

SGA NEWSLETTER

VOL 48 NO 4

FALL 2016

2016 has been busy! SGA has seen the initial implementation of its 2016-2020 strategic plan, our bylaws are receiving an overhaul, we've enjoyed partnering with the Society of Florida Archivists with regards to the Annual Meeting, and several of us had the opportunity to attend the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting this year in Atlanta—amongst other things that are going on!

I was fortunate to attend this year's SAA meeting and would like to share the following quote that I read during the opening plenary session. It's from Ron Chernow, one of two recipients of the SAA J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award, "As I contemplate this presidential race, I feel a real sense of urgency about the importance of American history and the papers that document it. My greatest fear is that we will forget who we are as a people and thereby surrender the constraints that check the power of potential demagogues. Serving as chief custodians of the documentary record of American history, the nation's archivists stand on the front line of those protecting our democracy and preventing its abuse by those who are willfully ignorant of our past. I applaud all of you for this important, often unsung, work, and thank you for this tremendous honor."

The gravity of these words has stuck with me. I want to echo Mr. Chernow's additional statement to "please keep up the superb job that you all do every day to make history come alive for all of us." Thank you, fellow SGA members, as well as our committee and board members, for your work and support. Your contributions of service and support to the archival field ARE important and will continue to be even more so. I am proud of our organization and appreciative of all that you do.

Brittany Parris, President



Photo credit: Tasneem Elayan

*Your contributions
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GATHEROUND EXHIBIT OPEN AT ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

On July 2, 2016 the Atlanta History Center opened its new signature exhibition on the history of Atlanta. **Gatheround: Stories of Atlanta** is a 7,700 square foot interactive presentation featuring artifacts, digital media, hands-on experiences and gallery programs that appeal to a diverse audience. “There is something in this exhibition for visitors of all identities, perspectives, and learning preferences,” says Curator Calinda Lee. In proclaiming that history belongs to all of us, that all of our stories matter, and that the past continues to inform the present, Gatheround reminds visitors that anyone can be a history-maker. In this way, the exhibition is a call-to-action for civic engagement.

The Atlanta History Center seeks, through this exhibition among its other work, to affirm an understanding that plurality is, and has always been, definitive for Atlanta. In this exhibition, therefore, many voices offer different perspectives. On-site recording booths provide ways for visitors to share their stories of Atlanta so they may be preserved digitally. Museum theater performances occur every weekend so visitors can develop a more nuanced understanding of the stories we share and offer feedback and new information.

The archival materials selected for inclusion invite visitors to empathize with populations they may not have previously considered. In one of four thematic areas, Gatheround focuses on the impact of child labor legislation on changing life in the city. Here, visitors engage in an interactive factory work game, look at documents that clarify how essential children’s wages might be to a family’s income, and listen to an audio recording derived from a child’s testimony about her work in an area mill. This story helps elucidate the critical impact that legislative action can have in a way that is compelling and easy to understand.

Examining Atlanta’s past from many perspectives and seeking the untold stories of people demanded that the AHC reach beyond its collections. Other repositories hold collections about communities for which the center has collected little. Residents made gifts that enabled the telling of other stories. This experience has been refreshing and exciting because our partner institutions--the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, Emory, Atlanta University Center, Georgia Archives, and others--have been incredibly generous; affirming a shared desire to make sure that the public has access to the information, regardless of where they go for that experience. For this, the Atlanta History Center is tremendously grateful and looks forward to continue to work cooperatively as we regularly update Gatheround.

Paul Crater, Atlanta History Center

AUBURN AVENUE RESEARCH CENTER EXPANSION AND RENOVATION



On August 4, 2016, the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, a special library of the Atlanta Fulton Public Library System, reopened in its renovated and expanded 56,000-square-foot building. The \$20 million project was part of Phase I of the Library Building Program. In November 2008, Fulton County voters overwhelmingly passed the Library Bond Referendum, which greatly enhances all of the county's libraries. The Auburn Avenue Research Library added 10,000 square feet to the building which originally opened in 1994. The renovation included a new auditorium which seats approximately 215 people.



The Archives Division now occupies the third and fourth floors of the building. A portion of the archives stacks can be seen from the reading room. The archives stacks have been equipped with stationary and compact shelving as well as a cold storage unit.

