

SGA Newsletter

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Spring 2004

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GHRAB Outstanding Archives Awards Program Recognizes Excellence in Archives and Records Work

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) established the Outstanding Archives Awards Program in 2003 to recognize outstanding efforts in archives and records work in Georgia. The first award winners, recognizing achievements during the years 1993-2003, were announced in October 2003. (See page 4 for award winners recognized in 2003.) By publicly recognizing excellence, the GHRAB Board strives to inspire others.

The following are eligible for awards:

- local governments, courts, school systems, state agencies, and institutions
- historical records repositories, historical societies, libraries, and museums
- educators, students, and researchers
- legislators and government officials
- individuals and organizations who support archives and records management
- specialized subject societies in related fields such as oral history, genealogy, folklore, archaeology, business history, etc.

See GHRAB Awards on page 4

Nominate Someone You Know for the 2004 GHRAB Outstanding Archives Awards

By Elizabeth Aloï Barr

Where there are historical records, there are outstanding people and programs!

They include outstanding local governments, historical societies, libraries, museums, universities, and other organizations that care for historical records, researchers, students, and those who advocate for historical records. Give them the credit they deserve.

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) has ten different award categories, so someone you know or a

program you know about is sure to fit. You can apply for yourself or nominate another person or program.

Submit your nomination today-- the deadline is June 1st. ❖

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Society of Georgia Archivists

Preserving the Past and the Present for the Future

Benefits of SGA membership:

- Fall Annual Meeting
- Spring Annual Workshop
- *Provenance: Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists*
 - SGA Newsletter
- Annual Membership Directory
- Networking and Contacts
- Awards and Scholarships
- Nominating and voting rights
- Access to the Members-only Listserv

Membership is based on the calendar year. Dues received through the annual November meeting will be applied to that calendar year; dues received after the annual meeting will be for the next year.

For a membership application, visit the Society of Georgia Archivists website at
<http://www.soga.org>

Specifics Regarding the *SGA Newsletter*

The Society of Georgia Archivists is a nonprofit organization established to provide an effective means of communication and cooperation among all individuals employed in archives and manuscript repositories in the state; to promote the preservation and use of the manuscripts and archival resources of the state; to increase the knowledge of archival theories and practices; to encourage the publication of finding aids; and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines.

The *SGA Newsletter* is issued four times a year. All subscriptions are for

the calendar year and are based on membership dues to the Society of Georgia Archivists.

Members of SGA and related associations are encouraged to send in announcements of jobs, workshops, conferences, or other information to share. Appropriate and newsworthy notices will be printed as space permits.

The *SGA Newsletter* invites advertisements for archival products and services as space permits and at the editor's discretion. Ads must be accompanied by a check made

payable to the Society of Georgia Archivists. Deadlines for submissions for articles and camera-ready advertisements are March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, and November 15th.

For article submission and advertisement information, please contact:

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Mercer University School of Medicine
Medical Library & LRC
1550 College Street
Macon, GA 31207-0001
Telephone: 478-301-2318
Email: newsletter@soga.org ❖

Calendar of Events

SGA Spring Workshops at Emory University June 3-4

Two one-day workshops will be offered June 3rd and 4th at Emory University's Robert W. Woodruff Library. The first workshop will be on *The Patterns of Arrangement*, and the second will be on *The Craft of Description*. Participants may register for either or both workshops. Instructors will be Susan Potts McDonald, Emory University, and Pam Hackbart-Dean, Georgia State University.

Registration is \$40 per workshop or \$80 for both workshops for SGA members; \$60 per workshop or \$120 for both workshops for non-SGA members. The registration fee includes lunch and breaks. The deadline for registration is May 13th. For more information, contact Susan Potts McDonald at 404-727-5034 or libspm@emory.edu ❖

EXHIBITIONS

May 28th - August 15th, 2004 -

Point of View: American Folk Art from the Collection of William and Ann

Oppenheimer, Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA, www.themorris.org.

