The Arizona Historical Society was formed by an act of the Arizona Territorial Legislature in 1864. It was not until 1884, however, that the Society was officially organized in Tucson as the Society of Arizona Pioneers. Membership was limited to men who could prove their residence in Arizona prior to 1870, and as a result the original collecting scope was limited to Arizona pioneer families. Over the years the Society expanded its membership base and collecting scope. During the 1970s, branch locations were added. The Arizona Historical Society (AHS) now has museums and archives in all areas of the state: Flagstaff (Northern), Tempe (Central), Tucson (Southern), and Yuma (Rio Colorado). Administratively, the museums are organized as geographic divisions, each with their own director and local advisory board. In 2012, the archives in these four locations became one functional division under its own director. This position has parity with the four museum directors and is currently based out of Tempe with direct reporting to the Executive Director of the agency. This represents a significant change in management philosophy and resource allocation.

At the outset, the change required an overhaul of policies to create uniform, statewide best practices for four very different locations, collections, storage environments, and populations. Creative measures were needed to stretch the Society’s six full-time archivists among four locations, each hundreds of miles from each other.

The Yuma and Flagstaff branches are historic properties. As such, they do not have the facilities to store or provide access to archival collections. Early on, AHS formed a partnership with the Cline Library at Northern Arizona University to care for and provide access to the Northern Division archival collections. This set an important precedent for developing a later partnership with the Yuma Public Library to house the Rio Colorado Division collections. A special collections librarian spends part of her time working with and providing access to the AHS collections at the Yuma Public Library. For the first time, the archival materials are united under one, fully searchable online catalog (http://catalog.azhsarchives.org/).

The Tempe and Tucson branches both have archival storage facilities and reading rooms. They are staffed by full-time archivists and serve as ‘home bases’ for statewide archival operations. The archivists at these locations are mobile and can be deployed to other locations for special projects, strategic planning, and assistance during staff shortages. These deployments are generally labor-intensive...continued on page 18
**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. Membership registration is available via the SSA website at [http://southwestarchivists.org/membership](http://southwestarchivists.org/membership).

Southwestern Archivist is the quarterly newsletter of the SSA. The editor gives 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 permits. Short feature articles on topics and issues relating to current trends in archival enterprise are also welcome, as are longer Spotlight columns and our new “entertainment” pieces. Please query Lisa Cruces (ecruces@uh.edu) or your area liaison if you have any questions about 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 document attached via e-mail. The document should include a title; the author’s name, institutional affiliation, and contact information; and captions and citations for images. Please send images as separate e-mail attachments.

Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and available space. Due to 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

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sabayless@cals.org

**Louisiana submissions**
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jmtc84@lsu.edu

**New Mexico submissions**
Felicia Lujan
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**Oklahoma submissions**
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**Out-of-Region Submissions**
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**Leadership Log Submissions**
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**Interim Editor**
Lauren Goodley
lgoodley@txstate.edu

---

The SSA Web page, [http://southwestarchivists.org](http://southwestarchivists.org), is maintained by Pati Threatt at McNeese State University. Names of the executive board members, officers, and committee chairs are available online. The SSA Leadership Blog, also on the website, is a source for official news from the executive board and committee members. Further information, updates, and items of note can be found on the SSA Facebook page, [https://www.facebook.com/southwestarchivists](https://www.facebook.com/southwestarchivists), or on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/SWArchivists](https://twitter.com/SWArchivists), @SWArchivists, and #swarchivists.
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FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the *Southwestern Archivist* is packed full of inspiration. Read about the annual meeting in Arlington, and start thinking about next year in Oklahoma City. Find out about all the hard work the leadership has put into SSA these last few months, and discover who was awarded the SSA Distinguished Service Award as well as the Continuing Education Award.

Also, get inspired by your colleagues who’ve gotten grants for digitization from IMLS and TexTreasures and NEH. Learn about processing projects of a Native American collection in Arkansas, Free People of Color in Louisiana, and African American funeral programs in Texas. See the efforts in Central Texas to help community members after a tragic flood. And, don’t forget to support the vendors who support the Society with their advertising.

Welcome again to your newsletter, the *Southwestern Archivist*!

