President’s Message

By Lynette Stoudt, 2013 SGA President

A belated welcome to the Society of Georgia Archivists’ 44th year! Last year we achieved another membership high of over 280 members. Thank you for your membership and support.

Please continue to support the Save the Georgia Archives effort. Contact your elected officials and stay up to date with the SGA listserv, SGA Facebook page, and Friends of the Georgia Archives website. Our support makes a difference so please keep it up!

SGA is planning our first tri-state meeting in 2013. Our annual meeting committees are working very hard to plan a fantastic meeting with the South Carolina Archival Association and the Society of North Carolina Archivists. The meeting theme is “Prepared in Mind and Resources: Collaboration, Relevance, and the Re-Imagined Archives” and will be held at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, on October 16-18, 2013. Save the date and check the SGA website for program updates.

We have a couple of proposed bylaws changes in 2013. Please stay tuned for further information on the balloting process when we will vote to officially establish our Mentoring Program and to change our membership cycle from a calendar year to a 12-month cycle based on join date. Look for an electronic ballot later this year!

We have a fabulous Executive Board with representatives from around the state.

I look forward to working with everyone this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me or another member of the board.

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2013 Executive Board

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Outreach Manager: Sarah Quigley  
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Survey Monkey Account Manager: Jill Severn
Institutional Focus: Suber Archives and Special Collections, Frank and Laura Lewis Library, LaGrange College

By Rebecca Landel-Hernandez

As 2012 came to a close, Institutional Focus traveled down to LaGrange College to the Suber Archives and Special Collections at the Frank and Laura Lewis Library. The campus is a wonderful example of restored and renovated historic buildings mixed with new and sustainable construction. Constructed in 2009, the 50,000-foot Frank and Laura Lewis Library is a LEED Silver building. LaGrange College has over 180 years of history. Founded in 1831 as a women’s college, it was renamed, “LaGrange Female College,” in 1851 and became “LaGrange College” in 1934. The school still retains strong ties to the United Methodist Church. The Suber Archives and Special Collections were established in 2009 with the completion of the Frank and Laura Lewis Library. Located on the ground floor of the library, the Suber Archives were dedicated on March 29, 2010, in memory of benefactor Charles Edwin Suber. The Suber Archives are located within the Lewis Library and include a general reception area, reading room, and office and work space for processing. The Archives has an overhead scanner and a digital camera to digitize rare books and artifacts. Compact shelving is located on the ground floor. There is also an exhibit space on the main floor of the library within the archives area. Ongoing exhibits include objects from a variety of collections, such as the Frank McCook Collection of Israeli Pottery and the Walter Mallory and Lamar Dodd Geodes. Items for ongoing exhibits are routinely rotated.

LaGrange College’s collections continue to grow as alumni donate items from their personal collections and archivists collect items from various departments within the college. Two part-time library staff members serve as the special collections archivists. While juggling library and archives responsibilities, they have done a magnificent job of establishing order, organizing collections, and providing access to the unique collections housed at Suber. Patricia Barrett and Jacque Hornsby are the part-time archivists who are responsible for bringing the history of LaGrange College to life. Patricia works during the morning and Jacque (Continued on page 4)

Editor’s note: This article was originally scheduled to appear in v.44, n.4 (Winter 2013) of the SGA Newsletter, but was inadvertently omitted. I sincerely apologize to Rebecca, to Patricia Barrett and Jacque Hornsby of the Suber Archives, and to Loren Pinkerman, the Director of the Lewis Library. The fault is entirely mine.
Support the Georgia Archives

By Sarah Quigley, SGA Outreach Manager

Late on September 13, 2012, Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp announced that on November 1 he would be eliminating all public access hours and several staff positions at the Georgia Archives. Kemp’s decision was in response to a mandate from Governor Nathan Deal that all state agencies reduce their budgets by 3% for the remaining fiscal year. These cuts came after years of consistent budget cuts that crippled the Archives; public access hours had already been slashed from 40 hours per week in 2010 to 17 hours per week in 2011. Kemp’s original press release promised that the Archives would remain open by appointment, but those appointments would be limited based on the schedule of remaining staff. On Friday, September 14, Kemp announced that seven of the ten current Archives employees would lose their jobs effective October 31, leaving supporters wondering how two archivists and a facilities manager would satisfy the demand for appointments.

