



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 2011

Contact: Jenny Schooley
312.606.0722 or jschooley@archivists.org

Nidya G. Gonzalez Receives Inaugural Josephine Forman Scholarship

CHICAGO—Nidya G. Gonzalez is the first recipient of the Josephine Forman Scholarship, which will be presented on August 26, 2011, at *ARCHIVES 360°*, the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago.

The scholarship is a \$10,000 award and provides financial support to minority students pursuing graduate education in archival science, encourages students to pursue a career as an archivist, and promotes the diversification of the American archives profession.

Gonzalez received her undergraduate degree in history in spring 2008 from the University of the Pacific. She begins studies this fall at the University of Pittsburgh where she is enrolled in the MLIS program with a specialization in archives, preservation, and records management.

At the University of the Pacific she was given the opportunity to intern in the library/archives at the Haggin Museum in Stockton, California. There, Gonzalez aspired to become an archivist. "She worked alongside the curator and was given projects that required serious decision making and historical sensitivities on her part," said one of her nominators. "She accomplished these tasks with great skill and commitment."

Gonzalez's senior paper at the University of Pacific, "Off to Work They Go: An Analysis of Mexican Immigrant women Laborers in Canneries," received praise from one of her nominators, who noted that "this original research project included both archived oral histories from the 1980s and oral histories that Gonzalez herself complete with research subjects. Her expertise in this subject was recognized by the national history honor society." Gonzalez is also cited for her unwavering drive to follow her career path with confidence.

The Josephine Forman Scholarship was established in 2010 by the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church and named for Josephine Forman, archivist for 18 years of the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church and author of *We Finish to Begin: A History of Travis Park United Methodist Church, 1846-1991*.

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Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America's oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA's mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 6,000 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. For more information, visit www.archivists.org.

17 NORTH STATE STREET, SUITE 1425 | CHICAGO, IL 60602-4061 USA

TEL 312.606.0722 | TOLL-FREE 866.SAA.7858 | FAX 312.606.0728 | WEB www.archivists.org