Winter 2013 Volume 44 Issue 4

SGA Newsletter

A newsletter of the Society of Georgia Archivists

2012 SGA Fellows

By Christine Wiseman

The class of 2012 Fellows was presented on November 8, 2012, at the SGA Annual Meeting reception on St. Simons Island. Please welcome Nancy Davis Bray and Laura Carter as new Fellows this year. SGA Fellows are selected each year by a nomination process that recognizes individuals with significant achievements in the Society of Georgia Archivists and in the profession as a whole. For profiles of other SGA Fellows and for further information about the Fellows program, please visit http://www.soga.org/membership/fellows.

NANCY DAVIS BRAY



For nearly twenty years, Nancy Davis Bray has been an active member of the Society of Georgia Archivists. She has held nearly every possible position and post within the organization, serving on the Executive Board (1996-2004), and serving as President (2003) and as Vice-President (2002). She was also the Secretary and Webmaster from 1996 through 1998. Nancy continues to serve on the Editorial Board and as a reviewer for *Provenance*. She chaired the Education Committee (2008-2009) and was a member of the Georgia Archives Week Committee (2002-2003).

Bray has served tirelessly as an Archivist at Georgia College and State University for nearly 30 years, promoting the importance of archives throughout the community. She has promoted access to special collections by mounting exhibits in the Milledgeville community and by creating online exhibits. These initiatives have dramatically increased collection use and visibility of special collections and archives.

Nancy is deeply committed to education and has served as an archival instructor throughout her career. She has taught an Archival Practicum course for Georgia College and State University and has overseen graduate-level independent coursework in archival studies. Outside of the classroom she has inspired numerous student workers to join the archival profession.

LAURA CARTER

For nearly fifteen years, Laura Carter has played an active role in the Society of Georgia



Archivists. She has been a member since 1997 and has consistently served on the Education, Annual Meeting Program, and Scholarship committees. Her colleagues hold her in high esteem for her work as a tireless advocate for archival causes and for her work with the library and archives community in Athens.

A native of Athens, Laura has devoted most of her career to making

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Washington Beat

By James Edward Cross

NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUDGET

On September 28, 2012, President Obama signed House Joint Resolution 117 (Continuing Appropriations Resolution 2013) which funds federal agencies, including the National Archives, at FY2012 levels for six months.

OTHER ARCHIVES NEWS

In the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, which was released on December 13, 2012, NARA was down in all indices this year as compared to 2011. The same was true in the "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" survey by the Partnership for Public Service also released on the 13th, where the Archives ranked second-to-last among medium-sized agencies. In response, the National Archives pointed to its efforts to transform the agency over the past two years but acknowledged that more needed to be done.

Sealed records from the Watergate criminal trial U.S. v. Liddy, et al. were released online on November 30, 2012. About 950 pages in whole or in part are part of the release.

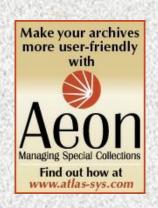
On November 30, 2012, Archivist of the United States David Ferriero appointed Pamela Wright as NARA's first Chief Innovation Officer. She will be tasked with developing innovative ways to share the National Archives' holdings with the public. Wright started at the Archives in 2001 and from 2005-2012 promoted digital access and strategy, serving as the Archives' first Chief Digital Access Strategist. She has B.A.'s in English and History from the University of Montana and has a Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.

Archivist Ferriero appointed William J. Bosanko Chief Operating Officer on November 29, 2012. Bosanko started working at the Archives in 1993. From 2008-2011 he was the director of the Information Security Oversight Office and since 2011 he has served as the Executive for Agency Services. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania.

On October 24, 2012, NARA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a project to digitize historic Navy, Coast Guard, and Revenue Cutter ship logs from the pre-Civil War period through World War II and make them available to the public. The logs will be transcribed by online volunteers; these "citizen scientists" will provide access not only to arctic weather data but to various aspects of American maritime history.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library released more than 2,700 pages from the Robert F. Kennedy Papers relating to the Cuban Missile Crisis and American policy towards Cuba on October 11, 2012.

On October 10, 2012, NARA and the Government Printing Office released a free Presidential Documents mobile Web application on the President's daily activities. It provides Executive Orders, speeches, statements, communications to Congress and federal agencies, approved acts, nominations, and White House announcements and press releases which can be searched by date, category, subject, or location.





