

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

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FROM THE CHAIR

First, I would like to thank you all for your support and assistance during my tenure. It's been a fascinating experience and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with so many colleagues. Thank you. Now let's move on to business.

The SAA Education Committee (Committee) is seeking comments on topics to be included in a proposed workshop of Institutional Repositories and Authors' Rights, and on suggestions for possible workshop developers and/or instructors. Initial subjects to be included are the open access movement, institutional repository framework, working with donors, copyright issues, marketing, and researcher/access issues. The Committee requests that responses be submitted by August 20th. If you have suggestions, ideas or comments, please let me know by August 18th and I'll pass them along.

The recommendations of the task force that reviewed the charge for diversity from Elizabeth Adkins and the Council at last year's meeting are also reported in this issue. (See, pgs. 2-3) Please take the opportunity to review them prior to the annual meeting.

If you have not already, please be sure to mark your calendar now for the annual meeting in San Francisco from August 26-30! The College & University section meeting is scheduled for August 29 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. We will be electing a new Chair. We have three well qualified candidates whose statements are printed below beginning at pg. 3.

Thanks again,

Betsy

Betsy Pittman
University of Connecticut
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TASK FORCE ON DIVERSITY

Charge:

Propose ways in which SAA might address the suggestion of the Task Force on Diversity that college and university archivists promote archival materials for use in minority studies programs, as a way to encourage interest in research projects as well as introduce students to the profession. In pursuing this goal, are there ways to reach out to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities? Should we consider ways to accomplish this kind of outreach to other programs besides minority studies?

At first glance some of our responses to the Task Force on Diversity may appear to go beyond the scope of the charge. However, this committee feels that to accomplish our goals we need to start doing more to encourage a more diverse group of people to enter the field. In order to do this we, as a profession, need to be more proactive in raising awareness about our field. This will have the effect of educating our immediate community and attract a wider group of people to our profession. As a profession we need to be more proactive in reaching out to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. In order to do this effectively it is the recommendation of this committee that SAA host a Webliography that would document repositories that hold collections concerning minority studies collections. It would be up to the college or university archivist at any given institution to contribute a citation and annotation to all collections in their holdings that would be of interest to researchers in minority studies collections. Other suggestions by this committee are to offer grants to encourage students to pursue original research in the field of minority studies, and to offer grants to encourage institutions to create on-line exhibits highlighting their minority studies collections.

As individuals we need to act locally to promote all of our college and university archives programs. We need to get the word out on our campuses to let students, faculty, and staff know what we do and why the role of a college or university archives is important. Suggestions to accomplish this are to publish articles about holdings, websites, projects, etc. in student newspaper and other campus publications. Offer to give talks to classes on campus. Hold an annual University Archives “Open House” to encourage more people to come by your department to learn more about the services you offer and more about your profession.

As a profession we can not leave it up to individuals to discover our profession on their own. This committee has conducted a test survey in the hopes that SAA will take on the task of conducting the same or a similar survey to learn more about our organization. We surveyed 21 graduate students and professionals. A majority of the respondents are students from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies and New York University’s Archives and Public History Program. (Please refer to the on-line survey found at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey.zgi?p=WEB227NX8M7JQQ>. The survey results are located at http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/cnu/Archive_Survey_Results.pdf) The test survey clearly indicates that more needs to be done to promote our profession to high

school age or younger students. Only 10% of those that responded said they were aware of the profession while in high school. Most respondents only became aware of the field as a profession when they were in college or graduate school. A majority of the respondents also feel that SAA is “unapproachable,” “hidden,” and “needs to do more outreach.” The comment that more needed to be done to raise awareness to a younger group of people to attract a more ethnically diverse group of people to the profession was repeated frequently.

It is the opinion of this committee that attracting a more diverse group of people to the profession is the key to accomplishing the goals of the Task Force on Diversity.

