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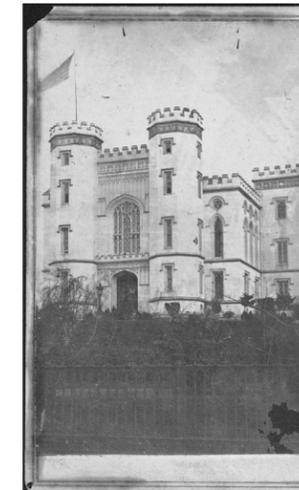
MAY 2005

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 2

## EXPLORE BATON ROUGE HISTORY THROUGH LSU'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

By Tara Laver, Local Arrangements Co-Chair

Since many of you will be heading east to Baton Rouge for the annual meeting, here is a sampling of historical accounts relating to the city and sites you'll see during meeting events and tours. Editorial explanations are given in brackets. All documents are from the LSU Special Collections.



Louisiana State Capitol occupied by Federal troops, late 1862, Mss. 4915

In the first account, 19<sup>th</sup>-century travel writer Fortescue Cuming of Philadelphia relates his experiences in Baton Rouge, ca. 1809, published as *Sketches of a Tour to the Western Country* (Philadelphia, 1810). At the time he was writing, Baton Rouge was not part of the United States but rather Spanish West Florida. It had not been included in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Not until the West Florida Rebellion of September 1810 when residents of the area rebelled against Spanish rule and petitioned the United States to be annexed, did Baton Rouge and the surrounding "Florida Parishes," as they are known, become part of the country.

"Arriving at Baton Rouge, on enquiry I was informed that Madame Le Gendre's was the most respectable auberge, I accordingly stopt there, and found a number of genteel men, Frenchmen, Spaniards, English and Americans, with about a dozen of whom I sat down to supper, quite *a la Francoise*. The table was well covered with different made dishes, and a variety of vegetables among which the most conspicuous, was a large dish of gumbo, served by the hostess at the head, which seemed to be a standing dish, and much in repute, as almost every one was helped to it. It is made by boiling ocroc [okra] until it is tender, and seasoning it with a little bit of fat bacon. It then becomes so ropy and slimy as to make it difficult with either knife, spoon, or fork to carry it to the mouth, without the plate and mouth being connected by a long string so that it is a most awkward dish to a stranger, who besides, seldom relishes it, but it is a standing dish among the French creoles...

"A bed was prepared for me in the front gallery or piazza, where Madame Le Gendre assured me I should be less troubled with mosquitoes than in the interior of the house, and that I should also find it more cool and agreeable...The mosquitoes were sufficiently ennuyants to make me rejoice at perceiving the first dawn of day, when I hurried on my clothes and sallied out to view the seat of government of the western division of West Florida.

"About half a dozen tolerably good frame (or wooden) houses scattered on an extensive plain surrounded on three sides by woods at a little distance, first made their appearance, while a

*continued on pg 8*

**See you in  
 Baton Rouge,  
 May 27-29, 2005**

[southwestarchivists.org](http://southwestarchivists.org)

### inside...

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The *Southwestern Archivist* is free with membership in the Society of Southwest Archivists. Membership is only \$10 per year for individuals with institutional subscriptions available for \$25. We invite you to join or extend your membership. A membership form is near the end of every issue.

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## 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 heritage.

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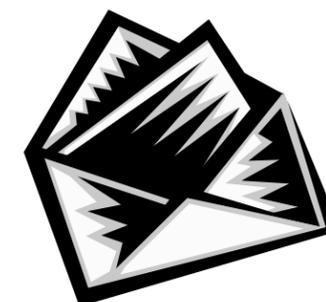
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**LEADERSHIP LOG**

Compiled by Carol Roark, Dallas Public Library



David B. Gracy II, Governor Bill Daniel Professor in Archival Enterprise in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin was recently named editor of the journal *Libraries & Culture*. Dr. Gracy assumes the editor's role from Donald G. Davis, Jr., who served as editor for the past quarter century. The University of Texas Press publishes this quarterly journal of history.

Laura K. Saegert, Appraisal and Map Archivist for the Archives and Information Services Division at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, gave a talk about the map collection of the Texas State Archives at the recent Texas Map Society meeting held at the Bob Bullock State History Museum in Austin.

**ARCHIVIST'S DAYBOOK**

Compiled by Lee Miller  
 For more complete information, please visit  
<http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/daybook.htm>

**May 15** Deadline to apply to take the Academy of Certified Archivists' certification exam and to apply for Pick Your Site locations. Contact ACA at 518-463-8644 or [aca@caphill.com](mailto:aca@caphill.com).

**June 1** Hurricane season begins in the Atlantic. Are your disaster plans current?

**June 15** Deadline to apply for non-residential Electronic Records Research Fellowship in the NHPRC's Electronic Records Fellows program. Contact Helen Tibbo at [tibbo@ils.unc.edu](mailto:tibbo@ils.unc.edu) or Paul Conway at [Paul.Conway@duke.edu](mailto:Paul.Conway@duke.edu) to discuss a possible project.

**June 25** Today in 1794 the French law of 7 Messidor II proclaimed for the first time the right of citizens to have access to public archives.

**July 1** NEH Preservation and Access grant proposal deadline. For guideline see [www.neh.gov/pdf/guidelines/preservation.pdf](http://www.neh.gov/pdf/guidelines/preservation.pdf). For questions e-mail [preservation@neh.fed.us](mailto:preservation@neh.fed.us)

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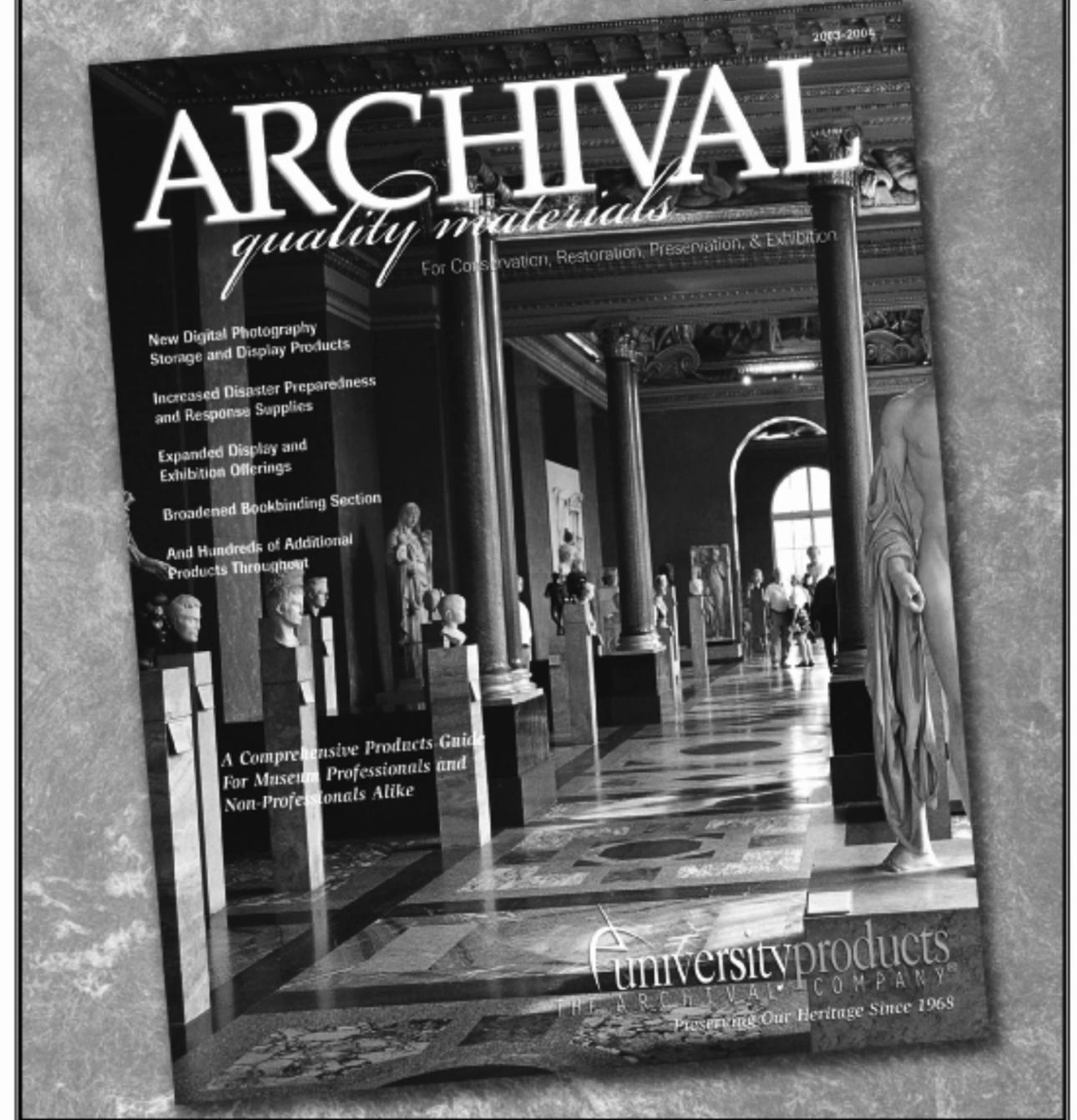
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We encourage your comments, suggestions, and news articles. News items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members wherever they reside are especially sought. Institutional submissions by SSA members from repositories outside of the SSA region will be published if space is available.

