

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

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FROM THE CHAIR

I hope your summer is going well and that your travel plans (and especially your lodging) are set for SAA in Washington, D.C. Our section meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 4th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The annual business meeting will include an update on the Guidelines for College & University Archives, the election of a new chair, and news about section projects. Ellen Swain has put together an excellent program on faculty papers with section members from a wide range of institutions discussing their experiences and research. The full agenda appears on page two of the newsletter.

As this is my last column as your section chair, I would like to thank some of the many people who have made my job as chair a pleasure – Tom Rosko and Ellen Swain, my two vice-chairs who assembled great programs for the past two section meetings; Tamar Chute, for chairing the first Guidelines task force; Tom Rosko and Robin McElheny for co-chairing the present task force, Heather Briston, for chairing the nominating committee this year; and an extra special thanks to Chris Laico for doing a fantastic job as newsletter editor.

I also want to express my gratitude to Jackie Esposito and Betsy Pittman for agreeing to run for chair. Other section leadership opportunities also are available – Heather Briston, David McCartney, and Robert Sherer rotate off the section steering committee this year, thus creating vacancies that YOU can fill. Steering committee members are appointed by the chair, so I would encourage you to let the section leadership know of your interest if you would like to serve.

Many thanks again to all section members for making the last two years a memorable and enriching experience.

Tim Pyatt
Duke University

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SAA's 70th Annual Meeting

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**College and University Archives Section Meeting
(Friday, August 4, 10:00 a.m. – Noon)**

- 1. Welcome – Tim Pyatt, section chair**
- 2. Announcements:**
 - SAA Council Liaison – Ben Primer
 - College and University Archives conference plans – Elizabeth Slomba
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 meeting, as published in *The Academic Archivist* (Fall 2005/Winter 2006)**
- 4. Reports:**
 - Chair (Pyatt)
 - Section listserv update
 - New Skills for the Digital Era report
 - Vice-Chair (Swain)
 - College & University Archives Reader update
 - Program planning/SAA sessions
 - Newsletter Editor (Laico)
 - Article submission guidelines
- 5. College & University Archives Guidelines revision update – Robin McElheny/Tom Rosko**
- 6. Election of Chair for 2006-2008**
 - Candidates:
 - Jackie Esposito, Penn State
 - Betsy Pittman, University of Connecticut
 - Nominating Committee – Heather Briston (chair), Tom Frusciano, Janis Holder
 - Tellers – Gordon Daines and Jill Katte
- 7. Program: Faculty Records Panel Discussion**
 - Carl Van Ness, University of Florida (moderator)
 - Tara Laver, LSU
 - Diane Kaplan, Yale University
 - Jane Zhang, Harvard University
- 8. Naming of new Chair**

Adjourn

CANDIDATES FOR C&UA SECTION CHAIR

The nominating committee composed of past section chair Thomas Frusciano, Janis Holder, and chaired by out-going steering committee member Heather Briston are pleased to report that Jackie Esposito and Betsy Pittman have agreed to run for Chair.

Jackie Esposito

Statement:

As a University Archivist, the C&U Section of SAA has always been one of the most valuable sources of educational information I can use. Over the years, I have served on its Steering Committee and as Newsletter Editor, it is time again for me to step up and be active with the Section. C&Us face numerous archival challenges including the future of electronic records, “born digital” records retention, attacks on student record privacy, acquisition and processing of scientific data sets, negotiating for and with faculty for their papers, and growth and development of specialty archives such as sports to name a few. The C&U section is a vital and vibrant section. It is my wish and hope that it grows in influence, importance, and opportunity for all C&U archivists.

Professional Activities:

Jackie Esposito has been University Archivist at Penn State University since September 2001. Prior to this position, she served as Assistant University Archivist/Sports Archivist at Penn State beginning in 1986. She was awarded tenure in 1997. She has served in numerous committee and leadership positions in SAA, MARAC and MAC. Jackie’s publications and research have focused on legal issues in higher education and institutional history.

Betsy Pittman

Statement:

College and University archivists have unusual opportunities to educate, innovate, explore and share, not only with the collections in their care, but also with their peers. It is in each of these areas that this section, in my opinion, has made significant contributions to the archival profession. I would like to work with the section to continue these efforts and move them forward. In particular, I am interested in focusing attention on technological changes to assist in managing and accessing materials but also how technology has changed the collections themselves and the long-term effects and implications for College and University archives.

