History/Archives Communities Rally to Assist in Katrina aftermath

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As relief and recovery efforts continue along the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, work is concentrating on assessments of damage to museums, libraries, archives, historic structures, and sites of historic interest. This effort takes on special importance in a part of the country that is especially rich with historic sites, artifacts, and archives.

As reports continue to be logged in by the American Association of Museums (see http://www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/news/HurricaneFirstReports.cfm), it appears that in spite of individual horror stories, historic sites in New Orleans, since they generally were constructed on higher land, were fortunate. The French Quarter is relatively dry and intact. Locations such as the Cafe du Monde, Preservation Hall, and St. Louis Cathedral appear to have survived the brunt of the storm. Museum directors have also determined that the New Orleans Museum of Art, home to one of the most important collections in the south, has also been spared from severe damage. However, other sections of the city were

— See KATRINA on page 12

SGA Seeks New Editor for Provenance
By Susan Hoffius, Managing Editor

The Provenance Search Committee for the Society of Georgia Archivists is seeking candidates for the position of the editor of Provenance, the journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists. The new editor will be appointed for a term of three years beginning with the 2006 issue; however, the ideal candidate should, if possible, be available to work with the current editorial staff on the 2005 issue.

Among the duties and responsibilities of the editor are:
• Manages the publication and distribution of Provenance

— See PROVENANCE on page 4

2005 Annual Meeting

Archives In Binary: Electronic Records, Digital Surrogates, and Business as Usual

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Society of Georgia Archivists will take place in Augusta, Georgia November 2-4, 2005. A pre-conference workshop, “Exhibits Made Simple,” will be taught on Wednesday, November 2, by Wesley Chenault and Michael Rose. The workshop and all program sessions (see preliminary program on page 7) will be held at the Augusta Towers Hotel and Convention Center, 2651 Perimeter Parkway, Augusta, GA 30909. The Thursday evening reception and auction (see story on page 10) will take place at the Marbury Center, 1257 Broad Street in downtown Augusta.

The theme for this year’s program, “Archives In Binary,” is an exploration of the opportunities and challenges presented by electronic records. While

— See MEETING on page 5
The Society of Georgia Archivists is a nonprofit organization established to provide an effective means of communication and cooperation among all individuals employed in archives and manuscript repositories in the state; to promote the preservation and use of the manuscripts and archival resources of the state; to increase the knowledge of archival theories and practices; to encourage the publication of finding aids; and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines.

The SGA Newsletter is issued four times a year. All subscriptions are for the calendar year and are based on membership dues to the Society of Georgia Archivists.

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

The SGA Newsletter invites advertisements for archival products and services as space permits and at the editor’s discretion. Ads must be accompanied by a check made payable to the Society of Georgia Archivists. Deadlines for submissions for articles and camera-ready advertisements are February 1st, May 1st, August 1st, and November 15th.

For article submission and advertisement information, please contact:
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Calendar of Events

By Wesley Chenault

Exhibitions

October 1-30, 2005 - Scarecrows in the Garden, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta, GA, www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org


Events

October 1-9, 2005 - Georgia Archives Week, Discover Hidden Treasures

November 2-4, 2005 - 36th Annual Meeting of the Society of Georgia Archivists, Augusta, Georgia

Conferences and Workshops


October 28, 2005 - Introduction to Grants for Preservation, SOLINET (Web-based training), www.solinet.net


November 9, 2005 - Preservation Management, SOLINET, Atlanta, GA, www.solinet.net

November 11, 2005 - Digital Content Management: Compliance in the Digital Age, SOLINET (Web-based training), www.solinet.net

PROVENANCE, from page 1 —

yearly basis and coordinates the selection of the Gracy Award recipient.

• Oversees all aspects of production and distribution of the journal, coordinates the activities of the editorial staff and editorial board, and ensures the timely production of the journal.

• Solicits and selects, with advice of editorial board, materials for inclusion in Provenance.

• Assigns journal articles to members of the editorial staff and editorial board for review for content and style, keeping to established timetables and journal requirements.

• Serves as liaison with authors and assigned copy editor on necessary revisions.

• Calls and chairs a minimum of two editorial staff and board meetings each year, one at the annual meeting of SGA and one, preferably, at the SGA annual meeting.

• Consults with Treasurer by December 1 to determine the Provenance budget for the next fiscal year and establishes pricing for individual issues of the journal.

For a complete list of job responsibilities, please refer to the SGA handbook at: http://www.soga.org/handbook/ahproved.html. Interested persons should send a letter of interest with a brief statement of qualifications to Susan Hoffius at hoffius@musc.edu. The position will remain open until filled. Qualified candidates will be recommended to the SGA Board for appointment.
archives will always include traditional media, “born digital” electronic records and patron demand for digital surrogates of archival resources are increasingly expanding the nature of archival work. Storage, preservation, access, reference, and the human resources that create and manage these digital collections are all impacted by the growth of a technologically-dependent world.

This year’s annual meeting will explore the implications of electronic records and digitization and suggest practical solutions for tackling what can be an unfamiliar and overwhelming body of material.

Meeting packets have been mailed to SGA members, and a registration form is also available on the SGA web page. Early registration (postmarked by October 26th) for members is $75.00. After that date, registration will be $95.00. This includes all breaks, business luncheon and the reception. A separate registration is required for the pre-conference workshop; cost is $60 for SGA members.