We prefer you to send all submissions electronically in the bodies of e-mail notes or as e-mail attachments. Lengthy or highly-formatted submissions can also be sent on disk in any Windows word processing format. Submissions sent as hard copy should be double-spaced in Times New Roman font to facilitate scanning. Faxed submissions are difficult to scan and will not ordinarily be accepted. Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

Deadlines are the 10th of April, July, October, and January. We accept advertising; rates are available on request. Personnel advertisements from members are published gratis.

In order to obtain and track submissions from all the states in the SSA region, we encourage you to work with the Publications Committee member in your state.

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Send Louisiana institutional submissions to:

Carol Bartels  
Historic New Orleans Collections  
533 Royal St.  
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504-523-4662 (phone)  
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Carol@hnoc.org

Send New Mexico institutional submissions to:

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### ARCHIVIST, CARL ALBERT CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

The Carl Albert Center at The University of Oklahoma is seeking qualified applicants for a professional staff position in the Center's congressional archives. The preferred candidate will have three years of professional archival experience and a master's degree in library science, history, or political science. The archivist is responsible to the director/curator for the administration and development of the Center's congressional archives, which currently include the papers of more than 50 former members of the U.S. Congress. In addition to advising the curator in matters of collection development and policy, the archivist is responsible for the development of related educational and outreach programs (exhibits, oral histories, educational packages, etc.); builds relations with collection donors; assists users; writes grant proposals; interfaces with the Center's academic programs; trains and supervises student employees; and has professional involvement in the activities of regional and national archival organizations. The archivist performs all aspects of collection processing including accession, description and cataloging, determination of subject headings and standard terminology; preparation of finding aids, scope and content notes, and biographical descriptions; construction of electronic inventories.

For further information or to submit an application, please call (405) 325-1826, or access the university's Human Resources web site @ [www.ou.edu/ohr](http://www.ou.edu/ohr). Applicants must submit an OU job application to the Office of Human Resources, 905 Asp Avenue, Room 205, Norman, OK 73019. The University of Oklahoma is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and encourages diversity in the workplace.

### ARCHIVIST, OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS

Ouachita Baptist University ([www.obu.edu](http://www.obu.edu)) seeks an experienced archivist to manage collection acquisition, processing, preservation, and research services in the Library's Special Collections Department, which houses the historical records of the University, the Clark County Historical Association, and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, including major senatorial, congressional, and gubernatorial collections as well as regional manuscript materials, oral histories, and photographs. Other duties include presentations, participation in professional associations, administration of the local historical association's publications program, authoring web page content, supervising student workers and staff, and developing displays and exhibits.

Salary and faculty rank for this tenure-track position commensurate with experience and education. The successful candidate will possess a graduate degree in library/information science, public history, history, or related field; at least three

years experience in archival administration; ability to work independently and collaboratively; and good communications, interpersonal, and organizational skills. Knowledge of Arkansas history an advantage. Send a letter of application addressing qualifications and interest in working in a Christian environment, three letters of recommendation, and a vita to Ray Granade, Ph.D., Director of Library Services, OBU Box 3742, Arkadelphia, AR 71998. Consideration begins July 15 and continues until position is filled.

### LIBRARIAN-PROCESSING ARCHIVIST, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS

The Special Collections department of Texas State's Alkek Library seeks a permanent, full time Processing Archivist interested in southwestern culture.

*Duties:* Preserves and organizes literary papers and other materials in various formats for the Southwestern Writers Collection. Prepares finding aids according to archival standards. Assists Lead Archivist with the accessioning process and shelf maintenance for archives, manuscripts, and cataloged titles in the Southwestern Writers Collection, Witliff Gallery, and University Archives. Assists in providing reference services for these collections and conducting tours for patrons. Creates book boxes and other preservation housings for collection materials. Assists Lead Archivist with special library projects as requested. Engages in professional activities in accordance with university's standards for promotion for professional librarians. Reports to the Lead Archivist, Southwestern Writers Collections.

*Required qualifications:* ALA-accredited MLS; knowledge of archival and preservation principles, policies and practices; knowledge of research and reference skills necessary to process archives and to assist patrons; ability to effectively use computer hardware and software; strong interpersonal skills; strong oral and written communications skills. *Preferred qualifications:* Knowledge of Texas and Southwestern literature, history, and culture; reading proficiency in Spanish; Macintosh micro-computer skills; knowledge of Encoded Archival Description (EAD); previous archival experience. *Salary and benefits:* \$32,400-\$42,204 depending on assigned rank based on qualifications and experience. Available hiring ranks for this position include Assistant Librarian and Associate Librarian. Advancement in rank is available through the Librarian Career Ladder. Benefits include monthly contribution to health insurance/benefits package and retirement program. No state or local income tax.

Open until filled.

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**NEW FELLOWSHIP INVITES RESEARCH AT HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION**

Press release

The Historic New Orleans Collection is proud to announce a new fellowship to support scholarly research and promote the history and culture of Louisiana and the Gulf South. The inaugural Dianne Woest Fellowship in the Arts and Humanities will be awarded in 2006.

Located in the heart of the city's French Quarter, The Historic New Orleans Collection combines museum, research, and publishing facilities. Woest fellows will be based at the Williams Research Center, home to some 35,000 library items, more than two miles of documents and manuscripts, and approximately 350,000 photographs, prints, drawings, paintings, and other artifacts. THNOC's holdings illuminate the history and culture of the Gulf South, Louisiana, and New Orleans—with a particular focus on colonial Louisiana, the Louisiana Purchase, the Battle of New Orleans, the Civil War, Mississippi River life, cartography, transportation, plantations, urban development, Louisiana artists and writers, historic preservation, architecture, early New Orleans jazz, and Mardi Gras. While THNOC resources should play a central role in the proposed research agenda, fellows will also be encouraged to explore other research facilities in the Greater New Orleans area.

The Woest Fellowship is open to doctoral candidates, academic and museum professionals, and independent scholars. U.S. citizenship is not required, but applicants should be fluent in the English language. Fellows will be expected to present a public lecture during their term of residence, and to acknowledge The Collection in any published work drawing on research completed under the aegis of the fellowship.

The fellowship carries a stipend of \$4,000/month, to be disbursed on a monthly basis for a minimum of one and a maximum of three months. Fellows may select their period(s) of residence, but all research must commence and conclude during the specified calendar year.

Applications for the 2006 Woest Fellowship are due August 1, 2005. Awards will be announced September 15, 2005, with research to begin on or after January 1, 2006. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with The Collection's resources by visiting <http://www.hnoc.org>. Fellowship applications may be downloaded from the website's "research" link. For more information, call Dr. Alfred Lemmon, Director of the Williams Research Center, at 504-598-7124, or Dr. Jessica Dorman, Director of Publications, at 504-598-7174.

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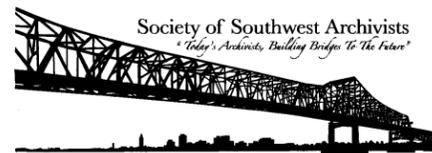
**BUSH PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS RELEASED**

Submitted by Debbie Griggs Carter  
Archivist, George Bush Presidential Library, NARA

On February 18, 2005, the George Bush Library released 9,700 pages of George H.W. Bush Presidential records that were previously withheld under the Presidential Records Act restrictions for appointment to federal office and/or confidential advice. These records are no longer subject to the Presidential restrictive categories or any applicable Freedom of Information act exemptions. This is the first segment of records the National Archives and Records Administration has released.

In accordance with Executive Order 13233, representatives of former President Bush and incumbent President Bush have chosen not to assert any constitutionally-based privilege. This opening consists of records from the White House Office of Records Management Subject Files and Staff Member Office Files. The following are examples of documents in this opening: a memo outlining plans for the Bush Library's placement at Texas A&M; speech drafts and internal memos related to President Bush's signing of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act); and lists used to track Congressional support for a use-of-force resolution related to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The George Bush Library is continuing to review previously withheld records for possible release, and currently estimates that such records will total approximately 57,000 pages. The Library will make these records available on an ongoing basis, once notice has been given and a decision has been made by the Presidential representatives not to assert any constitutionally-based privilege. Please check the Bush Library website for updates at <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu> or contact the Archives at 979-691-4041 for more information.