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Washington Beat (continued)

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NEWS

On November 15, 2012, the Veterans History Project launched the third of four installments of its Experiencing War website presentation entitled "Vietnam War: Looking Back, Part 3." It highlights the stories of fifteen Vietnam veterans: nine soldiers, a sailor, an airman, and two nurses. The installment includes audio and video interviews, correspondence, diaries, memoirs, official documents, and photographs.

The World Digital Library made the Florentine Codex, a 1577 source for pre- and early post-Columbian Mexico, available online on October 31, 2012. The codex, housed in the Medicea Laurenziana Library in Florence, Italy, is in both Spanish and Nahuatl (Aztec) and is illustrated by native artists. The digitization of the codex is part of a project to bring together digitized versions of documents relating to the early history of Mexico.

The Chronicling American website has posted its five millionth page, it was announced on October 22, 2012. The free searchable database of historic U.S. newspapers from 1836-1922 was launched by the Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2007 and is part of the National Digital Newspaper Program.

DECLASSIFICATION AND FOIA

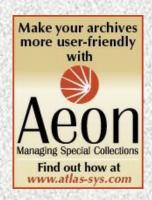
The Public Interest Declassification Board released its report to the President on December 6, 2012. It found the current system outmoded, inefficient, and inadequate to deal with the increasing amount of digital information. It also withheld too much information from the public. The report recommended limiting classification, aligning safeguarding policies, improving use of technology to make the process more efficient and effective, and suggested way that agencies could cope with large volumes of digital information. The report can be found at http://www.archives.gov/declassification/pidb/recommendations/transforming-classification.pdf.

On October 1, 2012, the National Archives, along with the Department of Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency, made available FOIAonline

(http://FOIAonline.Regulations.gov). The site provides the public one place to submit FOIA requests, track their progress, communicate with the agency processing the request, search other requests, and file appeals. Three other agencies—the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and the Merit Systems Protection Board—will also use the system.

OTHER NEWS

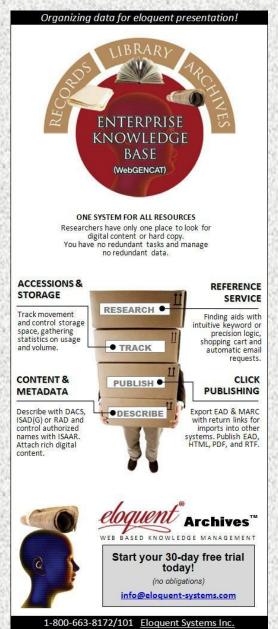
On November 9, 2012, Jason Savedoff was sentenced to one year and one day in prison and two years probation for stealing documents from a number of archival repositories, including the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. His co-conspirator, Barry Landau, was sentenced in July to seven years in prison and three years supervised release.





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2012 SGA Fellows (continued)



(Continued from page 1)

history come alive for her fellow Athenians. She has been employed by the Athens-Clarke County library for over 30 years as a reference librarian in charge of collection development, projects, reference services to library users, and programming for local and Georgia history. She was also one of the founders of the Heritage Room, a research collection for local history, state history, and genealogy.

Laura regularly teaches classes at the library on genealogy and African-American genealogy, ranging from introductory to advanced-level courses. She has worked to acquire and to develop rich local resources at the library by creating and maintaining endowments for the collections. Over the years, she has served on the boards for the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, the Athens Historical Society, and the Clarke-Oconee Genealogical Society. Additionally, Laura was the recipient of the University of Georgia Arch Award for Community Involvement.

An accomplished archives contributor, advocate, and leader, Laura consistently proves herself to be a resourceful practitioner and a skillful educator within the profession and the larger community. Her commitment to sharing information and to making researchers feel comfortable and confident raises the service expectations for all archives.

Scholarship Committee Report

By Allison Galloup

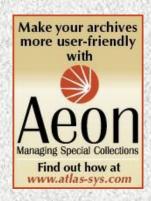
Congratulations to Melanie Maxwell of the Georgia State University Libraries who won the 2012 Larry Gulley Scholarship to attend the Annual Meeting and to Catherine Miller, a student at Clayton State University, who won the 2012 Anthony R. Dees Scholarship to attend SGA's Pre-Conference Workshop.

