In 1987 Lester Sullivan, the Senior Archivist for the Amistad Research Center, visited the Xavier University of Louisiana Library in search of material related to the Creole composer Basile Barès, which Sullivan believed the Library held. The University Librarian, Robert Skinner, escorted Mr. Sullivan to the so called “Rare Book Closet” containing old material that no one in the Library paid much attention to or knew much about.

Mr. Sullivan was overcome with excitement at what he found. Not only did he find material on Barès, but he also discovered a trove of photographs taken by Arthur P. Bedou, one of the preeminent black photographers of the first half of the 20th century and the long-time official photographer for Xavier. In addition, the closet contained a copy of *Les Cenelles*, the first anthology of poetry by African American writers, as well as manuscripts by black authors and signed first editions. Mr. Sullivan recognized the significance of the collection and that he had stumbled onto a major discovery, and encouraged the creation of a proper archive. Agreeing with the need to properly protect this heritage and make it available to researchers, Mr. Skinner, together with Sister Roberta Smith of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS), requested and received permission from the University to create Xavier Archives and Special Collections. The obvious choice to head Xavier Archives was Lester Sullivan, and within the year he was named University Archivist.

Xavier University was founded in 1915 by Mother (now Saint) Katherine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Archbishop James Blank of New Orleans, seeing the need for an institution of high learning for Black Catholics in the city, invited Mother Katherine to create such a school. Originally offering high school courses, in 1917 courses in teacher training were offered to produce teachers for the schools Mother Katherine was starting in poor, rural parishes in Louisiana and Texas. In 1925 the college curriculum was established and the first diplomas were awarded in 1928.

Xavier Archives is comprised of the University records, Special Collections, Rare Books, and Archival Periodicals. Shelf space spreads over 35,000 linear feet. After twenty-five years of adding to the collections, space is limited.

Continued on page 14
THE SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST ARCHIVISTS

The Society of Southwest Archivists is a professional organization established to stimulate and make available research in archival administration and records management; promote sound principles and standards for preserving and administering records; foster opportunities for the education and training of archivists, records managers, and custodians of private papers; strengthen relations with others in allied disciplines; and cooperate with organizations and institutions having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded knowledge.

We invite you to join or extend your membership. All memberships run January through December. A membership form is included inside the back page. Membership registration is also available via the SSA website: http://southwestarchivists.org/.

Southwestern Archivist is the quarterly newsletter of the SSA. The editors give priority to submissions of news items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members. Out-of-region submissions will be published as space is available. Short feature articles on topics and issues relating to current trends in archival enterprise are also welcome. Please query Lauren Goodley (lgoodley@txstate.edu) and Kate L. Blalack (kate.blalack@okstate.edu) if you have any questions about the appropriateness of a proposed article.

Submission process: Please send all final submissions to one of the state liaisons listed below. The preferred submission format is a Word or rtf document attached via email. Articles should include a title as well as the author’s name and employing institution. The editors also encourage photographs or other illustrations relating to each submission. These should be sent as email attachments, with captions for each image included in the text of the e-mail or the article.

Please note that submission may be edited to conform to style conventions and available space. Because of space limitations the editors reserve the right to omit submissions or hold them over for a future issue.

Arizona submissions
Joyce Martin
joyce.martin@asu.edu

Arkansas submissions
Diane Worrell
dfworrel@uark.edu

Louisiana submissions
Hans C. Rasmussen
hrasmuss@lsu.edu

New Mexico submissions
Felicia Lujan
felicia.lujan@state.nm.us

Oklahoma submissions
Misty D. Smith
misty.d.smith@okstate.edu

South Texas submissions
Nikki Lynn Thomas
nikki.thomas@utsa.edu

North Texas submissions
Melissa Gonzales
mgonzales@uta.edu

Out-of-region submissions
Shelly Croteau
shelly.croteau@sos.mo.gov

Leadership Log submissions
Krishna Shenoy
krishnas@jfk.org

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PO Box 301311
Austin, TX 78703-0022

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FROM THE EDITORS

Hello and happy 2013! The first issue of the Southwestern Archivist in 2013 is packed full of information on SSA leadership activities, repository news, and the annual meeting scheduled for May in Austin, Texas. Have a look and learn about the archives of the only Black Catholic university in the US, right here in our area; training and workshop opportunities in the Southwest and at the annual meeting; and new collections, grants, transfers, and exhibits. We’ve even included some information about the Georgia Archives and an invitation to attend the SAA Visual Materials Mid-Winter meeting in Dallas.

We are always accepting timely repository news, so please share your activities with your colleagues. Articles are due for the May issue on April 10.

FOR BREAKING SSA NEWS, CHECK THE WEB

- Check out the SSA Leadership Blog at http://southwestarchivists.org/ for information and announcements of interest to SSA members.
- You can also become a fan of the SSA Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/southwestarchivists and join in the conversation.
- Follow SSA on twitter: @SWArchivists.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS

The Southwestern Archivist extends a very hearty “thank you!” to the advertisers that support this newsletter. Readers, please take note of these advertisers, and keep their support in mind when you need supplies or services.

This issue we have several full-page advertisements, and some new faces in addition to our regular supporters. Join us in thanking all of our advertisers for their continued support of the Southwestern Archivist.

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In the New Year, we find inspiration to tackle those looming, daunting, challenging projects – which can be different for every repository. Some repositories are moving to a new location this year. Others are looking to implement collection management software. Some are planning to present finding aids online for the first time. In my repository, we are coming off of a year of intense reference work related to Rice University’s centennial, and now we are keen to engage in some much-needed housekeeping tasks. We have more ideas for ways to improve things than we do time or staff to handle such grand plans, so we narrowed down our wish list. One of the top projects is to provide advanced search options on our finding aids online, so we will be testing the new ArchivesSpace software (the merged product of Archivists Toolkit and Archon) as well as the California Digital Library’s XTF platform. We have a staff of five archivists with limited IT support, so we will all be working closely as a team to achieve this goal. With such a challenging task, we are thankful for the archives community to whom we can turn for advice. Wish us luck!

SSA is also engaging in housekeeping of a different kind, in implementing our new website with the membership software and event registration. We thank you for your patience during this process as we work out the kinks and fine-tune the system. We hope you will take advantage of the new SSA website’s discussion forum feature “Let’s talk archives!” where you can opt in and enjoy conversation with fellow SSA members. You can ask questions that you might not ask on a larger forum. You can also use SSA’s twitter feature to share news and ask questions, #SWArchivists.

Wishing you all the best in 2013 – and hoping to see you in May for our annual meeting!

SAA Visual Materials Section

The SAA Visual Materials Section midwinter meeting will be held on February 8 and 9 in Dallas, Texas. Most time will be devoted to discussing best practices for born digital visual materials. The midwinter meeting has traditionally served as a forum for discussing future section projects that are incorporated into a three-year plan, as a venue for taking care of administrative items like proposed revisions to the bylaws, and most importantly as an opportunity to network with colleagues with similar interests. We try to keep the meetings casual to promote discussion. In addition to the meetings we also have shared meals and have shared accommodations for those who are interested. This year the meetings will be at a large home provided by John Slate, the City Archivist of Dallas.

For more information and to attend the meeting either in person or virtually, please contact Brett Carnell, VM Section Chair, at bear@loc.gov or (202) 707-9059.
Spring SSA Workshop

Processing and Managing Congressional Papers Workshop will be February 22, 2013 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the University of North Texas - Willis Library, 4th floor classroom.

Congressional papers pose unique challenges to even the most seasoned archivists. This workshop will provide an overview of current thinking on congressional papers including acquisition, appraisal and processing. During this workshop we will look at sample processing plans, address electronic records issues and learn what to do if sensitive or classified documents are found within a collection. We will examine the types of documents typically encountered in congressional collections and their purpose within a congressional office. We will discuss the use of congressional papers in current research, how to promote the use of congressional papers and the unique benefits of holding congressional papers. Participants are encouraged to come ready to discuss challenges they face in their own collections.

Instructor Morgan Davis Gieringer is the Head of Archives and Rare Books at the University of North Texas. She has served as the Head Project Archivist for Congressman Richard A. Gephardt’s papers and as Senior Archivist at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. Between 2008 and 2012 Morgan was Co-editor of the Congressional Papers Roundtable Newsletter. Instructor Robert Lay is the archivist for the Carl Albert Congressional Archives at the University of Oklahoma.