**ANNUAL MEETING MAY 26-28, 2005 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

- Need a room or a roommate?
- Hoping for a last minute slot in pre-conference workshops?

Contact Tara Laver, Assistant Curator for Manuscripts, Special Collections, LSU Libraries & Local Arrangements Co-Chair at [tzachar@lsu.edu](mailto:tzachar@lsu.edu)

For more information on workshops and sessions and a registration form, see <http://www.southwestarchivists.org/HTML/Meeting.htm>.

**SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS, AUGUST 2005**

Submitted by Ann Wakefield, New Orleans Notarial Archives Research Center

Archivists from far and near will travel to New Orleans for the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists. The national convention takes place August 15-21 at the Hilton Riverside.

Founded in 1936, SAA has approximately 3,100 individual and 500 institutional members. Nearly 1,500 archivists attended last year's meeting in Boston. Several archivists from the Society of Southwest Archivists' six-state region will play an active role in the 2005 meeting.

Two days of pre-conference workshops, seventy-two educational sessions, specialty area roundtables, the archivists' career center, SAA bookstore, the archives and technology trade show, and a variety of social events are scheduled for the 2005 conference. One of the most popular parts of the annual event is Archives Unplugged, a series of seven sessions on archives fundamentals conducted by respected professionals in the archival field.

SAA President Randall Jimerson of Western Washington University will give the presidential address, and Ambassador Andrew Young - a New Orleans native - has been invited to deliver the keynote speech.

Alfred Lemmon, director of the Williams Research Center and chair of the local host committee, said SAA visitors will be able to see New Orleans in a light not immediately visible to tourists. "New Orleans is often thought of as 'the city that care forgot,' but it is truly a very caring and philanthropic city," he said.

Among New Orleans repositories holding open houses for the visiting archivists are Tulane University Manuscripts Department, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Amistad Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection, and the N.O. Notarial Archives Research Center.

Tour offerings include tours of Vieux Carré architecture, the Garden District, African-American legacy, Mississippi River plantations, New Orleans cooking, and Louisiana swamps.

Archivists and others from the SSA region taking part in the educational sessions include Mike Strom of Texas Christian University, on implementing new guidelines to expose hidden collections; Elizabeth Townsend of Tucson, Arizona, on archivists, copyright, and digitization; Rebecca Hankins of Texas A&M University, on resolving conflicts between institutions and minority groups; Elizabeth Dow of Louisiana State University and Yvonne Loiselle, on the Southeast Archives Education Collaborative; Charles Schultz of Texas A&M University and Tonia J. Wood of Texas State Library & Archives Commission, on governors' records and public policy; Sandra Jaramillo of New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, on State Historic Records Advisory Boards; and Bruce Boyd Raeburn of the Hogan Jazz Archive at Tulane University, on the role of academic repositories in preserving jazz.

Also participating are Brenda Square of the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans and Angela Proctor of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on a model for archival training developed by the HBCU Archives Institute; Laura Spencer and Stephannie Oriabure of the George Bush Presidential Library, on the presidential electronic records pilot system; Shaguna Campbell of the Amistad Research Center, on reference services and the technology explosion; John H. Slate of Dallas Municipal Archives, on strategies for broadening archival access via visual materials; and Ann Wakefield of New Orleans Notarial Archives, and Robert J. Cangelosi and Judith Bethea of New Orleans, on architectural records in New Orleans.

Registration to the annual meeting is open to members and non-members. The SAA Web site ([www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org)) has registration information.

Alfred Lemmon chairs the host committee, and Lee Miller serves as co-chair. Committee members are Carol Bartels, Kathie Bordelon, Mark Cave, Florent Hardy, Irwin Lachoff, Lewis Morris, Charles E. Nolan, Rob Sherer, Brenda Square, and Ann Wakefield.

## AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER CELEBRATING NEW MEXICO GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FIRST FIFTY YEARS

Submitted by Susan K. Soy, Austin History Center

The Austin History Center is celebrating the 50th year of existence of the Austin-Travis County Collection this April and May. The collection began as a local history collection and part of the reference department of the Austin Public Library. Since 1955, the collection has grown under the thoughtful guidance of curators Katherine Drake Hart, Audray Bateman Randall, Biruta Celmins Kearl, and most recently, Susan K. Soy.

The Austin History Center staff celebrated the 50th anniversary event with the community on April 13th by hosting a Customer Appreciation Day at the Austin History Center. During the celebration, staff offered tours of the lobby and reading room areas of the Austin History Center. They pointed out those features of the 1933 Italian Renaissance building that make it known as one of the most graceful structures in downtown Austin.

Customers were also tested on their knowledge of Austin History with a crossword puzzle and question and answer cards that highlight events and people in Austin's history. In the evening, former and present staff and volunteers were invited to an evening event featuring food prepared using recipes taken from local area cookbooks housed in the collection.

In the lobby of the Austin History Center, visitors are able to read about the first fifty years of the Austin-Travis County Collection while examining the special exhibit. This anniversary exhibit was prepared by Catherine Stollar as part of her graduation requirement from the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin. The exhibit entitled *History in Your Hands* provides a timeline of events related to the first fifty years of the Austin History Center; illustrates the types of archives that the Austin History Center is so well-known for providing to the public; and features the people who have worked so persistently to create this fine example of a local history repository situated within the public library setting.



AMEROTYPE FROM AR.A.024, AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER, AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

## NEW MEXICO GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by Randy Forrester, NMHR Advisory Board

### Grant program

The New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board is seeking proposals for projects to improve preservation of and access to the state's historical records. The Board, through the State Commission of Public Records, has received funding from the New Mexico State Legislature and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to support its Historical Records Grants Program. Total funding available for projects is \$45,000.

Deadline for Receipt of Application:

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., May 13, 2005. Grant guidelines and application form are available at: [www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmhrab/nmhrab\\_hm.htm](http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmhrab/nmhrab_hm.htm)

For more information call: Randy Forrester 505-476-7936

### Scholarship program

The New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board is seeking applications for scholarships for training that improves the preservation of and access to the state's historical records. The Board, through the State Commission of Public Records, has received funding from the New Mexico State Legislature and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to support its Historical Records Scholarship Program. Total funding available for scholarships is \$5,000. The maximum scholarship amount available for any scholarship is \$1,500. A minimum match of 20 percent of travel costs is required.

Deadline for Receipt of Application: Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., May 13, 2005. Scholarship guidelines and application form are available at:

[www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmhrab/nmhrab\\_hm.htm](http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmhrab/nmhrab_hm.htm)

### Past grants have been awarded to:

Center for Land Grant Studies  
City of Las Vegas  
Moriarty Historical Society  
New Mexico Preservation Alliance  
Palace of the Governors (History Library)  
Palace of the Governors (Photo Archives)  
Project Crossroads  
Rio Rancho Public Library  
San Juan Pueblo  
Santa Fe Indian School  
The Santa Fe Opera  
University of New Mexico (General Library)

### Past scholarships have been awarded to:

City of Sunland Park  
City of Gallup  
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (2)  
Palace of the Governors — Photo Archives  
University of New Mexico — Political Archives



## ARKANSAS'S HISTORY COMMISSION NAMES NEW HISTORIAN

Press release from Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

The Arkansas History Commission's (AHC) second century begins with the dawn of a new era. Dr. John L. Ferguson, the State Historian since 1960, passed the torch to a new archivist, Wendy Richter, with the announcement of her appointment on April 14. This announcement was made just two weeks shy of the commission's centennial celebration which will be held on April 27 at the Arkansas State Capitol. Robert Black, chairman of the Arkansas History Commission, issued the following statement. "On behalf of the Commission we want to thank Ms. Richter for accepting this position. She is without doubt qualified and able to take the AHC to the next level. We are excited about the future and look forward to working with her for many years to come. This is a great day for Arkansas history!" Richter is enthusiastic about her new position and is looking forward to a May 16 start date. "I am honored to have been chosen by the State History Commission to lead it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

The Arkansas History Commission is one of the oldest state agencies in Arkansas, established by Act 215 of 1905. The commission was originally formed as a state board and charged with the mission to identify and collect historic resources related to Arkansas and to publish historical journals. One hundred years later, the AHC preserves and protects the official archives of the state, collects materials which impact Arkansas history, copies official records and other historical data, and encourages historical research.

Richter brings a wealth of experience to the commission as an Associate Professor and Archivist and the current Head of the Special Collections Department of the Riley-Hickingbotham Library at Ouachita Baptist University (OBU). In this position, Richter is responsible for all phases of archival management, from collection and preservation of materials to managing the Clark County Historical Association's fifty-volume publication program. Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee affirmed the Commission's selection of Richter based on his professional experience with her at OBU. "Wendy has done a fantastic job at Ouachita, where I had an opportunity to work with her after announcing that I would donate my papers to the school. She will now do a great job for our entire state in this important position. Dr. Ferguson leaves some big shoes to fill, but the History Commission has selected the right person to move the commission forward." Richter agrees, "Dr. Ferguson is a legend. His long-service has been invaluable to the state of Arkansas. People in the history field appreciate his effort. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of Arkansas history and I hope to emulate that aspect of his work."