June 12th - August 1st, 2004 - **Forces in**

the Body: Sculpture by Anita Huffington, Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA, www.themorris.org.

June 19 - July 24, 2004 - **History of Absence: Late 20th Century African American Works on Paper from the Cochran Collection**, Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum, LaGrange, GA, www.cvam-online.org.

Through July 18, 2004 - **The Other Side of the West: Recreating New Icons of The American West**, Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, GA, 770-607-6372.



Calendar of Events

is submitted by Wesley Chenault. He can be reached at wchenault@atlantahistorycenter.com. Call ahead to confirm dates, times, and fees.

May 15, 2004 - August 15, 2004 - **The White House Collection of American Crafts**, Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, Atlanta, GA, 404-865-7100.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

June 3-4, 2004, **The Patterns of Arrangement and The Craft of Description** (SGA workshops), Emory University, Atlanta, GA

July 28, 2004, **Web Design and Cascading Style Sheets**, a Solinet workshop, Atlanta, GA, www.solinet.net.

See Calendar on page 6

Membership Spotlight

NAME: Morna Gerrard

INSTITUTION: GA State University

SGA MEMBER SINCE: 2002

JOB DESCRIPTION: Archivist, Women's Collections/Processing. Responsibilities include: determining processing priorities for Women's Collections, and overseeing collection maintenance; initiating and contacting potential donors and negotiating transfer and disposition

Membership Spotlight is submitted by Sheila McAlister. She can be reached at mcalists@libris.libs.uga.edu

of collections; supervising planning of special events and exhibits for Women's Collections; supervising and coordinating processing activities for Special Collections Department; overseeing creation of finding aids and catalog records, troubleshooting problems, working closely with IT and Catalog Departments; providing reference and outreach services.

MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF YOUR

JOB: I really enjoy the interaction with my colleagues, both in Special Collections, as well as elsewhere in the institution. Our Cataloging and IT departments have provided me with

great problem-solving allies. I also enjoy supervising large-scale projects.

FAVORITE PASTIME: Puttering in the garden and working on my house; watching movies and playing games with friends.

COMMENTS ON WORK OR

PROFESSION: I work extensively with Encoded Archival Description and have very solid support from my institution's administrators. I am very excited about what I am doing personally, as well as about the direction that descriptive practices are taking within the profession. ❖

Georgia News

Southern Labor Archives Acquires Records of National Federation of Federal Employees

By Pamela Hackbart Dean

The Southern Labor Archives, Special Collections Department, Georgia State University Library, recently acquired the complete records of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), an 85-cubic-foot collection which documents the history of twentieth-century federal-sector unionism. The collection is comprised of photographs and convention proceedings, early sound recordings, scrapbooks and correspondence, Executive Council records, and a substantial number of publications.

Established in 1917, the NFFE was the first union in the United States to represent federal employees. Many privileges enjoyed by today's federal employees, such as retirement benefits and the "equal pay for equal work" classification system, are due to NFFE's pioneering efforts.

NFFE was originally chartered under the American Federation of Labor (AFL), but left it in 1931. In 1999, NFFE affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), making them part of the AFL-CIO once again.

"This collection provides the foundation and growth of a federal employees' union into the AFL House of Labor back in 1917," notes Abraham Orlofsky, NFFE Historian and Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus. "As for donating the collection to Georgia State, the professionalism of the staff gives us the confidence that the collection's integrity will be maintained for future generations."

The records are housed in the University Library's Southern Labor Archives, the largest collection of labor records in the Southeast. The Southern Labor Archives are the official repository of more than 500 labor union offices and individuals. Scores of students and scholars nationwide visit the department each year to conduct research. ❖

GHRAB Awards, *from page 1*

Awards primarily recognize accomplishments occurring within the 18 months prior to the June 1st deadline.

