March on Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project Honored by Society of American Archivists

CHICAGO—The March On Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project team at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Libraries is the 2011 recipient of the Society of American Archivists’ Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award, which will be presented on August 26, 2011, at ARCHIVES 360°, the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago.

The award recognizes individuals or institutions that have increased public awareness of archives documents. March On Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project team is honored for its efforts to promote the Archives Department’s primary source collections relating to the African American civil rights movement in Milwaukee.

The following individuals comprise the project team: Jasmine Alinder (associate professor, History Department), Trevor Berman (undergraduate student, History Department), Dale Bryant (graduate student, School of Information Science), Michael Doylen (department head, UWM Libraries Archives), Ellen Engseth (archivist, UWM Libraries Archive), Nick Kane (graduate student, School of Information Science), Christel Maass (archivist, UWM Libraries Archives), Krystyna Matusiak (digital librarian, UWM Libraries Digitization), Ling Meng (digital imaging specialist, UWM Libraries Digitization), Erica Metcalfe (graduate student, Public History), Keia Wegner (graduate student, Public History), Lucas Wolff (undergraduate student, History Department), and Adrian Zink (graduate student, Public History).

The project’s digital collection provides unprecedented access to a diverse mix of materials, including personal papers, organizational records, photographs, television news footage, and oral history interviews. “This digital project enhances public access to and awareness of this material,” said one Awards Committee member. “In addition to the digital project itself, the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Libraries has also actively pursued opportunities for public outreach and education about this material, including co-sponsorship of a symposium with the Milwaukee Public Library in September 2010.”

The Hamer Kegan Award was established in 1973 and is named for two SAA Fellows and former presidents. The 2010 recipient was The Giza Archives at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

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Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America’s oldest and largest national archives 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.