

THE ACADEMIC ARCHIVIST
Newsletter of the College and University Section
Society of American Archivists

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues:

Happy spring! As the semester draws to a close and we begin planning for the annual meeting, I want to update you about some important changes for our Section.

These changes, which will be rolled out in the next few weeks, are the result of a set of policy revisions approved by SAA Council in August 2009 and codified in the SAA Council Handbook. (See, REFERENCES at pg. 2 for Sections IX and X, revised February 2010.)

Online Elections

SAA Sections are now required to conduct their elections exclusively online and in accordance with a uniform calendar specifying timeframes for nominations, submission of ballot information to SAA staff, and starting/ending dates for online voting. Online elections will have a variety of benefits for our membership. Most significant, for the first time, Section members, who are unable to attend an annual meeting, will be able to participate in the election of leaders. Online elections will also free up our annual Section meeting from the distraction of handing out, collecting, and counting ballots. (See, CALL FOR NOMINATIONS at pg. 2 for more details on the election process this spring.)

Updates to Governance Structure

In addition to online elections, Sections are now required to have a chair and a vice-chair/chair-elect serving consecutively and to elect, not appoint, steering committee members. I am enthusiastic about the new system, which I believe will provide a better continuity of leadership and will require less time spent each year getting familiar with Section roles and responsibilities. I also anticipate that the new structure will help us to keep up momentum on Section projects and initiatives, which never do seem to come to a tidy conclusion in two year intervals. And, with a single schedule for elections and a consistent governance structure across Sections, I would anticipate considerable new opportunities for chairs to work collaboratively with their counterparts from other Sections.

Next Steps

Over the past year, the Section leadership consulted extensively with Council Liaison Tom Frusciano and the SAA office to determine how best to implement the required changes, given that they are in conflict with the current (last revised in 2003) Section bylaws. (See, REFERENCES at pg. 2 for Section bylaws) It is our determination that Section IX of the Council Handbook supersedes the C&UA Section's bylaws. Accordingly, "Section 4: Officers" of the C&UA bylaws will be updated and the revisions posted on the Section website within the next few weeks.

Finally, in the process of reviewing the Section bylaws, the steering committee identified additional wording that is overdue for an update. I recommend that next year's leadership undertake a more thorough review and analysis of the bylaws.

Best wishes,

Beth Kaplan

Elisabeth Kaplan
Head, University Archives and
Co-Director, University Digital Conservancy
Andersen Library
University of Minnesota

REFERENCES

SAA Council Handbook

- Section IX: www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section9.asp
- Section X: www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section10.asp

College and University Archives Section

- Bylaws: www.archivists.org/saagroups/cnu/cubylaws.pdf

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The College and University Section is seeking nominations for the Section's leadership. We will be electing a vice chair/chair elect, who will serve for one year as vice chair and then the following year as the chair of the section. We will also be electing two members of the steering committee. Steering committee members serve for three years. Steering committee members are responsible for advising and assisting the chair and vice-chair regarding Section activities including policy formulation, study/discussion groups, goal-oriented projects and the newsletter.

Serving in a leadership position for a Section or Roundtable is a great way to learn about SAA and its governance, contribute to new directions for SAA, and work with other archivists on interesting projects. It is also a great way to serve the society! If you wish

to nominate someone for any of these positions, please submit the person's name, institutional affiliation and e-mail address to Rachel Vagts, Chair of the Nominating Committee (vagtsrac@luther.edu). Self-nominations are highly encouraged and requested. If you are submitting a self-nomination, please also include a brief statement to be shared with the section membership. Nominations will be accepted until June 1, 2010. The election will be conducted electronically from July 6-20, 2010 and the results will be announced on Thursday, August 12th at the Section's annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Vagts
Chair of the Nominating Committee
College Archivist
Library and Information Services
Luther College
Decorah, IA