Following the September 13 announcement, the Coalition to Save the Georgia Archives, which includes the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH), the Society of Georgia Archivists (SGA), the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, and the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) among others, launched an aggressive campaign to keep the Georgia Archives open. Archives leaders from around the country volunteered to help FOGAH and SGA plan their response and many professional and scholarly organizations wrote letters of support to Secretary Kemp and Governor Deal. SGA led efforts to keep the press informed of updates and launched a Twitter account (@SaveGAarchives) and YouTube channel dedicated to sharing news and stories about the Archives. SGA leadership also put together a deck of slides for distribution to legislators outlining what issues are at stake if the Archives close.

The Coalition sponsored a rally at the Georgia Capitol Building on October 3 during which protesters called for a complete restoration of the Archives budget. Scholars, genealogists, and state legislators all spoke eloquently of the value of the Archives to their individual work, to the protection of Georgia citizens, and to the transparency and effectiveness of the state government. On October 11, the Coalition retained the services of Joe Tanner and Associates, a governmental affairs consulting group, to help guide us through the legislative budget process and to lead us to a successful conclusion.

On October 18, Governor Deal announced that he would restore $125,000 to the Archives’ budget in order to keep it open to the public and retain two additional staff until June 30, 2013. According to the announcement, on July 1, 2013, responsibility for the Archives would transfer from the Secretary of State to the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents. The Georgia General Assembly will review the legislation necessary for the move during the legislative session that begins January 14. They will also set the budget for the Archives for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

In November, volunteers attended training workshops with Tanner and Associates and met with their legislators to discuss our support for Governor Deal’s plan. On January 2, 2013, a nine-member working group was formed to plan the transfer of the Archives. The group includes archivists Richard Pearse-Moses and Toby Graham, as well as Dianne Canezra, the president of FOGAH, and several scholars and librarians. Our efforts bore fruit on March 5, 2013, when the Georgia House of Representatives voted unanimously to transfer the Archives to the University System. About two weeks later, the Senate followed suit. At the time of this update, the budget committees are meeting to reconcile the different budgets passed by the House and the Senate. The Board of Regents requested that an additional $450,000 be added to the Archives budget to restore public access hours to five days a week and to replace a portion of the staff that were lost in the fall. The House approved approximately half of that sum, $224,000, while the Senate approved an additional $76,000 for a total of $300,000 added to the Archives budget. Though this amount would certainly enable the Archives to improve its current level of service, it is still well short of what the Board of Regents needs. There is clearly still much advocacy work to be done on behalf of the archives until full funding and access is restored.

Related links:
Our Georgia Archives, Our Georgia History: Is it worth saving? (PDF)
http://www.fogah.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/gaemergencydeckweb.pdf

Tanner and Associates Advocacy Training Workshops (PDF)
Institutional Focus: Suber Archives and Special Collections

(Continued from page 2)

works in the afternoons. The archives’ normal hours of operation are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, and from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on Friday. Hours are subject to change. The archives are open to students and the general public for research.

At present, Suber Archives are using Past Perfect for accessioning and cataloging. As collections grow, they may explore different archival management solutions. The archives’ rare book collections are available through the Lewis Library’s online catalog. The combined talents of both staff members work to ensure that collections are processed and cataloged. The Lewis Library has an intuitive and educational website with links to the archives and special collections. The archives has a good web presence, using blogs and mash-ups to showcase collection items. It is effectively leveraging technology to promote collections and to engage its patrons.

The most frequent patron requests involve research related to LaGrange College. Family members from as far away as Canada have used Suber to research ancestors who may have attended LaGrange. Other frequent requests are from the college’s marketing and administration for academic course descriptions and historic photographs. Suber archivists acknowledge that there are distinct advantages to being housed in a working academic library. It allows them better access to patrons, particularly faculty, staff and students. Being part of an academic library and setting also provides a great collaborative environment with staff, as well as the ability to tap institutional knowledge.