This workshop will inform archivists about the unique nature of congressional papers and special considerations in the acquisition, appraisal and processing of congressional papers. Participants will be better equipped to make the decisions necessary to work with these large and often complicated collections. The cost of the workshop is $80 and is co-sponsored by the University of North Texas Libraries.

To register, contact Leslie Meyer at lmeyer@petroleummuseum.org.

Upcoming Workshops in the SSA Region

A two-day workshop Arrangement and Description of Electronic Records [SAA DAS] will be held March 4th – 5th at the University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, TX. This workshop is also sponsored by the University of Texas at Arlington Library. Registration is limited! For more information workshop, visit the Continuing Education Calendar of the Society of American Archivists website at http://saa.archivists.org/events.

Annual Meeting Pre-Conference Workshops

All pre-conference workshops will be held Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at the conference hotel (Holiday Inn Town Lake Austin) in the Lantana Ballroom.

1. Developing Specifications and RFPs for Recordkeeping Systems [SAA DAS] – This is an SAA full-day workshop for the SAA’s Digital Asset Specialist certificate program taught by Cynthia Ghering. Ghering is director of the University Archives and Historical Collections at Michigan State University (MSU), a position she has held since January of 2008. In 2010 Cynthia led a yearlong, university-wide project to identify current digital asset management efforts on campus and co-authored Digital Curation Planning at Michigan State University for Library Resources & Technical Services.

The development of a fully functional digital archives requires an integrated recordkeeping system that identifies, describes, schedules, and destroys or retains your organization’s born-digital records. The ideal recordkeeping system interfaces with a digital repository used to curate electronic records and support a wide range of archival processes, including preservation and access. Before purchasing or building a recordkeeping system, you need a clear list of systems requirements specific to your organization. From these specifications, you can build a good Request for Proposal (RFP), select a system or vendor, and successfully implement your recordkeeping system.

This class is limited to 35 attendees. SSA members receive a $25 discount off the non-member rate. Use the code RFPS25TX at check out on the SAA website. (http://saa.archivists.org/events).

2. More Product, Less Process – Mike Strom, Wyoming State Archivist and SSA member, will lead a half-day workshop on the More Product Less Process (MPLP) approach to processing. The workshop will include a review of the MPLP principles and examples of how archival repositories have implemented MPLP to speed processing
and increase access to their holdings. Stay tuned to the SSA website and Facebook page about registration for these workshops.

3. Oral History and Archives in Practice – Covering oral history basics such as conducting interviews, managing collections and administering access, this full-day workshop is designed from the viewpoint of the archivist, with the archivist at the center. In addition to reviewing standard methodology, participants will work in teams to practice interviewing, discuss Oral History in the Digital Age, and workshop metadata. Lauren Kata will lead this interactive program. Lauren has over ten years of experience with oral history and archives, as well as being past chair of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Oral History Section. She is currently the Archivist for Collections Management and Digital Access for the Archives of the Episcopal Church, based in Austin. Stay tuned to the SSA website and Facebook page about registration for these workshops.

Please feel free to contact me via phone or email if you have any feedback for the PDC. We are here to serve the continuing education needs of our fellow SSA members!

Leslie Meyer
(432) 683-4403
lmeyer@petroleummuseum.org

ARCHIVES NEXT

SAA Council member Kate Theimer shares her perspective and encourages discussion on archives topics. Recent posts include a list of fundraising programs for those wishing to give back to archives, a link to the SAA annual meeting task force requesting feedback on specific issues, and announcement of an archives book club blog. Like Off the Record, Archives Next is not an official SAA communication, but meant to encourage discussion and communication.

http://www.archivesnext.com
The SSA Nominating Committee is proud to announce the slate of candidates for the 2013 election.

Vice-president/President-Elect
- Tim Nutt
- Katie Salzmann

Treasurer
- Mat Darby

Executive Board (three positions)
- Kate Blalack
- Felicia Thomas
- Brian Collins
- Emily Hyatt
- Mary Manning

Nominating Committee (one position)
- Mark Lambert
- Melissa Gottwald
- Joyce Martin

Scholarship Committee (one position)
- Pati Threatt
- Stephanie Bayless
- Jeanne Prince

Voting will be conducted electronically again this year. Paper ballots will be distributed to those unable to vote online who contact the Nominating Committee.

Remember, only current members will be eligible to vote in this election, so pay your dues if you want to vote!

The Nominating Committee is sincerely thankful for all of our candidates and their willingness to serve in SSA.

Sara Thompson Rember
Chair, Nominating Committee
Sara.Rember@gmail.com

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**Forecast: CLOUDY**

Prepare for the future of electronic records management in the cloud by earning a Master’s Degree in Archives and Records Administration (MARA) from the San José State University School of Library and Information Science.

Our convenient and flexible fully online program connects you to a global community of scholars, researchers, and information professionals. You’ll learn to use sophisticated technologies to organize, preserve, and access a growing volume of digital and analog assets. And you’ll be well-prepared to pursue a wide range of exciting career opportunities in the fields of information governance and corporate archives. Join us today!

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SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY | SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
The Program Committee for the 2012 Annual Meeting has put together an enlightening and varied program for our colleagues to enjoy in Austin from May 22 to 25, 2013. We look forward to seeing you there!

The meeting theme, Come One, Come All: Archives and the Public in the 21st Century, encouraged the submission of excellent proposals on social media and outreach, digital archives, and innovative solutions to organizing collections, among other topics. The program will include panels, roundtables, a lightning session, as well as a student poster session. Among the sessions that will broaden your knowledge of current archival issues are the following:

**Inside the Archivist's Studio: A Master Class in Archival Leadership**
Several of SSA’s former leaders will join with Society of American Archivists president Jackie Dooley to reflect on leadership, their professional development, the state of the profession, and its future.

**The Information Inferno: A New Disaster Recovery Training Tool**
Three panelists from the School of Information at the University of Texas will discuss a project where a mock library and archives was burned and subsequent recovery efforts were filmed to create web-accessible training videos for archivists.

**Step Right Up! Archives and Public Engagement**
Panelists involved in the Arkansas Studies Institute will share some of the successful and innovative ways that have increased public engagement with their collections. After brief presentations are made, attendees will be able to share their examples of outreach programs.

Look out for additional details and program highlights in the May 2013 issue of *Southwestern Archivist*. Come One, Come All!

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**Key Note Speaker**
Henry William Brands, author of books on American history and politics, including *Traitor to His Class*, *Andrew Jackson*, *The Age of Gold*, *The First American*, and *TR*. Several of his books have been bestsellers; two, *Traitor to His Class* and *The First American*, were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. He lectures frequently on historical and current events, and can be seen and heard on national and international television and radio programs. His writings have been translated into Spanish, French, German, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Ukrainian.
The Society of Southwest Archivists will host an Annual Meeting on May 22-25, 2013 in Austin, Texas at the Holiday Inn Lady Bird Lake. Conference hotel information, exhibitor information and the call for student papers is available on the SSA website at http://southwestarchivists.org/annualmeeting. Check back often for updates on the meeting and registration.

Registration will be available soon either by check or on the new SSA website. (The web address is the same: http://southwestarchivists.org). Early bird registration deadline is April 24, 2013.

The conference hotel is the beautiful Holiday Inn Austin at Lady Bird Lake. Click here to book your room, or go to http://www.holidayinn.com or call (888) 615-0509 and use the group code “SSA.” We have reserved rooms at the state rate of $108 per night for a double room. The group rate will be available starting Tuesday night, May 21st through Sunday night, May 26th. Hotel registration deadline is May 1st.

Plenty of fun and relaxation is planned in addition to informative pre-conference workshops and educational sessions. Repository tours are scheduled for Friday afternoon, May 24, 2013, with buses to and from the conference hotel. Later that evening, enjoy the reception at the H. J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports on the University of Texas Campus campus. There will also be group tours on Saturday afternoon to explore Austin.