John Ansley, Chair

CANDIDATES FOR C&UA SECTION CHAIR (2008-2010)

The Nominating Committee is please to report that Elisabeth Kaplan, Kevin Leonard, and Aaron D. Purcell have agreed to run for Chair.

Elisabeth Kaplan

Professional Activities:

Beth Kaplan is head of University Archives and co-director of the University Digital Conservancy at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She has worked as an archivist at Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota, the Iowa State University Special Collections and Archives Department, and the MIT Institute Archives. Beth received her MA in History and Archival Methods from the University of Massachusetts-Boston in 1995. She has been a member of SAA since 1994 and served as reviews editor of *The American Archivist*, 2000-2004, co-chair of the SAA 2005 Program Committee; member of the SAA Nominating Committee in 2002, and member of SAA Program Committees in 1998 and 2004. In 2006 she became a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists.

Statement:

One of the most difficult challenges facing college and university archivists today is the increasingly rapid rate of change – in technology, in patron expectations, in institutional priorities, in modes of communication – and the accompanying realization that this state of affairs is the new “normal” – that university archives are unlikely ever to return to a time of relative stability and predictability. In the face of this daunting context, collaboration and communication become more important than ever, and two recent developments in particular build on the C&U Section’s traditional strength in outreach and inclusion. In 2008, the long-awaited *College and University Archives: Readings in Theory and Practice*, edited by Ellen Swain and Chris Prom, was published by SAA. This year also saw the launch of “Campus Case Studies”, the product of a grant to the Bentley Historical Library from the Mellon Foundation to create a venue on the SAA website for academic archivists working on solutions for born-digital records to share

their experiences. These two, very different, and remarkably complementary resources – one employing the traditional publishing model of solicited, edited essays that are fixed in time, the other a web-based, lightly-mediated resource that will change as self-selecting authors contribute to it – have arrived at a time when we need them most. I believe they signal a healthy, vibrant C&U community with the capacity and the will to embrace multiple methods for furthering the collaboration and communication that is so critical at this time. We have much to celebrate, and we are well-positioned to build on these successes as we address the challenges of the coming years – whatever they may be.

Elisabeth Kaplan
Head of University Archives and
Co-director of the University Digital Conservancy
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Kevin Leonard

Professional Activities:

Kevin Leonard has been employed as a C&U archivist since 1980 and has served as Assistant and, later, Associate University Archivist at Northwestern University. He accepted appointment as Acting University Archivist of Northwestern in June, 2008. Kevin has held elective office in local and regional archival organizations, has served on numerous committees of professional and historical associations, has placed reviews and articles in a variety of archival publications, and has addressed sessions of the Midwest Archives Conference and the Society of American Archivists.

Statement:

I view the C&U Section an entity with three basic functions. It is:

- A mechanism to enhance the exchange of ideas of pertinence to our work,
- An organization offering service opportunities to those dedicated to the development and betterment of the profession, and
- A vehicle within SAA through which C&U archivists can readily and effectively advocate their concerns.

The key to the Section's success in these areas is effective communication. That can be achieved by building on the great work of past Section members and officers. Recent technological developments and the popularity of Web 2.0 tools including blogging, RSS, and grassroots video make rapid and two-way communication – especially of time-sensitive material – easily available to Section members. The Section should make frequent use of these tools for its own communication and to enable enhanced contacts between members.

Kevin Leonard
Acting University Archivist of Northwestern University

Aaron D. Purcell

Professional Activities:

Aaron Purcell has served as Director of Special Collections at Virginia Tech since November 2007. Prior to that appointment he served as University Archivist at the University of Tennessee from 2000 to 2007. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Tennessee (2006), an MLS from the University of Maryland, College Park (1999), and an MA in history from the University of Louisville (1996). In addition to SAA work, he is an active member of MARAC, RBMS, and the Southern Historical Association. He publishes regularly on history and archives topics, including essays in *The American Archivist*, the *Journal of Archival Organization*, and *The Historian*. His first book, *White Collar Radicals: The Knoxville Fifteen's Journey from the New Deal through the McCarthy Era* will be published by the University of Tennessee Press in Spring 2009.