Richter will launch her new career at the commission with ambitious goals, "We do need to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with regard to technology. We are going to improve our services and begin new programs." Richter plans to support these new initiatives with ample publicity to allow all of Arkansas's residents to take advantage of the state's archives and historical programs.

Prior to her employment at OBU, Richter spent three years at the Arkansas History Commission in the '80s as an archival assistant, and also as a records management analyst. She earned her Masters in Public History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is currently a candidate for her Ph.D. in Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University. Richter has been married for 31 years to Larry Richter and her family includes two children and four "spectacular" grandchildren.



*Continued from cover page*

dirty little town of 60 cabins crowded together in a narrow street on the river bank, penned in between the Mississippi and a low steep hill descending from the plain, filled up the fourth side. I walked through the village—it is a right French one—almost every other house being a petty shop for the sale of bread, tobacco, pumpkins and taffia (or bad rum) distilled at the sugar plantations a little lower down the river....[I] went to view the fort on the plain above the north end of town [where the present-day Arsenal Museum is located]. It is a regular square with four small bastions at the angles. The ramparts are composed of earth thrown up out of a small dry ditch or fosse which surrounds it, and are crowned by a stockade of pickets. A few small guns mounted, point to the different approaches, and also command the river, but it is a work of very little strength, and not capable of much defence against a prepared enemy. “

By 1849, Baton Rouge was the capital of Louisiana, and the legislature met for the first time in the new (now the old) state capitol in 1850. Designed by New Orleans architect James Dakin, the Gothic style castle-capitol is the site of our Thursday night reception. Despite its whimsical style, Dakin's reasons for choosing the design were very practical, as he explained in a letter of January 26, 1847, to the building commissioners [copied into his diary]:

“I have used the Castellated Gothic Style of Architecture in this Design because it is quite as appropriate as any other Style or Mode of building and because no style or order of Architecture can be employed which would give suitable character to a Building with so little Cost as the Castellated Gothic. The ornamental details in most instances could be made of cast iron which would be even less costly than wood work and more durable and less liable to injury than Stone. Should a Design be adopted in the Grecian or Roman Order of Architecture, we should accomplish only what would unavoidably appear to be a mere copy of some other Edifice already erected and often repeated in every City and Town of our Country. Those Orders have been so much employed for many years past that it is almost impossible to start an original conception with them. A building could be erected according to this Design for \$100,000 using bricks and cement for the walls and cast iron for the window frames and ornamental details. If built of Marble it would cost \$200,000. The utmost economy or liberality may be employed in erecting a building in the Castellated Gothic Style with propriety either way, all of which depend upon the judgment or pleasure of the Commissioners.

“But construction on the capitol progressed slowly. One main cause was the quality of bricks supplied by a Baton Rouge firm. Dakin described a confrontation with the company's agent in his diary entry of August 3, 1848.

“In consequence of the very bad quality of bricks furnished by Messres. McHatton Pratt & Co for the State Capitol this day and daily for the last month, Mr. Pratt and my self came to a personal conflict on the stagings of the building. I had during the morning been employed in throwing from the stagings a large quantity of soft and very bad bricks, and had also thrown over some portions of walls which had been built with said bad bricks in the midst of which occupation Mr. Pratt came suddenly up to me in a hostile attitude and at the same time using menacing words and expressions at which I became enraged and struck at Pratt. A general context then commenced and blows were passed without much damage however to either party. “

He and Pratt were arrested and tried for disorderly conduct and tried. Dakin was fined \$13 for starting the fight.

Baton Rouge would see fighting of a different sort when the Civil War came to the city. Federal forces took command of Baton Rouge in May 1862. Soon after the Battle of Baton Rouge in August of that year, Confederates re-occupied the town, but in December, the Federals returned to hold it permanently. In his letter of December 18, 1862, Edward N. Marsh, a private in the 52nd Massachusetts, describes the scene upon landing.

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 Susan Eason, Catholic Archives of Texas, Austin.  
 Julie Eshelman-Lee, Fort Collins, CO.  
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 Mark E. Martin, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.  
 Ann Massmann, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (2004)  
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 Catherine L. May, Phoenix.  
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## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, SUSTAINING MEMBERS AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

## CONTRIBUTORS, MAY 2004 THROUGH APRIL 2005

Compiled by Robert Schaadt, SSA Treasurer

Due to the generosity of our members, another \$1,320 was added to the SSA Endowment Trust that provides funding for the SSA Annual Meeting Scholarship, the John Michael Caldwell Student Scholarship, the Sister M. Claude Lane OP Memorial Award and the A. Otis Hebert Jr. C. E. Scholarship. *Thank you!*

## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

David L. Chapman, Texas A & M University, College Station.  
Larry Gates, Metal Edge, Inc., Commerce, CA.  
John Hollinger, The Hollinger Corporation, Fredericksburg, VA.  
Paul R. Scott, Harris County, Houston.  
Robert S. & Martha Sloan, Dallas.

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Trevia Wooster Beverly, Tejas Publications & Research, Houston.  
Diane Bird, Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, Museum of New Mexico.  
Nancy Boothe, Rice University, Houston.  
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Continued from previous page



Defenses on the bluff above the Mississippi River, Port Hudson, La. Marshall Dunham Photograph Album, Mss. # 3241

“Dear Brother and Sister it is with great pleasure I now seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know that I am pretty well and I hope that this few lines will find you the same. We left New Orleans the 16<sup>th</sup> for this place and started up the river with our little expedition. I can’t know how many thousand there is here. They have not all got here yet. The Iron Clad Essex came up ahead and 4 or 5 other gun Boats followed her. We got here at 9 oclock in the morn and they fired 13 shots into the City and they sent a flag down to the Boat and left as soon as possible and then we sent a boat with some men to the Capitol of the place and put up the flag of our union and then the troops began to land and the Confederates left the place as soon as possible. We came up into the City and picked our tint and we went into the houses and brought out chairs and books

and every thing that we could get that we could use. I got this paper out of an account book. There was a report today our men had drove the Rebels out of Vicksburg and that they were coming down this way. There was twenty thousand of them and above here about 14 miles above [Port Hudson]....There was 50 negroes ran from their masters and came here for protection and today 19<sup>th</sup> there was 32 more come to day with their Bridgets[?] with them. They say that they have not had any shoes for one year and they are barefooted almost. Their clothes are awful ragged. The inhabitants are starving. They cannot get salt hardly, it is 75 cts a lb...flour is forty dollars a barrel in United States Money and 80 dollars in Confederate money....We expect an attack any time...This city looks hard. There is a great many houses Burnt to the ground. “

Port Hudson, one of the tour options for Saturday, remained the last Confederate strong hold on the Mississippi River until the garrison surrendered on July 9, 1863. Union forces tried two unsuccessful direct assaults on the Confederate breastworks, to no avail. Solomon Nelson of the 50<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts recorded the events of June 14 and after in his journal:

“After one hours sleep we were ordered into line with a host of others forming the reserve for the storming party to make the assault. Our position for a time was very perilous but kind Heaven protected us while shot and shell fell around us. The dead are lying around us and the wounded are passed rapidly to the rear. The conflict was [?] and bloody and no gain made but the whole is a failure....

Tuesday [June] 18<sup>th</sup> [1863] A flag of truce was sent out today and arrangements were made to bury the dead of last Sunday. They numbered about one hundred and twenty two were still living, their wounds in a terrible condition. I don’t know but it is all right but I do not see why this matter could not have been attended to before. From appearance, many were alive a few days before. The dead were hardly recognizable....The rebs brought out the bodies to our men who met there, and did the last sad rites and for the time met as friends and exchanged civilities, talked over the affairs, exchanged mementoes, drank wine[?], shook hands, and parted, ready tomorrow to exterminate each other. Such is war....

Wednesday [July] 8 [1863] Eventful day—last night indications inside the Fort gave us to understand that something was up...This morning [9<sup>th</sup>] a cessation of hostilities was asked and a talk was held which lasted almost all day. At four oclock it was definitely understood that Port Hudson Had Surrendered. The wildest enthusiasm ensued. Cheer after cheer echoed all along the line. The disputed territory was soon filled with both parties who met as old friends...All is life and vivacity.



Another interior view of the Citadel at Port Hudson. Marshall Dunham Photograph Album, Mss. # 3241

**LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE: NEW ACQUISITIONS ON VIEW AT WITTLIFF GALLERY OF MEXICAN & SOUTHWESTERN PHOTOGRAPHY**

Submitted by Connie Todd, Curator



"Taos, New Mexico, 1947" by Henri Cartier-Bresson. This image first appeared in Henri Cartier-Bresson's *THE DECISIVE MOMENT* (Verve and Simon Schuster, 1952) and the full caption reads, "A land-owner died. His body was taken out to the burial ground in a shiny black motor hearse. Members of the family rode in a stage-coach; cowhands and ranch help came on horseback. During the funeral, this one old cowboy bowed his head at the graveside." Photo courtesy of Wittliff Gallery.