More information about the meeting is available at:

Annual meeting home: http://www.soga.org/am/2005/am.html
Program: http://www.soga.org/am/2005/program.html
Lodging information: http://www.soga.org/am/2005/lid.html

Special Session Added to SGA Annual Meeting
By Kayla Barrett

On Thursday, Nov. 3rd at 3:30 p.m., SGA will host a special session on disaster response to libraries and local records repositories affected by Hurricane Katrina. Christine Wiseman, Georgia Archives Preservation Services Manager, was a member a team of first responders to libraries and records repositories who visited three coastal counties of Mississippi Sept. 14-16 (See related story on page 15.) Christine will show photos taken on the trip and report on the conditions which the team found and the recommendations made. We hope that this presentation will spur SGA members to take a fresh look at disaster preparedness at their institutions, so please join us for an interesting and informative program.
Georgia News

Augusta State Celebrates Archives Week with Program on Local Composer J. Louis Sayre
By John O'Shea, Special Collections, Augusta State University

In celebration of Georgia Archives Week, Reese Library of Augusta State University will present a program “Augusta’s Hidden Music Treasure: J. Louis Sayre.”

Mr. Sayre was a native Augusta musician and composer who was very active in the 1910’s and 1920’s music scene in the area.

The highlight of the week will be a presentation beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, including performances of some of his music by students and faculty at Augusta State University as well as a slide show and dramatic reading of Sayre anecdotes.

There will also be displays during the month of October of Sayre memorabilia and original compositions.

For more information, please contact:
Mellie Kerins
Outreach Librarian
Reese Library,
Augusta State University
Augusta, GA
mkerins@aug.edu

Georgia Archives Week
By Jody L. Thompson, Co-chair, Georgia Archives Week, 2005

The state-wide celebration of Georgia Archives Week will take place October 1-9, 2005. The purpose of the Archives Week is to celebrate the value of Georgia’s historical records, publicize the many ways historical records enrich our lives, and recognize those who maintain our communities’ historical records.

We encourage you to think of ways your organization or local government can celebrate Archives Week. Your activity does not have to be directly related to the theme, “Discover Hidden Treasures,” but does need to focus on the importance of archival records.

If you would like to list your event on the Archives Week’s web site, please send information to archivesweek@soga.org or call Jody Thompson at 404-894-9626. Events are listed at http://www.soga.org/aw/2005/descriptions.html

Georgia Tech Announces Processing of Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill Collection
By Jody L. Thompson, Archives & Records Management, GA Institute of Technology

Georgia Tech Archives announces the processing of the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills Records (MS #004). Founded in Atlanta during the late 1860’s, the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills operated under the management of Jacob Elsas and his descendants for more than a century. The processed portion of this collection documents the business activities and concerns of management and workers in the Atlanta mill during the early twentieth century. Materials relating to the 1914-1915 strike in Atlanta include the correspondence of Oscar Elsas, transcripts of testimonies given before the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations, and a group of operative reports. Correspondence and operative reports also provide some documentation of union activities and working conditions at other Fulton Bag mills, including those in St. Louis, Brooklyn, Dallas, and New Orleans.

Click on http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/FindingAids/?/MS004/full to link to the finding aid for this collection. The Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills Photographs (VAM #004) are also available (http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/FindingAids/?/VAM004/full).
Treasure-trove of Papers on Afghanistan, Russia, and Middle East Given to Carter Library

By Tony Clark, Public Affairs, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum

Former Ambassador John Gunther Dean sheds new light on a wide array of international issues in documents donated to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library. The unclassified papers cover topics ranging from the sinking of the Russian nuclear submarine Koursk in August 2000 to the role Israel played in supplying high technology and weaponry to India.

“This new donation of material will give historians a clearer understanding of today’s international events and relationships,” said Robert Bohanan, Deputy Director of the Carter Presidential Library. Researchers will gain a better knowledge of Afghanistan today after reading Dean’s papers beginning in the late 1980’s on U.S. involvement in setting a timetable for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. In addition, Ambassador Dean’s materials provide new insights on India’s relationship with Russia and Israel.

John Gunther Dean served as U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Denmark, Lebanon, Thailand, and India during a Foreign Service career that stretched from 1956 to 1989. This new donation of papers to the Carter Presidential Library is designed to supplement the many confidential papers Dean donated to the Carter Library last year. Documents in the first donation cover the Ambassador’s service from 1967 to 1977 and have been declassified. Those papers are currently available to the public. They cover the following events:

2) Mr. Dean’s service as Deputy for Civil Operations and Rural Development (CORDS) to the military commander of military region 1 in Vietnam (1970-1972)
3) Mr. Dean’s service in Laos where he helped end 20 years of warfare (1972-1973)
4) Ambassador to Cambodia (1974-1975)
5) Ambassador to Denmark (1975-1978)

Ambassador Dean’s service in Lebanon (1978-1981) is in the process of being made available to the public. His subsequent postings in Thailand and India will be declassified as approval is obtained.

While in Vietnam (1970-1972), Mr. Dean helped the Vietnamese protect the Cham Museum in Danang, at the request of President Nixon. At the end of the Vietnam conflict, not a single piece of sculpture was missing from the museum. President Nixon’s instructions that the museum be protected are referred to favorably in the museum guidebook, which is presented in five languages. The Cham Museum in Danang is now one of Vietnam’s leading tourist attractions.
The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board is trying to reach university professors early in the school year to encourage them to keep the awards program in mind as they develop student projects throughout the year. If you know of teachers or students who would be interested in the awards program, please let them know about this opportunity.