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Scholarship Winner's Report

2012 Anthony R. Dees Scholarship to attend the Educational Workshop during the Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Meeting

By Cathy Miller



"Something is going to go wrong." These were the words of our instructor, Geof Huth, during the day-long DAS workshop, *Basic Electronic Records*, which provided a comprehensive introduction to electronic records. Despite the initial negative tone of the opening sentence, there is a silver lining. Should something go wrong concerning electronic records in your archival institution, you can mitigate the damage by doing something. As Huth stated in his presentation, "Doing something is better than doing nothing." This was the most powerful statement of

the workshop. Archivists working with electronic records need to be mindful that failure is always a possibility.

The workshop provided a whirl-wind journey through the world of electronic records, including a discussion of basic e-records management, the application of core archival responsibilities to e-records, and the planning of an electronic records program. As a newcomer to the world of electronic records,

"Preservation in digital records is always about what can be done in the present: time is the enemy of digital records."

it was informative and helpful to get an overview of how to approach electronic records. I work at the National Archives in Atlanta and we have not yet received electronic records. Therefore, I have no professional experience with the issues inherent in an accession of digital records. For all the archivists already working with born-digital materials, you have my heartfelt admiration.

As a student in the Archival Studies program at Clayton State University, which focuses on training digital archivists, I understand the immense challenge that electronic records present to archivists of the 21st century. The workshop reinforced the concept that the archival principles and practices applied to analog records should also be applied to digital records — it's just how we apply them that changes. Another standout to me was that among the challenges presented by digital records, preservation is the most pressing. Preservation in digital records is always about what can be done in the present: time is the enemy of digital records. Technical obsolescence and media deterioration are just two of the issues that must be considered when preserving electronic records. While bit rot may sound like a delightful name for a heavy metal band, there is nothing delightful about it when electronic records are concerned.

Electronic records are a challenge to archivists. They can even be intimidating to archivists. However, they are not going anywhere and cannot be ignored. Therefore, we must be prepared to meet the challenge they present head-on. This workshop helped me to understand the ins and outs of electronic records. In the end, electronic record consist of a series of ones and zeros – that is, binary code. The challenge is how to preserve those ones and zeros so that digital records can be as accessible in the future as they were in the past.



Society of Georgia Archivists Preservation News

By Alix Bentrud

FROM NARA & SAA - RESOURCES FOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS IS ARCHIVES

The National Archives, in partnership with the Society of American Archivists, has launched the "Resources for Volunteer Programs in Archives." This free online resource lists dozens of ongoing volunteer activities at archival facilities nationwide. http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/Resources-for-Volunteers Final.pdf

The volunteer programs highlighted in this document provide guidance for archival institutions that plan to remodel an existing program or to launch a brand-new program. It includes volunteer management tools such as sample applications, hand-books, emergency contact forms, and job descriptions. It is geared for archives of all sizes.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR SMALLER INSTITUTIONS

Preservation Assistance Grants are to "help small and mid-sized institutions—such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, cultural organizations, town and county records offices, and colleges and universities—improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections." The grant awards are up to \$6000. The guidelines have not yet been posted for Preservation Assistance Grants (PAG) projects beginning January 2014. However, for those institutions interested in applying for a PAG, it is never too soon to start planning your project and application. Grant application guidelines are expected to be posted at least two months before the May 1, 2013, deadline. http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions

According to the NEH website, the five-year funding ratio of PAG applications being funded is 41%. The competition for awards is only getting stronger. Do get an early start planning your project and your grant application. It is also advisable, if you haven't done so in the past, to get your institution registered on www.grants.gov. All NEH grant proposals must be submitted through grants.gov.

AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS - MUSEUM ADVOCACY DAY FEB 25-26, 2013, WASHINGTON DC

Museums Advocacy Day is an opportunity to make a unified case to Congress in support of museums. There is a day of programming geared toward your level of experience, and then scheduled visits to Congressional offices with colleagues from your community. AAM will set up the Capitol Hill meetings and provide talking points and pointers to participants on how to make the best case. The entire museum field—staff, students, board members, volunteers, supporters and independent professionals who work for and with museums—are encouraged to participate. Advanced registration is required. For more visit: http://www.aam-us.org/advocacy/museums-advocacy-day/register.