The hotel is right on the hike and bike trail, for an early-morning jog or a quick break between sessions. Located adjacent to the newly expanding Rainey Street district, the hotel location also offers access to several food and bar options, including the popular food trucks. The hotel also offers shuttles to 6th street entertainment district, and Segway tours and canoe rentals for those who bring family or plan to stay in town an extra day.
Lovely and warm Austin, Texas has always attracted visitors, but can you imagine tourism in “the Friendly City” (a 1920s-era slogan used to promote Austin as very livable and business friendly) without South by Southwest, Austin City Limits, and the largest colony of Mexican free-tail bats in North America? Many of the city’s biggest draws are actually quite recent. For instance, Austin was not officially recognized as the “Live Music Capital of the World” until 1991. Construction on the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum began only in 1999. And although bats have long sheltered under what is now the Ann Richards Bridge, it was not until the bridge was reconstructed in 1980 that it became an ideal roosting spot, drawing Austin’s squeakiest visitors in droves. So, what did early tourists come to see in the “City of the Violet Crown?”

Early tourism to Austin is well-represented in the records of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, particularly in its manuscript collections and the Rigsbee Postcard Collection. These resources include souvenir booklets, postcards, brochures, and publicity pamphlets. Choosing a few to focus on for this article was difficult. What follows is a small sample spotlighting some of the most interesting materials.

We begin our journey in 1893. Infrastructure was already in place for visitors who could take the Houston & Central Texas Railroad to the city and stay at the thoroughly modern Driskill Hotel. The massive “sunset red” State Capitol building had opened to the public just five years earlier, and the University of Texas began classes in 1881. Early photographs of the campus show a lush and surprisingly empty expanse with a modest Main Building.

Residents could boast of the recently completed Austin Dam, referred to as “the crowning enterprise of the public spirited men of Austin” in an 1893 booklet entitled “A Souvenir of Austin.” Some, however, lamented the loss of the mineral rich Santa Monica Springs, which were submerged by the resulting Lake McDonald. The same booklet quoted chemistry professor Edgar Everhart as saying, “This water I consider very valuable for many diseases, among which may be mentioned various affections of the liver, diabetes, biliary and renal calculi, ulcers of the stomach, dispepsia, diarrhoea, obesity, etc.”

Next we jump ahead to 1917. The population of Austin had swelled to 45,763 people. The Austin Chamber of Commerce was now promoting Austin as “A Modern 20th Century City” and the “City of the Violet Crown” (a phrase popularized by lauded Austin author, and possibly its original slacker, William Sydney Porter, better known as O. Henry). Austin worked hard to publicize its cultural, historical and educational charms to draw in tourists and new residents alike. A much longer, more detailed brochure of 1917 located in the Austin (City of) Collection features several new attractions. For example, the pamphlet showed off several picturesque private residences, such as those of George Littlefield, Goodall Wooten, and Mrs. D.H. Caswell (all of which can still be seen today); the bucolic beauties of Hyde Park; and Laguna Gloria, the former homesite of Stephen F. Austin that is today the Austin Museum of Art. Unlike the 1893 booklet, the 1917 brochure prominently featured sites related to Confederate history, including the Museum of the Daughters of the Confederacy in the State Capitol and monuments to Hood’s Brigade, Confederate Dead, and
Terry’s Texas Rangers on the Capitol grounds, as well as the Confederate Home for Civil War Veterans.

Despite lacking the mineral-rich water so trendy with earlier tourists, the ever-cool Barton Springs drew scores of hot, dusty visitors long before Austin became a city. A 1930s-era Chamber of Commerce brochure described the springs as “pure water of artesian origin.” This perennially popular swimming hole was still privately owned in 1917. The springs and surrounding area (now known as Zilker Park) were deeded to the city by Andrew Jackson Zilker the following year.

Austinites were justly proud of their educational institutions as well - not just the University of Texas but also of Samuel Huston (not to be confused with Sam Houston) College, public schools, and Austin’s many eleemosynary (or charitable) institutions, such as the Texas Schools for the Deaf and Blind and the State Lunatic Asylum. They were promoted as state-of-the-art facilities, often the first of their kind in Texas. In 1917, these were spots no tourist should miss.

Austin’s campaign to draw in tourists kicked into high gear with preparations for the Texas centennial celebrations in 1936 - only three years from Austin’s own centennial in 1939. Many colorful travel brochures from around this time period can be found in the records of Texas businessman R. Niles Graham. Although not part of the official celebrations, a 1924 program for a “Made in Austin” dinner attended by Graham is of particular interest. Hosted by the Lions Club and featuring regional products such as barbecued goat, tamales, salted peanuts, Adams Extract, and iced watermelon; the dinner proves Austin’s “Go Local” trend is no recent fad.

These brochures and similar ones in the Austin Chamber of Commerce Publicity collection show a definite increase in businesses catering to tourists, such as the Stephen F. Austin hotel (erected in 1924) and the Yellow Cab Company. Visitors could fly into the newly opened Robert Mueller Airport. And in a world without Segways, tourists could instead take a guided sightseeing tour conducted by the Austin Street Railway Company. The company’s promotional leaflet recommended local points of interest, including many of the previously mentioned sites and adding others such as St. David’s Church, the Treaty Oak, the Littlefield Memorial Fountain on the University of Texas campus, and a few more eleemosynary institutions. Finally, although the Colorado River and other regional bodies of water have been a fixture of Austin tourism since at least 1893, promotion of water tourism increased dramatically with the establishment of the Lower Colorado River Authority in 1935. It was quick to capitalize on the joys of fishing, swimming, and water sports in the...
many lakes in the Austin area.

Tourism promotion was still going strong in the 1940s, as other records in the Austin (City of) Collection show. Our very own State Library (then housed in the Capitol) makes an appearance in the Official Hotel Greeter’s Guide of 1945. The Old Seville Mexican restaurant on Guadalupe vied with the Cedar Crest Lodge with its “grand view of the ‘Hill Country’” and steak dinners for hungry visitors. Souvenir hunters could visit the Austin Souvenir and Gift Shop on Congress Avenue for Indian or Mexican jewelry and leather goods; they could also take home a box of Lammes famous Texas pralines. The Moonlight Towers, the only remaining examples of a form of nighttime street illumination popular in the late 19th century, were considered unusual enough to merit an explanatory leaflet printed in 1943. Of the original thirty-one towers, today at least fifteen are still in use, mostly in residential areas near the city center. Another pamphlet from this time period took the form of an imaginary letter from a University of Texas student to his family back home, lauding the many virtues of his newly adopted city.

Our glance at early Austin tourism in the records of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission has been all too brief, and many other tourist draws mentioned in Austin’s early publicity materials could have been discussed here, were space permitting: Mount Bonnell, the Governor’s Mansion, Elisabet Ney’s studio, the French Legation… Austin has always been a fascinating place. True, its landscape has changed enormously since the abovementioned brochures were printed. No one would now consider Cameron Road to be a remote scenic drive (barring traffic, it’s less than a fifteen-minute drive from the downtown area). Many historic homes have been torn down or remodeled. The original Main Building of the University of Texas was razed in 1933 amid widespread protest. At the same time, a surprising number of these early sites can still be visited, including all those listed at the beginning of this paragraph. And, yes, Austin still has many fine eleemosynary institutions, too. Many, many tourist attractions have appeared and disappeared over the years, but one thing has not changed – Austin is definitely “The Friendly City!”
As a result, while active additions to the University Records continue apace, as the primary mission of the Archive is to serve as the repository for the University’s records, additions to Special Collections, while welcome, are no longer solicited.

In the spring of 2012 Sister Judine Lille, Treasurer for the Dominican Sisters in New Orleans, invited Mr. Sullivan to visit her to discuss the donation of the records of St. Mary’s Dominican College to Xavier Archives. Dominican College was charted by the State of Louisiana in 1910 as an outgrowth of the Catholic high school started by the Dominican sisters in 1860. The Sisters had moved the school to St. Charles Avenue in 1865 and over the next years the campus grew. But by the 1980’s enrollment was falling, and in 1984 the College closed, all the buildings, save Veritas Hall, were sold to Loyola University. Over the intervening years Veritas Hall housed the college archives, its alumnae association, and office and living space for the nuns.