Statement:

I joined the College and University Archives Section in 2000 and have just finished a term as steering committee member, 2005-2008. During that time I have presented and chaired sessions at four SAA meetings, with endorsement and support from my fellow college and university archivists. This year, in my presentation on leadership in the Special Collections world, I focused on the importance of college and university archivists as leaders in departments once dominated by curators, antiquarians, and book experts. Since most of our members work within a Special Collections environment, this subject has enormous relevance for the section. In order to meet the leadership challenge, we need to diversify our work experience and prepare for enormous institutional changes. The section can serve as a vital resource, as we define and re-define the roles of college and university archivists. As chair, I offer a commitment to training opportunities, leadership development, and more scholarly outlets for our work.

I am honored to offer my name as a candidate for chair of the College and University Archives Section.

Aaron D. Purcell
Director of Special Collections, Virginia Tech

IN THE NEWS

Massachusetts: New Online Exhibit: Senator Edward Kennedy and Student Financial Aid at Northeastern University

Northeastern University Libraries is pleased to announce a new online exhibit, recounting Senator Kennedy's strong support of federal financial aid for college students from 1985 to 2008. Much of his advocacy was played out at Northeastern. He spoke at student

rallies, heard personal student testimonies, and held a press conference and a senate committee field hearing at Northeastern whenever student financial aid programs were threatened by presidential or congressional proposals.

The exhibit comprises photographs, articles from Northeastern University's student and faculty/staff newspapers, official statements, and background information. The exhibit may be viewed at: <http://www.lib.neu.edu/archives/Kennedy/index.htm>.

Contact: Joan D. Krizack University Archivist and Head, Special Collections Department at j.krizack@neu.edu or 617-373-8318.

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

Massachusetts: Nelson Merced Papers Available for Research

The historical papers of Nelson Merced, the first Latino member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, are now open for research. A guide to the collection is available online at <http://www.lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/M125find.htm>.

Nelson Merced was born to Puerto Rican immigrant parents in New York in 1948 and moved back and forth with his family several times before joining the United States Navy in 1965. After leaving the Navy, he lived in Puerto Rico with his parents and was active in the squatters' rights movement in San Juan. Returning to the United States in 1971, Merced came to Massachusetts in 1976. He worked for the Boston Department of Public Welfare, did graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and took the position of the director of La Alianza Hispana in 1981. In 1988, he was the first Latino elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He held this position until 1992, running a successful re-election campaign in 1990. In 1994, Merced took a position as the CEO of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción just prior to the organization's proposed merger with the Escuelita Agueybana Day Care Center. The merger never took place and, in 1996, Merced left the organization. In 2005, Merced took a position as the Director of National Initiatives and Applied Research with NeighborWorks America, a nonprofit sponsored by Congress.

The papers date from 1966-2002 and document Merced's campaigns as well as his activity in the State House. The focus of the collection is his work as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, including his involvement with organizations like the Massachusetts English Plus Coalition, the Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus, and the Mauricio Gaston Institute. During his time in the House, Merced was active in the campaign to promote and protect bilingual education in Massachusetts as well as working for immigrants' rights and the reform of the Boston Public Schools. The collection includes extensive correspondence files as well as subject files, voting records, legislative and publicity material, newsletters, and reports.

The Nelson Merced collection is open for research Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM.-4:00 PM., in the Northeastern University Libraries Archives and Special Collections Department, 92 Snell Library, Boston, Massachusetts. For a list of the Department's special collections, see: http://www.library.neu.edu/archives/collections/manuscript_collections/.



Nelson Merced (far right) and campaign worker (center) speaking with a voter about Merced's candidacy for the Massachusetts House of Representatives, ca. 1988. Photo: © 1988 DON WEST.