IN THE NEWS

Massachusetts: Loyal Lesley Daughters: An Oral History of Massachusetts Women Teachers, 1925-1965

The Lesley University Archives in Cambridge, Massachusetts recently received funding from Mass Humanities, the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to present the exhibition, *Loyal Lesley Daughters: An Oral History of Massachusetts' Women Teachers, 1925-1965*, as part of the University's 2009-2010 centennial celebration. Opening on May 26th, *Loyal Lesley Daughters* will exhibit oral history interviews of Lesley's alumnae, detailing their experiences at an all women's institution, the teaching techniques they learned, and the challenges they faced as women building careers in Massachusetts Public Schools.

The title, *Loyal Lesley Daughters*, refers to Lesley's school song, written in 1944 by former president Trentwell Mason White. The song praises the attributes of the perfect Lesley student – loyalty, honesty, motherhood, friendship – and neglects the School's core mission – to foster intellectual growth and educate women to become early childhood educators. White's lyrics reflect the difficult choice that the all-female student body had to make between career and family. For many of these women, their careers as educators were short lived; once a teacher got married, she would lose her job. Lesley alumnae had to choose between having a career or being a good wife and mother. For the first fifty years of its existence, Lesley was deeply entrenched in competing educational philosophies that surrounded the place of women in American social and economic life.



(Left: Selma Chervin Bell, 1948. Right: Selma Chervin Bell, 2009)

Selma Chervin Bell graduated from Lesley University in 1948 and was hired in the Lexington Public Schools at a salary of \$1,800 per year, which was more than [her] father made. After teaching for two years, she quit to get married. Bell returned to teaching in the early 1960s after asking permission from her husband. Initially, she hid her new employment from friends and neighbors, but as the years progressed she became more comfortable in her new role and eventually became principal of an elementary school, a tenure that lasted over 20 years.

The oral histories to be featured in *Loyal Lesley Daughters* uncover a lost history, one that is not currently told in the documents that Lesley owns. For many of the women, the interviews provide a platform to talk about their experiences and express their opinions, often for the first time. The interview process, with its open-ended questions and stream of consciousness approach, allows for the expression of a full range of emotion – from humor to frustration and from hope to fear. An alternative narrative about women teachers in Massachusetts emerges: one that shows the contradiction of a society that allowed women to be trained as early childhood educators but did not let them teach.

The exhibit will highlight 12 narrators who are representative of the over 40 interviews conducted to date. Gallery visitors will be able to listen to audio excerpts of each interview, 30 seconds to 30 minutes in length, on an iPod shuffle. Mounted on the gallery walls, in turn, will be a short biography of each narrator and a historical explanation of the interview excerpt. A framed, black and white photograph of each narrator will also be displayed along with any relevant photographic or historical materials that the narrator has donated (for example, a photograph of the narrator teaching, a lesson plan used by the narrator, or the narrator's senior photograph from Lesley).

Playing in a continuous loop on a monitor at the gallery entrance will be a 6-8 minute video introducing the exhibit and placing the women's stories in historical context. The video, using still images, voiceover, and music, will outline the cultural, economic, and

political climates that the women faced each decade. For example, history about the roaring twenties and the Great Depression will be interwoven with the women's personal stories of intellectual discovery and professional freedom. World War II and the American post-war consciousness will also be highlighted next to the stories of women facing the burden of recreating American family life and its affect on their teaching careers. Finally, the budding American feminist movement will be explored in the context of Lesley students and alumnae challenging the status quo.

The exhibition will run from May 26, 2010 to July 1, 2010 at the Marran Gallery at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A panel discussion with the participants will take place on June 4, 2010 and an oral history workshop will take place on June 19, 2010. Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Alyssa Pacy, Lesley University Archivist, at apacy@lesley.edu or visit www.masshumanities.org.

(Submitted by Alyssa K. Pacy, University Archivist, Lesley University Archives, Cambridge, MA.)