To discover an ephemeral image, capture it, and show it to the world is a task pursued both by artists and collection curators—in somewhat divergent ways. A photographer—serendipitously or following a particular esthetic trail—encounters an image, yanks it out of the time stream with the camera's click, fixes it on paper, and reveals it. A curator, in pursuit perhaps of a particular artist, working in a particular collecting area, or simply by happy accident, finds an image, acquires it—budget permitting—and makes it available to the public through exhibitions, books, private viewings.

Thus, in the best of all possible worlds, rising from their shared but bifurcating task, a wonderful symbiosis can occur between an

artist and a collecting gallery like the Wittliff as they create together a visionary body of the artist's work. And when that happens it's like catching lightning in a bottle, like capturing something powerful and elusive and then being able to hold it and show it to the world. Very heady stuff, and certainly for me one of the most rewarding aspects of the curating business.

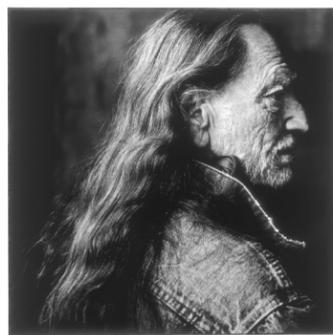
Ours is primarily a contemporary photography collection, and many of our artists are living, so we're able to confer with them, ask them which images they would like to see preserved, which images express their creative path, which images, though aberrant, might be included as illustrative of the road not taken—sometimes those are the most instructive of all. We listen to the artists we collect, and we respect their talent and their intuition as we con-

duct the ongoing dialogs that give Texas State's Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography vitality and dash and a rare immediacy of vision shared by artist and collecting institution.

Because we've added so many extraordinary images to the Wittliff collection during the past couple of years, we thought it was high time to share them with you—hence this truly astounding show. There are new photoworks from favorites like Yolanda Andrade, Kate Breakey, Keith Carter, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Edward Curtis, Graciela Iturbide, Russell Lee, Francisco Mata Rosas, Michael O'Brien, Josephine Sacabo, Sebastião Salgado, Rocky Schenck, Erwin Smith, Bob Wade, Geoff Wingham, Bill Wittliff, and Mariana Yampolsky; and spectacular images from artists new to our collection or seldom exhibited: Faustinus Deraet, Héctor García, Annie Leibovitz, Rodrigo Moya, Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison, Joel Salcido, Cathy Spence, Jack Spencer, Gerardo Suter, Doris Ullman, Kathy Vargas, and Joel-Peter Witkin. You will see a few historical photos in the mix as well: Rosenthal's 1945 "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima", and a 1906 image of the last survivors of the Battle of San Jacinto.

*Lightning in a Bottle* runs through August 12. More information available online at <http://www.library.txstate.edu/swwc/wg/index.html>.

It's fun, it's free, and it's good for you. Come grab the lightning!



"Willie Nelson, Luck Ranch, Spicewood, Texas" ©Annie Leibovitz, 2001. Photo courtesy of Wittliff Gallery.

**FORTUNE FAVORS THE BRAVE: TEXAS NAVY ONLINE EXHIBIT LAUNCHED**

Submitted by Laura Saegert, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) is pleased to announce the release of an online exhibit entitled "Fortune Favors the Brave: The Story of the Texas Navy". The exploits of the Army of the Republic of Texas are legendary. From the Alamo to San Jacinto, to campaigns against the Comanche and the Cherokee, the soldier of early Texas has become an iconic figure. But the story of the Texas Navy remains almost unknown. The little-known sailors of Texas and their wooden ships of sail and steam were vital to the survival of the Republic; they defended the coastline from Mexican invasion, ensured Texas supply lines from New Orleans, and brought in much-needed revenue from prizes and captures.

The story of the Texas Navy is first of all a story of adventure in the Gulf. But it is also a story of politics, 19th-century style. The showdown between Commodore Edwin Moore and President Sam Houston became one of Texas's most celebrated blood feuds. Eventually, their battle of wills brought the Navy crashing down around them, amidst charges of piracy, mutiny, and murder.

"Fortune Favors the Brave" includes more than 50 original historical documents drawn from the collections of the Texas State Archives, along with rare photographs and illustrations. Among the images are seldom-seen details from Republic of Texas currency, which provide insight into the pride Texans had the victories of their tiny fleet. Among other rarities showcased in the exhibit is the celebrated book by Commodore Moore, *To the People of Texas*. An explanation of his role in the feud with Sam Houston, the rare Moore volume was recently purchased by the Texas Historical Commission through auction at Sotheby's and then donated to the Texas State Library and Archives.

Sometimes thrilling, sometimes farcical, "Fortune Favors the Brave" provides a unique perspective on the early Republic of Texas, its politics and personalities, and its fight for survival. The exhibit is only the most recent addition to TSLAC's online exhibits. The exhibits may be accessed at <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/exhibits/>.

*Continued from previous page*

The Historic New Orleans Collection intends to create a comprehensive electronic index to geographically-oriented materials that are both held by THNOC or cited in the Vieux Carré survey. This effort involves four major phases: (1) conversion of the Vieux Carré Survey to electronic format; (2) integration of data from other materials held at the collection into the database; (3) incorporate "extra-collection" data into the database; and (4) the exporting or integration of this material into a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Work on the informational side of the database was begun in April 2003. As of November, 2004, 90 of the binders (out of 136) have been processed. This translates into 65 squares, 1,513 lots, that includes 28,771 names (with variants) and 36,616 property transactions. Support material has been included, ie. newspaper clippings, assorted ephemera and Vieux Carré Commission architectural reviews. Once completed it will be possible, for the first time, to search by surname. Other possible search groups include notary publics and free people of color by gender. Also, photographic images are in the process of being scanned. At a later date they will be "connected" to the photographic "negative" information that has already been entered into the database.

As the 1981 THNOC publication *The Vieux Carré Survey* states in the concluding paragraph referring to the "paper" copy of this important collection, "it is doubtful that the Louisiana Landmarks Society members could have envisioned, back in 1959, the collection of material that would grow out of their pioneering efforts; indeed, it is still growing, and will do so in perpetuity." It is now fair to conclude the electronic copy of this monumental and valuable asset will bring a new and more useful dimension to this body of information and hopefully, more attention to one's of the country's most colorful historic neighborhoods.

**AN HISTORIC CITE: THE VIEUX CARRÉ SURVEY DATABASE**

Submitted by Gerald F. Patout, Jr., Williams Research Center, HNOC

New Orleans's historic French Quarter, or *Vieux Carré*, has long been the subject of much attention and intense development pressure. As the chief attraction and center of the city's tourism industry, the Quarter is the destination for more than 18 million visitors each year and its importance in the economic mix has increased in inverse proportion to the gradual decay of the city's non-recreational economy over the past two decades.

Ultimately, the struggle to guide growth and economic tourism rationally in the Vieux Carré depends on scholarship, sound reasoning and information. For nearly forty years, a primary tool in the effort to preserve the French Quarter has been the Vieux Carré Survey, housed in the library collection of the Williams Research Center (WRC) of The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC), where it has become the most intensively used resources serviced by the library staff. This massive compendium of citations, images, maps and other data pertaining to every property in the Quarter is an invaluable source of information for preservationists and developers alike. Much of this is due to its geographic organization, in which the data is filed by square, then street, followed by block. Yet because it is an entirely paper-based entity, the Survey can be used only at the WRC and searching is limited to its current organizational arrangement. Moreover, the inherent fragility of this unique resource leaves it vulnerable to progressive and irreversible deterioration caused by constant use.

With funding from the Collins C. Diboll Foundation, the Vieux Carré Survey Database Project has begun to convert the current paper-based Vieux Carré Survey into an electronic format, allowing it to be simultaneously accessed by multiple users via the Internet and at workstations located in the WRC reading room. More importantly, the conversion will make the survey data independent of its current organizational arrangement, thereby making it possible to present the data in ways that allow other intellectual approaches. While the existing arrangement of data by square within the survey provides the most commonly needed access mode, conversion to electronic format would allow searching and grouping of information by variables such as property owner, value and time-period. Finally, by putting the Survey into a database format, The Historic New Orleans Collection will gain a data structure that will allow other holdings to be accessed in the same, highly useful, geographic format as the Survey.