Contact: Joan D. Krizack University Archivist and Head, Special Collections Department at j.krizack@neu.edu or 617-373-8318.

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

Michigan: User-based Evaluation Toolkits for College and University Archives and Special Collections now Available

Interested in finding out what virtual users think about your online finding aids? Wondering about the impact of using the archival and manuscript materials on students at your university? Not sure you have time to develop your own survey?

The Archival Metrics Project has created five user-based evaluation toolkits for use by college and university archives and special collections. These are aimed at: (1) onsite users of the reading room, (2) students who have attended an orientation session, (3) instructors who use the archives for teaching, (4) online users of the website, and (5) online users of finding aids. The toolkits include the questionnaire, instructions for administering the instrument, instructions and example spreadsheets for analyzing the results, and a sample report. The Archival Metrics Toolkits are available for free at <http://archivalmetrics.org>.

These toolkits were created by Elizabeth Yakel and Aprille McKay (University of Michigan), Wendy Duff and Joan Cherry (University of Toronto), and Helen Tibbo (University of North Carolina) with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The team systematically developed and tested each of the questionnaires, the administration procedures, and analysis instructions at multiple colleges and universities.

By creating these toolkits, the developers hope to encourage more and better evaluation practices in archives and special collections leading to a culture of assessment. We encourage our professional colleagues to use these toolkits and to provide us with feedback. If you would like more information about the Archival Metrics Toolkits, please contact Elizabeth Yakel yakel@umich.edu.

(Submitted by Elizabeth Yakel, Associate Professor, University of Michigan, School of Information, Ann Arbor, MI)

North Carolina: Archiving Transitional Justice at Duke University

The International Center for Transitional Justice has announced a collaborative effort with the Duke University Libraries to preserve records of the ICTJ's global work. In the coming years, the Libraries' Archive for Human Rights will house the ICTJ's physical and digital archives.

"As an institution dedicated to dealing with the past, we have a strong appreciation for documentation and archives," said Louis Bickford, director of ICTJ's Policymakers and Civil Society Unit. "We became aware early on that we needed to take steps to secure our own institutional archive, and are very excited to work with Duke University Libraries to do so."

The transfer of material to take place over the next five years will include documentation relating to transitional justice and the ICTJ's work in both regional and thematic contexts. These materials will be made available to scholars and researchers.

"We are fully committed to preserving the remarkable print and digital records of the work of the ICTJ and to making them accessible into the future. It is an honor to be entrusted with this important collection of human rights documentation," said Deborah Jakubs, Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs at Duke University.

An innovative digital records initiative at Duke University will ensure the preservation of thousands of historically important digital records.

"The ICTJ's archive will at some point be an essential resource for a wide variety of people, including researchers, historians, and human rights activists, interested in understanding the growth of the field of transitional justice," said ICTJ President Juan Mendez.

Duke's Archive for Human Rights also houses collections of other organizations, including the Center for International Policy, the Washington Office on Latin America and the International Monitor Institute.

For more information, please contact: patrick.stawski@duke.edu.

(Submitted by Patrick Stawski, Human Rights Archivist, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University, Durham, NC)

Rhode Island: The National Endowment for the Humanities Funds the Creation of a Rhode Island Union Database of EAD Finding Aids

The Brown University Library in partnership with the John Carter Brown Library, Providence College, Rhode Island Historical Society, Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island State Archives, Roger Williams University, Salve Regina University, University of Rhode Island, and Westerly Public Library, has received a 2-year grant from the NEH to create a statewide union database of finding aids, entitled the Rhode Island Archival and Manuscript Collections Online (RIAMCO). Through the application of EAD, RIAMCO will contain finding aids from more than 300 collections held in archival repositories across the state. This project has been designated by NEH as a "We the People Project" for "promoting knowledge and understanding of American history and culture."

For more information please visit the Project wiki at <https://wiki.brown.edu/confluence/display/library/RIAMCO> or contact the project director, Jay Gaidmore, at gaidmore@brown.edu or (401) 863-6414.