The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board has several award categories for undergraduate students, historians, and researchers:

- Student Research Using Historical Records, Undergraduate Level
- Documenting Georgia’s History
- Research Using the Holdings of an Archives

You can apply for yourself or nominate another person or program. You can obtain instructions and forms as well as view previous award winners at www.GeorgiaArchives.org; select “Who Are We” and then “Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board.” **Submission deadline is June 1st, 2006.**

GHRAB established the Outstanding Archives Awards Program in 2003 to recognize outstanding efforts in archives and records work in Georgia. By publicly recognizing excellent achievements, the Board strives to inspire others. For more information, please contact: Elizabeth Aloi Barr
Georgia Archives, 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260
678-364-3718, FAX 678-364-3860, ebarr@sos.state.ga.us

**Brunswick’s Liberty Shipyard History Goes Online at DLG**

*By Toby Graham, Director, Digital Library of Georgia*

By 1942, German U-boats had already destroyed more than 500 million tons of Allied shipping. In that year, the U. S. Maritime Commission chose 16 sites - including Brunswick, Georgia - to build the aptly-named Liberty ships. J. A. Jones Construction Company completed 85 Liberty ships (as well as 14 Knot ships) at the Brunswick shipyard in support of the Allied effort during World War II. Now internet users can explore this remarkable story online through GALILEO’s Digital Library of Georgia in *Ships for Victory: J. A. Jones Company and Liberty Ships in Brunswick, Georgia*, at http://www.galileo.usg.edu/express?link=vsbg, which incorporates digitized versions of original historical photography housed at the Three Rivers Regional Library System. Georgia HomePLACE encouraged this collaborative digitization project, supported with Federal LSTA funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Georgia Public Library Service, a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

*Ships for Victory* speaks to the truly massive effort of 16,000 workers in constructing a total of 99 cargo ships at the Brunswick shipyard between 1943 and 1945. Of these, 85 were ocean-crossing Liberty ships, while 14
NAME: Kent Woynowski

INSTITUTION: Georgia Tech Archives and Records Management

SGA MEMBER Since: April 2005

VITAE: B.A. in Philosophy, Loyola University New Orleans; M.S. in Library and Information Science, Simmons College

JOB DESCRIPTION: In support of the Institute’s instructional and research mission, the Digital Collections Archivist is responsible for identifying and collecting archival materials including campus e-publications, born-digital materials, and other archival collections, some of which may be selected for digital conversion and web access via the library-run GA Tech Institutional Repository SMARTech. The Digital Collections Archivist manages the campus e-publications program and trains and assist campus units in using SMARTech to submit them. The archivist participates in a team environment in refining the collecting scopes of the Archives and Digital Initiatives Departments, in devising selection and appraisal criteria, and carries out collecting and appraisal functions for these departments. The archivist prepares collections for digital conversion in conjunction with the Digital Initiatives Dept., and serves as a liaison to Digital Initiatives from the Archives.

MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF YOUR JOB: I spend a lot of time just browsing our collections selecting materials to scan. Discovering the hidden treasures, to steal the theme of this year’s Georgia Archives Week in a collection is just about every archivist’s favorite thing.

FAVORITE PASTIME: Gardening, music, and computers

COMMENTS ON WORK OR PROFESSION: I’m most excited about bringing materials to the public that they may have never known existed otherwise. All the technology and technobabble is just the means to that end. I’d like to help make the Archives a valuable resource for not only those interested in Georgia Tech history but the history of Atlanta as well: its buildings, its people, and its neighborhoods.

were smaller coastal freighters called Knot ships. The massive Brunswick shipyard could build six separate ships simultaneously. Most of the Brunswick Liberty ships served the needs of the American Merchant Marine, although 12 were loaned to Great Britain. While a few Brunswick-built ships were lost (to torpedoes, mines, and wrecks) during World War II, many survived to serve the maritime needs of the postwar world. Today all the Brunswick Liberty ships are gone, and a few Knot ships continue in new roles - but Brunswick’s significant contribution to America’s war effort is not forgotten!

The new Ships for Victory web site allows visitors to search or browse the collection of online photographic images, and there is an extensive online finding aid that provides a detailed inventory of the collection. The web site also provides extensive orientation and contextual materials to help visitors better understand the significance and meaning of those historical artifacts. The “Building Liberty Ships in Brunswick” essay provides overall orientation to the shipyard operations, the shipyard workers, and the ships they produced. The “Ships Constructed in Brunswick” table provides details about each of the Liberty and Knot ships built in Brunswick. Additional sections describe related archival materials, related links, and suggested readings.

Ships for Victory: J. A. Jones Company and Liberty Ships in Brunswick, Georgia is part of the Digital Library of Georgia, a GALILEO initiative based at the University of Georgia Libraries. Visit the Digital Library of Georgia, your gateway to Georgia’s history and culture online, at http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu.

The recently redesigned web site includes improved searching and browsing capabilities for its own online collections as well as the ability to find online resources at many related institutions across the state (and beyond). Access is free to the public and no password is required.
Gulley Scholarship Winner
By Gilbert Head, Chair, SGA Scholarship Committee

I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2005 Gulley Scholarship award is Missy Brandt, from Savannah, GA. Ms. Brandt has accepted the award with thanks, and looks forward to seeing us all in Augusta in November.

The Gulley Award covers registration for the organization’s annual meeting, up to $100 for related expenses, and a one year membership in SGA.

5th Annual Auction for SGA Scholarship Funds

WHERE: The Marbury Center, Augusta, GA
WHEN: Thursday, November 3, 2005
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

100% of the proceeds of this auction will go towards scholarships and awards administered by SGA. Items can either be brought in person to the SGA Annual Meeting in November, or sent to the following address: Gilbert Head, University Archives, Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-1641.

(Questions about the auction can be addressed to the same place, or to eghead@uga.edu) If you are bringing the item to Augusta, please plan to drop it off at the auction table during registration. This table will also provide a place to make a “silent bid” for those unable to participate in the live auction.