The Vieux Carré Survey was originally the result of a collaborative effort between the Tulane University School of Architecture, a group of New Orleans architects, historians, members of the Louisiana Landmarks Society and other dedicated amateur scholars. Building on the work produced by the WPA and HABS in the 1930's, the Vieux Carré Survey began, in the mid-1960's, to create an extensive pictorial and textual index of materials pertaining to the French Quarter. Two copies of the survey were made. One copy was deposited with the Tulane School of Architecture. Its current disposition is unknown. The other was housed in the Vieux Carré in a facility that would eventually become The Historic New Orleans Collection. This copy of the Survey, now contained in 136 three-inch ring-binders at the Williams Research Center, was largely created during two separate periods. The first of these occurred from 1961 to 1966 with funding from the Schlieder Foundation, supplemented with space, supplies and some addition to the salaries by General L. Kemper Williams. This was followed by a second period of activity from 1977 through 1979, funded by Collins Diboll and The Historic New Orleans Collection. In addition to these periods of relatively intense activity, minor updates to the Survey were conducted almost continuously for a period of nearly 20 years from the late 1960's through the late 1980's.

The Survey now documents every square of the district with citations to Notarial Archives documents, chains of title, photographs, maps and journalism. From its inception the survey has provided an indispensable service to hundreds of patrons a year at the WRC. At the same time, its size, fragility and difficulty of use make it one of the most difficult resources to service. In addition, as a paper document without external indices, much of its information is difficult to access or analyze in any order but that in which it was originally arranged. For many years the reference staff at The Collection has asked that the Survey be converted to digital form in the hopes that such a conversion would make it easier for researchers to extract more and different kinds of information.

*Continued on next page***DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY ACQUIRES ESTATE OF NOTED AFRICAN-AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER MARION BUTTS**

Press release



Thrifty Drugs, located at 3121 Oakland, was the first drug store in Dallas to integrate its soda fountain, 1952. Photo by Marion Butts. Courtesy of Texas/Dallas History & Archives

The Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library has acquired 58,000 negatives taken by Marion Butts (1924-2002) that document almost 60 years of African-American community life in Dallas. The rich collection covers not only segregation and civil rights events, but also the community's business, civic, religious, educational, and social life as well as visits by national leaders and celebrity entertainers. Harry Robinson, director of the African-American Museum, has said that Mr. Butts "was probably Dallas' most pre-eminent visual historian."

Mr. Butts graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas in 1943. He studied photography as an apprentice at the Adolphus Hotel Photo Shop from 1942-45 and in 1949 graduated from Bishop College in Marshall, Texas. Mr. Butts also served as editor and photographer for *The Dallas Express*, a Dallas African-American newspaper, for over twenty years. He received the Dallas Black Living Legend Award for Print Journalism in 1992 from the Junior Black Academy for Arts and Letters.

Highlights of the collection include pivotal images depicting segregation, civil rights, NAACP activities, early African-American elected officials, and demonstrations in Dallas. There are pictures of the first black students admitted to Southern Methodist University, the first black physicians given privileges at a white hospital in Dallas, and the first black police officers to join the Dallas police force during the twentieth century. Mr. Butts' photographs are a primary visual historical record of African-American Dallas.

Texas/Dallas History staff has begun processing the collection and will scan selected images for inclusion in the library's online catalog. A traveling exhibition and book of Mr. Butts work are also planned.

Don't forget to bring items for SLOTTO! to the annual meeting.

Contact Judy Bolton  
(jbolton@lsu.edu)  
for more information!



### UTSA ARCHIVES MAKES AVAILABLE THE SAN ANTONIO HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECORDS

Submitted by Traci JoLeigh Drummond, Processing Archivist, UTSA

The University of Texas at San Antonio Archives has recently completed processing the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SAHCC) Records. The records include materials that reflect the history, work and policies of the SAHCC between 1946 and 2005 through correspondence, yearbooks, bylaws, newsclippings, and newsletters. Of note is an impressive collection of photographs that document events, SAHCC board members, activities and businesses in 20th century San Antonio.

The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce began in 1929 as the Mexican Chamber of Commerce, the first of its kind anywhere in the United States. They changed the name of the organization in 1987 in order to emphasize their relationship with all of Latin America and also the diversity of San Antonio Hispanic businesses. The SAHCC also advocates support of minority- and women-owned businesses in the San Antonio and Bexar county area.

The UTSA Archives was pleased to accept a donation of \$2,500, which accompanied the donation of the Chamber's materials. The funds were used to hire a student of Mexican-American descent to process the collection. The finding aid for the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Records will be made available through Texas Archives Resources Online (TARO). For further information, contact Gerianne Schaad, Head, Archives and Special Collections ([archives@utsa.edu](mailto:archives@utsa.edu)).

### "THE TERRIBLE AND THE BRAVE: THE BATTLES FOR NEW ORLEANS, 1814-1815" AN EXHIBIT AT THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

Submitted by Elsa Schneider, Public Relations, HNOG

In the waning days of the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson shocked the world by leading a ragtag force of local and state militia, regular U.S. troops, free men of color, Choctaw Indians, and Baratarians pirates to a crushing victory over an invading army of proud, tested, elite British soldiers determined to seize New Orleans. A new exhibition at The Historic New Orleans Collection entitled *The Terrible and the Brave: The Battles for New Orleans, 1814-1815*, brings both American and British perspectives to bear on this watershed event. The exhibition is on view at 533 Royal Street from May 17, 2005, through January 8, 2006.

*The Terrible and the Brave* features an exciting collection of original documents and artworks, vintage weapons and military equipment, as well as dazzling Napoleonic-era uniforms. On display are more than 100 items drawn from The Collection's considerable holdings on the Battle of New Orleans as well as from public and private collections in the U.S. and Canada.

The "battle" of New Orleans actually consisted of several engagements, some won by the British and others by the Americans. Included in the exhibition are a series of highly detailed campaign maps illustrating the enormous difficulties faced by the British army, which found itself hemmed in by the Mississippi River and impassable swampy woods. Manuscript letters, rare published accounts, reports from Andrew Jackson, Jean Laffite, and other participants bring the events of 1814-15 to life. A selection of cannonballs, plus many fine examples of British and American small arms, swords, and bayonets give a lively sense of the perils both sides faced on the battlefield. Vintage military equipment on display includes wooden canteens, powder horns, and a militia doctor's field surgery kit.

As a supplement to the exhibition, a special display documents the rise of Andrew Jackson to national and international prominence. An interactive multimedia component, produced by documentary filmmaker Walter Williams, complements *The Terrible and the Brave* with sounds, images, and commentary from noted scholars.

For more information call (504) 523-4662 or visit our website at [www.hnoc.org](http://www.hnoc.org).

Continued from previous page

Social Security Numbers (SSNs) are one of the key elements of our identities. The gathering and use of this vital information by the government is often necessary. The protection of this information is equally vital. The conference ended with Mindy Bowman, from the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO). Ms. Bowman came to explain the background and recommendations from GAO Report 05-59 on the use of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) by federal, state, and local governments. The purpose of this report, according to Ms. Bowman, was to study how often SSNs are collected and made available through websites or other electronic methods.



The planning committee members, Tim Nolan, Mary Ann Bridges and Roy Bowden, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Nancy Fortna, NARA and Bonnie Curtain, NEH representing NAGARA, Dr. Patricia Galloway, University of Texas at Austin, School of Information, and NARA representatives John H. Smith and Cindy Smolovik, (also representing SSA) are pleased to have presented this opportunity and are looking forward to next year.

Anyone interested in a particular topic for next year should contact John H. Smith at [johnh.smith@nara.gov](mailto:johnh.smith@nara.gov). The committee would like to thank all the speakers and attendees.

Watch for details the next E-Records Forum to be held in April 2006.

### CURRENT RESEARCH AT THE ARCHIVES OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS, CONGREGATION OF ST. MARY

The Archives of Dominican Sisters, Congregation of St. Mary is small, but researchers find their way to it, mainly through the internet. One local writer is researching the original convent/ academy on Dryades Street, downtown New Orleans. He will publish on the architect of the historic 1861 building, which was razed in 1956 to make room for an expressway.

Another writer is searching for yellow fever connections. Still another is looking for information on Orphan Train survivors. Sister Mary James Hunt-Fabacher, who will be 98 on May, is featured on [www.dominican-sisters.net](http://www.dominican-sisters.net). She is the sole survivor of her large, adopted family of siblings, and the darling of a host of nieces and nephews.

The "lone arranger" of this minuscule archives, who responds to email, makes appointments for on-site visits, and is otherwise kept busy. Dorothy Dawes, archivist for the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary, and Charles Nolan, archivist for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, co-edited a collection of lives of *Religious Pioneers*, published in 2004 by the Archdiocese.

Dawes won a publication grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for the book, which was sponsored by the Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans. This collaborative group was co-founded in 1993 by Dawes and Nolan. Its members worked seven years on the publication of *Religious Pioneers*, and are happy to see it well received by a diverse readership. The book has almost sold out of its first printing, and will go into paperback this year. It has been recorded, mainly by the writers, and will soon be aired by New Orleans WRBH, Radio for the Blind and Print Handicapped, 88.3 FM.