(Submitted by Jay Gaidmore, University Archivist, Brown University, Providence, RI)

Virginia: "Mary Comes to College with William" Blog

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the admission of women to the College of William and Mary. In September 1918, twenty-four women enrolled at the College of William and Mary, making it the first state-supported four-year college in Virginia to admit women. In honor of this anniversary, the Special Collections Research Center at Earl Gregg Swem Library will maintain a blog, "Mary Comes to the College with William, 1918-1919" available at <http://womenatwilliamandmary.blogspot.com>, posting contemporary College records, newspaper accounts, diary entries, and other materials exactly ninety years after they were created. The blog begins with the Board of Visitors' endorsement of the proposed legislation to make the College co-ed on February 12, 1918, and will follow the path of the first class of women through June 1919, the end of their first year.

As Laura Parrish noted in her M.A. thesis: "When Mary Entered with Her Brother William: Women Students at the College of William and Mary, 1918-1945", by 1918, "Virginia was the only state in the union which was not providing its women residents the opportunity to obtain four years of public higher education. There were several two-

year normal schools, but women desiring more than these had to offer, including graduate and professional education, had to attend either private colleges or other states' universities, both expensive alternatives." Further, "William and Mary had been a small college for many years, but admission of women began a period of unprecedented growth in the student population, academic departments, faculty, and the physical plant." University Archivist Amy Schindler is leading the blogging team with contributions from graduate students apprenticing in the Special Collections Research Center.

(Submitted by Amy C. Schindler, University Archivist, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, The College of William and Mary)

Virginia: Exhibit: "From the 'Burg to Berlin and Beyond: World War II at Swem Library"

Swem Library at the College of William and Mary presents the exhibit, "From the 'Burg to Berlin and Beyond: World War II at Swem Library". Using letters, diaries, posters, photographs, sheet music, and other materials from Swem's Special Collections Research Center, the exhibit provides a general overview of the war, with a special emphasis on the College and Williamsburg. The exhibit is on display through September 14, 2008. (See, Exhibition URL at: <http://swem.wm.edu/src/CurrentExhibits.cfm#WWII>)

The first section looks at the beginning of World War II in Asia and Europe through Pearl Harbor. Among the items on display are photos and papers relating to Albert Raymond, an American in Paris who volunteered as an ambulance driver after Germany invaded France. The attack on Pearl Harbor is recalled through the reminiscences of William and Mary alumni who were on campus at the time. A scroll contains Japan's declaration of war on the U.S. in Japanese characters, with an accompanying English translation.

The next two sections explore the war at the College and in Williamsburg. Photos show naval chaplains and soldiers at the College and on parade on Duke of Gloucester Street, while war ration books and USO materials testify to civilian contributions to the war effort. An issue of the *Bee Line*, Camp Peary's newspaper, and letters by Williamsburg residents further illuminate local wartime experiences.

The fourth section focuses on those in uniform. Highlights include letters home by nurses in Burma and Normandy, a photo album and Christmas menu for a hospital commanded by W&M alumnus Colonel Amos Koontz, and telegrams congratulating local hero and W&M alumnus Admiral John Lesslie Hall, Jr., for his successful supervision of the Normandy landings. W&M education professor emeritus Armand Galfo, who served as an airman, is represented by V-mails and a silk map with tiny bombs marking the locations his plane attacked.

The next section examines the end of the war and its aftermath. Photos of President Roosevelt's funeral are accompanied by a letter lamenting his death written by a Sea Bee at Camp Peary. Other notable items include a photo of Tojo on trial in Tokyo and the prosecution's opening statement in the Japanese war crime trials, photos of the devastation in Hiroshima and Europe, and a publication created by German civilians interned by the Allies as suspected Nazis.