GHRAB recognizes achievements in ten award categories. For additional information or copies of the nomination form, contact GHRAB by phone at 678-364-3718 or e-mail ebarr@sos.state.ga.us. Nomination forms and previous winners are available at <http://www.georgiaarchives.org/ghrab/2004program.htm>. ❖

GHRAB Outstanding Archives Award Winners 1993-2003

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHIVAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

GAMMA Project (Georgia Archives and Manuscripts autoMated Access Project) coordinated by Emory University and the Georgia Archives; Thomaston-Upson Archives and Upson Historical Society

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHIVAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Columbus-Muscogee County Regional Records Center; Liberty Records Services Center; City of Savannah Municipal Research Library

AWARD FOR STUDENT RESEARCH USING HISTORICAL RECORDS

GRADES 6-8: Adam R. Barnett, LaGrange; GRADES 9-12: Mary Lu Funk, Columbus

AWARD FOR ADVOCACY

Sarah Dunaway, Atlanta; Frank Parker Hudson, Atlanta; Kenneth H. Thomas Jr., Decatur

AWARD FOR ADVOCACY

Individuals and organizations instrumental in moving the Georgia Archives to the City of Morrow

AWARD FOR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The Honorable George Hooks, Americus; The Honorable Louise McBee, Athens; The Honorable Hugh M. Gillis, Sr., Sorperon

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DOCUMENTING GEORGIA'S HISTORY

The R. J. Taylor Jr. Foundation

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH USING THE HOLDINGS OF AN ARCHIVES

James O'Toole, Professor of History, Boston College ❖

News from Special Collections, Georgia State University

By Mary McMahon Dawson

NEW EMPLOYEES:

The Special Collections department is happy to welcome three new employees. Georgia State University's new Labor Archivist, Lauren Kata, joined the curatorial staff in August 2003. As of October 2003, Morna Gerrard, former archival associate at Special Collections has filled the faculty position of Processing Archivist/Women's Archivist. Also, Mary McMahon Dawson became a member of the library staff as the new Archival Associate in December 2003. Previously, Ms. McMahon Dawson worked on the Johnny Mercer Music Project.

NEWLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS:

The most recent Popular Music collection to be processed is the Emma Kelly collection, 1900-2001 [bulk 1980-1999]. A native of Statesboro, Georgia, Emma Kelly collaborated with Johnny Mercer, performed at her own Savannah nightclub, appeared in the movie *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and was inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. The collection consists of personal and family history, performance ephemera, audio-visual materials, songbooks, song lists as well as the numerous honors and awards she received in her lifetime.

NEW IN POPULAR MUSIC:

Through the generous support of the Johnny Mercer Foundation, a newly
[See Georgia News on page 10](#)

Eudora Welty Collection Donated to Georgia State University

By Laurel G. Bowen

John Bayne, an Atlanta book collector whose well-researched essays on Eudora Welty appear frequently in the *Eudora Welty Newsletter (EWN)*, recently donated his extensive collection of Welty books and association items to Georgia State University's Library. The Bayne "Eudora Welty Collection," as he chose to call it, now resides in the Rare Book Collection of Georgia State's Special Collections Department.



Eudora Welty, photo: The Mississippi Writers Page
www.olemiss.edu/mwp

The Bayne collection, containing more than 200 significant Welty items and appraised at nearly \$30,000, includes twenty-five books signed by the author and several signed or inscribed by Welty and others, including her friend Kenneth Millar, using his penname Ross Macdonald; Walker Percy and Reynolds Price; and the artists Barry Moser and Katherine Wolfe, who illustrated Welty texts. The collection includes nearly all of the limited edition publications of Welty's fiction or essays and numerous edited or critical texts also signed by editors or authors. Among the many examples of other significant Welty texts are a copy of the 1920 *St. Nicholas* magazine where the young writer appeared in a national publication for the first time; a copy of the 1938 WPA guide to her native state: *Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State* (1938) where several of her photographs appear and from which she drew inspiration for some of her fiction; the *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspaper version of *The Robber Bridegroom* (1943); and the limited edition of "Music from Spain" published in 1948 by Levee Press in Greenville, Mississippi. The collection contains numerous first American and first English editions of all of Welty's major book-length publications, an extensive list of secondary works and associated items, including catalogues of exhibitions, posters for books and dramatic productions, and numerous foreign editions of Welty's fiction.