The renovation project included an extensive upgrade to the technology infrastructure. Mobile video walls, interactive display system and a touch screen guide were added to the building to guide visitors to collections as well as highlight important features of the facility. Additionally, the two reading rooms in the building are equipped with audiovisual rooms that allow patrons to view and listen to a variety of formats without having to touch the materials.

The renovation and expansion of the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History transforms the library into a unique, welcoming destination that promotes Africana history, cultures and legacies.

***Derek Mosley, Archivist,
Auburn Avenue Research Center***

PRESERVATION POINTERS

Digital Preservation

Digital preservation can seem like an overwhelming challenge to institutions both small and large, but taking some basic steps to preserve your files can be simple. One easy step you can add into your digitization or born digital workflows is generating and verifying checksums.

A checksum is a unique string of characters that's like a digital fingerprint for your file. If the file changes at all, then the checksum for the file changes. This can help you determine whether you need to repair a file from a backup, or alert you to the fact that something unintentionally happened to a file while it was being transferred from one place to another. By ensuring that your digital files haven't changed and any damaged files are repaired, you're on your way to preserving your digital content.

Checksums can be created and checked with a variety of different tools, and many of them are free to download and use. HashMyFiles and Karen's Hasher are two simple tools for checksum generation and verification. But additional tools have been created with cultural heritage uses in mind, such as Fixity, which can be used to automate periodic checks of your files – whether you've stored them on hard drives, a server, cloud storage, or other digital storage. If you're transferring files from one location or another, such as from a drive to a repository or from one server to another, tools have been created to help with that process, such as Exactly and Bagger. Both tools can package files and generate checksums prior to moving files, then determine whether any changes occurred during the transfer.

One way you might test out these tools is creating a word document, generating a checksum, changing some of the text in that document, then verifying that checksum. You'll get a clear view from that process of how checksums alert you to changes, or verify the integrity of a file that has not changed. Try it out with a few of the tools mentioned or investigate others to see how you could incorporate this simple step into your digital workflows. For more readings on digital preservation visit <http://bit.ly/2d9pLKd> and contact preservation@lyrasis.org with any questions.

Annie Peterson, LYRISIS

"I HAVE A DREAM

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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WASHINGTON

James Edward Cross

BEAT

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: Dr. Carla D. Hayden was sworn in as the 14th Librarian of Congress on September 14, 2016. She had been confirmed by the Senate on July 13, 2016. Dr. Hayden is the first woman and first African American to serve as Librarian. She was chief executive of the Enoch Pratt Free Library system in Baltimore, MD and a former president of the American Library Association. Dr. Pratt holds a B.A. in political science from Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL and an M.A. and Ph.D from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago.

The Library of Congress announced its acquisition of the archives of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) on July 14, 2016. The archives includes books; booklets; articles authored by AAG geographers; correspondence involving the AAG executive directors and the AAG board of directors; conference programs and proceedings; and other material. It will be housed in the Library's Geography and Map Division.

On July 26, 2016 the Veterans History Project released a new installment of its "Experiencing War" feature which focuses on LGBT veterans who served in conflicts from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan. Entitled "Speaking Out: LGBT Veterans," the presentation includes fourteen audio or video interviews with LGBT veterans as well as interview transcripts, memoirs and photographs.

On August 12, 2016 the Philadelphia, PA Democratic National Convention's Host Committee announced that the Library of Congress would be preserving the Committee's website and social media channels.

The National Digital Newspaper Program will now include newspapers from the earliest period of American history, the Library announced on August 31, 2016. The new digital content is from 18th century newspapers located in the three early capitals—New York, Philadelphia, and



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Washington, D.C.—of the fledgling United States. This includes the Gazette of the United States (1789-1900), the National Gazette (1791-1793), and the National Intelligencer (1800-1809). It is also expanding its coverage to the years 1690-1963.