Massachusetts: Northeastern University Opens Three Collections to Researchers

Chinese Progressive Association Historical Records

Founded on July 17, 1977 in Boston's Chinatown, the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) supports tenants' rights, workers' rights, political empowerment, and local Chinatown issues. Among its early activities, the CPA helped found the Chinatown Housing and Land Development Task Force, worked with other activists to conduct voter registration and organize the first mayoral candidates' forum in Chinatown, and joined African American and Latino community leaders to file a successful lawsuit against gerrymandering of state electoral districts. In 1986, the CPA organized with dislocated garment workers from P&L Sportswear and from Beverly Rose, another sportswear manufacturer, to win the first Chinese bilingual retraining programs in New England. The following year, the CPA Workers Center was established in order to continue organizing immigrant workers and to advocate for their rights. In 1993, the CPA worked with other Chinatown organizations and the American Friends Service Committee to organize a plebiscite on the Parcel C parking garage proposed for the center of residential Chinatown. This coalition eventually won and the parcel was designated for community development. More recently, in 2005, the organization launched its Immigrant Workers Center Collaborative in order to foster immigrant worker organizing and solidarity in the Chinese, Brazilian, and Latino communities. In 2006, in an effort to stabilize Boston neighborhoods, the CPA strengthened its ties with communities of color, tenant organizations and housing advocates in order to secure changes in Boston's Inclusionary Development Policy and its definition of housing affordability.

Ranging from 1976 to 2006 and encompassing 15.5 cubic ft., the materials include minutes, memoranda, correspondence, event fliers and programs, newsletters, photographs, and VHS tapes.

The Chinese Progressive Association Records are open for research Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, at the Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department, 92 Snell Library, Boston, Massachusetts. An online collection guide is available at: <http://www.library.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m163find.htm>



(Submitted by Emily Sabo, Advancement, Marketing and Events Assistant, Northeastern University Libraries, Snell Library, Boston, MA.)