Mr. Bayne said he chose Georgia State as the home for his collection because of the presence of the *Eudora Welty Newsletter* and the regular offering of courses in the GSU English Department that include the writer's work, especially the Welty graduate seminar. Mr. Bayne expressed an interest in continuing to develop the collection, which is already a valuable research archive for students, established scholars, and the editors of *EWN*. The collection fits well with other special collections at Georgia State, including rare works by the early nineteenth-century humorous and anecdotal writers of what was called the "Old Southwest," significant Southern historical and literary volumes, a Faulkner collection, the Lane Brothers and Tracy O'Neal photography collections, the Johnny Mercer Collection, and the Southern Labor Archive. ❖

Institutional Profile

Georgia Historical Society

501 Whitaker Street
Savannah, GA 31401
912-651-2128
www.georgiahistory.com

Founded in Savannah in 1839, the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) is the oldest cultural institution in the state and one of the oldest historical societies in the country. The mission of the Georgia Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share Georgia's history. The historical society, although open to the public, is a private nonprofit organization.

Hodgson Hall, the third home of the society, was built in 1875 specifically for GHS. In 1970, an annex was added to house the archival collections. There are approximately 7,500 cubic feet of manuscript materials; 60,000 images; 30,000 sheets of architectural drawings and maps; 20,000 volumes, and numerous artifacts and portraits. These collections comprise personal or family collections, business papers, genealogical information, and governmental records. Some notable materials include Council of Safety Minutes, Confederate Army records, Gordon Family Papers (Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts), records of Indian traders, business ledgers from Colonial era, City of Savannah records, Central of Georgia Railway records, and Abraham Baldwin's copy of the original draft of the US Constitution.

The Georgia Historical Society serves over 9,000 patrons a year. Researchers include genealogists, historians, writers, students, teachers, and people interested in local history



Hodgson Hall, photo: Georgia Historical Society

or properties. GHS has a full-time library staff of two, two full-time archivists, and the director of the library and archives. In addition to helping walk-in patrons, the staff answers distance requests thorough email, letters and telephone.

In addition to the library and archives, the Georgia Historical Society oversees many other programs. GHS has an affiliate chapter program that provides guidance and support to local historical organizations. The Georgia Historical Society also

administers the Historical Marker program, the Georgia Heritage Celebration (celebrating Georgia's founding), and publishes the Georgia Historical Quarterly. GHS has recently been awarded an NEH endowment grant and several US Department of Education Teaching American History grants partnering with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School.

The library and archives of the Georgia Historical Society is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10-5. There is no charge for members of GHS, and a \$5.00 for non-members. For additional information contact Visual Materials Archivist, Mandi D. Johnson at 912-651-2125. ❖

Calendar, from page 3

EVENTS AND TOURS

June 21 -25, 2004 - **Summer History Camp 2004**, Rome Area History Museum, Rome, GA, www.romehistorymuseum.com.

Andalusia Tours, unguided "walk-in" tours of Andalusia, Milledgeville, GA, www.andalusiafarm.org.

Day Camps for Children and Families, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, GA, www.uga.edu/~botgarden/Events.html. ❖



Institutional Profile

is submitted by Mandi D. Johnson. She can be reached at mjohnson@georgiahistory.com

Regional News

Birmingham Public Library Dept. of Archives & History

Two new exhibitions on display until May 2004 highlight the work of *Birmingham News* political cartoonist Charles Brooks. *Reading Between the Lines: Charles Brooks and the American Presidential Campaign* features examples from Brook's work covering ten presidential campaigns. Visitors may experience a striking sense of *déjà vu* while touring the second exhibit, *The Less Things Change: Charles Brooks and the Art of Alabama Politics*. Because so many of Alabama's current political problems are the same ones the state has confronted for much of the last century, cartoons that Brooks drew decades ago could run in an Alabama newspaper today and still

be relevant. For more information contact Archivist Jim Baggett at 205-226-3631 or jbaggett@bham.lib.al.us.