If you are planning to contribute something, please prepare a 3” X 5” card for each item with your name, a brief description and any details which you think might enhance sale of the item, whether you wish to target the proceeds to a specific fund (the Carroll Hart Scholarship to attend the Georgia Archives Institute; the Larry Gulley Scholarship to attend the Annual Meeting; the Edward Weldon Scholarship to attend the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting; or the David B. Gracy II Award [administered by the Editorial Board of Provenance]), and whether or not you wish to have an assigned minimum bid (though we ask that you limit this last request, as the object of the auction is to raise money for these various worthy funds).

Bring your money (we’ll be set up to take cash or checks, but not credit cards) and your finely honed bidding skills, and prepare to have a splendid time as we help our scholarship funds grow. So heed yet again the clarion call of Jim Dandy (the official sock monkey of the SGA Auction), and excavate your spare groats and farthings, and come to Augusta ready to bid on treasures unimagined!

Scholarships and Awards

Membership Directory Updates

The following are new members, renewals, and address changes reported since the last newsletter. The online SGA Membership Directory is available to current members at www.soga.org. Please report address changes to Sybil McNeil, SGA Administrative Assistant, admin@soga.org.

NEW MEMBERS:
John M. Perkins
Reference Services Librarian
Walter F. George School of Law
Mercer University
Macon, GA

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Georgia Historical Society
Manuscripts Archivist
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Fax: 912-651-2831
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Pooler, GA 31322

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Grants Administrator
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Lawrence V. Johnson Library
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Kenneth H. Thomas Jr.
Historian
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Atlanta, GA 30303-2316
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MOBILE COUNTY PROBATE COURT ARCHIVES
On July 29, 2005, Probate Judge Don Davis honored Vivian M. Gordon for service as a volunteer in the court’s archives department with a presentation of a resolution from the Mobile County Commission. A reception honoring Gordon was also held in the “old” Mobile Press Building where the archives, records and imaging departments are housed. Mrs. Gordon is a retired legal secretary who has lived in Mobile County since the 1920s. For the past 5 ½ years, Gordon volunteered at the archives working on a project to index the court’s Miscellaneous Books, some 30 books of approximately 600 pages each, containing information for Mobile County for the years 1815 until 1909. The books were found to contain all types of records, including marriage contracts, divorces, and foreign wills; slave sales, auctions and emancipations; judicial estate divisions, claims, settlements and inventories; steamships/steamboat ownerships and registrations; early incorporation records; Confederate soldier discharges; patents, etc. Gordon’s work has resulted in an index of some 40,000 entries than runs to over 1,000 pages. For more information contact Coll’ette King, Archives Dept., Probate Court of Mobile County at 251-574-4941 or cking@mobile-county.net

TRENHOLM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE ARCHIVES
Documents and artifacts from the Rufus Lewis, Idessa Redden, and Gwen Patton Collections housed at Trenholm State Technical College will be on display at the Voting Rights Movement Interpretative Center in Lowndes County, Ala., which is managed by the National Park Service; the Rosa Parks Museum Annex in Montgomery, Ala.; and a traveling exhibit of the Smithsonian Institute. For more information contact Trenholm Tech Archivist Gwen Patton at 334-420-4475 or gwenpatton_tstc@yahoo.com.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM ARCHIVES
The UAB Archives has recently processed a small collection of the papers of Dr. William Harrison Wilkerson (1836-1902), a native of Troup County, Georgia, who graduated from Alabama’s first medical school in 1857 and later migrated to Mississippi following the Civil War. The Graefenberg Medical Institute operated in Dadeville, Tallapoosa County from 1852 until
not so fortunate. Virtually everything in the Latin Quarter and the Garden District suffered some damage.

Staff members of the Historic New Orleans Collection were able to enter the French Quarter with an escort of state police. Their buildings and collections were “high and dry” and much of the material has been moved to institutions elsewhere in Louisiana. It has been reported that while the city’s archives was spared from flooding, concerns remain about documents left exposed to the humidity which may result in their destruction from mold.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) has set up a Historical Resources Recovery Fund, which can be viewed at http://www.aaslh.org/katrina.htm.

Organizations needing financial support in this recovery effort include the New Orleans Public Library, which houses a number of un-microfilmed records of the city’s civil, criminal, and probate courts and the University of New Orleans, which houses the records of the state’s Supreme Court. Reports also indicate that the New Orleans Notarial Records have been packed into freezer trucks to ensure their preservation.

Reports are also coming in from other areas along the Gulf Coast. At least twenty Mississippi libraries have endangered collections and continue to be without power. Public libraries in Biloxi and Pascagoula reportedly suffered severe damage.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is reaching out to the history and cultural communities and is working closely with the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) to gather as much information as possible about all of the cultural institutions and specifically determine which have been directly affected by Katrina. FEMA is hiring 15-20 Historic Preservation Specialists for the purpose of providing technical assistance to the disaster programs to fulfill the necessary legal responsibilities under various historic preservation laws. In addition, the specialists will assist FEMA in integrating historic preservation considerations into the development and review of projects proposed for funding. For interested parties, additional information regarding the job description and contact information can be found at: http://www.planetizen.com/node/17342.

In an effort to help with the prompt recovery of historic places, collections, and records in the future, the National Park Service (NPS) has created the Historic Preservation Learning Portal, which can be viewed at www.historicpreservation.gov. Working in collaboration with FEMA, the United States Coast Guard, the Department of Homeland Security, and 15 additional Federal agencies, the Historic Preservation Learning Portal is a powerful new tool to provide a direct link to all historic preservation information on the Internet. Individuals can quickly find Federal agency sites, the sites of historic preservation offices, state historic preservation offices, and the sites of non-profit and professional historical organizations. Currently over 1,000 historic preservation sites have been indexed by the portal.

The Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) has joined with the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and the National Association for Government Archivists and Records Administration (NAGARA) in issuing a joint statement recognizing the tragic losses and offering continued support as the region rebuilds.

1861 and was the first medical school opened in the state of Alabama.

The archives also recently provided several images to the Association of American Medical Colleges for use in an in-house display in their offices in Washington, DC, a display that documents the history of American medical education in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

In April, UAB Historical Collections served as hosts for three meetings, the annual meetings of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS), and the Medical Museums Associations (MeMA). Over 400 people from around the US and from Canada, England, Germany, Japan, Peru, etc., traveled to Birmingham for these meetings.

For more information on the UAB Archives, please contact University Archivist Tim Pennycuff at 205-934-1896 or tpenny@uab.edu.
Team of Archivists Reports from Mississippi

Prepared by SAA President Richard Pearce-Moses, president@archivists.org, Reprinted from ARCHIVES@LISTSERV.MUOHIO.EDU

September 21, 2005—Three weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, a small team was able to visit some of the archival repositories in the areas of Mississippi hit hardest by the storm. The team sought to show the profession's support for archivists and to ask the people on the front lines how the profession can respond in ways that will truly help given the current situation.

The team included David Carmichael, President of the Council of State Archivists and State Archivist for Georgia; Richard Pearce-Moses, President of the Society of American Archivists and Director of Digital Government Information for the Arizona State Library and Archives; and Debra Hess Norris, Chair of Heritage Preservation and Chair of the Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware. Other partners who helped organize the trip included the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA), the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the Council of State Library Administrators (COSLA), and the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA).

On Sunday, September 18, Norris led an informal workshop on recovery of wet photographic materials. That evening, the staff of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), including Department Director Hank Holmes and State Archivist Julia Young, briefed the team on what they had seen on visits to hurricane-ravaged areas during the previous two weeks.

On Monday, September 19, MDAH staff members Grady Howell and Jeff Rogers led the team on site visits to several repositories in Waveland, Gulfport, and Biloxi. The team observed that collections typically were either lost entirely or survived the storm but were damaged subsequently by high humidity and mold, with few collections in between. The Waveland City Hall and two buildings at Beauvoir (the Jefferson Davis home) were demolished, leaving only a slab or a pile of rubble; records left in the buildings were destroyed. At other sites, records in buildings without power were damp from the high humidity, often exacerbated by water damage to the building. Many records at the Biloxi Public Library were submerged and will need to be salvaged. Much of the damage to records came from a storm surge that swept through buildings, destroyed their contents, and then retreated. This suggests that conditions may be different in New Orleans, where the water resulted from a broken levy rather than a storm surge and where damage has probably resulted from standing water rather than surging water.

ACA Responds to Certified Archivists’ Plight in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina

Reprinted from http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/

The Academy of Certified Archivists has extended emergency member benefits to the Certified Archivists from the Katrina impacted part of the Gulf coast.

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the Academy will waive membership dues for a period of 1 year for any C.A. requesting this benefit who lived or worked in the devastated areas of Louisiana. ACA has also authorized the waiver of the one-time ACA membership fee for anyone who took and passed the exam in 2005 and inhabited the area of the Gulf coast devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Eligible ACA candidate must apply for both benefits to the Academy’s Headquarters in Albany, New York.

If Hurricane Katrina impacted C.A.’s are due to recertify in 2006 or 2007, the Academy will extend the period of time allowed for accumulating recertification credits by 2 years. If a Certified Archivist living in the affected area is scheduled to recertify in the years 2006 or 2007, he or she may request an extension and submit petitions for re-certification in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

The Academy of Certified Archivists will donate $1,000 USD to the Society of Southwest Archivists/Society of...
There was little evidence of paper in the debris surrounding homes and businesses. Shreds of fabric and plastic were caught in trees, but it appears that the power of the storm surge completely destroyed paper. A few plastic data disks and videotapes were scattered around, although caked in grime, and an occasional photograph was seen among the debris. In a few instances, a file cabinet could be seen standing (although often missing drawers), and in every case observed, the records were already heavy with mold.

Nothing can be done for the collections that were destroyed. The top priority in protecting surviving records is to arrest the growth of mold. For those records that are merely damp, getting them into an air-conditioned environment is a high priority. Power is still off in many areas, however, and even where it is available there is the concern that it is not always safe to restore power to damaged buildings. It is critical that these records be removed from damaged buildings to ensure that they are not destroyed during efforts to clean up the buildings. The (smaller number of) records that were soaked must be (and are being) transferred to freezer trucks when possible, but often access to those collections is complicated by hazardous conditions in the buildings.

At the same time that individuals are working to care for their collections, they are also struggling to recover their own lives. One individual with whom we spoke has lost his home, and another had six feet of water on the first floor. Both, though, were hard at work sorting through damaged records. Their commitment to their work is admirable.

Although repositories could potentially use volunteers to help with recovery, the reality is that currently there is no way to accommodate volunteers. In the affected areas, there is no lodging, no potable water, no food. Lodging in Jackson, about 150 miles from the coast, is scarce; MDAH staff members have been commuting three hours each way on a nearly daily basis.

Stabilizing the records can buy time. If damp records can be dehumidified to halt mold growth, and if wet records can be frozen, people can then take some time to do more careful planning, to find out what FEMA will pay for, and to identify other funding sources. At some time in the future, it will be possible for volunteers to be accommodated.