Mr. Sullivan was excited at the possibility but, estimating that the collection was probably some 75 linear feet, realized Xavier Archives lacked the space to house the proposed donation. Mr. Sullivan then began a campaign to enlarge the Archives’ holding area. A large suite of three offices just next door to the Archives had recently been abandoned. This area, it seemed naturally enough to Mr. Sullivan, would be perfect as additional space for the Archives. The powers that be determined that this space was too valuable to serve as a storage area, and, eventually, a smaller room was allocated to the Archives for storage. As it turns out, this space is ideal for holding the Rare Books. With the freed space in the Archives proper, there was more than enough room for the donation of the Dominican records.

The transfer was completed in mid-August and the records, closer to 125 linear feet in size rather than the earlier estimate of 75 linear feet, are now available for researchers with an inventory listing available on the Archives webpage. Among the collection are the Dominican College Charter and By-Laws, Board of Trustees records (1961-1984), Registration books (1910-1941), Commencement records (1915-1986), Administrative minutes (1966-1984), President’s records, Alumnae, all of the college’s Yearbooks and Bulletins, Student Handbooks and Student Directories, multiple scrapbooks assembled by the students depicting campus activities, and numerous awards and plaques.

Please visit Xavier of Louisiana Archives’ website at http://www.xula.edu/library/archives.php. For more information contact Irwin Lachoff at ilachoff@xula.edu or (504) 520-7655.
The papers of Donna Axum Whitworth tell the story of a small town Arkansas girl who rose through the pageant ranks to the title of Miss America, earned undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Arkansas, and enjoyed a successful career in teaching, broadcasting, consulting, public service, and motivational writing and speaking.

Donna Axum Whitworth was born in 1942 and grew up in El Dorado, Arkansas. During her senior year in high school, she began entering regional pageants and was successful in winning the Miss Union County, Miss Hospitality, Miss University of Arkansas, Miss Dixie, and Forestry Queen pageants. Following her high school graduation, Whitworth enrolled in the University of Arkansas, where she pledged the Delta Delta Delta sorority and helped found the UARKettes “singing ambassadors” group. While working toward her bachelor’s degree at the University, Whitworth won the Miss Arkansas pageant, which enabled her to compete in the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She was crowned Miss America in 1964. After her reign ended, she used her Miss America scholarship money to continue her education, earning both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in speech and drama from the University of Arkansas.

Whitworth received dozens of awards and honors for her public service. An energetic supporter of the University of Arkansas, Whitworth joined in efforts to restore the historic Old Main building and served on the steering committee for the recent fund-raising campaign. She established an endowed scholarship fund for Arkansas high school students with financial need, and she gave a donation to the University that led to the creation of the 10,000 square foot Donna Axum Fitness Center in the University’s Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Center. Whitworth was named a Distinguished Alumn in 1988. Whitworth also wrote two books and conducted training seminars on the subjects of women’s education, career development, personal growth, beauty, grooming, stress management, communication skills, goal setting, time management, exercise and fitness, household organization, and parenthood. Whitworth is now retired and living with her husband in Texas.

The majority of the Donna Axum Whitworth Papers consist of print, photographic, audio, and video materials documenting her reign as Miss America, as well as artifacts such as shoes, earrings, gowns, and her Miss America crown. Also included in the collection are biographical materials, University of Arkansas materials, Delta Delta Delta sorority materials, and recordings of the UARKettes singing group. During its 2012 competition in Hot Springs, the Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant, Inc. celebrated its 75th anniversary. During the festivities the organization exhibited gowns and portraits of former Miss Arkansas winners, including Whitworth’s gown, loaned to the pageant by University of Arkansas Special Collections.

For more information contact Diane F. Worrell, Special Projects Librarian, University of Arkansas Libraries, at dfworrel@uark.edu or (479) 575-5330.
Archival Certification:

*Validate your achievements, knowledge and skills*

The 2013 Certified Archivist examination will be held August 14 in New Orleans, as well as Hartford, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, and Orlando -- and wherever 5 or more candidates wish to take it.

The 2013 application is available on the Academy of Certified Archivists website: www.certifiedarchivists.org

For more information, contact the ACA office (aca@caphill.com or 518-694-8471).

The application deadline is May 15.
Q. Please tell our readers about your background.
A. I was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. I attended Centenary College of Louisiana, where I majored in Latin and in Interdisciplinary Studies. I moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 2005 to attend graduate school at Washington University. After earning a Master of Arts in Classics, I worked briefly at the Saint Louis Art Museum until the financial crisis hit, upon which I reevaluated my career goals. Currently I am enrolled in the Master in Library and Information Science program at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, concentrating in archival studies. A year ago, I moved to Arkansas for my partner’s work and to be closer to my family.

Q. What prompted your interest in library and archival work?
A. I was inspired to pursue an MLS degree after working at the Medical Center Library of Saint Louis University for three and a half years. While there, a colleague and I began developing an archive for medical materials. Educational opportunities, such as attending the Modern Archives Institute in 2010, solidified my desire for archival work. I thoroughly enjoy organizing records, regardless of format. Access is paramount. The value of a collection is hidden until it has some mode of access for patrons.

Q. Describe your recent internship.
A. I was fortunate to spend two months this Fall under the supervision of two amazing archivists, Diane Ryan of the Center for Research Libraries and Rebecca Hankins of Texas A&M University. We were tasked with establishing an archive of the organizational records of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan. ACOR serves as the base of American scholarship in Jordan. It emphasizes in the archaeology of the region and supports scholarship in anthropology, history, sociology, and other disciplines. A large portion of the records that our team processed relate to archaeological projects the center supported, including sites in Madaba, Amman, and Petra. ACOR now has a framework, including policies and recommendations, to carry forth the development of their archive.

Q. What were your impressions of Jordan, especially in terms of how it contrasts with the U.S.?
A. Jordan is an amazing country, but is overshadowed by the political tumult of the region. In this small country of approximately 35,000 square miles there are over 20,000 archaeological sites and monuments! Despite its substantive past, Jordan is relatively young in its development of libraries and archives. For example, the National Library was established only eighteen years ago. I was fortunate to visit both the National Library and the Department of Antiquities archives, and I was impressed by their progress. Still, there are barriers. One of the issues our team encountered was the lack of vendors of archival supplies. Overall, I was impressed with the resourcefulness of ACOR, and the people of Jordan in general.

Q. Describe your hobbies and interests.
A. When not immersing myself in archives-related information, I spend my time cooking and gardening. I volunteer for the Fort Smith National Historic Site by assisting with their Heritage Garden. I am also reestablishing my love for hiking and camping now that I am closer to the mountains. When I was younger my family would camp in east Texas, southwestern Arkansas, and Louisiana. Now I am becoming acquainted with sites in the Ozarks and Oklahoma.
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 already had 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 the 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 (http://www.youtube.com/user/SGArchivists) 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, the protection of Georgia citizens, and 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 hopefully 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 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Since November, volunteers have been attending training workshops with Tanner and Associates and meeting with their legislators to discuss our support for Governor Deal’s plan and adequate funding for the Archives. On January 2, 2013, a nine-member working group was formed to plan the transfer of the archives. The group includes archivists Richard Pearce-Moses and Toby Graham, as well as Dianne Cannestra, the president of FOGAH, and several scholars and other librarians. Supporters remain anxious, yet hopeful as we look toward the legislative session.

Asa Hoxey (1800-1863) was one of the Founding Fathers of the town of Washington, Texas, the site where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed in March 1836. A medical doctor by training, Hoxey began speculating in land purchases while still a resident of Georgia in the early 1830s. His primary contact in Texas was R. M. “Three-Legged Willie” Williamson, a native Georgian who is mostly remembered for his years as a judge and Congressman in Texas--both during the Republic period and after Texas was annexed to the United States. In 1832, while working as a land agent in Texas, Williamson convinced Hoxey to relocate to Texas. Hoxey, along with seven business partners, purchased 44 leagues of land in Texas through Three-Legged Willie.

The 1200-document collection spans the years 1820-1927. It begins with Hoxey’s matriculation ticket from the University of the State of New York where he studied medicine, a baptismal certificate necessary to legally purchase land from Mexico, and his authorization as a colonist in Robertson’s Colony in the Mexican state of Coahuila and Texas. Also included are a number of field notes with plat maps, deeds, promissory notes and business letters related to Hoxey’s land transactions up until the time of his death in 1863. The remainder of the collection includes the records of his daughter, Sarah Ann, and her husband, James Madison Williams. Sarah Ann and her husband continued to manage and build upon the land holdings that her father had acquired in his lifetime. Numerous receipts reflect the expense of running a large plantation as well as the luxury items that were clearly still affordable.