Mobile County Probate Court Archives

An exhibit now on display through the end of April at the new library at the University of South Alabama contains over 200 reproductions of historical documents from the probate court's archives. Featured documents date from 1786 and include the Spanish land grant for the original city of Mobile, Fort Louis de la Louisanne, estate, black history, confederate history, bay and harbor records, Spanish and French documents, yellow fever, early

Alabama Update

is submitted by Tim L. Pennycuff. He can be reached at tpennycu@lister2.lhl.uab.edu



Spanish and British Colonial maps, etc. To view a list of records housed in the archives one can visit the court's website at www.mobile-county.net, select probate, then archives. For more information contact Coll'ette King, Archives Dept., Probate Court of Mobile County, PO Box 7, Mobile, Alabama or call 251-574-4941. E-mail: collette@onwire.net

See Alabama Update on page 9

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Preservation News

New Preservation Publications

NEW PUBLICATION PRESENTS A NON-TECHNICAL DISCUSSION OF PRESERVATION ISSUES

A new publication from the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), *Library Print Preservation: An Administration Briefing*, by George J. Soete, reviews the current state of preservation of paper resources, such as books, journals, newspapers, maps, archives, and photographs, in

research libraries across the country. The 29 page examination of preservation methods and costs grew out of request for a non-technical survey of current treatment options by ARL library directors and other non-preservation professionals. Among the methods examined are retroactive measures (reformatting options, item repair, and item enclosure) and preventative measures (security, controlled



Preservation News

is submitted by Tina Mason. She can be reached at tmason@solinet.net

storage, environmental management, commercial binding, and mass de-acidification). More information on the publication may be found on the ARL website, www.arl.org/arl/pr/print_preservation.html

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GUIDES FOR FILM PRESERVATION TO BE PUBLISHED

Two new reference tools are being published on the preservation of film collections by the National Film Preservation Foundation (FNPF) funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *The Film Preservation Guide: The Basics for Archives, Libraries and Museums* and *IPI Media Storage Quick Reference*, are designed specifically for non-specialists working with regional films, home movies, and other motion pictures found in public and nonprofit institutions. The guides explain preservation and storage techniques that are practical for regional collections and include illustrations developed by the Selznick School. *The Film Preservation Guide* covers archival practices for handling, identifying, copying, providing access to, and storing motion pictures for research institutions with limited budgets. The Image Permanence Institute (IPI) developed the *Media Storage Quick Reference* to help small institutions with diverse multimedia holdings

develop storage plans - long considered the single most important step in protecting film collections. More details on the publications are on the NFPF website, www.filmpreservation.com.

Preservation Assistance Grants

The National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access, is in its fifth year of awarding small grants of up to \$5000 to help small and mid-size institutions. Eligible are libraries, museums, and historical societies, town and county records offices, archival repositories, community colleges, underserved departments and units within colleges and universities, and other larger institutions that need the funds to enhance their capacity to preserve their humanities collections. Institutions may request support for the following activities:

- General preservation assessments that will help an institution identify its overall preservation needs and develop a long-range, prioritized preservation plan to address those needs
- Consultations with preservation professionals to address a specific preservation issue, need, or problem
- Attendance at preservation workshops
- Purchase of storage furniture, preservation supplies, and environmental monitoring equipment

Applications for the 2004 grants are due by May 14, 2004, for projects that begin January 2005. New

guidelines should be available soon on the NEH website. In the interim, the 2003 guidelines can be used for reference, but should not be used to prepare an application: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>

New Solinet Program Loans Environmental Monitoring Equipment

Providing an adequate storage environment is the most cost-effective per-item strategy for protecting your assets. The best way to detect problems with temperature, humidity, and light levels is through an environmental monitoring program. Thanks to a generous donation of environmental monitoring equipment from the Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN), SOLINET Preservation Services is now offering a loan service for institutions that want to monitor environmental conditions, but do not own the proper equipment. The new Loan Service includes the following equipment:

