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Timothy Murray Inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists

CHICAGO—Timothy Murray, head of special collections, University of Delaware, will be inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) during a ceremony on August 26, 2011, at ARCHIVES 360°, the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago. The distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession.

Murray is one of the preeminent voices speaking for special collections, and more particularly for literary manuscripts in the nation. Three themes emerge in the letters received in support of his nomination: his work as a mentor to students and young librarians, his expertise as an archivist, and his ability and willingness to bridge the gap between archives and librarianship.

A member of SAA since 1983, Murray has attended more than 25 annual meeting. His strength rests in his ability to share his expertise and create interesting and arresting programs for the membership. He has served on SAA program committees, the Publications Board, and chaired the Manuscripts Repositories Section and the Privacy & Confidentiality Roundtable. Most recently he served as co-chair of the ACRL/SAA Joint Statement on Access to Research Materials in Archives and Special Collections Libraries Task Force.

Murray is a frequent contributor to publishing and lecturing on the issues of acquisition and collection development, access to collections, preservation, ethics, privacy, and the other legal questions relating to literary manuscripts.

“There are surprisingly few special collections professionals who bridge the bibliographic world of rare books, archives, and manuscripts as well as Tim with one foot in SAA and the other in ALA,” noted one nominator. Another nominator commented that, “Tim’s subject expertise ranges across all aspects of literary archives management and [that] he has had a demonstrable impact on contemporary practice in this field.”

As another nominator stated, “Tim has for many years contributed extensively to all of us and to our knowledge of our profession. He has encouraged us to think more deeply and enabled us to advance the profession further than we might have expected.”

Murray is one of eight new Fellows named in 2011. There are currently 170 Fellows of the Society of American Archivists.

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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.