Professional Activities:

Betsy Pittman has been University Archivist and Curator for Political and Connecticut History Collections at the University of Connecticut since 1997. She was also an adjunct instructor in the Department of History from 2002-2004. Betsy has also served as an

archivist and later Head of Special Collections and Archives at the James Branch Cabell Library at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been a member of SAA for many years, and served on committees in MARAC, and NEA. Betsy has made numerous presentations on issues related to managing university archives and records.

(Submitted by Heather Briston, Chair, Nominating Committee)

IN THE NEWS

Maryland: University of Maryland, College Park Celebrates 150th Anniversary

During 2005-2006, the University of Maryland, College Park campus is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding as the Maryland Agricultural College on March 6, 1856. The University of Maryland Archives has been involved in a wide variety of projects, large and small, ranging from major support for the production of a pictorial history book and a video chronicling the campus's history to roles in smaller projects such as the creation of a diversity timeline, a series of historical articles in the student newspaper and faculty/staff newsletter, and the preparation of administrative histories of several colleges and academic departments within the university. The Archives staff also curated a major exhibition on student life, "Corps of Cadets to Testudo's Troops: 150 Years of Student Life at Maryland," which will remain on display at Hornbake Library through the conclusion of the SAA annual meeting in Washington, DC, and re-designed the University Archives website: <http://www.lib.umd.edu/univarchives>. The celebration will conclude this fall with the auction of the "Fear the Turtle" sculptures created by local artists on October 19th and a black-tie gala the following evening.

In recognition of her efforts throughout the anniversary celebration, the University of Maryland Libraries named University Archivist Anne Turkos "Outstanding Library Employee of the Year" in May 2006. In further recognition of the major contributions of the University Archives to the life of the campus, Dean of Libraries Charles Lowry facilitated the conversion of Anniversary Project Archivist Elizabeth McAllister to Assistant University Archivist, with the intention of making this a permanent position within the Archives.

Further information on the anniversary celebration and the University of Maryland Archives' involvement in this work may be obtained from University of Maryland Archivist Anne Turkos via email: aturkos@umd.edu or by phone: 301-405-9060.

(Submitted by Anne S.K. Turkos, University Archivist, University of Maryland, College Park)

North Carolina: DocSouth Launches Tenth Collection: The First Century of the First State University

Documenting the American South is pleased to announce the launch of our newest collection, "The First Century of the First State University" (*See*, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/unc/>) on June 19, 2006. This collection presents a wealth of sources documenting the creation and growth of the University of North Carolina during

the period from 1776 to 1875. These primary sources include letters, books, maps, receipts, bills, subscription lists, trustee and faculty meeting minutes, architectural drawings, and catalogs. The collection is grouped into the following topics: the creation and governance of the university, the campus, the university buildings, the curriculum, the faculty, student life, town and gown, the university in the life of the state of North Carolina, and the university during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Most of the materials in the collection are from the University Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, primarily the North Carolina Collection, the Southern Historical Collection, and the University Archives, with additional documents supplied by the North Carolina State Archives and Columbia University.

Planning for “The First Century of the First State University” began early in 2004. The collection was funded by the University Library, using monies primarily from the Samuel and Gertrude Willis Memorial Fund. This generous funding permitted the selection, transcription, digitization, and encoding of 319 manuscripts (1,250 scanned page images with text transcription), 24 books, and the creation of 273 biographical sketches.

Project staff transcribed most manuscript documents, though some transcriptions were taken from R.D.W. Connor’s, *A Documentary History of the University of North Carolina, 1776-1799*. Project staff and former staff members of the University Library created section introductions as well as annotations for people and places mentioned in the documents. The collection also includes an extensive bibliography of materials held by the University Library that illustrate the main topics related to the first hundred years of the university. Essays by Professor James L. Leloudis and Botany Librarian William R. Burk enrich the site, providing valuable historical and contextual information for the collection. Each transcribed primary document is accompanied by page images of the original so that users can see the handwriting, paper, and other artifactual qualities of the manuscript.

“The First Century of the First State University” complements “True and Candid Compositions: The Lives and Writings of Antebellum Students at the University of North Carolina” (See, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/true/>). Between these two collections, users can browse and search 440 primary documents by proper names, including personal names (1809 unique people), places (419 unique locations), and organizations (167 unique groups). With this feature, readers can trace names across multiple documents and conduct broader research about the history and actions of these people, places, and groups. Taken together, these two collections provide a rich source of university history for students, scholars, and other patrons who visit Documenting the American South.

