Blake, Benjamin S. "From the Attic to the Labor Archives: Preserving Our History." Presentation at the Labor Heritage Foundation's Great Labor Arts Exchange conference, Silver Spring, MD, June 2017.

Blake, Benjamin S. "Creating the Exhibit, *Picture It: A Collection of Photographs from the GLCCB (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center) Archives*." Gallery talk at the Creative Alliance Theater. Baltimore, MD. May 2015.

Blake, Benjamin S. "From Depression to Hope: The Little Steel Strike of 1937." Keynote speech at the Phi Alpha Theta awards banquet, Youngstown, OH, 2012.

Blake, Benjamin S. "Archives: From the National Archives to Your Family Papers." Workshop at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, Youngstown, OH, March 2012.

Blake, Benjamin S. "Class War on the Waterfront: The San Francisco Maritime and General Strikes, 1934." Paper presented at the Center for Economic Research and Social Change regional conference, San Francisco, CA, 2010.

Refereed Conferences

Blake, Benjamin S. "Labor Archives and Social Justice: The Question of Relevancy." Paper presented at the North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, MI, October 2018.

Blake, Benjamin S. "Beyond Statistics: Organizing Reference Information to Manage Responses, Document Collection Use and Build a Community of Interest." Poster presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Wilmington, DE, October 2018.

- Blake, Benjamin S. "'For Liberty, Justice and Equality: Unions Making History in America' Exhibition: The Challenge of Creating a Themed Presentation of Archival Collections." Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Buffalo, NY, October 2017.
- Blake, Benjamin S. "The 'For Liberty, Justice and Equality: Unions Making History in America' Exhibition: A Case Study in Presenting Organized Labor as a Social Justice Movement." Presentation at the North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, MI, October 2017.
- Blake, Benjamin S. "Archival Scope: From Drift to Infinity, What Can Be Done? Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2016.
- Blake, Benjamin S. "Crowd Sourcing Metadata for Photographs of the LGBT Baltimore Community: An Interactive, Inexpensive and Low Tech Approach." Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Roanoke, VA, October 2015.
- Blake, Benjamin S. "The Papers of Monsignor Charles Owen Rice, Pittsburgh's 'Labor Priest,' 1937-2005." Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Scranton, PA, April 2007.

Exhibits and other Creative Activities

Exhibits

- Blake, Benjamin S., led curator. *For Liberty, Justice and Equality, Unions Making History in America*. University of Maryland. College Park, MD. September 2017 – August 2018.
- Koukoui, Angela, curator, and Ben Blake, curatorial assistant. *The Baltimore Cultural Arts Program, 1964-1993*. University of Baltimore. Baltimore, MD. March 2016.
- VandeBrake, Arnie, curator, and Ben Blake, curatorial assistant. *Picture It: A Collection of Photographs from the GLCCB (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center) Archives*. Creative Alliance Theater. Baltimore, MD. May 2015.
- Blake, Benjamin S., curator. *The 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, The Struggle Continues*. Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore. Baltimore, MD. September 2013.
- Blake, Benjamin S., curator. *Steelbound, The History of Ohio Steel*. Ensemble Theater, Cleveland Heights, OH. April-May 2004.

Broadcast/Podcasts

- Blake, Benjamin S. A series of weekly interviews for the segment, "Cool Things from the Meany Labor Archives" by Chris Garlock for the AFL-CIO Washington Council, podcast radio show, "Labor History Today." Washington, DC., 21 segments recorded, 2018-present.
- Blake, Benjamin S. A series of three interviews on the history of the United Farmworkers, the labor boycott of Coors beer in favor of LGBTQ rights and the AFL's support for the underground resistance against the Nazis in the 1930s by Chris Garlock for the AFL-CIO Washington Council, podcast radio show, "Labor History Today." Washington, DC., 2018.
- Blake, Benjamin S. Interview on the *For Justice, Equality and Liberty* exhibit by Chris Garlock for the AFL-CIO Washington Council, podcast radio show, "Labor History Today." Washington, DC., December 1, 2017.

Blake, Benjamin S. Interview by Rick Smith for The Rick Smith Show live web streaming video interview, "From the AFL-CIO Convention in St. Louis, Rick speaks with workers, labor leaders, activists, and academics about the current state of labor in America and what the future holds for workers." St. Louis, MO, November 28, 2017.
<https://thericksmithshow.com/2017/10/28/afl-cio-convention-st-louis/>

Blake, Benjamin S. Interview by AFL-CIO media staffer on the "Workers' Bill of Rights" for a live podcast from the AFL-CIO Convention, St. Louis, MO, November 28, 2017.

Blake, Benjamin S. Interview by Jennifer Bryant on the WPFW Arise!, live radio show on air broadcast about the *For Liberty, Justice and Equality* exhibit. Washington, DC, September 22, 2017.

Papers and Presentations Available in KnowledgeWorks@UB

Blake, Benjamin S. "Documenting the Undocumented Working Class: A Documentation Strategy for the American Labor Movement." (research paper, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 2006).

Blake, Benjamin S. "The Lordstown Tigers: The 'Blue Collar Blues' Autoworkers Strikes in the 1970s." (research paper, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH, 2000).

Blake, Benjamin S. "Penguin Records: Managing Your Office Files." (training workshop presentation, Office of the Provost, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH, 2011)

Grants

University of Baltimore, "Provost Technology Investment Grant for Implementing ArchivesSpace," \$5000, 2013-2015, principal investigator.

National Endowment for the Humanities, "Providing Access to Collections Documenting the History of the American Steel Industry," \$252,330, 2003-2008, principal investigator.

Awards

Theodore Calvin Pease Award

Society of American Archivists, 2006.

I received this award for my University of Pittsburgh graduate paper, "A Call for a New American Labor Archives: History, Theory, Methodology, and Practice." My paper was subsequently published in *The American Archivist* as, "The New Archives for American Labor: From Attic to Digital Shop Floor."

National Conference on Managing Electronic Records Scholarship

University of Pittsburgh School for Information Sciences, 2006.

Scholarship allowed me to attend, participate and work as a student assistant at MER's national conference in Chicago.

Graduate Research Assistantship in Archives and Records Management

University of Pittsburgh, 2005.

National Endowment for the Humanities, 2004.

Graduate Teaching Assistantship in American History
Cleveland State University, 1999.

Signature Benjamin S. Blake Date 1/31/19