The team repeatedly asked, “What do you need?” Here’s what we heard:

- An air-conditioned space to which damp and wet records can be moved.
- Someone to help manage logistics for the transfer and control of records stored in this facility and, in the future, to coordinate volunteers.
- Space for accommodating volunteers.
- A telephone hotline, staffed by experts, that members of the public might call for advice on recovering their personal papers, photographs, and other records.

MDAH staff members currently are spearheading recovery work, but it is placing enormous demands on their staff and budget. Staff members of the National Archives and Records Administration—and Allen Weinstein personally—are helping to remove bureaucratic barriers. NARA already has released some funds to Mississippi and Louisiana to help with immediate expenses, and it is looking for additional funds to support these efforts.

It may be a month before repositories will be ready for volunteer help in salvaging documents. In the interim, professional organizations must work together to help find solutions to the immediate problems described above.

The team is putting together a document of “lessons learned.” But one lesson stands out among all others: Even modest efforts at disaster preparedness and prevention often made the difference between destruction and survival of essential records. That’s a lesson everyone can and should take to heart.

ACA, from page 13

American Archivists Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund for the assistance of Katrina impacted archivists and archival materials or facilities. These funds are a combination of donations and funds held by the ACA.

While these are limited and measured efforts, we hope that they give encouragement to our friends and colleagues who face such difficult times ahead.
Hurricane Katrina Preservation Assessments in Mississippi


Between September 14th and September 16th approximately two weeks following Hurricane Katrina, Ann Frellsen, collections conservator at Emory University, and Christine Wiseman, preservation services manager at The Georgia Archives, conducted assessments of archives and historical repositories in the three coastal counties of Mississippi damaged by Hurricane Katrina. We were among the first to look at the conditions of important records in the areas most devastated by the hurricane.

Under the auspices of the Mississippi Archives, a small team visited nineteen sites that included public libraries, city halls, court houses, historical societies, museums, and private collections. Because of time constraints, we focused on examining damaged permanent and vital records in government facilities, and on local history and genealogical collections in public libraries. In nearly every instance, preventing or halting mold growth was a major concern, given the lack electrical power and the expectation that power would not be available for several more days or weeks.

In some cases we were able to confirm or discount earlier reports of damage. Public libraries in Bay St. Louis and Pascagoula, for example, were already on their way towards recovery, despite earlier reports of severe damage to their collections. Mold remediation and building drying activities, such as removing wet carpeting and drywall, were already underway. In the case of the Pascagoula Public Library, only several hundred volumes of replaceable materials were lost. Staff were concerned about the condition of the local history and genealogy collection, which was expected to remain in the building without power for several more weeks. The Biloxi Public Library suffered extreme damage to their general collection; the focus was on salvaging as much of the local history collection as possible.

Some government buildings had basic services restored and were open to the public. Moss Point City Hall and Hancock County Court House in Bay St. Louis, for example, were open to the public, despite the damp and moldy volumes air drying in their hallways. We were told that “an official” had told people that everything submerged in the floodwaters had to be thrown out. That directive may have caused vital records to be discarded before we arrived. We noted the amounts of damaged materials at all sites, so that the plans could be made for freezer trucks and climate controlled storage.

In all cases we talked to staff about the importance of taking personal safety precautions and trained people to use respirators properly. Many organizations are in dire need of freezing capabilities, particularly for materials that were submerged in the flood water. In addition, there is a great need for assistance to private collections that are not eligible for federal funding.

We have learned that some of these materials have since been taken to climate controlled storage. As conditions improve and more services are restored, more teams can continue to go into the devastated communities. Gasoline availability and the lack of accommodations for visitors may continue to hamper preservation efforts.
SOLINET Offers Katrina Response Services
By Kate Nevins, Executive Director, SOLINET, knevins@solinet.net

Friends and Colleagues:
I would like to update you on SOLINET’s support of libraries and cultural institutions in response to Hurricane Katrina. Even as the humanitarian efforts continue, recovery efforts are underway in some libraries and recovery planning has started for others. Other institutions do not yet know about the status of their facilities and collections, and the assistance they will require is unknown. In addition, libraries across the region are gearing up to provide service for evacuees, including internet access, books, and library services for those in shelters. As a regional cooperative with long standing programs in preservation and disaster recovery, SOLINET has been reaching out with our members and partners to serve those libraries which have suffered damage. We would appreciate your assistance in publicizing the availability of the following information resources and assistance programs for libraries and cultural institutions in the hurricane zone. Also, please let other institutions know that they can support stricken libraries by using the clearinghouse features listed below. These services are not limited to SOLINET members.

INFORMATION CONSULTING AND REFERRAL
SOLINET’s Preservation Services
Department is providing telephone, email and web based support for impacted libraries on a wide range of topics, including collection stabilization, drying procedures for historic buildings, recovery of damaged materials, referrals to recovery services, and advice on setting response priorities. Call Tina Mason, Manager of Preservation at (800) 999-8558, email at tmason@solinet.net, or check web based resources at www.solinet.net by following the “Katrina response” and “Preservation” links. These resources include downloadable publications on such topics as drying wet materials and mold mitigation. The site also includes a database of vendors who provide supplies, equipment and services which are useful in recovery activities.

SOLINET’s preservation staff can assist with consultation and advice. In addition, we have identified expert volunteers to assist with disaster recovery efforts. These volunteers have a wide variety of expertise which we will match with each institution’s needs.

Several grants programs are being created or extended for affected libraries and cultural institutions. As this information becomes available, SOLINET will use our extensive grants experience to provide consulting and assistance for those developing applications.

TRAINING AND ON SITE ASSISTANCE
SOLINET is working with state libraries and archives in the hurricane zone to schedule training to prepare library and cultural institution staff and volunteers to assist in materials recovery. These arrangements will be finalized and publicized shortly. We are gathering information about the status of institutions in need of onsite assistance and will respond as needs become clear.