For more information, Dawes may be reached at [ddawes@dominican-sisters.net](mailto:ddawes@dominican-sisters.net).

**A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE: E-RECORDS FORUM**

Submitted by Cindy Smolovik, National Archives and Records Administration, SW Region



Dr. Bellardo, Deputy Archivist of the United States. Photo by Cindy Smolovik.

Technology continues to present opportunities and challenges for archivists, records managers, librarians, and other information professionals. This year's forum, held in March 31-April 1, 2005 in Austin, Texas was presented through a partnership between the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA), the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators (NAGARA), the National Archives and Records Administration-Southwest Region (NARA-SW), the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) and the University of Texas at Austin School of Information. The purpose of this annual event is to provide attendees a chance to discuss current trends and hot topics in electronic record keeping. This year's event provided just that.

Tim Nolan, Program Planning and Research Specialists, State and Local Records Management Division, Texas State Library, reprised his role as master of ceremonies. The conference started with an insightful discussion by Dr. Lewis Bellardo, Deputy Archivist of the United States on changes in NARA's approach to Federal Records Management. L. Reynolds Cahoon, Assistant Archivist and Chief Information Officer for NARA continued with the status of the Electronic Records Archives (ERA), what it means for the future of preservation and access to these types of records by the National Archives. Mr. Cahoon informed the audience that NARA intends for ERA to be a dynamic system that will continue to grow and transform as technology changes so that it doesn't become an obsolete dinosaur. Tom Mills, Assistant Archivist for Regional Records Services for NARA rounded out the panel by describing the goals and services offered by NARA through out the country by the various regional centers. Afterwards the panel fielded questions from the attendees.

The conference continued with a look at handling different technologies and coordinating electronic records management. Enterprise Content Management is becoming one of the most bandied about buzzwords in electronic records keeping. Frank McGovern from FileNet, presented a clear definition of this concept and how it works.

Digital projects for preservation and access cost money. Bonnie Curtain, National Endowment for the Humanities came with answers. Ms. Curtain gave an enthusiastic and encouraging presentation on what types of grants are available, as well as, how to apply for the right one for a particular type of project.

Toys and gadgets have increased our productivity, ability to communicate, and have given rise to a whole new set of electronic records issues. Michael Baimbridge, NARA-SW Region researched the use of BlackBerrys, Instant Messaging, Smart Phones and other electronic devices and reported on the various ways they affect the capturing of information and the creation of records.

Having a website is no longer a novelty, it has become a necessity. However, websites come and go, are updated, and their content often lost to cyberspace. The University of North Texas (UNT) is working to capture this information. On Friday, Cathy Hartman, Head of Digital Projects Department and Fellow, Texas Center for Digital Knowledge at UNT, provided attendees with a case study in how the Cyber Cemetery Project works, and the trends in digital projects on university resources in personnel, equipment, and software.

No where is electronic case filing more evident than the court systems. Michael Milby, Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas gave an informative and entertaining view of how electronic records are changing how the court system conducts itself. Judges now find electronic documents an essential part of daily processes. The amount of electronic documents and the workflow to maintain their authenticity is staggering.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON LSU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Submitted by Tara Laver, Assistant Curator for Manuscripts, LSU Special Collections

The LSU Special Collections, a division of the Louisiana State University Libraries, is a collection of collections, which, together, comprise a center for research in the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts. As an administrative entity, Special Collections is relatively young, organized just in the mid-1980s, but many of the components of Special Collections have been in existence on the LSU campus since the early 1900s. In 1985, those scattered collections were brought together administratively in Special Collections and physically in Hill Memorial Library. The department has grown, and today, it includes the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, the Rare Book Collection, the E. A. McIlhenny Collection, University Archives, T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, and the U.S. Civil War Center.

The largest component of Special Collections is the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections (LLMVC). This integrated research collection documents the history and culture of Louisiana and the lands along the Mississippi River from Memphis to the Gulf of Mexico. The largest accumulation of materials on this region in existence, the LLMVC includes a comprehensive collection of books, periodicals, maps, prints, pamphlets, Louisiana state documents, microfilm of Louisiana newspapers (which is produced in-house through the Louisiana Newspaper Project), and historical manuscripts and photographs.

What is now the manuscript component of the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections was initiated in 1935 when LSU history professor Edwin Davis began systematically to collect the papers of the families that settled and prospered in the lower Mississippi Valley. Now, more than 5000 manuscript groups encompassing over 10 million items are preserved in LLMVC. Complementing these textual materials are more than 200,000 historic photographs. Recognized as one of the nation's premier repositories for materials relating to the antebellum plantation, Civil War, and Reconstruction South, the LLMVC includes the papers of individuals and families, records of plantations, merchants and financial institutions, and the records of political, social, and labor organizations. The French and Spanish colonial periods in the region are also documented. LLMVC continues to acquire 18th- and 19th century manuscripts, as well as substantial collections of 20th century materials that relate to the region's social, economic, political, cultural, literary, and military history. For subject guides to the manuscript collections, see <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/pubs.html>.

The University Archives, which were begun in 1989 with the support of a grant from NHPRC, is the official repository for all permanent non-current records of academic and administrative units of the University. These records document the development of a small military school into one of the largest and most comprehensive research institutions in the country.

Special Collections also includes important rare, published materials in its Rare Book Collection and the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection. The former is wide-ranging and eclectic in nature and has concentrations in eighteenth-century British history and literature, New World exploration and travel, economic history, and science fiction and fantasy. Fine printing and book design are well represented, most notably in comprehensive collections of Circle Press, Janus Press, and the work of Bruce Rogers.

In 1971, the LSU Libraries acquired by gift the natural history portion of the library of Edward Avery McIlhenny, scion of a prominent Louisiana family, the producers of the world-famous condiment Tabasco. President of the family enterprise, McIlhenny was also a renowned naturalist and conservationist. Building on the firm foundation established by E. A. McIlhenny, and with the continuing support of the late John Stauffer McIlhenny, the Collection has been developed into one of the most prestigious of its kind. It includes works from all periods relating to the broad field of natural history, but it is especially strong in New World botanical and ornithological illustration. Among the more important works in the collection are the great elephant folio of John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, Mark Catesby's *Natural History of the Carolinas*, John Gould's *Hummingbirds*, Lear's *Illustrations of the Family of Psittacidae or Parrots*,

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**DATA FLOOD SWAMPS FACULTY RESEARCHERS;  
ECURE CONFERENCE LOOKS AT OUR DIGITAL FUTURE**

Submitted by Rob Spindler, ECURE co-chair

University research is producing a tremendous flood of digital content, and faculty are just treading water in managing it. That's the essence of keynote speeches given at the ECURE 2005 conference in February and March at Arizona State University. "Expectations regarding public access to research and research results, particularly those paid for by public funds, are growing week by week," said Clifford Lynch, director of the Coalition for Networked Information. CNI is a non-profit consortium of universities and organizations based in Washington, D.C. that facilitates development of Internet technologies to improve research and higher education in the United States and around the world.

Computer-assisted activities such as visualization now are "every bit as important and as significant as traditional monographs and journal articles," Lynch said. The practice of stewardship of information now involves computation, simulation, large-scale data collection and observational data sets. This is true in many fields, not just the sciences, he said. The development of information systems that enable and sustain long-term access is just beginning.

Sarah M. Pritchard, University Librarian for the University of California, Santa Barbara, is principal investigator for a study of data-intensive research projects. She presented a survey of UCSB researchers funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Results from the 2004 survey demonstrate there is great variability across UCSB with regard to retention methods. Few researchers made use of metadata or understood its value. Archiving was often perceived as synonymous with backup of data. Faculty are not being rewarded for creating and implementing retention solutions.

If a university is to successfully provide centralized retention, archiving standards would have to include supporting the software faculty use that has been developed for the particular requirements of their academic disciplines. A mix of "innovative and homegrown patchwork off the shelf" systems built for research data are in use at UCSB. These systems are growing very fast, Pritchard said. The expense of changing, centralizing, and coordinating them is "so frightening that it never happens." Questions also arise regarding selection for retention and the storage and server requirements for support of "enormous data sets."

Pritchard said a clearinghouse for archival consulting and information on curation of digital data could help faculty find resources, and allow researchers from different disciplines to share what works for them. This would be a step toward developing institution-wide decisions about what data to retain and make available. Universities may one day have "electronic archivist" as a standard staff position at their libraries or research departments

"We are moving from a time when digital objects will be the exception, to a time when non-digital objects will be the exception. We need to get serious as institutions about these questions," Lynch said.

Conference proceedings will be made available later this spring at the ECURE Web site, ([www.asu.edu/ecure](http://www.asu.edu/ecure)). The ECURE conference on digital resources and electronic records for higher education is hosted annually by Arizona State University. Additional sponsorship for the conference has been provided by CNI and Proquest Information and Learning.