Suber Archives and Special Collections have some wonderful items. The geode collection is unique. Some of the larger specimens are displayed like works of art on the second and third floors of the library. The collection has required the archivists to research standards and best practices for processing and cataloging artifacts.

Some of the more whimsical items are found in the correspondence and scrapbooks kept by former students.

It’s always a treat to find small archives around the state with collections that tell a distinctly regional story and bring to light a particular way of life. The Suber Archives at the Frank and Laura Lewis Library at LaGrange College is a fantastic resource for students, historians, genealogists, and faculty and staff.

Contact information for the Suber Archives and Special Collections:

LaGrange College
Frank and Laura Lewis Library
601 Broad Street
LaGrange, Georgia 30240
706-880-8995
Website: http://lagrange.campusguides.com/archives_specialcollections

Lois Rivers Memory book, kept from 1909-1910, that represents LaGrange College when it was a women’s college.

www.lyrasisdigital.com
Internet Corner: Archives Blogs

By Pamela Nye

Everyone has their favorites and some are more well-known than others. Blogs created by and for other archivists are a wonderful way to share information as well as to make all of us more connected, especially the blog of the Society of Georgia Archivists: http://georgiaarchivists.blogspot.com/. Blogs are a good source for the latest news, for commiseration and for gaining new perspectives. Some of the blogs on this list will perhaps already be bookmarked in your blogroll. This is not meant to be an inclusive list, but just a way to start exploring some of the collective knowledge available. Some good ones have fallen into disuse, sadly, but hopefully may be picked up again at a later date. Almost all the college or university archives have their own blog, so be sure to check your alma mater, if you haven’t already. If you have a great blog to share, please email it to pamelaanye at Westminister dot net.

Archivalbloglist: http://archivalbloglist.wikispaces.com/Archivalbloglist

Created out of a 2006 SAA session, this is a publicly-maintained directory that lists blogs maintained by archives and special collections, as well as blogs being maintained by individual archivists and students in archival programs. This list also serves as a directory of collaboratively authored blogs, including blogs that support library school courses. This resource is designed to be developed by anyone interested in documenting the landscape of the archival blogosphere.

ArchivesNext: http://www.archivesnext.com/

Kate Theimer’s blog is perhaps the most recognized blog among archivists these days. She describes the blog as being about “the issues facing archives, including technology, evolving business models, professional identity, professional organizations, and news and issues from other related professions.” Through this blog from 2008-2010 she sponsored “Best Archives on the Web” and “Movers and Shakers in Archives” awards and the Spontaneous Scholarship program for the 2011 & 2012 annual meetings.

ArchivesBlogs: http://archivesblogs.com/

This site syndicates content from weblogs about archives and archival issues and then makes the content available in a central location in a variety of formats. It reads RSS and Atom feeds from weblogs about archives and archival issues every hour to check these feeds for new content. It then posts the content to the website plus a variety of other feeds, including RSS, Atom, and OPML.

ArchivesBlogs feeds, including RSS, Atom, and OPML.

Listed on the UNESCO Archives portal, some of the articles are listed in other languages besides English and it gives a great international perspective.

Derangement and Description: http://derangementanddescription.wordpress.com/

Created by Rebecca Goldman, the Media and Digital Services Librarian at La Salle University’s Connelly Library, this self-described “crazy little archives webcomic” is great for recognizing some of the humor in what we do on a daily basis. From “Valentines for Archivists” (February 13, 2013) to the award-winning haiku from the 2011 SAA Annual Conference entitled, “Missed Opportunities”: Hey, handsome stranger/Saw your pic in the archives/Too bad you’re dead now.

This is the blog you need to help lighten the day.

Digital Omnium: http://digitalomnium.com

Digital Omnium is a blog providing practical advice about oral history, archives, and digital technologies and it features regular posts on topics relating to recording, archiving, digital preservation and online dissemination of oral histories. It was created and is maintained by Doug Boyd, Ph.D., who serves as the Director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries. This blog not only has the traditional posts on various topics — it also contains tutorials and information on specific products useful for oral history work.