THE REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PRESERVATION EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CALENDAR

The Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP) is a national network of nonprofit organizations with expertise in the field of conservation and preservation. Through coordinated outreach activities, educational programs, and publications, RAP organizations foster awareness about preserving our cultural heritage. To that end, RAP maintains a calendar of face-to-face and online educational opportunities provided by participating organizations. Events are added throughout the year. http://www.rap-arcc.org/educational_opportunities

Membership Spotlight on Anne Graham

By Mary Katherine Barnes

Name: Anne Graham

How long have you been an SGA Member?

I joined SGA in 2000.

What attracted you to the library/archives profession?

I started out working in the law library at Georgia State while I worked towards my undergraduate degree. My job was a jack-of-all-trades position, handling government documents, maintaining the A/V collection, and supporting the student computer lab. I also worked in the main library with microfilm. After graduation I got a job in the College of Law's Development Office, where I worked for a year. I applied for a position at Pitts Theology Library as an Assistant Archivist. I had never worked in an archive before, but I fell in love with it. I worked at Pitts for a few years and then at the Delta Heritage Museum. I realized that I would need to go back to school to become an archivist. I got a job as an administrative assistant at the main library at Emory and enrolled in the distance program at Florida State. After graduating, I was fortunate enough to get my current position.



What most attracted me to archival work was the aspect of discovering and contributing value to collections. It's such a transformative process.

Where do you work, and what's your current position?

I'm the Digital Collections Archivist at Kennesaw State University.

How long have you been at your institution, and what roles have you had there?

I was hired in October 2008, which was about 5 months after I received my MLIS. Originally, my position was envisioned as working exclusively with digital objects, but it evolved into both analog and digital collections. I think that was inevitable, as most of our collections have mixed formats. Even purely analog collections are being digitized to provide access.

Because we're a small department, we all wear a lot of hats. In addition to processing, I provide reference, administer the department Drupal site and work with campus IT to identify departmental technology needs and to implement the solutions.

What is your favorite part of your job?

As always, my favorite part of my job is making collections available for users. I receive a tremendous amount of satisfaction each time one of the collections I processed is used. I also enjoy guiding users through those collections and seeing the myriad of ways in which they are used.

Membership Spotlight on Anne Graham (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

What's the most interesting digital collection that you have come across?

Probably the most interesting is a collection of sound recordings of oral history interviews done over a period of almost 40 years by one of our history professors. It consists of about 1,000 audiocassettes and microcassettes that we're slowly digitizing. Excerpts from some of these series have been made available through the university's iTunesU channel and we have plans to make more accessible.

Did you have an alternative career path (if so please elaborate)?

Not really. My bachelor's degree was in English with a concentration in creative writing, so it was always my intention to become a writer. However, after working in libraries as a student assistant, I knew that I wanted to continue to do that. I fell into archives work, but loved it so much that I never looked back. I also think finding aids are a good outlet for my writing pretentions.

What are your hobbies or favorite past times?

I am a B-movie afficionado and I love nothing more than tracking down obscure movies and watching them with friends. I love the series of movies featuring El Santo, the Mexican wrestler, encountering various supernatural foes, as well as the series with Tarkan, a Turkish comic book hero, from the 1970s. I'm also a big fan of Blaxploitation movies from the 1970s.

I enjoy reading historical non-fiction. I recently finished a book on the 1927 flood of the Mississippi River and I'm getting ready to read a book about Ada Lovelace and Charles Babbage over the break. I got interested in Ada Lovelace after attending AdaCamp in Washington, D.C., this summer. It's an unconference for women in technology and it had a profound impact on me.

What advice do you have for new members just coming into the profession?

Get involved! Joining an organization like SGA and signing up for a committee is a great way to meet people and find out what projects they're doing. Attend a conference. You'll find some of your best ideas, collaboration opportunities, and information resources serendipitously at social events after the conference, in the hallway between sessions, or on the chairs sitting next to you.