**FOLLOW SSA ON FACEBOOK**
SSA reminders and updates, local repository news, jobs, and more!
[https://www.facebook.com/southwestarchivists](https://www.facebook.com/southwestarchivists)

**FOLLOW SSA ON TWITTER**
Every Facebook post Gets Tweeted, along with nonregional news and events.
Follow us at [https://Twitter.com/SWarchivists](https://Twitter.com/SWarchivists)

**2015 ADVERTISERS, THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT!**
The *Southwestern Archivist* would not be possible without the support of our sponsors and colleagues. SSA thanks the following sponsors for their financial support throughout 2015.

- Academy of Certified Archivists
- Archival Products
- Eloquent Systems, Inc.
- Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc.
- Northern Micrographics
- Southwest Solutions Group

For more information on rates and advertising with SSA, please see our rate sheet online at [http://www.southwestarchivists.org/newsletter](http://www.southwestarchivists.org/newsletter).
Meet the President: Interview with Mary Manning

**Q:** What lured you to the field of archives?

**A:** Until my 30’s, I knew almost nothing about archives until I mentioned to Geraldine Aramanda, a friend who works at the Menil Museum, that I was considering a degree in library science to become a librarian. She shared that the Menil was planning to open an archives, explained what an archives was, and suggested that I might contemplate a career as an archivist. However, instead of pursuing a library science degree, I initially pursued an MA in American literature and folklore at the Ohio State University, where as a GRA, I was the archivist for the Center for Folklore Studies. I loved it; I was hooked! In the end, I reconsidered library science school and attended—but to become an archivist instead of a librarian. And I’m glad I did.

**Q:** When and why did you get involved with SSA?

**A:** My first professional position was at Adelphi University on Long Island. As much as I loved it, I am a Texas gal at heart and longed to return home. After landing a job in College Station about six years ago, I began attending SSA meetings. I was new to being an archivist in the region, but everyone was so friendly. I felt at home immediately.

**Q:** What were your favorite things about the SSA meeting in Arlington?

**A:** One of my favorite things was the grace and level-headedness in which the Local Arrangements Committee, especially the chairs Ann Hodges and Brenda McClurkin, handled the power outage. “Game On” was the theme of the conference, and the game went on, even in the dark.

I also enjoyed the showing of the new, inspiring video, “Support the David B. Gracy II Student Scholarship.” Afterward, the pass-the-hat garnered $833, and Kay and Robert Bost made a generous donation to meet David Gracy’s $1500 matching challenge. To see the video and to contribute to this cause, please visit http://southwestarchivists.org/Gracy-Scholarship. And, lest I forget, there was the bowling at the National Bowling Museum. Fun!

**Q:** Have you ever won anything in SLOTTO?

**A:** Although I have purchased many tickets, my past strategy of purchasing tickets of many colors has failed me. Next year I will try something new: purchasing one color ticket, all from the same roll. I hope it works! Whatever your strategy, please play SLOTTO as it supports SSA scholarships. However, I did win a beautiful turquoise necklace made by Jeanne Prince at the silent auction. I love it and get compliments on it all the time.

**Q:** What do you see as the most pressing issues facing SSA?

**A:** We need more diversity within the organization, and the ability to better serve diverse communities, particularly those without adequate resources. To that end, SSA established the Diversity Committee earlier this year. Additionally, the Professional Development Committee is working on providing low cost training throughout the year, which may even include webinars.

**Q:** What would you like to say to the SSA membership?

**A:** Please get involved. Contact officers and committee chairs to see if they help. You can find them at http://southwestarchivists.org/contact. To encourage involvement and the selection of diverse committee members, SSA members are now able to select committee preferences on the website. Members can edit their profile to indicate areas in which they would like to serve.

**Q:** Is the anything else you would like to tell the membership?

**A:** I would like to remind members that SSA established has set aside $1000 for the Community Outreach Fund, which was established in 2015 to support outreach events or programs that promote archives to the public. The deadline for application is July 1, 2015. Go to http://southwestarchivists.org/Outreach-fund for more information.

**Q:** Anything to add?

**A:** I am honored to be a part of SSA and encourage you to contact me if you have any ideas about improving SSA and making it a better organization for all of us (mmmanning@uh.edu).
The Professional Development Committee is happy to report another successful season of training for SSA members. All workshops at SSA 2015 were a great success and we look forward to new and exciting opportunities to come in 2015-2016.