(Submitted by Janis Holder, University Archivist, Manuscripts Department, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

North Carolina: “Slavery and the Making of the University Online Exhibit”

The Manuscripts Department and the North Carolina Collection of the University Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are pleased to announce the online version of the recent exhibit titled “Slavery and the Making of the University”:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/exhibits/slavery/index.html>. The online exhibit introduces materials that recognize and document the contributions of slaves, college servants and free persons of color primarily during the University of North Carolina's antebellum period. Part of a larger project that included a physical exhibit mounted in the Manuscripts Department of Wilson Library from October 12, 2005 through February 28, 2006 and a printed bibliography of sources, this online exhibit includes digitized images and transcriptions of many of the items from the physical exhibit as well as other items from the bibliography of sources not originally exhibited due to lack of physical space. Not all items from the bibliography have been digitized, though their citations are included here. The idea for the slavery project grew out of the work of University Archives staff on a UNC history digitization project, "The First Century of the First State University": <http://docsouth.unc.edu/unc/>.

The contributions of African Americans to and relationships with the university are acknowledged in secondary sources such as Kemp Plummer's, *Battle's History of the University of North Carolina*, Archibald Henderson's, *The Campus of the First State University* and R.D.W. Connor's, *A Documentary History of the University of North Carolina, 1776-1799*. To our knowledge, however, scholars have not yet conducted an in-depth study of this complicated subject. This online exhibit includes 128 page images of 54 documents and published items, and should serve as a valuable resource both for researchers interested in the university's history and for teachers who want to introduce their students to the use of primary resources on the topic of slavery.

The site was developed by University Archivist Janis Holder and Nick Graham, Head of Public Services in the North Carolina Collection.

(Submitted by Janis Holder, University Archivist, Manuscripts Department, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Ohio: Oberlin History Goes Digital

The Richard McMaster and Priscilla Stevenson Hunt Endowed Fund for Preservation and Digital Access of the Oberlin College Archives was inaugurated in July 2005. The fund "will ensure the continued preservation and availability of this historical and cultural property through a variety of means, including digital," according to Oberlin archivist Roland Baumann. The archives seeks to raise \$500,000 over three years, and donors have been so enthusiastic that during the first six months of the endowment campaign, the fund attracted more than 230 gifts or pledges totaling nearly \$350,000.

This coming summer will see the mounting of 4,000 of the college's most significant photographs and the addition of interactive media (i.e., vocal tracks, etc.) to existing digital media projects. Staff members have begun migrating significant holdings that have direct application to Oberlin's curriculum. Smaller groups of materials also have made their way into the College's Virtual Collection. They include minority student records, which contain statistics regarding Oberlin students of color, including the first to receive college degrees anywhere.

“Although no way exists for us to digitize all 10 to 12 million pages of documentation,” Baumann says, “the fund’s income will enable us to take appropriate steps to preserve Oberlin’s rich cultural and historical assets for posterity and for students yet to come.” To see the virtual collection, go to www.oberlin.edu/archive/.

(Reprinted from *Archival Outlook: Newsletter of the Society of American Archivists* (May/June 2006): 18-19.)

Ohio: Nord Family Foundation Grant Given to the Oberlin College Archives

The Nord Family Foundation has given the Oberlin College Archives an outright grant to add sound to several of its virtual collections and has set the parameters for a larger grant to scan photographs and use ContentDM.

(Submitted by Roland M. Baumann, Archivist, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH)

CONFERENCES

New Hampshire: New England Archivists (NEA) is planning a conference for fall 2007 concerning College and University Archivists issues. The conference will look at trends in higher education that affect college and university archivists and where college and university archivists and their archives will be in the near future. NEA is currently scouting locations and times for the conference and a program committee is being formed. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Slomba, University Archivist at the University of New Hampshire, eslomba@unh.edu

(Submitted by Elizabeth Slomba, University Archivist, University of New Hampshire)

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Hong Kong: After nine years as the University Archivist at the College of William and Mary, Stacy Gould has accepted a new post at the University of Hong Kong in order to establish their University Archive. In July 2006, she will be moving to Pokfulam, Hong Kong to start work.

(Submitted by Stacy B. Gould, Archivist, University of Hong Kong)

Please transmit your newsletter submissions to:

Christopher M. Laico, Archivist, Human Rights Watch Collection, Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University at:
cl880@columbia.edu