GeorgieArchivesMatters: http://georgiaarchivematters.org/

This advocacy blog is run entirely by volunteer advocates for the Georgia Archives — mostly from the Georgia Genealogical Society (www.gagensociety.org). It was created during the crisis of the near shutdown of the Georgia Archives as a way to post commentary, information and thoughtful discussion. The stated goal of the blog is to keep the Archives open to the public and adequately staffed — in its award-winning facility in Morrow, Georgia.

Digitization 101: http://hurstassociates.blogspot.com/

This is a blog that has cross-postings on archives, libraries, and digital issues. Frequently cited by other blogs, this commercial site has some interesting posts. It is the creation of Jill Hurst-Wahl, MLS, who owns a digitization consulting company and who is also an Associate Professor of Practice in Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies.


The Library of Congress has a wide variety of blogs on subjects to interest anyone. Topics include that of the Library of Congress itself, science, technology & business, performing arts, law librarians, teaching using LOC materials, prints and photographs, copyright matters, poetry and literature, and voices of the civil war. The one I subscribe to is called “The Signal” on digital preservation. On March 15, 2013, it had a humorous post entitled, “Snow Byte and the Seven Formats: A Digital Preservation Tale.”


The National Archives maintains several blogs in the interest of sharing more information with the public about its activities. They also exist as a channel for the public to respond to news, upcoming events, and proposed projects. The blogs include those from the Archivist of the United States, The Carter Center, Education Updates, The Federal Register Blog, FOIA Ombudsman, Special Media Archives Services Division Projects, NARAtions, National Declassification Center, Prologue Magazine, National Records Management Program, Black History, Textual Services Division, Public Interest Declassification Board, and the National Archives CIO.
Membership Spotlight: Meredith E. Torre

By Mary Katherine Barnes

I started at Columbia Seminary in 2009. Because we are a smaller institution, my roles are varied. They include description, reference, processing collections, digitization, and preservation.

What is your favorite part of your job?

There are so many things I love about my job. I love that I discover something new every day and I love that the work we do is enabling others to learn something new also and enrich their own fields of study. Connecting others to collections is becoming more challenging, but with it there are more possibilities.

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

The most interesting digital collection I’ve come across at my current institution is an artifact collection I am working on currently called the Mary Bray Spence collection of crosses and religious symbols. The collection includes a wide variety of crosses, crucifixes, and other religious symbols representing many countries, traditions, and time periods. There are also many unusual items in the collection with cultural and ritual significance not limited to Victorian hair crosses, Native American crosses or symbols, Masonic pieces, and military medals. The collection has approximately 740 items, all of varying sizes from a sixteenth of an inch to four feet tall. My current task is providing images for these items for our institution’s online catalog.

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

Several, really. I started out in journalism and discarded that field right away in preference for literature, but as an English major I was just as interested in literary history as I was fiction — the court politics and how they drove courtly poetics, Fitzgerald’s and Hemingway’s complex relationship in the Jazz Age — all of these things intrigued me. At the same time, I thought I might become an anthropologist and archaeologist. I became an archaeological groupie and took field courses and ethics in Anthropology. Margaret Mead interested me to no end. After all was said and done I realized that my true interest was in the human story, be it fiction or nonfiction. As an archivist, I feel I have been able
to capture the pursuit of the human story, be it fiction or nonfiction. As an archivist, I feel I have been able to capture the pursuit of the human story culturally, and historically.

What are your hobbies or favorite past times?

I write poetry and short fiction. In the past I’ve edited a literary magazine and been involved in short publication projects. I enjoy music and am self taught on guitar and have played a few tunes with some of my co-workers. I also enjoy knitting, book making, trying to plant things and keep them alive, and just about any crafty project.

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

I think involvement no matter what stage you are in the profession is crucial. It helps give you a foundation entering the field and it invigorates you as you continue to grow professionally. Joining groups like SGA and committees is a good way to become involved. I spent a lot of time seeking out mentors in the profession and was rewarded with learning a lot from them. Find others in the field and ask them questions, volunteer, and become well rounded.