At the 2015 Annual Conference in Arlington, we had the following workshops:
1. Audiovisual Preservation for Beginners, a full day course on audiovisual preservation taught by Rebecca Elder and Stephen Bolech, had twenty-two attendees.
2. Records Management for Archivists, a half-day course taught by Kris Toma, had nineteen attendees.
3. Archival Box-making, a hands-on course on making your own book boxes taught by Jessica Phillips, had eleven attendees.

Plans are ongoing for workshops in 2015-2016 and we are eager to hear your feedback. What sorts of training opportunities are on your wish list? Are you a trainer or do you know someone who would be a great trainer? Let us know!

Finally, I would like to thank SSA leadership for the opportunity to serve as Professional Development Chair for two years. I am also thankful to SSA membership for always being available to serve as trainers, PDC members, or idea generators! We are also happy to announce that the PDC will come under new leadership with Rebecca Russell (Rice University, russellr@rice.edu (713-348-5133) taking over as PDC Chair this summer.

Several PDC members are rotating off this year and we appreciate their service and hard work!
Chair: Felicia Williamson
Leslie Meyer
Melissa Gottwald
Phillip Montgomery
Stephanie Bayless
Lynn Whitfield

We are in the process of naming replacements.

The Society is leading a push for donations to the David B. Gracy II Student Scholarship fund, and we need your help!

Attendees at the annual business meeting witnessed the debut of a video featuring Dr. Gracy and highlighting the importance of the scholarship. And after watching the video, a quick “pass the hat” brought in $1,500 in donations to the scholarship, enough to meet David’s pledge to match the next $1,500 in donations, thanks to a generous “topping off” donation by Robert and Kay Bost. A big thanks to all the known and anonymous donors that contributed that morning, as well as everyone who bought SLOTTO tickets or donated or purchased silent auction items. The board pledged to donated all SLOTTO and silent auction funds from the Arlington meeting to the Gracy Scholarship Fund, bringing the grand total of money raised at the meeting (before David’s matching check) to $3,450!

Never fear, if you missed the meeting you can still check out the video (along with a heartfelt audio message from past-president John Slate) on the SSA web site here: http://www.southwestarchivists.org/Gracy-Scholarship. And while you are there, click on the link to send in your own donation – every little bit helps!

Please join me in thanking the generous donors who have already responded to the Gracy Scholarship Fund campaign since the meeting in Arlington:

Marian Barber
Melissa Goodrich
Brenda Gunn
Oklahoma Conservation Congress (via Kay Bost)
NAGARA
Kristy Sorensen
Jacqueline Wachholz
2016 SSA Scholarships

Don’t miss these opportunities to obtain assistance in professional development and annual meeting attendance! All mailed applications must be postmarked by February 19, 2016. Emailed applications must be sent by February 21, 2016.

Otis Hebert Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship: In honor of SSA’s founding president, this scholarship is intended to further the professional training of working archivists in the Southwest.

John Michael Caldwell Scholarship: Presented annually, this scholarship enables an SSA member, or group of members, enrolled in a graduate archival program to attend the SSA Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Scholarship: Presented annually, this scholarship was created to provide financial aid to an SSA member archivist, or group of archivists, with limited funding to attend the SSA Annual Meeting.

David B. Gracy, II Student Scholarship: Intended to provide book fee and tuition assistance to an SSA student member enrolled in a graduate archival education program at an institution within the SSA region.

For eligibility requirements and application guidelines, see: http://southwestarchivists.org/scholarships

For more information, contact:

Pati Threatt
Chair, SSA Scholarships Committee
Box 91445 Frazar Memorial Library
McNeese State University
Lake Charles, LA 70609
pthreatt@mcneese.edu
(337) 475-5731
Continuing Education Scholarship Report

Brenda Bradford, 2015 A. Otis Herbert, Jr. Scholarship Awardee

I started my career as a Visual Communication specialist, and from there my position has transitioned into that of an Archivist. My educational background paired nicely with archives in efforts to promote the university with our unique historical background. I’ve had the pleasure of starting from the ground floor in an entry level position in archives and working my way up to managing Northeastern State University’s Archives. With these changes, I want to be the best Archivist, Records Manager, and Special Collections Director possible.