This collection stops shortly after the death of Sarah Ann Hoxey Williams in 1924. It is believed to have been preserved by Sarah Ann and stored in a cardboard box in a closet of the home she lived in throughout most of her life in Independence, Texas. It was passed down to a descendant who offered it to the museum for purchase and was subsequently acquired in December 2012. Processing of the collection has just begun.

For more information please contact Shawn Carlson, Curator of Collections and Exhibits at Star of the Republic Museum, (936) 878-2461 or scarlson@blinn.edu.
A recent $100,000 gift from the Vought Aircraft Heritage Foundation will make it possible for curators at Eugene McDermott Library at the University of Texas at Dallas to sort through the foundation’s archives and make this trove of aviation history available to the public. The gift provides for an archivist to integrate Vought Aircraft’s historical documents, pictures and films with the library’s History of Aviation Collection. The project is expected to take two years.

Paul A. Oelkrug, coordinator for McDermott Library Special Collections, along with members of UT Dallas’ Office of Development and Alumni Relations were presented the first of two $50,000 checks by Dick Atkins at the Chance Vought Aircraft facility in Dallas on September 4, 2012. The facility is next to the old Dallas Naval Air Station and the former Hensley Field. “For the past several years the HAC [History of Aviation Collection] has worked with the Heritage Foundation to methodically acquire their business records,” Oelkrug said. “Now with funding for a two-year project, Special Collections will be able to process these valuable aviation resources for use by researchers.”

Chance Vought Aircraft is the second-oldest American aircraft manufacturing company. It is currently a subsidiary of the Triumph Group, an aerospace component manufacturer. Over the years Vought has produced many famous aircraft, but is best known for the F-4U Corsair, which debuted in World War II. Primarily a carrier-based aircraft, the U.S. Marine Corps fighter is easily recognized by its beautiful lines and gull-wing design. Its speed and maneuverability helped establish its superiority over the formidable Japanese Zero fighter plane. It also doubled as a very capable ground attack aircraft, seeing action in WWII and Korea. Other famous aircraft Vought produced are the F-8 Crusader and the A-7 Corsair II. The Crusader is commonly known as the “last gunfighter” because of its aerial dogfighting capabilities. The Corsair II is known for its excellence in ground attack capabilities. Both planes were used widely in Vietnam.

The donation was publicly recognized on October 18 at the Celebration of Support, an event to honor and thank the donors to UT Dallas. A half-scale model of a Vought F-4U Corsair was on display as a part of the festivities. Among the special guests at UT Dallas on was Hank Merbler, 91, who joined Vought in 1942 and came with the company when it moved to Dallas from Stratford, Connecticut, in 1948. Merbler was an engineer assigned to the F-4U Corsair design team.

The Vought Aircraft Heritage Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation composed of retired Vought employees who volunteer their time to secure donations and to restore Chance Vought aircraft. The History of Aviation Collection is located on the third floor of McDermott Library and is also home to several notable aviation collections, including the James H. Doolittle Collection, the Braniff Collection, and the Civil Air Transport/Air America Archive.

The University of Texas at Arlington Central Library was abuzz on the morning of June 5, 2012. Admirers gathered to pay tribute to Dallas star athlete, journalist, businessman, political activist and civic leader William “Bill” Blair, Jr., as he signed the paperwork transferring the title to his extensive collection of papers to Special Collections. The event garnered local newspaper, radio, and television coverage.

Blair was born in Dallas on October 17, 1921. Following graduation from Booker T. Washington High School, Blair continued his education at Prairie View Normal and Industrial College, (now Prairie View A&M University). World War II intervened and Blair enlisted in the U.S. Army, and is said to be the youngest first sergeant who served during that conflict.

In 1946, Blair became a pitcher for the Indianapolis Clowns, one of twelve teams comprising the Negro Baseball League. Before an injury to his pitching arm forced his retirement from baseball in 1951, Blair played for several other Negro League teams including the Detroit Stars and Cincinnati Clowns.

In 1949, Blair started Southwest Sports News, a newspaper that specialized in publishing scores from nationwide African-American college sporting events. During succeeding years, the paper changed formats and titles several times: The Highlight News (1957) adding entertainment news; the Elite News (pronounced “E-light”) (1960 and 1965) first adding political, social and economic information important to the North Texas African American community, and later incorporating news from local churches. The Elite News is the oldest African American publication in north Texas and is distributed widely in Dallas and Fort Worth. After thirty years as publisher, Blair turned over daily newspaper operations to his children. At ninety-one years young Blair still tends to his newspaper business every day, but now as founder, senior publisher, and “Founding Thoughts” and “Words of Wisdom” columnist.

Mr. Blair initiated the Elite News Awards, the first citywide recognition of noteworthy achievements of citizens of Dallas and Texas at large, and founded the Religious Hall of Fame and its accompanying awards honoring local clergymen. Blair also started the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Dallas in 1985. He serves on the national advisory board of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City and has been inducted into the African American Museum’s Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Dallas.

Recognizing the significance of William Blair’s papers, family friends convinced him to seek a repository to house his collection. Special Collections Program Coordinator Ann Hodges and Historical Manuscripts Archivist Brenda McClurkin teamed up with Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney, chair of the UT Arlington History Department, and UTA’s newly created Center for African American Studies in what became a successful effort to bring the Blair papers to the UT Arlington Library. In addition, the History Department will fund a scholarship and initiate a lecture series, both in William Blair’s name. An internship will also be available at the Elite News for a UT Arlington communications student.

Because archivists are still packing and transporting Blair materials to campus, the full extent of the collection is yet to be determined. What is known is that it is a treasure trove documenting Blair’s career and the African American community in north Texas. Blair’s daughter Debra Blair Abron said at the June 5 celebration, “I feel we are bridging the gap between the past and the future with this gift. I always knew something of this magnitude would come. And through it all Dad has kept the faith.”

For more information on the Blair Papers, contact Brenda McClurkin at (817) 272-3393 or mcclurkin@uta.edu.
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The Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award Subcommittee of the Society of American Archivists seeks nominations for the 2013 award.

This award recognizes an archivist, editor, group of individuals, or institution that has increased public awareness of a specific body of documents through compilation, transcription, exhibition, or public presentation of archives or manuscript materials for educational, instructional, or other public purpose. Archives may include photographs, films, and visual archives. Publication may be in hard copy, microfilm, digital, or other circulating medium.

Eligibility: Individual archivists and editors, groups of individuals, organizations.

Application Deadline: All nominations shall be submitted to the Awards Committee by February 28, 2013. For more information on SAA awards and the nominations process, please go to http://www2.archivists.org/recognition.

Beginning February 1, 2013, the records of George W. Bush as Texas governor, 1995-2000, will be unavailable for research as the materials are prepared for transfer from the Texas State Archives in Austin to the George W. Bush Presidential Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The Bush Library will be open to the public in April 2013. For information about the availability of materials, researchers can contact the Texas State Library and Archives Commission by email at archinfo@tsl.state.tx.us or by phone at 512-463-5455. Public information requests for Bush’s records as governor can continue to be made to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission via email at dir_lib@tsl.state.tx.us, by fax at 512-463-5430, by mail to PO Box 12927, Austin, TX 78711-2927, or in person at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building at 1201 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas. There will be a delay in making the records available while the materials are in transit and until the new facility is open.
Huntsville, Texas is the home of the oldest state prison in Texas – the Huntsville Unit, also known as “The Walls.” This imposing prison was established in 1852 and is still the home of death row in Texas. Located in downtown Huntsville right next to Sam Houston State University, the prison has had a large impact on both the local community and on the campus. Sam Houston State University has long supported important criminal justice research through its renowned Beto Criminal Justice Center. To that end, several large collections important to the national history of criminal justice were attained and eventually deposited in the Thomason Special Collections.

The Thomason Special Collections provides access to the personal library and manuscript collection of Austin MacCormick, who is sometimes referred to as the “Father of Correctional Education.” MacCormick was an early reformer of prisons and conducted surveys of prisons all over the United States, including Texas. Significantly, the repository also maintains the personal libraries and manuscripts of the first and second directors of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Sanford Bates and James V. Bennett respectively. The manuscript collections of these three men contain letters, notes, and a multitude of speeches and publications produced over the course of each individual’s historic career.