Education:

- Bachelor of Arts, English, Cultural Anthropology Minor, University of South Carolina, Columbia, 2002
- Master of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2007

Work Experience:

- Archival Assistant, C. Benton Kline, Jr. Special Collections and Archives, 2009-present
- GHRAB Project Assistant, Preferred Practice for Georgia Manual, Georgia Archives, 2010
- IMLS Healthy Collections Initiative Grant Project Assistant, Georgia Archives, 2008-2009
- Conservation/Scanning Intern, Georgia Archives, 2007-2008
- Cataloger, Archival Project Assistant, The Coca-Cola Archives, Cadence Group, 2008
- Rare Book Cataloget, Grant Project Assistant, Health Sciences Library, Emory University, Cadence Group, 2008
- Consultant for Preservation for historic music collections, Music Library Special Collections, University of South Carolina, Columbia, 2007
- Conservation and Acquisitions Assistant, Kurt F. Wendt Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2006-2007
- Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Kurt F. Wendt Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2004-2006
- Guest Curator for Rare Book Exhibition, Ebling Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2006
- Assistant to the Conservator, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2005-2007

Professional Memberships and Activities:

- Friends of the Georgia Archives, 2012-present
- Society of Georgia Archivists, 2009-present
  - Editor for the SGA Newsletter, 2010-2012
  - Assistant Editor for the SGA Newsletter, 2009-2010
  - SGA Web Committee, 2009-2011
  - Membership Committee, 2010-2012
- HERA (Heritage Emergency Response Alliance), 2008-present
  - Steering Committee and Chair of Communications, 2012
- Georgia Library Association, 2007-2010
- American Historical Association, 2007-2008

(Continued from page 6)
Preservation News

By Alix Bentrud


This is a free resource from the Image Permanence Institute to assist with print characterization and identification. Originally designed to address photographic processes, it has been expanded to include pre-photographic and contemporary photomechanical processes. The site offers an option that allows for side-by-side comparison of processes and provides distinguishing characteristics for identification of each print process. Also included are a Guided Tour and tutorials for the site. This site is one that you may find useful for your archives’ collections and your own.


The Library of Congress has developed a web site with numerous resources to assist with the preservation of the collections of individuals. Preservation of digital photographs, audio, video, email, vital digital records, and websites and social media are addressed. There is a downloadable PDF on each topic as well as podcasts for some topics. As our researchers and potential donors are relying more and more on digital tools, it is important that they take steps to preserve the content they create. This is information that you may wish to share with staff, family and friends as well.

And don’t forget:

Preservation Week, April 21-27: http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/preswk

Use the tools provided by the American Library Association to connect to your communities through events and activities to encourage the preservation of personal collections and those of your institutions.


Do one simple activity to promote emergency preparedness for your archives. Follow the URL for a list of suggested preparedness activities.

Save the date!

OCLC and LYRASIS Present: The Future of Resource Sharing

Those interested may also contact russell dot palmer at lyrasis dot org

(Continued from page 12)

The conference will run from 9 am-4 pm, and topics will include WorldShare (inheritor of Worldcat), metadata for cataloging, systems and tools, institutional repositories, statistics and copyright. Speakers from OCLC, LYRASIS, Atlas Systems, the Digital Library of Georgia, among others will lead the discussion. Though initiated by the speakers, the discussion is meant to be as much of an open forum as possible.

The conference is designed for anyone with an interest in resource sharing, institutional partnership, or bringing greater access and visibility to their collections. This is an opportunity for archivists, librarians, tools and policy makers to remove some barriers to communication and to begin to envision how we all may be able to work together to meet the ever-growing demands of digital materials and the needs of the researchers who use them.

For more information or to register, please visit:

OCLC and LYRASIS Present: The Future of Resource Sharing

Those interested may also contact russell dot palmer at lyrasis dot org

(Continued from page 12)
Washington Beat

By James E. Cross

NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUDGET: Due to sequestration the Archives reduced its research hours at both Archives I and II and exhibit hours at Archives I beginning March 15, 2013. The extended hours normally provided at both facilities were eliminated.