I am thankful to be the 2015 recipient of the A. Otis Herbert, Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship from SSA. Funds for outside training are currently very limited at our institution, and without your financial support I would not have been able to attend the 2015 Annual SSA Meeting in Arlington, Texas.

I appreciate the opportunity attending the conference has provided. I was able to meet and network with professionals in my field, gain insights, and attend classes in areas that I have not previously had the opportunity to learn about with other peers in my field. Thanks to the boot camp session “Triple Play: 3 Steps to Maximize Your Social Media ROI,” I now feel our archives is heading in the right direction in drawing more attention via social media to our collections. I am excited to lay the groundwork in reaching a larger audience, and to partner with other institutions such as the Gilcrease Museum in promoting our some of our historical materials. One of our recent finds in our archives is the last signed treaty of the Civil War by Brigadier General Stand Watie. Watie was the last Confederate General to surrender during the war. The 150 anniversary of the treaty signing was June 23, 2015. NSU archives was able to make this announcement and commemorate the event by partnering with the Gilcrease Museum, the Oklahoma Historical Society, and Cherokee Nation.

One of my new responsibilities as a department director is taking over Records Management for the university. Though I have much experience with archival practices, I was deeply concerned about this additional responsibility. So, it was an invaluable experience to attend the half-day workshop “Records Management for Archivists.” The information I learned from this workshop, especially the template information on scheduling, helped me tremendously with the incorporation of records management into my department. Thank you so much for helping me to grow as an archivist and to provide opportunities to meet other archivists, ask questions and to learn ways to improve our care of our materials.

TARO Planning Grant Underway

Amanda York Focke, CA, TARO Steering Committee Co-chair

The Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) Steering Committee has begun work on the NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations Grant. This is a planning grant to explore and map out the best upgrades for TARO, the statewide consortium of finding aids. The grant period runs from July 2015 through June 2016. Dr. Lorraine Haricombe, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries at The University of Texas at Austin, will serve as the grant’s Principal Investigator and Danielle Plumer will be the Project Manager. The TARO Steering Committee members will lead teams of archivist volunteers and University of Texas iSchool interns to conduct the necessary testing and research. Finally, Jodi Allison-Bunnell of the Orbis Cascade Alliance (formerly known as the Northwest Digital Alliance) will serve as an advisor to the project, bringing a wealth of relevant experience from her leadership with the Alliance’s multi-state structure.

A TARO informational brown bag session was held during the May 2015 SSA meeting in Arlington, during which the grant goals were presented, questions were fielded, and volunteers signed up to join working committees. In July 2015, the grant was officially kicked off in Austin with the first official face to face meeting of the Project Manager (Danielle Plumer), Project Advisor (Jodi Allison-Bunnell), the TARO Steering Committee, and technical and administrative staff from University of Texas at Austin General Libraries.

If you are interested in viewing the project details and activity tracker timeline, learning about the working committees, or would like to contact anyone on the steering committee, please visit the wiki at http://texastaro.pbworks.com/.
SSA Election Results
Mike Miller, CA, SSA Nominating Committee

The 2015 SSA election was held March 16 – April 12, 2015. 574 ballots were sent out this year (572 electronically, 2 hard copies), the same number of ballots sent in 2014. 195 members voted in the election, with a return rate of 34%. This is down from 2014 when 241 members voted for a 42% return rate. The results of the 2015 election are as follows:

Vice President/President Elect
Claudia Rivers

Treasurer*
Kristy Sorenson

Executive Board
B. Lynn Whitfield
Trish Nugent
Stephanie Bayless

Nominating Committee
Kate Blalack

Scholarship Committee
Amanda Norman

Thank you to all who agreed to be on the ballot in 2015. Your offer of leadership to SSA is truly appreciated. If you are interested in being a candidate in 2016, please notify one of the members of the Nominating Committee listed below.