Because of the local and national importance of these collections, the rehousing and production of online finding aids for these collections became a top priority following the 2011 appointment of the new Head of Thomason Special Collections, Felicia (Thomas) Williamson. The collections were carefully surveyed, rehoused and given folder-level descriptions. The finding aids are currently being uploaded into the brand new SHSU Archon interface and will be available online in early 2013.

We encourage researchers to use these newly accessible collections and welcome research inquiries. Please send us an email at specoll@shsu.edu or call (936) 294-3290 to get more information. And by all means, visit our website to read more about our holdings: http://library.shsu.edu/about/departments/specialcollections/.

Sanford Bates in front of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, circa 1930. Image courtesy of the Sanford Bates Collection, Thomason Special Collections, Sam Houston State University.
The University of Texas-Pan American Library Archives is proud to announce that former U.S. Congressman Eligio “Kika” de la Garza’s congressional papers are now available to the public for research. De la Garza was elected to the House of Representatives in 1965, representing the 15th Congressional District in south Texas until his retirement in 1996. Approximately 700 linear feet of materials was processed with the help of a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The papers are divided into five series: Departmental Files, Personal & Political Files, General Files, Legislative Files and Case Files (Case Files are restricted until 2045). There is a considerable amount of material pertaining to border relations with Mexico; the development of infrastructure along the border, including bridges, roads, hospitals, and flood control projects; and local, regional, and national agricultural issues. The collection includes scrapbooks, calendars, speeches, newsletters and other personal and legislative materials that trace de la Garza’s daily activities as a representative.

De la Garza was a founding member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in 1976 and was Chair from 1989-1991. As Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture (1981 to 1994), he was integral in the passage of three omnibus farm bills (1981, 1985 and 1990), an overhaul of the agricultural lending system, reform of federal crop insurance, reorganization of the USDA, and reform in federal pesticide laws.

UTPA Library Archives are open Monday-Friday, 8-5. Please contact the archivist at (956) 665-2766 or email archives@utpa.edu to make an appointment. The finding aid for the papers is available at: http://apps.lib.utpa.edu/archon/.

LEADERSHIP LOG

Our very own SSA leaders post news and updates here, such as upcoming professional development workshops and news about the new website. This format allows for longer entries and less spam than a listserv. http://southwestarchivists.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1331443

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MATERIALS ON EXHIBIT

JoAnn Pospisil, CA * Baylor College of Medicine

The Baylor College of Medicine Archives recently received the donation of an anatomy book dated 1555 by Andreas Vesalius [1514-1564], the father of modern anatomy. This rare book is now on permanent exhibit in the Michael E. DeBakey Library and Museum on Baylor College of Medicine’s main campus in the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

The BCM Archives also loaned artifacts for the Texas Medical Association exhibit “Saving Hearts, Saving Lives” at TMA’s Austin headquarters through September 2013. The exhibit features Dr. Michael E. DeBakey’s and Dr. Denton A. Cooley’s contributions to cardiovascular medicine and also explores factors contributing to the Texas Medical Center’s development in Houston.

For more information on the Michael E. DeBakey Library and Museum please visit the website at http://www bcm.edu/debakeymuseum. For more information on the Texas Medical Association’s exhibit, visit http://www.texmed.org/Template.aspx?id=19438. Contact JoAnn Pospisil, Director, BCM Archives, at pospisil@bcm.edu or (713) 798-4501.
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary was awarded a $6,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to provide preservation assessment, environmental monitoring equipment and rehousing, and emergency response supplies for its archival collection. This grant is among 246 projects funded by the NEH that spans academic disciplines.

“The Austin Seminary Archives houses a unique combination of institutional and denominational records that document over 150 years of Presbyterianism in Texas and the Southwest. This funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities will help us in our mission to preserve and provide access to these records and to share the stories of the people, churches, and institutions that make up our community,” Kristy Sorensen, associate director of the Stitt Library and head of archives and records management said.

According to a statement from the NEH Chairman Jim Leach, the grants awarded “allow cultural institutions to protect and expand their collections, assist scholars in unlocking new discoveries about our past, and open up educational opportunities for future generations to benefit from the knowledge and insights offered by the humanities.”

“Receiving this grant will allow us to make sure that we are the best possible stewards of our resources for years to come. NEH grants are competitive and I applaud the work of Ms. Sorensen in crafting a winning proposal,” said library director Timothy Lincoln.

Founded in 1902, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is an institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) whose mission is to educate and equip individuals for the ordained Christian ministry and other forms of Christian service and leadership. For more information and ways to support Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, visit http://www.austinseminary.edu. To view a catalog of collections available in the Austin Seminary Archives, go to http://www.austinseminary.edu/archives.

The School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin continues to maintain a strong commitment to offer conservation and preservation assistance to small institutions and to people who want to maintain their personal archives. Such collections tend to be undervalued in their own time, but the affairs of minor players in social history can provide scholars with a deeper understanding of cultures than might be garnered from what the contemporaneous society deems important.

Such small organizations may not have sufficient staff or resources even to investigate options; often they do not have any idea where to begin. Under the guidance of Rebecca Elder, Adjunct Preservation Field Services Officer with Amigos Library Services and part-time faculty member at the iSchool, students have performed preservation surveys for nearly twenty collections, some traditional like the Karnes County Historic Society, and some representing newer trends in our society, like the LBGT archives in Houston. Institutions near the University that are interested in hosting a team of students may contact rebeccaelder@austin.rr.com

In 2011 we began to focus more strongly on disaster preparedness and response. This direction was spurred by a series of wild fires that blazed across Central Texas late that summer. A team of students and faculty was quickly assembled to assist victims of the fires to salvage documents and heirlooms. People without any formal training in collections care may be inclined to discard objects that might have been salvaged. We wanted to help people assess and recover whatever they could.

Since then, our efforts have grown to a more formal, cohesive approach. We are working with local organizations like the Red Cross to tie into existing disaster response networks. Assistant instructor Virginia Luerhsen and lecturer Karen Pavelka are investigating remote response recovery techniques with very promising results. A class in the spring semester will focus on disaster recovery, having the students experience an actual burn, and then apply and evaluate salvage techniques. The students will use this experience to develop tutorials or other methods to make what they have learned available to underserved communities.

Sadly, many collections are damaged each year by floods and fire. We continue to explore avenues of communication and offer assistance where we can.

Editor’s note: Rebecca Elder, Karen Pavelka, and UT iSchool students will present on Disaster Recovery at the SSA Annual Meeting in May.
The Wittliff Collections at the University of Texas-San Marcos currently has on display the songbook that Willie Nelson wrote when he was eleven years old, donated by Texas journalist, Edwin “Bud” Shrake. The exhibit also includes photographs, 45 rpm records, and other materials taken from the archive’s holdings on Nelson, which include the Willie Nelson Collection, the Willie Nelson Recording Collection, and the Jody Fischer Collection on Willie Nelson, as well as the Edwin “Bud” Shrake Papers.

Willie Nelson was born April 30, 1933. His parents separated and his musically inclined grandparents raised him and his older sister, Bobbie. By age ten, Nelson was playing in a polka band touring Central Texas communities. Nelson moved to Nashville, Tennessee after high school, hoping to advance his singing career. Ten years later, with little advancement, Nelson moved back to Texas. It was in Texas that Nelson became a success. Nelson’s trademark look of long hair, beard, jeans, and a bandanna broke the tradition of country music singers. His look and his songs became mainstream and Nelson’s star was on the rise. In 1973 Nelson released his best selling album *Shotgun Willie*. His fame only increased when he followed with *Redheaded Stranger* in 1975. In 1979 Nelson took on acting in *The Electric Horseman*.

The Songbook came to the Wittliff Collections through the papers of Edwin “Bud” Shrake, journalist, novelist, and screenplay writer. Shrake interviewed Willie Nelson extensively while researching his biography *Willie* and earlier for the screenplay *Songwriter*. Interview recordings and notes are included in the collection. The Willie Nelson Collection is an artificial collection containing song lyrics, screenplays, memorabilia, articles, personal effects and some material from Farm Aid. The Willie Nelson Recordings Collection focuses just on the recordings and contains 877 recordings on various medias, from LPs, to VHS, to DVDs.