OTHER ARCHIVES NEWS: The National Historical Publications and Records Commission announced the appointment of four new members on March 13, 2013. They are Peter Gottlieb, former state archivist of Wisconsin and former president of the Society of American Archivists, who will be representing the latter; on the Commission; George Miles, curator of the Western Americana Collection at Yale University’s Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the Organization of American Historians’ representative to the Commission; Nicole Saylor, Head of the American Folk Life Center at the Library of Congress and the Library’s representative to the Commission; and William G. Thomas, a University of Nebraska history professor representing the American Historical Association. … On March 12, 2013, the National Archives announced it will help the Digital Public Library of America launch its first pilot project on April 18-19, 2013. The Archives will be providing 1.2 million digital copies which will include the nation’s founding documents, photographs from the 1970s Documerica Project and Civil War Matthew Brady photographs, and World War II posters, among others. … Love letters between Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson were released to the public by the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library on February 14, 2013. The letters document their ten week courtship in 1934. … Beginning February 4, 2013, researchers at Archives I and II can remotely access their research card accounts to add funds, check account balances, look at their copying history, and change their passwords. … Former Senator Joseph Lieberman announced on January 7, 2013, that he would give all emails he received as chairman (2001-2002) of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to the National Archives. He is the first committee chair to do so. The emails will not be released to the public 20-50 years. … On January 3, 2013, the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum launched its social media efforts by posting information on construction milestones, library features, exhibits, opening dates, and hours of operation on Twitter and its Facebook page.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NEWS: On January 9, 2013, the Library of Congress announced that it had acquired 15 years (1998-2003) of recorded sports interviews from the radio network program “Sports Byline USA.” Programs from 2004-2012 will be added in the next two years. Interviewees include Mickey Mantle, John Wooden, Jim Brown, Bonnie Blair, John McEnroe, and Meadowlark Lemon. … The National Recording Preservation Plan was released by the Library on February 13, 2013. Among the recommendations in the report are the creation of a publicly-accessible national directory of all recorded-sound collections and a national discography detailing the production of recordings and the location of preservation copies in public institutions; establishment of university-based degree programs in audio archiving and preservation; the creation of best practices for preserving born-digital audio files; and the application of federal copyright law to recordings created before February 15, 1972. The plan can be found at http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2013/files/pub156.pdf. … On January 4, 2013, the Library released a report providing an update on its Twitter Archive: The archive of tweets for 2006-2010 is now complete and contains about 170 billion tweets. The number of tweets received by the Library each day has grown from 140 million in 2011 to half a billion in 2012. The Library has received over 400 requests from researchers to use the archive and has made making the archive accessible in a “comprehensive, useful way” a priority. However, it is unlikely due to budgetary and technological challenges that the archives will be open for research anytime soon. The collection would only be available within the Library of Congress reading rooms as per its agreement with Twitter.

DECLASSIFICATION AND FOIA: On February 13, 2013, Cause or Action released a report that looked at the compliance with FOIA requests of sixteen federal departments. The study, which took place in 2012, found that overall, compliance was about average, with the Departments of Commerce and Defense the worst responders and the Department of Education the best. The reports’ calculated nonresponse rate of 25% was consistent with an earlier report by Bloomberg News that found a 33% nonresponse rate. … Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit against the National Archives on February 12, 2013, over the withholding of Robert F. Kennedy’s U.S. Attorney General records. Seven records were identified as “assassination records” by the Assassination Records Review Board. … On January 23, 2012, the National Declassification Center issued its sixth report for the period July 1-December 31, 2012. The Center reported that it had completed quality assurance assessment of the 361.1 million-page backlog. As of the end of 2012, 33.7 million pages had successfully completed all processing, with 57 million pages released to the public. Among the highlights of the last six months of 2012 was the creation of a special review process to release records relating to the Katyn Massacre.