Education:

BA, English, Philosophy Minor, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, 1998

MS, Library and Information Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, 2008

MS, Information Studies, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA Expected Graduation 2014

Honors and Activities:

Golden Key International Honour Society, 2009

Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, 2009



Membership Spotlight on Anne Graham (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

Academy of Certified Archivists, 2010

Work Experience:

Digital Collections Archivist, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA 2008-Present

Program Development Specialist, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 2005-2008

Assistant Archivist, Pitts Theory Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 2000-2003

Alumni Development Specialist II, College of Law, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA 1999

Library Technical Assistant, College of Law Library, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA 1994-1998

Professional Development:

DigCCurr Professional Institute, 2010

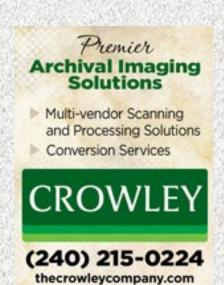
Georgia Archives Institute, 2001

Memberships:

American Library Association

Society of American Archivists

Society of Georgia Archivists



Scholarship Winner's Report

2012 Larry Gulley Scholarship to attend the Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Meeting

By Melanie Maxwell

The 2012 Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Meeting: can I just say, "hippie caravan?"

Not only was the annual meeting a time of great professional development and networking, but I somehow became responsible for carting three archivists down to St. Simons in a Toyota van called "Jellybean." We spent most of the ride searching for fellow history buffs and preservation specialists also on the road to the conference. What is the preferred mode of travel for an archivist? Is it a Volvo? How about a Jeep Cherokee? We waved micro-spatulas at any car we thought had potential to hold conference goers. Nobody responded in kind.

Like a soccer mom, I tried desperately to lull my passengers to sleep with my favorite droning music, which I brought specifically for the trip. Most of them didn't fall for it. I thought maybe if they all crashed out before we got to the island, I could find my way to the hotel quicker. I had this premonition before we left Atlanta that I would get lost on a very small piece of land with only one main road. My fears were definitely founded. While I hoped to deliver my cargo of archivists to the hotel while they slept, they were full of pep and excitement, completely distracting me as I drove up and down the main drag of St. Simons. I went round and round some roundabouts and took detours through residential streets trying desperately to find our hotel. Time ticked away and our late arrival to the pre-conference board meeting almost caused an SGA officer to lose his position. I heard he had to sit on the floor. Somehow stopping for lunch in Macon just never turns out right. I wonder why that is.

Fortunately we got to the hotel in one piece and the presenters at the conference were amazing. Omeka is quite useful for online exhibits, I never really even considered exhibits when I thought of implementing Omeka as a digital content manager: How simple, how informative.

I also was very grateful for the impromptu advocacy meeting in regards to the closing/transitioning of the state archives. I admit that I may be one of those people Richard Pearce-Moses was talking to when he stated the importance of gratitude to Governor Deal for at least keeping the archives open, if not in an ideal way. Thankfully Richard didn't point at me during the luncheon and say, "I saw your Twitter feed, Melanie. Stop sending bullying tweets to the Secretary of State and the Governor." I had already contacted my congresswoman and my House representative before the announcement that the archives would NOT close "except for appointment," but I am glad to hear I at least approached my representatives correctly by making direct phone calls and not forwarding template emails. I received personal calls back from them both. Also, I am fortunate in that I live in a district where both of my representatives are completely on the side of restoring the archives to full-time hours. However, the advocacy training was a great confirmation to always be prepared to discuss your platform. An unsuspecting Friday night might roll around where you get a phone call from your congresswoman.

While I felt like we could have used a couple more days to get to the beach and to discuss important issues regarding digital file obsolescence in the sun, I am very glad to have been given the opportunity to attend (and carpool) to) to SGA conference this year. It was a wonderful experience, even though nobody fell in the pool and I didn't get to fight the archivist who kept bidding on a pair of homemade knitted fingerless gloves that I had to have from the silent auction. She just let me win.

About Us

Editor: Joshua Kitchens

Associate Editor: Anne Graham

Washington Beat: James Edward Cross

Preservation News: Alix Bentrud Membership Spotlight: Mary Katherine Barnes

Dees Scholarship Report: Cathy Miller

Gulley Scholarship Report: Melanie Maxwell Scholarship Committee Report: Allison Galloup

Submissions:

Deadlines for submissions for volume 44 (2012) are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 17. Material should be submitted by email to Editor Joshua Kitchens at joshua.kitchens[at]gcsu[dot]edu.

Advertising:

The SGA Newsletter invites advertisements for archival products and services at the SGA Board and editor's discretion. Deadlines for submission are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 17. For queries or further information, contact material should be submitted by email to Editor Joshua Kitchens at joshua.kitchens[at]gcsu[dot]edu.