On September 12, 2016 the Library announced it had placed the diaries, notebooks, and address books of General John J. Pershing (1917-1925) and the diaries of General George S. Patton (1910-1945) online as part of its efforts to commemorate America's participation in World War I. The Pershing material describe his command of the American Expeditionary Force during the war and his postwar service as Army Chief of Staff, while the Patton diaries document his activities in the Mexican Punitive Expedition, World War I, and World War II. Both the Pershing and Patton papers are held by the Library's Manuscript Division.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA): On July 5, 2016 the United States District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that work email stored on a private server is still subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. As long as the agency has "constructive control" of the records they are subject to FOIA. The case, Competitive Enterprise Institute v. Office of Science and Technology Policy has been remanded for further proceedings based on the decision.

CLASSIFICATION & DECLASSIFICATION: On July 29, 2016 the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) released its annual report for FY2015. ISOO reported there was a 14% increase in classification activity but a 32% decrease in derivative classification actions. Under automatic, systematic, and discretionary declassification review, agencies reviewed 87,192,858 pages and declassified 36,779,589 pages of historically valuable records. This was a 35 percent increase in the number of pages reviewed and 32 percent increase in the number of pages declassified. Under mandatory declassification review (MDR) 391,103 pages were reviewed, 240,717 pages were declassified in their entirety, 109,349 pages were declassified in part, and 41,037 pages retained classification in their entirety. Data shows that MDR requests received and closed fell between 2012 and 2015, while the number of days to resolve such requests and to number unresolved for over a year rose during the same general time period. Estimated total government and industry security classification costs for FY2015 were \$17.44 billion, an



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increase of 8%; industry costs were \$1.27 billion of the total costs.

The National Archives announced the issuance of regulations for Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) on September 14, 2016. The regulations establish the first government-wide system for CUI. The new regulations are a result of Executive Order 13556 (November 4, 2010) which established the CUI program. CUI is information that is not classified but requires safeguarding and dissemination controls for legal, regulatory, or other reasons, e.g. Protected Health Information under HIPAA.

COPYRIGHT: On June 7, 2016 the Copyright Office announced in the Federal Register its intent to have closed meetings on revising Section 108 of the copyright law “to better reflect the facts, practices, and principles of the digital age and to provide greater clarity for libraries, archives, and museums.” This in spite of the fact that the Library Copyright Alliance (which includes the American Library Association), the Society of American Archivists, and the Internet Archive (among others) do not believe the law is obsolete or in need of serious reform.

FEDERAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION: On July 11, 2016 Representative Mark Meadows of North Carolina introduced H.R.5709, the Federal Records Modernization Act. It mandates suspension or removal of federal employees if an agency inspector general determines that the employee has willfully and unlawfully concealed, removed, falsified, or destroyed any record in their custody or has violated provisions against creating or sending records using a non-official electronic messaging system. The President, Vice President, their staffs and advisors, executive agency official, and employees may only use such systems by following certain requirements, including printing a copy that is submitted for archival storage within 20 days of the original’s creation. The bill also modifies the categories of records removal/destruction that obligate agencies to notify the Archivist of the United States and initiate actions to recover removed records through the Justice Department and requires agencies to report concealments and falsifications of agency records to the Archivist and publish a list of records at risk or that have been lost.

**DR. CARLA D.
HAYDEN
SWORN IN AS
14TH
LIBRARIAN OF
CONGRESS
ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

TEACHING UNDERGRADUATES WITH PRIMARY SOURCES: A GRADUATE STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE

A marathon runner is not born with the ability to complete twenty-six miles, but must build their stamina. Why should we assume that high school thoroughly taught students to identify and analyze primary sources? I have worked for two years as a graduate student assistant in special collections at the University of West Georgia's Ingram Library, and part of my duties include instruction. I have two primary teaching objectives: first, demonstrating the function of special collections as a research center, and second, engaging students with the materials to stimulate their curiosity and lower the barriers for return visits.

To encourage continued student use of special collections for research and their academic growth, my approach is to provide a brief introduction defining special collections, teach students the essential information about handling, and then students quickly have their hands-on the pre-selected materials in front of them. In an hour-long session, students have 15 minutes or more to study the materials, examine them physically, and complete short set of questions, leading them through a critical analysis of the source. I select documents that spark intellectual curiosity and are not too difficult to comprehend. When students report back to the entire class about their item and what they found most interesting, we have a group discussion about the topical relation to course content and to historical and cultural contexts of its creation. When I began teaching two years ago, this hands-on experience was not the primary focus, as it has become now. Since that time, I have realized in measuring student enthusiasm and feedback, that the longer students engage with the selected documents and discuss their critical findings with the class, the more beneficial it was for the students.