Willie Nelson wrote the Songbook around 1943 when he was about the age of ten or eleven. Fifteen songs were included in the Songbook. A few titles are “Sweethearts Forever,” “I’ll Wonder Alone,” “So Hard to Say Goodbye,” “Hangover Blues,” and “Teach Me to Sing a Love Song.”

One of the fifteen, “The Storm Has Just Begun,” was recorded later in 1970s. Willie Nelson’s Songbook has become of the gems of the Wittliff Collections.

For more information about Willie Nelson materials at the Wittliff, please visit the finding aids page at [http://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/a-z](http://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/a-z), or contact Katie Salzmann at salzmann@txstate.edu.
Current archive users both value and expect some degree of open online access. In response, many service-oriented repositories are finding creative ways to meet that need. The mass-digitization of all historical records was not possible in 2003, and it remains an unattainable goal today. However, in the past decade a growing number of institutions have succeeded in posting portions of their archival holdings on the Internet.

At Southern Methodist University’s Bridwell Library, investment in staffing, equipment, and collaborative networking since 2009 has led to the publishing of forty-five online archival finding aids and thirteen digital collections, which are groups of digital images representing Special Collections materials and archival holdings. Several of the digital collections include images of complete archival collections. These fully digitized collections also have EAD finding aids providing useful information on historical context, organization, and ownership. Unfortunately, navigating between the images and the finding aids has been cumbersome. This is due to the fact that they are lodged in two separate databases: a statewide catalog of finding aids, TARO (Texas Archival Resources Online), and a university-wide digital data repository using CONTENTdm.

In October of 2012, the Bridwell Library successfully bridged the finding aid – digital collection divide. For the first time, two archival collections – the Collection on Selina Hastings, Countess of Huntingdon, and the Collection on the Charles Wesley family – can be viewed in their entirety directly from their finding aids. This was accomplished in four steps. First, the archivist processed the collections and created EAD-compatible preliminary finding aids. Next, student assistants digitized all materials under the supervision of the Digital Projects Librarian, who added metadata and published the images as CONTENTdm digital collections. Then the archivist completed the finding aids by adding hyperlinks to the digital collections materials to the box and folder listings. Finally, SMU’s EAD specialist encoded the finding aids and uploaded them to TARO (Texas Archival Resources Online).

Through these new finding aids, patrons everywhere can view the content and learn about the context of two small but significant groups of early Methodist manuscripts. The approach described above requires something that is outside of the norm of standard archival practice: item-level processing and description. It is practical only with small collections containing dozens or perhaps hundreds of items. A different solution will have to be developed for digitizing larger collections that measure dozens or hundreds of linear feet. In the interim, Bridwell Library is making plans to digitize more of its small collections and post them to the internet with linked descriptive finding aids. Doing so will help promote use of the special collections and archives and awareness of Southern Methodist University’s extensive library system.

Please visit the finding aids on TARO at [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00222/smu-00222.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00222/smu-00222.html) and [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00223/smu-00223.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00223/smu-00223.html), and the SMU Bridwell Library Digital Collections at [http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/bridwell/hunt](http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/bridwell/hunt) and [http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/bridwell/cwf](http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/bridwell/cwf). For more information contact Timothy Binkley at (214) 768-1989 or tbinkley@mail.smu.edu.
When Commissioners Court established the Harris County Archives in November 2002, Harris County became the first of 254 counties in Texas to have a professionally run county archives as a component of a Records Management Plan. Since the archives officially opened in April 2004, it has handled 2,188 queries, pulled 6,476 records, accommodated 847 patrons and devoted 5,815 hours to reference for the public or county employees and departments, in addition to completing one partial and two complete moves within the past five years. Now in a new location at 11525 Todd Street, Suite 300, Houston, Texas, the archives is looking forward to a period of stability and growth.

The Harris County Archives began with space, no budget, a professional archivist, and records – twenty-two pallets of records from the Assessor and Collector of Taxes. Within the first eight months, over a thousand volumes and 40 cubic feet of Harris County records were repatriated from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center where they had been on deposit since the early 1980s as a part of the Regional Historical Records Depository Program of the Texas State Library and Archives. Records stored in the Records Center such as the Land and Building Assessment cards and Justice of the Peace dockets and case files found a permanent home in the County Archives. County departments transferred records formerly stored in closets or pushed aside on shelves and filing cabinets to the archives to guarantee their preservation and their accessibility to the public, many for the first time. As more individuals and departments became aware of the archives, the number of records grew. Currently, the archives has approximately 4,366 cubic feet of records and 7,026 individual volumes with an additional 14,000 rolls of microfilm, 500 videos, photographs, maps, printed materials, and artifacts.

In addition to physically moving the collections, administrative changes have also presented challenges for the archives staff. Originally under Facilities and Property Management, Records was moved to Information Technology Center in 2007. In 2009 the Harris County Archives was separated from the records program and in 2011 placed under the County Clerk. Both the County Clerk’s Archives and the Harris County Archives share the same facility. After ten years in temporary locations, including shelf space in a midrise courthouse and one and a half floors in a decrepit warehouse, the archives staff is enjoying their new home. All of the collections are now easily accessible in one location. In addition to private offices for both the Harris County Archivist and the Assistant Archivist, the archives has its own reference room; a dedicated processing, preservation, and digitization area; a room used as a vault; and a volunteer work room. With additional areas to set up tables and spread out, the staff is looking forward to tackling those projects suspended during the past three years of moving.

For more information contact Sarah Canby Jackson, Harris County Archivist at (713) 274-9683 or sjackson@cco.hctx.net, or Annie Golden, Harris County Assistant Archivist, at (713) 274-9684 or agolden@cco.hctx.net.
If the world were given your personal library, what would it tell them about you? What if you were known for your political observations and didn’t mind being blunt about holding the politicians’ feet to the fire? One would think the library would be primarily political in nature or at least lean heavily in that direction. This is what I thought, until I began to inventory Molly Ivins’ library. Molly was a bestselling author and hell-raising political columnist who died in 2007 from breast cancer. The New York Times described Molly as “a liberal newspaper columnist who delighted in skewering politicians and interpreting and mocking her Texas culture.” She never had to write fiction because state and national government provided her plenty of material for humor. She said, “Good thing we’ve still got politics—finest form of free entertainment ever invented.” She once told People magazine, “There are two kinds of humor. One was the kind that makes us chuckle about our foibles and our shared humanity. The other kind holds people up to public contempt and ridicule. That’s what I do.”

After Molly’s death in January 2007, her private book collection was generously donated by her brother Andrew Ivins to the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University. In Molly’s library there were over 1,000 mysteries out of the 3,500 titles. Along with mysteries were a spattering of poodle training books, which appeared to be needed by the evidence of chew marks left behind on some of the books (the dogs weren’t selective in what they chewed—it was anything from politics to poodles).

As the Special Collections Librarian/Cataloger, I was assigned the project of completing the initial inventory and assumed it would mostly focus on politics. What I found instead was someone who collected on a multitude of topics and kept letters from authors, publishers, and admirers of her work. Like many others, I only knew Molly through her writings and commentary, but as the inventory began to take shape I started to “see” an additional side of Molly other than the one I was accustomed to reading and for some reason it wasn’t what I expected.

Once the inventory revealed that she and I both loved mysteries, I became curious as to what she would find entertaining—would it be crime fiction or lean toward the cozies, which some might argue aren’t true mysteries (except for those who read them). It definitely wasn’t the cozy venue, but there was a healthy dose of British mysteries. Some of her favorite British authors were Simon Brett, Peter Dickinson, Agatha Christie and Reginald Hill. Along with the mysteries, she also had an interest in nautical sea stories and had compiled the complete set of Patrick O’Brien’s Aubrey/Maturin novels.

Another thing I gleaned from this intensive foraging into her library was she never seemed to throw anything away. Items laid in the books ranged from advertisements included by the publisher, bookmarks, boarding passes (often not hers), credit card receipts, business cards, a dried four leaf clover, and a page torn from a notepad with makeup tips. The latter suggested she use peach or cream eye shadow all over the eye along with a warm beige foundation (found among a travel booklet to New York City).