OTHER NEWS: On February 22, 2013, the Office of Science and Technology Policy released a policy memorandum directing federal agencies with more than $100 million in research and development expenditures to create plans to make the published results of federally-funded research freely available to the public within one year of publication and for better accounting and management of digital data resulting from such research.
Institutional Focus: Georgia State University Library Special Collections with Archivist Hilary Morrish

By Melanie L. Maxwell

This Institutional Focus column spotlights the archives and the archivist, Hilary Morrish has been an archivist at Georgia State University for five years and is featured here for her diverse experience. The intent of this column is to cover a varied selection of repositories, such as a private and public archives, a history center, and possibly a museum. Morrish has worked in all these fields and more and sets an example of how archivists may take different paths of experience through varying institutions to reach their goals.

Morrish began her career while still an undergraduate, working at the Atlanta History Center and then in the Cobb County Public Library's Georgia Room. Next, she moved across the country and gained museum experience at the Ansel Adams photography museum in San Francisco. After coming back home to Georgia, Morrish devoted several more years to the public library system in Vinings. She later worked at the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art as a curator. Morrish next moved to the historic district of Jekyll Island, accepting a position as an archivist and curator for the Jekyll Island Authority. Besides caring for photographs and manuscripts in the Jekyll Island archives, she also restored furniture and preserved textiles. Morrish then joined a private restoration company and later developed tours for the historic home, Barrington Hall, in Roswell, Georgia.

While Morrish completed her graduate degree in Historic Preservation at Georgia State University, she again diversified her skill set, working as a monitor for Easements Atlanta, an organization that preserved the façades of historical buildings around the city. She joined Georgia State University Library's Special Collections as an assistant while finishing her master's degree. Now an archivist at GSU, Morrish specializes in the Social Change Collection, which documents social movements in Georgia.

Her most recent project is the Michael H. Trotter Papers. A prominent Atlanta lawyer, Trotter was pivotal in working with the Atlanta Urban Design Commission from the 1960s forward to keep the city attractive during its bursts of growth. He was part of the Buckhead Coalition to create a more business-savvy area at a time when Buckhead was not the hub it is today. Trotter was also influential in Atlanta's public transit and public school system.

In conjunction with her work on social change, Morrish designs exhibits for the archives at Georgia State. Her current exhibit is "The Gift of Activism: Which Side Are You On?" now on display in the gallery of GSU's Special Collections.

Morrish recently hosted two events related to the exhibit. The first was a privately-held symposium of historians, researchers and activists to debate the relationship between archives and activism. She also organized a free and open-to-the-public lecture by Diana Eidson, Assistant Director of Lower Division Studies and a Ph.D. candidate in Rhetoric and Compositions, called, "Using Affective Discourse in Social Movements: Case Studies from Operation Dixie to Occupy Wall Street." Besides the activism exhibit and the newly-processed Trotter Papers, Morrish told me of some exciting changes and additions to the Special Collections at Georgia State University. GSU recently acquired the collection of the edgy Little Five Points mainstay, the 7 Stages Theatre.

The Women's Collections have been expanded to include gender. The Women and Gender Collections currently has an exhibition in the gallery of GSU's Special Collections, with an event being held on April 18th (http://homer.gsu.edu/blogs/library/2013/03/07/georgia-womens-movement-project-spring-event-2013-doe-dialogues/). April brings the annual Georgia Women's Movement Project Spring Event. This year the event, "Doe Dialog," is a discussion of the case Doe v. Bolton, Georgia’s companion case to Roe v. Wade. The event is timed to honor of the 40th anniversary of.

(Continued on page 11)
The Tri-State Program Committee proudly announces the theme for the 2013 joint annual meeting: Prepared in Mind and Resources: Collaboration, Relevance, and the Re-Imagined Archives.

The Committee, made up of members of the Society of North Carolina Archivists, the South Carolina Archival Association, and the Society of Georgia Archivists, invite you to attend the meeting, to be held at Furman University’s Younts Center in Greenville, South Carolina, October 17-18, 2013. The call for presentations went out on April 1 and the call for posters will go out May 1.