This past year at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, I attended a session titled "Getting it Right in the Archives: Best Practices for Archive-Based Student Learning," by Julie Golia of the Brooklyn Historical Society (for more information see www.TeachArchives.org). In a study, she discovered that many undergraduates had little knowledge of archives or how to analyze primary sources. She argued that students need to be taught document analysis and has them study only one pre-picked document so they are not overwhelmed. My own personal experience of working with undergraduates reflects her study. The purpose of the primary source exercise is to boost confidence, demonstrating they can excel as a researcher. This might have been the first time a student has handled primary sources. Undergraduates represent a substantial base for many special collections. The teaching session should be geared towards the concerns of an anxious undergraduate. A marathon runner starts with a mile to reach their goal, and I hope by having undergraduates analyze one primary source; it results in higher research efficacy and more trips to their universities' special collections.

Cody Doegg, Graduate History Student, University of West Georgia

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

UGA RUSSELL LIBRARY EX- HIBIT INVITES YOU ONTO THE CAM- PAIGN TRAIL, KISSING BABIES AND ALL

Auburn Avenue Research Center on October 11th will host the program, *Telling Our Own Stories: Developing a Community Archives Project at Antioch A.M.E. Church*. At the recent opening ceremony for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, President Barack Obama noted that the museum was built with the donation of objects “tucked away in Grandma’s attic.” African American history can often be found “tucked away,” as was recently realized by members of the Antioch A.M.E. Church, the first black church to be founded in Decatur, Georgia, after the Civil War (1868). In order to find and preserve the church’s past, members partnered with historians from the University of West Georgia and Agnes Scott College to collect, digitize and share records about Antioch. The result is the Antioch A.M.E Digital Archive, an example of the recent turn in archival practice to building “community archives.” Panelists Tigner Rand (**Antioch A.M.E.**), Dr. Julia Brock (**University of West Georgia**), and Shanee’ Murrain (**University of West Georgia**) will discuss the concept of “community archives,” the genesis and creation of the Antioch A.M.E. Digital Archive, and the opportunities and challenges of partnership between community organizations and academic institutions. The conversation will be structured to allow for audience participation and insights.

Georgia Archives will present the annual *Georgia Archives and Genealogy Day* on Saturday, October 22, 2016, with two tracks,

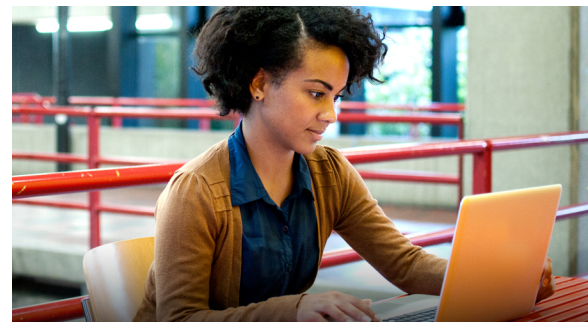
one for beginners and another for more advanced researchers. Attendees are invited to attend the sessions of most interest to them, in either track. The program, sponsored by the Archives, Georgia Genealogical Society and the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH), requires no registration and is free and open to the public.

Georgia Archives hosted a program, *Records Emergency Planning and Response*, as part of the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records, on October 6.

University of Georgia Hargrett Library recently opened an exhibit, *Foxfire: 50 years of Cultural Journalism Documenting Folk Life in the North Georgia Mountains*. The exhibit uses photos and artifacts, including textiles, homemade toys and tools and a moonshine still, to illustrate how Foxfire has documented folk life and customs. Foxfire began with students collecting oral histories of North Georgia residents and publishing them in a magazine format, beginning in 1967. The project quickly gained national attention and anthologies of the articles the students produced made best-seller lists. Dixie Gallups, a UGA graduate student, explained that each case in the exhibit “displays artifacts and information that relate to a different aspect of life in Appalachia. Topics that are covered include textiles, intangible cultural heritage (folklore, superstitions, etc.), music, homemade toys, home remedies, butter churning, tools/tool making, and the art of moonshining.”