Preservation and Access for Digital  
College and University Resources

**MARTIN FROST CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

Submitted by Gary Spurr, UT Arlington Libraries

Special Collections at The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Congressional papers of Martin Frost, thirteen term United States Representative of the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas. The Frost papers comprise more than 400 linear feet of materials and document his Congressional career from 1979 to 2004. Due to redistricting in Texas, Frost ran for reelection in 2004 in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District instead of the 24<sup>th</sup> District. Because of this change in districts Frost faced another incumbent and was unsuccessful in his bid for reelection. Included in the material are Frost's daily schedules, legislative correspondence, press clippings, photographs, video tapes, floor statements, weekly columns, and files on a number of issues of district and national importance.

Jonas Martin Frost was born in Glendale, California, in 1942. The son of an aerospace engineer, Frost grew up in Fort Worth and graduated in 1960 from R.L. Paschal High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Journalism from University of Missouri, 1964; and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, Washington D. C., 1970. Prior to entering law school, Frost worked as a journalist and was a staff writer for the *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*. Upon graduation from Georgetown University, Frost became a law clerk for United States Judge Sarah T. Hughes for the Northern District of Texas, began his law practice in Dallas, and appeared as a legal commentator for KERA Channel 13 until his election to Congress in 1978.

Frost was elected as a Democrat to the Ninety-sixth Congress and served in twelve successive Congresses (January 3, 1979 to January 3, 2005). As the representative from the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Frost was the only member who represented portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. The 24<sup>th</sup> District included parts of Dallas and Fort Worth as well as Arlington, Cedar Hill, Cockrell Hill, Duncanville, Grand Prairie, and Forest Hill. During his service in Congress, Frost was the Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, 1999-2003. In addition, Frost was the ranking Democratic member of the House Rules Committee, senior Southern Democrat in the House of Representatives, deputy majority whip, and a member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. After the kidnapping and murder of an eleven year old girl from Arlington, Texas, Frost authored the Amber Hagerman Child Protection Act. With the success of the AMBER

Alert program in North Texas, Frost co-authored the National AMBER Alert Act to establish a nationwide AMBER Alert program.

The Congressional papers of Martin Frost are an important addition to the Texas Political Archives at the University of Texas at Arlington. The Frost papers document twenty-five years of Congressional service and will be of interest to researchers on a number of issues affecting the north Texas area and the nation. Some of the issues are: the defense industry in north central Texas, healthcare, environmental issues, campaign finance, West Dallas housing in the 1980s, NAFTA, and the superconducting super collider.

For further information on the Martin Frost Congressional Papers, please contact: Gary Spurr, Archivist, Special Collections, UTA Libraries, 817-272-7511, [spurr@uta.edu](mailto:spurr@uta.edu).

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**MODIFIED BOOK TRUCKS HELP ARCHITECTURE ARCHIVES**

Submitted by Nancy Brown - Martinez, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico



Shifting and retrieving oversized architectural plans are a lot easier now at the John Gaw Meem Archive of Southwestern Architecture since the archivist had roll tops put on two old book trucks. If you have to access oversize plans, maps, or manuscripts – here is a suggestion for you.\* Photo courtesy of Center for Southwest Research.

The John Gaw Meem Archive of Southwestern Architecture is part of the Center for Southwest Research, University Libraries, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Located in a climate controlled vault three levels below ground, it houses thousands of drawings by over twenty-five regional architects. Student archival assistants, Ellen Evans, Ray Waggener, and Tim Ngo, are working in the vault flattening, repairing, processing and shelving plans, lifting and shifting those already in flat drawers to accommodate additional ones. They need space to temporarily hold plans while moving others. They also retrieve material, toting it up an elevator, for patrons working in the reading room on the ground level. All this moving and carrying in tight spaces required two or four pairs of arms and a lot of energy, muscle and maneuvering.

Wanting to get a carrying truck, I searched the library equipment catalogues and on line offerings but could not find a cart suited to our conditions. The catalogue map carts or custom made ones featured in information bulletins were too wide, flat and costly. Facing limited funding, I decided to adapt an old two - shelf, square - cornered book truck. Ellen and I drew a sketch of this truck with four added upright supports and an open sloop - roll top, and asked the university Physical Plant to make the modifications.

The Service Tech, Mark Ernest, used lightweight aluminum L- bars for the upright braces, sheet metal for the rolled trough and protective edging for the corners. The final product is a light, narrow and maneuverable truck, suitable for plans, maps and oversize manuscript material. It is easy to handle but solid enough to carry a hefty load. It provides vital temporary holding space during shifts and also allows us to conveniently and carefully bring material upstairs to patrons. The cost was comfortable, too - under \$200. We liked the first cart so well we ordered a second from Ernest. And yes, you guessed it, the trucks have been fondly nicknamed "the taco carts."

(\*A patent application has been filed on the architecture cart design and it is now licensable from the Science & Technology Corporation, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.)

*Continued from previous page*

and Banks' *Florilegium*. Recent acquisitions include an archive of some 32 original pencil drawings--thirteen in Audubon's own hand--associated with the production of the Royal Octavo edition of *Birds of America*.

The T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History and the U.S. Civil War Center are also administered as part of the Special Collections. The Oral History Center is an interdisciplinary program that supports and encourages the collection, preservation, and dissemination of the social, political, cultural, and economic history of Louisiana through the oral history. Tapes and transcripts generated by the program and its affiliated researchers are deposited in the LLMVC. The U.S. Civil War Center promotes the study of the Civil War from the perspectives of all professions, occupations, and academic disciplines. Projects and programs include a clearinghouse webpage, publications, exhibitions, and the *Civil War Book Review* <<http://www.cwbr.com>>.

For more information on our holdings, exhibitions, and programs, see [www.lib.lsu.edu/special](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special), or stop by for a visit while you are in town for the annual meeting!

**POLITICAL SPEECHES DONATED TO CARL ALBERT CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH AND STUDIES CENTER**

By Carolyn G. Hanneman

The archives of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma recently acquired a group of speeches by Bryce Harlow, longtime advisor to presidents. For nearly fifty years, Harlow served as a political craftsman in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the staff of the archives constructed two new exhibits. "Shamrocks, Shillelaghs and Shenanigans: Politicians Celebrate St. Patrick's Day" is the Center's latest installment of exhibits focusing on holiday themes. "Celebrating the Grand Old Party" highlights the collections of former Republican members of the Congress whose collections are currently available at the Center. This exhibit was done in conjunction with a two-day symposium on Republican leadership hosted by the Center.

**DALLAS MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES SHINES WITH TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVING HISTORY**

Submitted by John Slate

The Dallas Municipal Archives, City Secretary's Office, City of Dallas, Texas, is the 2004 recipient of the Texas Historical Commission's Award of Excellence in Preserving History. The award recognizes the Dallas Municipal Archives' locally-funded project to process and make accessible the late 19th through mid 20th century records of the Dallas Park and Recreation Department, as well as an exhibit and publication. The award was presented at the Commission's annual Historic Preservation conference April 15th.



**MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY FEATURES SECOND ANNUAL MCLEOD LECTURE ON LOUISIANA POLITICS**

Submitted by Patti Threatt

On March 3, 2005, the McNeese State University Legislative Delegation Archives presented the second annual McLeod Lecture on Louisiana Politics. This year's event, "Louisiana's Governor: Leadership Legacy Lessons Learned," focused on the office of the Governor of Louisiana through the eyes of three former living governors: Mike Foster, Buddy Roemer, and Dave Treen. The McNeese Banners Arts and Humanities Series co-sponsored the event.

In a lively and insightful discussion, the governors addressed the uniqueness of the office and its authority - as defined by the Louisiana constitution and by culture and practice. The governors shared their observations about the office, the opportunities for leadership, the legacy to the State, and the lessons learned that only experience can provide. Robyn Ekings moderated the panel discussion which included John Hill, Capitol bureau chief of Gannett News Services, and Beth Courtney, CEO of Louisiana Public Broadcasting. LPB taped the event and broadcast it statewide on April 21, 2005. The event also featured an exhibit highlighting two governors from Southwest Louisiana, Alvin O. King and Sam Houston Jones.

The annual lecture series honors the late Bill McLeod, a prominent attorney, district judge, and state legislator. McLeod, who died in 2003, practiced law in Lake Charles for 33 years and served 23 years in the Louisiana Legislature. From 1990 to 1997, McLeod served as district judge.

The lecture series focuses on timely and historical aspects of Louisiana politics and efforts to promote a climate of good government. Last year's program featured the "Young Turks," a group of Louisiana legislators who instigated sweeping reforms in the 1970s. All research materials, records, and artifacts pertaining to the annual lecture will become a part of the McNeese Archives. In addition to the lecture series, the Legislative Delegation Archives collects oral history interviews and papers of legislators from Southwest Louisiana.

For more information, please visit our website: [library.mcneese.edu](http://library.mcneese.edu).

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