Prepared in Mind and Resources (Animis Opibusque Paration is on the state seal for South Carolina) reflects the work of archivists, who often have to balance the theoretical and practical aspects of the profession. For the 2013 annual meeting, the Tri-State Program Committee sees these cornerstones of our work — theory and practice — through the following lenses:

- **Collaboration.** We are more than the sum of our parts. What can we achieve working with each other, with non-archives professionals in our own and other cultural institutions, with historians (including those in the public and oral history fields), with researchers and other stakeholders who benefit from our work?

- **Relevance.** Taking into account changes in technology, budget cuts, and how archives are being used (and by whom), how do we remain relevant? Continuing education, outreach, advocacy, and diversity all have a role to play.

- **The Re-Imagined Archives.** As we break away from stereotypes and make our rich collections more and more accessible through the Internet, we ask: How have theory and practice changed? How have our users changed? And who is being represented in our collections that may not have been previously (or should be, if not)?

Tri-State Committee Co-Chairs

Ashley Burdett,  
South Carolina Archival Association  
Traci Drummond,  
Society of Georgia Archivists  
Jennifer Motszko,  
Society of North Carolina Archivists
April 2013

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May 2013

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April 12, 2013

Deadline to apply for the Brenda S. Banks Educational Workshop Scholarship

Starting in 2008, the Society of Georgia Archivists each year awards a scholarship to attend the SGA-sponsored Spring workshop. This year’s workshop is Making Sense of a Media Collection, to be held on May 3, 2013, at the University of Georgia’s Special Collections Libraries in Athens, Georgia. Past SGA workshops have addressed a variety of themes and issues faced by archivists and archival institutions, including electronic records, exhibits, donor relations, digital collections, and funding. The purpose of the Spring/Summer Workshop and the workshop scholarship is to enhance archival education.

The registration fee for the successful applicant will be waived by the Society of Georgia Archivists. Recipients will be responsible for any travel fees associated with attending the workshop. Please note that the scholarship winner is responsible for submitting their workshop registration form by the registration deadline. After the workshop, the recipient will submit a brief article on the experience for use in the SGA Newsletter.

For more information on eligibility or how to apply, please visit: http://www.soga.org/scholarships/banks

May 3, 2013

Making Sense of a Media Collection
Presented by Independent Media Arts Preservation and the Society of Georgia Archivists
10:00 am—5:00 pm

Richard B. Russell Building Special Collections Libraries
300 S. Hull Street
Athens, GA 30602

This daylong workshop aims to demystify audiovisual media collections, giving archivists a nuts-and-bolts, practical overview of the issues facing audio and moving image materials. Topics covered will include:

- Historical and current film, audio, and video formats
- Film, audio, and video production practices, and how they are reflected in archival materials
- Deterioration of film and magnetic media, recommended storage conditions, and appropriate handling practices
- Triage and prioritization of A/V collections
- Basic approaches to digitization
- Online and other resources for guidance about A/V preservation
- Behind-the-scenes tour of the University of Georgia's new Special Collections Libraries facility, including the audiovisual media lab

Registration:

- IMAP members, SGA members, UGA staff: $100
- Nonmembers: $150
- Artists & Students: $50

Register at: http://www.imappreserve.org/join/membership.html

Workshop inquiries: imap at imappreserve dot org

May 17, 2013

The Future of Resource Sharing
Presented by OCLC and LYRASIS

The world of archives and special collections has traditionally been what those both inside and outside the field would call “isolated.” The description, though commonly apt, is not intentional. Few archivists want anything more than increased access to, and greater use of, their collections. With this in mind, changes in resource sharing and the development of sophisticated tools and prescient systems and practices may offer far more to the archivist than meets the eye.

Toward that end, OCLC and LYRASIS are...
The deadlines to submit content and advertisement for volume 45 (2013) are:

- March 18
- June 17
- September 16
- December 9

The SGA Newsletter invites advertisements for archival products and services at the discretion of the SGA Board and Newsletter Editor.

To submit content or to request additional information, please contact Anne Graham at anne dot m dot graham at gmail dot com.

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