University of Georgia Russell Library exhibit, *On the Stump: What Does it Take to Get Elected in Georgia?* explores the evolution of campaigning for political office in Georgia and invites visitors to step into the shoes of a candidate and onto the campaign trail: from the initial decision to run, to crafting a strategy, winning the nomination, shaking hands, kissing babies, and everything in between. The display considers the social, cultural, and political history of a state in motion from 1900 until 2012.

University of West Georgia, with campus partners, opened the exhibit, *Live Out!: Identity & Activism of Diverse Genders & Sexualities on Campus*, which will be on view in the Thomas B. Murphy Reading Room (Ingram Library, ground floor) through December 16, 2016.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Interview by Mary Katherine Barnes



Tamika Strong
*is IT Program Manager
for the Georgia Public
Library Service. She
holds a B.A. in African
American Studies, an
M.L.I.S. from the
University of
Pittsburgh, and is
completing her Masters
of Archival Studies at
Clayton State.*

What attracted you to the archives profession?

The desire to assist in the preservation of materials that tell the story of communities and families. I am a genealogist and I would like to help in collecting and preserving items to help individuals trace their family's roots.

What's your favorite part about the job?

My favorite part of my job is interacting with staff from the public libraries and with my coworkers. I also enjoy the Tech Boot Camps, which provides an opportunity for IT managers to come together to learn and share about tech solutions and tech trends in libraries across Georgia.

What's the most interesting piece that you've encountered?

The most interesting piece (or, in this case, collection) I've come across is the library histories that were written in the early 1960s. They came about as a result of a request from Lucille Nix, one of the early state librarians. What's interesting about the collection is that the histories range from a single page to a dissertation. I hope to get an opportunity to explore the collection in more depth in the coming months.

What advice do you have for new members?

I would tell a new member to talk to archivists who are doing what you think you would like to do. Join groups, find an archivist mentor and volunteer at a local archives to get some hands on experience if you are not currently working in an archival position. Stay abreast of the changing trends in archival science. Also, work to make sure that the collections you manage are inclusive, where the "voices" tell the full story, not just part of it.

**New book published by
Kaye Lanning Michew**

Managing Local Government Archives, co-authored by Kaye Lanning Michew was published in July by Rowman and Littlefield this month. She and John Slate, City Archivist of Dallas, Texas, wrote the book to help both people who have worked for years with government records and those who are new to the profession.

MEMBER NEWS

Brenda Banks, SGA President (1988) and SGA Fellow (2009), passed away in July. She was a 1971 graduate of Spelman College where she received a BA in History and a Masters in Library and Information Science with a concentration in archival management from Atlanta University. Banks was an SAA Fellow and Past President of SAA (1995-1996).

Kaye Lanning Minchew, retired Executive Director of the Troup County Archives, received the Bruce Dearstyne Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators (NAGARA) on July 14. In presenting the award, Cathi Carmike, newly elected President of the Association, noted that this career recognition award recognizes NAGARA members who have made a significant contribution to promote and enhance the mission of government archivists.

Amanda Pellerin joined the Archives and Records Management Department at the Georgia Tech Library in August as the Access Archivist. She most recently worked with the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum where she was an archivist in the mandatory review unit. Prior to the Carter Library, Amanda was part of the staff at the Special Collections and Archives Department at Georgia State University. Amanda is the current Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the Society of American Archivists Oral History Section. She holds a Masters in Heritage Preservation from GSU and a Masters in Library and Information Science from Valdosta State University.

PROVENANCE IN THIS ISSUE

Provenance: The Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists, a peer reviewed academic publication, seeks articles on archival theory and practice for the 2016 issue. Please note that the content of the journal is not limited to the state of Georgia, and articles of regional or national significance are welcome. First-time authors are especially encouraged to submit articles for consideration. *Provenance* is also interested in innovative and unique methods for presenting scholarly content.

Articles on archival topics outside of theory and practice which meet publication standards will also be considered. Typical papers should be a Word document, 10-20 pages, double spaced, and formatted according to the 16th edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. Please review information for contributors: <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/provenance/policies.html>. Articles are to be submitted utilizing Provenance's new online system: <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/provenance/>.

For additional information contact Editor Heather Oswald at: provenance@soga.org. Calls for articles will be issued in early 2017.

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