- Temperature and Humidity Monitoring Kit - includes a Dickson recording hygro-thermograph and a sling psychrometer
- Light Monitoring Kit - includes a Crawford UV monitor, an Arten light meter, and a light damage slide rule
- Moisture Detection Kit - Delmhorst moisture meter

For more detailed information about the equipment or the terms and fees of the loan service, visit the SOLINET website at www.solinet.net/preservation/loanprograms. ❖

Alabama Update, from page 7

TROY STATE UNIVERSITY DOTHAN

The Archives of Wiregrass History and Culture at TSUD is currently processing approximately 25 cubic feet of records from Dothan's railroad depot, which contains records of the yardmasters, train masters, rail masters, and Property Protection Department from the station's opening in 1908 until its closure in the 1980's. For information, contact Marty Olliff at 334-983-6556 x327 or molliff@troyst.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM ARCHIVES

A recently completed inventory of a large collection of over 360 portraits and oversized photographs is now available at the repository. The collection includes images of physicians, dentists and other healthcare professionals and oversized photographs of medical, dental and nursing classes throughout the southeast and group photographs taken at various meetings. A small collection of letters from Sir Joseph Lister has been processed and is now open for research. The collection contains three handwritten and signed letters dated 1887 to 1904 - the letters are unrelated outside of their authorship - from Lister, the pioneering British surgeon regarded as the founder of modern antiseptic surgery. For additional information on the UAB Archives, please refer to www.uab.edu/historical.

BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute has a new web page www.bcri.org. ❖

Scholarships

Carroll Hart Scholarship

- **Purpose:** To attend the Georgia Archives Institute in June
- **Deadline to apply:** February 15

The Hart Scholarship awards a scholarship for attendance at the Georgia Archives Institute held each summer in Atlanta. It is named for Carroll Hart, former director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, founding member of the Society of Georgia Archivists, and founder of the Georgia Archives Institute. The scholarship covers an amount equal to the noncredit tuition for the Institute but not to exceed \$500, and a year's membership in the Society of Georgia Archivists.

Hart Scholarship Winner

By Valerie J. Frey

The SGA Scholarship Committee announces this year's Hart Scholarship winner: Carol Bishop. Carol is a processing assistant for the University Archives within the University of Georgia's Hargrett Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. She has been with the UGA library in various capacities since 1988 and is working towards an MLIS degree. Carol stated in her application, "Along with my MLIS degree, the information obtained through [the Georgia Archives Institute] should go far to help prepare me for my future position as a professional archivist." And SGA is helping her achieve her goals! ❖

These scholarships are funded annually by SGA. For more complete descriptions, including eligibility requirements and application forms, please consult the scholarships web page at <http://www.soga.org/scholarships/intro.html> For more information, contact: Valerie Frey, SGA Scholarship Committee, Georgia Archives, 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260 scholarships@soga.org

Edward Weldon Scholarship

- **Purpose:** To provide the registration fee to attend the Society of American Archivists (SAA) annual meeting in August
- **Deadline to apply:** April 30

The Edward Weldon Scholarship provides the registration fee for an SGA member to attend the Society of American Archivists (SAA) annual meeting. It honors Ed Weldon, who was instrumental in establishing the Society of Georgia Archivists and served as its first President. He directed the Georgia Department of Archives and History, served as President of SAA, and was the moving force behind the establishment of the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board. The scholarship covers only the registration fee; the recipient is responsible for costs associated with travel and accommodations.

Larry Gulley Scholarship

- **Purpose:** To attend the SGA Annual Meeting in November
- **Deadline to apply:** August 15

The Gulley Scholarship awards a scholarship for attendance at the organization's annual meeting in the fall and for one year's membership in SGA. The scholarship is named for Larry Gulley, a loyal member of the Society of Georgia Archivists who

served the organization in many capacities. The scholarship covers the following year's dues, meeting registration fee, and a maximum of \$50 for other expenses. ❖

Georgia News, from page 5

upgraded and improved online resource is available on the Special Collections webpage. The Johnny Mercer Song Database includes over 1,100 published and unpublished songs with lyrics and/or music by Johnny Mercer (1909-1976). Information on almost 100 movies and more than 20 shows for which Mercer composed lyrics and/or music has also been added.