HURRICANE KATRINA WEB SITE
SOLINET’s Katrina Response site (http://www.solinet.net/KatrinaResponse) is serving as a clearinghouse for information on collection salvage and recovery, emergency grants, and grant extensions. There are links for those needing temporary housing, financial assistance, non-monetary assistance, employment, and more. It includes:

- Recovery Resources: information about recovery resources, contact information for experts in various subjects, and links to other useful sites.
- Library Needs: a clearinghouse for institutions to indicate what resources they need, such as computers, materials, volunteers, and for institutions to indicate what resources they can provide
- Job Bank: a clearinghouse for library and cultural institution staff left without employment, either temporarily or permanently, and institutions offering short term or permanent employment opportunities
- Grants: information about grant opportunities for impacted institutions and links to related sites (under development)
- Fund Raising: links to the various fund raising efforts for libraries and cultural institutions
- Status Reports: a summary of the status of libraries in the hurricane zone (under development)
- Information will be added to this site as it becomes available.
COORDINATING WITH REGIONAL AND NATIONAL GROUPS
SOLINET communicates regularly with other regional and national organizations to share our plans and knowledge and to learn about the relief and recovery efforts underway by these groups. We’re coordinating our support and activities with such organizations as Heritage Preservation, the Regional Alliance for Preservation, AMIGOS, ASERL, the HBCU Library Alliance, and FEMA. Links the resources available through these other organizations are available at the website above.

SOLINET SERVICES FOR IMPACTED INSTITUTIONS
SOLINET is working to be responsive to the needs of impacted libraries. This includes:
- negotiating subscription credits from database vendor partners for libraries which will be closed for an extended time
- working with OCLC for recreation of libraries’ bibliographic databases if lost
- managing libraries’ ILL supplier/nonsupplier status

Additional activities with other vendor partners will be announced on the “Katrina Response” web site as they are finalized. Please call the SOLINET Help Desk at (800) 999-8558 or email to helpdesk@solinet.net for further information.

The scope and impact of Hurricane Katrina has been horrific. Our hearts and thoughts are with the people along the Gulf Coast. Please join us in working to help libraries and cultural institutions on the road to recovery.

SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund Established

September 21, 2005—The Society of Southwest Archivists and the Society of American Archivists today announced the formation of an Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund—a fund established to address the stabilization and recovery needs of archival repositories that have been directly affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Any repository that holds archival records or special collections and that is located in Hurricane Katrina-affected areas of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, or Mississippi is eligible to apply for this grant. The repository need not be a member of SSA or SAA.

Grant monies may be used for the direct recovery of damaged or at-risk archival materials; such services as freeze drying, storage, transportation of materials, and rental facilities; supplies, including acid-free boxes and folders, storage cartons, cleaning materials, plastic milk crates, and protective gear; and to defray the costs for volunteers or other laborers who assist with the recovery.

How much funding is available? Initially grants of up to $2,000 will be awarded. Additional requests may be considered if funds remain available. Approved grant payments may be made directly to a service provider, upon the grantee’s request, if an itemized invoice is presented. Recipients will be asked to provide a financial accounting of expenditures made using the award within 6 months of receiving the funding.

How will recipients be selected? A review panel comprising four SSA former presidents and the immediate past treasurer, along with one member of the SAA Council, will review applications and select the grant recipients. The committee will score proposals based on the application criteria.

The Society of American Archivists is responsible for financial administration of the fund.

To apply for grant assistance, go to: http://www.archivists.org/katrina/apply.asp.

To make a donation to the SSA-SAA EDA Fund, go to: https://www.archivists.org/katrina/contribute.asp
Katrina/Rita Links
By Pamela W. Coleman

Trying to search for information on the major Internet search engines about how Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita affected archives turns up so many links that aren’t helpful. (No, I don’t need the “archives” of newspapers or blogs, thank you very much.) Included here are some of the main sites to turn to for more information on how the hurricanes affected colleagues and repositories.

HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY INFORMATION
Includes links to the SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund information, the Report of Hurricane Katrina Damage Assessment (in PDF), and “Responding to Hurricane Katrina: Report from Mississippi.” You can also find ways to volunteer your help or donate to your colleagues. Want to keep up with the (relevant) news? Scroll on down to the "Statements, Updates, and News on Recovery Efforts."

SSA CARES
www.ssacares.org
The Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) has established this website to capture and share information about our colleagues and friends from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas who have been affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. You can also see and share photographs of affected institutions and collections.

JOINT STATEMENT ON HURRICANE RELIEF
http://www.archivists.org/statements/katrina.asp
Issued by the Boards of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA), the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA), the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), and the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA)

And a special note for those interested in capturing the sometimes-ephemeral web information:

INTERNET ARCHIVES
The Internet Archive, a non-profit digital library, needs help in finding URL’s of sites and blogs that contain documents of this major disaster.