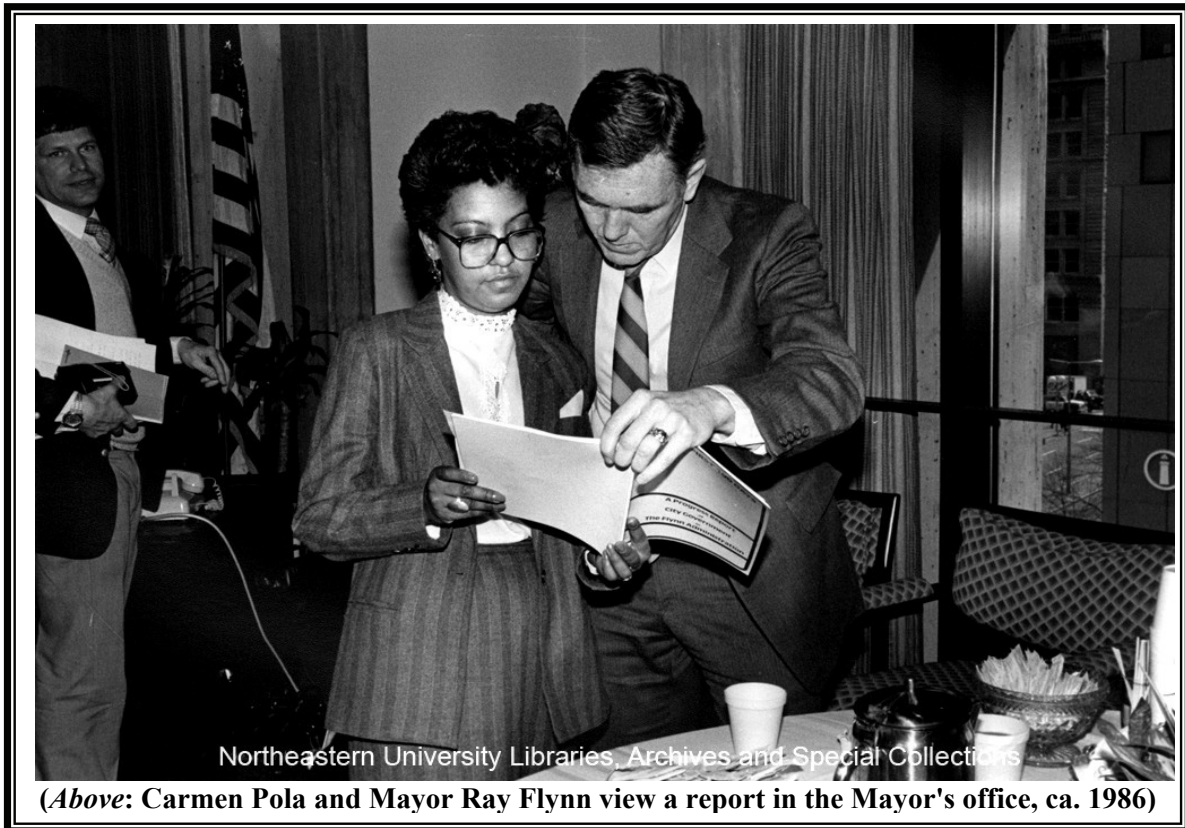
The Carmen A. Pola Papers

Community activist Carmen A. Pola was born Carmen A. Villanueva Garcia in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in 1939. In 1955, she moved to the continental United States with her family, settling briefly in the Bronx, New York, before moving to Oakland, California. In California, Pola became involved in community activism by participating in a number of grassroots organizations concerned with education and youth such as La Raza Educators and young Catholic Workers. In 1972, the Pola family relocated to Boston, Massachusetts, settling in the neighborhood of Mission Hill. Pola quickly became involved in community action in a number of ways. To illustrate, in 1975, she was the coordinator of the Festival Puertorriqueño (Puerto Rican Festival), held annually in Boston since 1967. From 1977 to 1980, Pola was the coordinator of the Community District I Advisory Council (CDAC), part of the Citywide Parents Advisory Council (CPAC), Inc., which operated from 1974-2004 under the court-mandated desegregation of Boston Public Schools (*Morgan v. Hennigan*). Pola was also involved in the Bilingual Masters Parents Advisory Council which oversaw the implementation of the Voluntary Lau Compliance Plan, a 1979 agreement that outlined the responsibilities of the Boston Public Schools in providing education to bilingual students.

The 16 cubic ft. of materials date from 1970 to 2006 and document Pola's work with the Puerto Rican Festival, the Boston Public Schools, the Project to Monitor the Code of Discipline, Mayor Raymond Flynn's Administration, and Roxbury Unites for Families and Children. The collection includes photographs, correspondence, grant proposals and

reports, surveys, charts, organizational records, legal materials, political campaign literature, catalogs, booklets, and meeting minutes.

The Carmen A. Pola Papers are open for research Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, at the Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department, 92 Snell Library, Boston, Massachusetts. An online collection guide is available at: <http://www.library.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m159find.htm>.



(Submitted by Emily Sabo, Advancement, Marketing and Events Assistant, Northeastern University Libraries, Snell Library, Boston, MA.)

Lower Roxbury Community Oral Histories

Oral histories recorded under the auspices of Northeastern University's Lower Roxbury Black History Project are now open for research.