Also in Popular Music, both Johnny Mercer music and country music books and albums are currently being acquired and cataloged.

RECENT EVENTS:

In late February, Special Collections faculty and staff hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the official opening of the Johnny Mercer Room for Research and Study. Honored guests included Margaret Whiting, president of the Johnny Mercer Foundation; the director and producer, Jack Wrangler; University Library Director Charlene Hurt and Georgia State University President, Carl Patton. ❖

Washington Beat

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND NHPRC

BUDGETS: On January 23, 2004 President Bush signed a FY2004 omnibus budget bill that includes \$316.3 million for the National Archives. Funds for operating the Archives, which were set at \$256.7 million, are only \$1.5 million below the President's original request. Nearly \$36 million is budgeted for the Electronic Records Archives (ERA), and \$13.7 million for repairs and renovations. The NHPRC receives \$10 million, the first time the Commission has been funded to its authorized level. There is, however, a .59% cut across all accounts. The legislation also contains provisions to extend the life of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for one additional

year and to eventually move the Nixon papers to the private Nixon library in Yorba Linda, CA, with NARA taking over and administering it as part of the Presidential library system. On February 2, 2004 President Bush announced his budget for FY2005. The proposed funding for the National Archives totals slightly over \$312 million. For the second year in a row nearly \$36 million is budgeted for the ERA. Slightly over \$6 million is budgeted for maintenance of NARA facilities. Disappointingly, NHPRC receives only \$3 million in the President's proposed budget.

PROPOSED ACCESS CHANGES: On January 5, 2004 NARA published



Washington Beat

is submitted by Jim Cross. He can be reached at jcross@clemsun.edu

proposed changes to its access rules in the Federal Register. The revisions to the regulations for access to government records and donated historical materials that contain restricted information is meant to bring the language of the regulation into better conformity with the Freedom of Information Act, and to ensure the rules deal with access to archival material in general. The changes would also remove a little-used provision allowing access to

See Washington Beat on page 12



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restricted information for biomedical statistical research. Comments on the proposed revisions were due on March 5, 2004.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WEB UPDATES: On January 16, 2004 the American Folklife Center placed seven hours of audio recordings of nearly 24 former slaves recounting their experiences under slavery on the Web. It complements the transcripts of more than 2,300 interviews with former slaves on the American Memory site. The final online release of the George Washington Papers occurred on January 30, 2004. The 45 items, dating from 1763-1797, were part of the addenda to the papers received after the rest of the collection came to the Library. They include survey documents relating to the Dismal Swamp and letters to and from Noah Webster and General John Cadwalader. "I Hear America Singing," a new website devoted to the Library's music and performing arts collections, went online on February 3, 2004. The site allows access to material in a variety of

formats through a single portal, and includes digitized material from the Library's collections, cybercasts of new concerts and symposia, and essays by researchers.

NIXON RECORDS RELEASE: Another 420 hours of tapes from the Nixon presidency were released by NARA on December 10, 2003. Covering the period July to October 1972, the tapes include 3,000 conversations on topics such as the 1972 Presidential campaign, the Vietnam War, Watergate, and domestic issues. They include President Nixon's views on a number of public figures, including Ray Charles, Nelson Rockefeller, and Ronald Reagan.

NEW RECORDS CENTER: On February 19, 2004 ground was broken for a new Southeast Region records center facility in the Southpark Industrial Park in Ellenwood, which is located in Clayton County, Georgia. Consolidating three existing facilities in Georgia and Alabama, the facility will have a footprint of 350,000 square feet, store nearly 1.75 million cubic feet of records, house 75 staff, and be able to host up to 100 visitors. ❖



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