



# NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jenny Schooley  
312.606.0722 or [jschooley@archivists.org](mailto:jschooley@archivists.org)

## **Kelly E. Lau and Melvin J. Collier Receive Minority Student Award**

CHICAGO—Kelly E. Lau and Melvin J. Collier are the joint recipients of the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award, which will be awarded on August 26, 2011, at *ARCHIVES 360°*, SAA's 75th Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The award recognizes minority graduate students of African, Asian, Latino, or Native American descent who, through scholastic achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of SAA.

Lau is a dual master of archival studies and master of library and information studies at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia. She is affiliated with many professional organizations including the Association of Research Libraries, the Association of Canadian Archivists, and the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association.

"Ms. Lau is impressed by the significant contribution and effort the Society of American Archivists has made to advancing the facets of the United States cultural and historical mosaic . . . As a person of color, she is interested in advancing SAA's commitment to diversity through her work in the archival field," said one Awards Committee member.

Collier is a library assistant in the Archives Research Center of the Robert W. Woodruff Library-Atlanta University Center. He expects to graduate in 2012 with a master of archival studies from Clayton State University. Beginning as a graduate assistant in the processing of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, Collier has also worked with the HBCU Alliance Project. He holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Mississippi State University and master of arts in African American Studies from Clark Atlanta University.

"An avid genealogist, Collier is also the published author of *Mississippi to Africa: A Journey of Discovery*, which details his search to document his family's genealogy and provides best practices for African American Genealogical Research," said one Awards Committee member.

Established in 1993, the award honors the late Dr. Harold T. Pinkett, who served with distinction during his long tenure at the National Archives and Records Administration and who was a Fellow of SAA.

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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 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](http://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](http://www.archivists.org)