The Lower Roxbury Black History Project evolved from a November 9, 2006 meeting between Northeastern University President Joseph E. Aoun and members of the Black Ministerial Alliance of Massachusetts to discuss possible collaborations between Northeastern and Lower Roxbury clergy. During the meeting, Reverend Michael E. Haynes suggested that the University create a history of the African American community in Lower Roxbury. Therefore, President Aoun appointed Joseph D. Warren, who was then the Special Assistant to the Director of Government Relations and Community Affairs, to oversee the Lower Roxbury Black History Project. Warren's

advisory board consisted of Rev. Michael E. Haynes, formerly of Roxbury's Twelfth Baptist Church; Massachusetts State Representative Byron Rushing; Northeastern University Archivist Joan D. Krizack; and Northeastern University history professors William M. Fowler Jr., Gerald H. Herman, and Robert L. Hall; and Northeastern Vice-President for Public Affairs Robert P. Gittens. In November 2007, Warren hired Lolita Parker Jr., a photographer and documentary film researcher, to collect oral histories of Roxbury community members. From 2007-2009, with the assistance of her son, London Parker-McWorter, Parker spoke with over 40 residents of Roxbury.

Spanning the period 2007 to 2009, the collection consists of 758.28 gigabytes of digital files and .90 cubic ft. of records. The collection contains video and audio oral histories of African American clergy, educators, businessmen, politicians, community activists, former military men, laborers, and citizens of Lower Roxbury. Interviewees discussed their families, childhoods, and the geographic areas in Roxbury, including Roxbury Crossing, Sawyer Street, and Haskins Street, from the early to mid-20th century. Records include audio (.aiff / .mp3 / .wma); video (.avi/ .mov / iMovieProject / MiniDV); partial, edited, and unedited transcripts of interviews; scans; and photographs. An online collection guide is available at: <http://www.library.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m165find.htm>

The Lower Roxbury Black History Project collection is open for research Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM at the Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department, 92 Snell Library, Boston, MA.



(Above: Adelaide Cromwell, 2009)

Adelaide Cromwell, noted Sociology Professor and the first African American instructor at New York's Hunter College, during oral history interview, 2 April 2009.

(Submitted by Emily Sabo, Advancement, Marketing and Events Assistant, Northeastern University Libraries, Snell Library, Boston, MA.)

Minnesota: St. Cloud State University Archives Publishes Private Writings of Sinclair Lewis

The world now has a closer look into the personal life of Nobel Prize-winning author and Minnesota native Sinclair Lewis through a newly published collection of 262 letters and one poem written between 1939 and 1947 to his most intimate friend at the time, Marcella Powers. The letters, owned by the St. Cloud State University Archives and Special Collections (in central Minnesota), were digitized and published on the Web through the Minnesota Digital Library's digital portal, Minnesota Reflections.

This project represents the first time that this collection has been published and also marks the first comprehensive collection of primary source text material of Sinclair Lewis made available on the Web. This large body of Lewis's private writings offers scholars, historians and others interested in new insights into the day-to-day life and creative processes of the world-famous writer and important figure in Minnesota history.

Lewis wrote the letters to Marcella Powers, whom he met in Cape Cod during rehearsals of *Ah, Wilderness* in 1939, when Lewis was 54 and Powers 18. In the letters, Lewis detailed his experiences ranging from his travels, writing screenplays in Hollywood, and his time at the University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota, and University of Minnesota-Duluth. He also discussed the articles, short stories and novels he was writing, especially *Gideon Planish* (1943), *Cass Timberlane* (1945), and *Kingsblood Royal* (1947).

In addition, the collection provides a glimpse into the author's everyday life and insights into his emotions and dreams, including his wish to settle down with Powers on a small farm in New England. Many of the letters address his longing and love for Powers. Their correspondence ended shortly after Powers married Michael Amrine in 1947.

The letters are available and fully searchable at <http://reflections.mndigital.org> and can be accessed by browsing by collection under St. Cloud State University Archives: "Sinclair Lewis Letters to Marcella Powers, 1939-1947".

The University Archives can be reached at archives@stcloudstate.edu. Visit the University Archives' website (which uses Archon as well) at: <http://lrts.stcloudstate.edu/library/special/archives/>

(Submitted by Tom Steman, University Archivist, St. Cloud State University Archives, St. Cloud, MN)

Please transmit your newsletter submissions to:

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