Some genre headings, such as addiction and cancer, were not as comforting as others. There were only a few marked passages in the titles under addiction and none in cancer. It was difficult processing these books, knowing those were the same ones she might have used to deal with her own problems. I worked through this area more swiftly so I could move on to something less serious that didn’t
remind me of the personal difficulties she had to face.

Valentine’s Day 2009 started out in a cold secluded room with Molly’s library. It was also a day I hoped to finish the initial inventory of the last of 80 boxes so I could begin the bibliography of her library. One of the last books I opened contained a letter that began, “Dear Molly, Happy Valentine’s Day!” I can’t explain it, but at that moment it seemed as if Molly was right there with me. The unlikelihood of finding this particular letter out of 3,500 titles and on Valentine’s Day seemed remarkable and could be explained only as another intervention from Molly. I occasionally have these types of occurrences when working with other collections and have now begun to call them my “Molly Moments.”

We set up an exhibit of her library at Texas State University in the summer of 2008 to give visitors a cursory glance at what Molly read. It was hugely successful, but its brevity left many still wondering, “What did Molly read?” One of the best ways to answer this question will be for the reader to meander through the genre headings and titles in the annotated bibliography of her library, which has been completed, but is not yet published.

Whatever revelations about Molly I have imagined (and believe me working with this collection has led to an active imagination), it has been an enjoyable journey into becoming acquainted with Molly Ivins from a unique perspective. It has been a private look into the reading interests of someone who was much admired by the public for her adeptness in conveying her observations about politics with a humorous twist. It has been an interesting and often funny journey, along with some sad insights into a person who has become for me a friend I wish I’d known.

For more information, please consult the Texas State University Library catalog (http://catalog.library.txstate.edu) and search for “Molly Ivins Personal Library Collection” or contact Karen Sigler at (512) 245-3885 or ks10@txstate.edu.
Advertiser, Exhibitor and Sponsor Invitation

“Come One, Come All:” Archives and the Public in the 21st Century
May 22-25, 2013

Reach 150 - 200 archivists and individuals working in allied disciplines by exhibiting during this year’s annual Society of Southwest Archivists conference in Austin, Texas. This year’s conference will attract records managers and individuals responsible for court records. Held at the lovely Holiday Inn at Lady Bird Lake in Austin, Texas, the conference theme “Come One, Come All:” Archives and the Public in the 21st Century beckons exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees to attend what promises to be an array of enriching conference sessions and events.

The Society of Southwest Archivists is established to promote sound principle and standards for preserving and administering records, and stimulate and make available research in archival administration and records management. Your participation will strengthen your relationship with the archivists and records managers who make decisions about the preservation and use of our recorded heritage across Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The conference local arrangements committee invites you to sign up early to participate in “Come One, Come All:” Archives and the Public in the 21st Century.

Please complete the Exhibitor and Sponsor Registration form and return it to Sue Soy. You can participate at a variety of levels: table exhibits, advertising in the conference program, and sponsorship of events and breaks. Space is limited, so register now to secure your place at this conference.

Please direct any questions to:
Sue Soy
Austin Public Library
Phone: 512-974-7388
Sue.soy@austintexas.gov

Visit the conference website for additional information and your exhibitor/sponsor registration form.

www.southwestarchivists.org
Corey Ayers became the lead archivist in the Film & Video Department of the Research Division at the Oklahoma Historical Society in October 2012. Corey has been with the OHS since 2009 when he received his MA in Museum Studies from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Jennifer Day, CA, accepted the newly established archivist position in the City of Oklahoma City Clerk’s Office as of December 2012.

Laura Hollingsed, Archivist/Manuscripts Librarian in the Special Collections of the University of Texas at El Paso Library, made a presentation about El Paso architect and photographer C. E. Waterhouse; the Library holds his papers and photographs. Also part of the panel presentation and slide show were artist Russell Waterhouse, Claudia Rivers, Head of Special Collections, and William J. Palmore, Associate Professor at the New York Institute of Technology. The session was titled “Charles Ewing Waterhouse, Jr.: Architect and Renaissance Man for the Borderlands.”

Vince Lee, CA was appointed Archivist for the Carey C. Shuart Women’s Archives and Research Collection. He previously held the position of Lead Archivist and Assistant Manager of the Houston Public Library’s African American Library at the Gregory School.

Mary Manning was appointed University Archivist. She previously held the position of Assistant University Archivist and Digital Collections Coordinator at Texas A&M University.

Alison Clemens was appointed Houston and Texas Archives Fellow. Alison is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin School of Information and has worked at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History and the Morgan Library & Museum.

Ryder Kouba was appointed University Archives Fellow. Ryder has worked at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History and the Wisconsin Historical Society and is also a graduate of UT’s School of Information.

Sarah Canby Jackson, CA, Harris County Archivist, Houston, Texas, has been appointed to the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) for the term 2013 – 2016 by Peggy Rudd, Texas State Library Director and Librarian.

Tom Mooney, CA, was honored by The Cherokee National Historical Society (CNHS) honored, Archivist for the Cherokee Heritage Center (CHC) by presenting him with the society’s Stalwart Award, which is given to one who has served as a “long-time member, volunteer, employee, board member or associate and has significantly contributed”. CNHS officials said, when Mooney began working as an archivist, the collection was contained in a filing cabinet with four drawers and consisted of letters and photographs. Now the archives contain much more and fill two rooms. Mr. Mooney has worked with the CHC for 36 years.

Mallory Newell became the lead archivist in the Manuscripts Department of the Research Division at the Oklahoma Historical Society in December 2012. Mallory has been with the OHS since 2011 and received her MA in Museum Studies from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Claudia Rivers, CA, Head of Special Collections at the University of Texas at El Paso Library, presented a session at the Border Regional Library Association’s Fall Workshop on October 10. The session, in which Lisa Weber and David Flores also presented, was titled “Preserving Photographs and Improving Access in the Archives.” It was in part a progress report on a three-year grant from the National Park Service’s Save America’s Treasures program.
Peggy D. Rudd has retired as Director and Librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) after 13 years. Ms. Rudd worked with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to bring millions of dollars to Texas; shepherded the Texas Heritage Online project; expanded the TexShare program; supervised the successful renovation of the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin; directed the Talking Book Program; worked to implement legislation for protecting and preserving court records; and raised the profile of the state’s archives program. Thank you Peggy for your long and accomplished service.

Edward Seidenberg has been appointed Interim Director and Librarian for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Mr. Seidenberg’s term began on January 1, 2013. Mr. Seidenberg’s tenure at TSLAC spans 36 years of public service. Since his arrival January 1976, Mr. Seidenberg has contributed to the agency as a library consultant, planner, activity manager, and director of two divisions – Library Development and Administrative Services – in addition to Assistant State Librarian, a position he assumed in 1999.

**John H. Slate**, CA, Dallas Municipal Archives, collaborated with **Mike Miller**, CA, Austin History Center director, to publish *Lost Austin*, a new volume in the *Arcadia Images of America* series. The book highlights the holdings of the Austin History Center, which supplied approximately 80% of the book’s illustrations. While significant architectural losses are a part of the book, it also chronicles long-gone Austin restaurants, nightclubs, civic happenings, and institutions. Royalties from the book will benefit the collections of the Austin History Center. John is proud of being a “repeat offender” for Arcadia, with his previous publication *Historic Dallas Parks*.

**Abbie H. Weiser**, CA, Processing Archivist, Special Collections, University of Texas at El Paso Library, successfully defended her expanded seminar paper in advance of receiving a master’s degree in history from the University of Texas at El Paso. The title of her paper is “Think-Talk-Write Texas Centennial in 1936: Historical Memory and the Texas Centennial in El Paso and the Border Region.”

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**REPORT YOUR ARCHIVAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY**

The Leadership Log is designed to keep SSA members informed about colleagues’ publications, presentations, promotions, job changes, retirements, elected/appointed leadership positions, or other noteworthy activities.

Submit your news to krishnas@jfk.org

Names of SSA members appear in **bold** type.
You are cordially invited ...

SSA membership is open to everyone interested in archival work. Whether archivist, librarian, conservator, genealogist, or concerned citizen, we welcome your participation in promoting the preservation and use of archives.

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Sr. ☐ Br. ☐ Fr. ☐ Other: ____________________

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Thank you! We look forward to welcoming you as the newest member of the Society of Southwest Archivists.