The final three cases investigate specific issues or events of the war years. One case looks at the internment of Japanese and Japanese-American civilians in the U.S. and an anti-Fifth Column vigilante group operating in Montclair, New Jersey. Another case looks at the Holocaust, with original photographs of the dead at Dachau, letters by people in the United States reacting to news of the camps, and a facsimile of Hitler's last will, where he still blames the Jews for his problems. The last case recalls a wartime controversy at William and Mary, when Marilyn Kaemmerle, the editor of the student newspaper, called for an end to segregation and was fired.

(Submitted by Amy C. Schindler, University Archivist, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, The College of William and Mary)

Virginia: The College of William and Mary Launches Two New Digital Projects

Institutional Repository Pilot Project

The College of William and Mary prides itself on the number of undergraduates who participate with their faculty members in research projects and in the quality of the products they produce. One component of supporting undergraduate research is to make it easier for students doing department honors to store their theses in a way that will give them wider exposure than the traditional practice of creating a record for the online catalog and placing the sole hard copy in the University Archives. In spring 2008, Swem Library, the Charles Center, and the Office of Information Technology partnered in a pilot project to create a digital repository where senior honors theses and other undergraduate research could be captured, preserved, and made available to scholars at William and Mary and throughout the world. William and Mary's repository is located at <http://dspace.swem.wm.edu/dspace/>. Also included in the pilot project are several student newspapers and publications as well as selected material from the faculty-led Williamsburg Documentary Project as first steps in preserving this segment of the long history of William and Mary. The expansion of the project to include further faculty, graduate student, and university records is anticipated in the immediate future.

The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) Collections Database

The SCRC Collections Database available at <http://scrc.swem.wm.edu/> provides the most comprehensive online access to Manuscript Collections and University Archives collections in the SCRC, Earl Gregg Swem Library at the College of William and Mary. Descriptions ranging from brief records through complete finding aids are available online for most collections in the SCRC for the first time. Links to PDFs of box and folder level inventories are also included in the database where in the past these inventories were only available to researchers in binders in the SCRC. The database is powered by Archon, the open source tool from the University of Illinois. Previously, collections were variously described in card catalogs, bibliographic records in the library's online catalog, and a small portion were also available as EAD finding aids as part of a multi-institution cooperative project, but there was not a single place where researchers could find all collection descriptions. The online presence of collection descriptions also varied widely with only a small percentage of the total content available

in anything approaching a complete level online. The implementation of Archon at Swem Library is the first time that researchers have been able to search university archives collections outside of a card catalog in the reading room. It is also the first time that more than a token number of manuscript collections and university archives collections could be searched through the same interface – whether a database, online catalog, or card catalog. Collection descriptions ranging from brief records through very detailed finding aids have been made available for over 1,000 collections from this repository in the year since we launched Archon.

(Submitted by Amy C. Schindler, University Archivist, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, The College of William and Mary)

Virginia: *The Flat Hat*: The College of William and Mary Student Newspaper Available Online

A database allowing users to browse and conduct keyword searches of issues of the College of William and Mary student newspaper *The Flat Hat* is now available at <http://swem.wm.edu/beta/flathat/>. All issues from September 1939 through May 1950 as well as most issues from August 2004 through February 2007 are available for browsing and keyword searching. The remaining issues of *The Flat Hat* from 1911 through April 1990 and August 1992 through March 1999 are available for browsing. The missing issues which were not previously microfilmed and thereby not digitized in 2007 will be added in the coming months. The ability to search all digitized issues will also be added in the coming months when all issues are eventually added to Swem Library's DSpace installation. *The Flat Hat* is a rich source of information, announcing events taking place on campus and reflecting student opinion as well as providing news from the local community when it was at various times the only newspaper in Williamsburg, Virginia. *The Flat Hat* began publication in October 1911 and, except during the fall of 1918, has been continuously published ever since.

(Submitted by Amy C. Schindler, University Archivist, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, The College of William and Mary)

Please transmit your newsletter submissions to:
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