Please submit links to sites and pages that should be saved for future research. They have worked to archive events such as 9/11 and the tsunami with the generous help of volunteers finding and sending in links. They then save these digital works for the long term and create research tools (for example: http://www.loc.gov/minerva/collect/sept11/index.html and http://web.archive.org).
By Jim Cross

NATIONAL ARCHIVES NEWS: Howard Harner, convicted of stealing over 100 Civil War documents from the National Archives, was sentenced to two years in prison and a $10,000 fine on May 26, 2005. On June 9, 2005 the National Personnel Records Center released the records of nearly 1.2 million enlisted Marines and sailors who served from 1885 to 1938, as well as 150 files of important individuals who have been dead since 1995. On June 16, 2005 the National Archives announced that it had reached a settlement with the estate of Robert L. White for the return of thousands of pages and several artifacts relating to John F. Kennedy which, in a 1965 deed of gift, were supposed to go to the Kennedy Library. An agreement was signed on July 11, 2005 between the National Archives and the FBI to transfer 210 cubic feet of historic FBI records to the Archives, including J. Edgar Hoover’s Official and Confidential Files dating from 1924-1972. The records were made available to the public at the Archives II facility in College Park, Maryland on August 1, 2005. The new Southeast Region Archives in Morrow, Georgia was formally dedicated on July 15, 2005. The National Archives launched a new version of its web site on July 20, 2005. The new site provides portals for different kinds of researchers and professionals, immediate access to America’s Historical Documents,” and a search box on every page, among other changes.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NEWS: On July 26, 2005 the Library of Congress announced two major acquisitions of musical materials: a collection of lyric sketches by Lorenz Hart and 125 additional Oscar Hammerstein II materials from his biographer, Hugh Fordin. The Independent Copyright Committee, which will make recommendations on changes to copyright law in 2006, launched a new web site on August 17, 2005 at www.loc.gov/section108. On August 24, 2004 the Library of Congress added a selection of 448 photographs from the 2,650 photographs found in the records of the National Woman’s Party to the American Memory site. The photographs date mainly from 1913-1922, during the fight for passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women’s suffrage.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS: The Public Interest Declassification Board is funded for FY 2006-2007 by the House version of the Defense Appropriations Act. On May 12, 2005 Representative Henry Waxman of California introduced H.R.2331, the Restore Open Government Act of 2005, which restores the policies that agencies should release information unless they find some harm in doing so, eliminates “unofficial” classification designations, overturns President Bush’s order on presidential records, prohibits the use of secret advisory committees, and promotes the timely declassification of records. The Senate voted to reauthorize the USA PATRIOT Act on July 29, 2005. The Senate version of the bill provides a sunset provision for the controversial section in 2009; the House version extends that period to 2015. The Senate bill also requires that the FBI must provides facts that the records sought under the Act are “relevant to” a counter-espionage or terrorism investigation, as well as that the records deal with a foreign power or agent in some way. The courts established under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act must also assess the facts, not just rubber-stamp the requests. Agency reporting requirements are improved in this version of the bill. As with the House version, it allows challenges to a National Security Letter or a gag order to be heard in a U.S. District Court.

OTHER NEWS: In July 2005 the Smithsonian Institution announced that 60 previously unpublished photographs from the 1925 Scopes “monkey trial” had been found in the records of Science Service, which had been given to the Smithsonian in 1971. A selection of 12 photographs has been posted on the Smithsonian web site at http://siarchives.si.edu/research/scopes.html. The U.S. Government returned physical custody of North Carolina’s copy of the Bill of Rights to the state archives on August 4, 2005. Ownership of the document is still in dispute, however.
HEAD OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, JACK TARVER LIBRARY, MERCER UNIVERSITY (MACON GA)

RESPONSIBILITIES
We seek experienced leadership in promoting and managing archival collections of Mercer University records, Baptist history, and other materials. This position also represents Mercer University in its relationship with the Baptist community and the preservation of denominational heritage. The Head of Special Collections participates in general library administration in addition to Special Collections responsibilities. The Head of Special Collections is a non-tenured track position with faculty rank in the Division of Library Services and reports to the Dean of University Libraries. Duties include formulating and implementing policies and procedures for archives management following professional standards and best practices, including collection development, arrangement, and access to materials, and supervising and training staff and student assistants. The successful candidate will interpret the unit mission to current funding sources and potential donors; be able to relate effectively with the Baptist community and other state Baptist archives; promote the value of primary research to the University community and Baptist historians; interact effectively with University administrative offices in collecting and using Mercer documents; consult regularly with Mercer’s Swilley Library in Atlanta regarding their Special Collections; coordinate the public presence of the Archives through publications, exhibits, website, and finding aids; and provide leadership in exploring new methods of preserving and sharing materials, including digitization projects.

Jack Tarver Library Special Collections actively collects materials related to all Baptist traditions and institutions. It is the official repository of the Georgia Baptist Historical Commission and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and as such collects and preserves Baptist association records, church histories, publications, and other documents. The Mercer University Archives contains publications, papers, and memorabilia related to the history of Mercer University. Special Collections also houses a small collection of rare books.

QUALIFICATIONS
Required: A graduate degree from a regionally or nationally accredited program in library science, archives, or academic discipline related to archives work; at least 5 years of professional work experience in an archival setting; demonstrated knowledge of archival practices and principles; experience with an automated library system and electronic formats in an archival setting; demonstrated understanding of research methods using primary documents; and proven commitment to professional development as evidenced by record of activities and scholarship. Preferred: Significant archives experience in an academic setting; experience with or familiarity with denominational records and church history; and experience with digitization projects and other web-based archives practices.

Interested applicants will need to complete the brief online application at https://www.mercerjobs.com (Vacancy # F06-056) and attach a letter of application, resume and the names and contact information for three references. This is a full-time faculty position. Salary is commensurate with experience. Position will remain open until filled. Mercer University is an AA/EOE/ADA employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Other jobs listed at http://www.soga.org/resources/jobs.html include the following:

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ASSISTANT, EMORY UNIVERSITY (ATLANTA, GA)

MEDIA ASSET MANAGER, GEORGIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING (ATLANTA, GA)

DIGITIZATION LIBRARIAN, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (HATTIESBURG, MS)

POLITICAL PAPERS ARCHIVIST AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES (OXFORD, MS)