Mike Miller, Chair mike.miller@austintexas.gov
Kate Blalack kate@woodyguthriecenter.org
Lynn Whitfield lynn.whitfield@ttu.edu

*The treasurer position was included in the 2015 election to reinstate the alternating election years for the Secretary and Treasurer positions.
Carol Bartels, Director of Systems for the Historic New Orleans Collection, is a truly deserving recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. As a leader in the Society of Southwestern Archivists as well as in other archival organizations, Carol shares her generosity of spirit and commitment to the profession. One of her nominators wrote, “Carol is clearly an outstanding archivist, colleague, and leader. She is and has been a leader among archivists and a leader for the profession itself. Throughout her career, she has been among the most visible proponents of archives, not only during her twenty-four years at the Historic New Orleans Collection, but publicly for the profession as a whole.”

Carol has served as president not only of SSA (2011-2012), but also of the Greater New Orleans Archivists (1996–1997) and the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (2001). She is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists and the Society of American Archivists, and in July began her service as the chair of the Louisiana Digital Consortium, a newly organized board to oversee the Louisiana Digital Library. Her service to the SSA is exemplary: she was the Publications Committee Louisiana liaison from 2001-2010. She served on the Society’s Executive Board from 2002-2004. She was a member of the Distinguished Service Award Committee in 2005 and later chaired it in 2012. She was on the New Orleans Program Committee in 2008 and 2014 and performed many important roles as a member of the Local Arrangements Committee.

Another of her nominators commented, “Carol very cheerfully co-chaired the Nominating Committee in 2005-2006 with me, and finally took the plunge to top leadership when she was elected Vice President/President-elect for the 2011-2012 term. Because she served as my Vice President, I can personally attest to her abilities and commitment to the Society and its goals. Her work as program chair prior to taking on the presidency was further evidence of her abilities. I was especially impressed and pleased by her work in helping to re-think and re-tool the dues structure, which significantly contributed to the long-term health and stability of our organization. For that alone, she deserved a medal.” In addition, during her presidency, Carol shepherded the major revision of the policies and procedures manual, a task of great importance to the SSA and its leaders.

Carol currently serves as the Director of Systems at The Historic New Orleans Collection, where she has worked in various capacities since 1991. She holds an MA in History with a concentration in Archives and Records Administration from the University of New Orleans and a B.A. in Social Science Education from the University of New Orleans.

Carol has been an invaluable colleague to many of us, and her service to the SSA and the profession is a model for archivists to follow.
Treasurer’s Report
Kristy Sorensen, CA, SSA Treasurer

The Society’s finances are in good shape, thanks to our continued and increasing membership, and to the generosity of members who donate to our scholarship endowment. My major accomplishments for the past year have been crafting a budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and having it approved by the board; and working with Jan O’Donnell, Ayshea Khan, Brian Collins, Melissa Gonzales, Sarah Jackson, Susan Novick, and Pati Threatt to promote our campaign for Phase II of fundraising for the David B. Gracy II Student Scholarship fund.

Finance Committee

The members of the 2014-2015 SSA Finance Committee were Rich Adam, Tim Blevins, Mat Darby, Katie Salzmann, and Kristy Sorensen (chair). I’d like to take a moment to formally thank Rich and Tim for their service on the finance committee, which has been long and fruitful. As a new treasurer, I leaned heavily on their advice and experience and they have made the Society stronger through their service. Mike Miller, Melissa Gonzales, and Mary Manning will be joining the finance committee for the coming year.

Quarterly Financial Reports

Our fiscal year starts on May 1st which gives us quarterly reports on July 31, October 31, January 31, and April 30. Below please find the report on our equities through April 30, 2015.

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SSA members converged in Arlington, Texas, from May 20-23 for the 2015 annual meeting themed “Game On: The Challenge of Change.” The setting was the Sheraton Arlington Hotel, located in the heart of Arlington’s entertainment district. Built on the grounds of the former Seven Seas theme park, the hotel offered a beautiful poolside venue for the Wednesday night’s opening reception following a full day of workshops and an afternoon board meeting.

A thunderstorm rolled through Arlington early Thursday morning. Lightning hit the electrical transformer of the hotel at 6:00 a.m., throwing the entire hotel into darkness which would last until 2:00 p.m. SSA members and conference presenters had a “Game On” attitude and we all forged ahead with our plans for the plenary and breakout sessions.

UNT history professor Dr. Andrew Torget presented “The Promise and Perils of Digital Archives.” His vibrant energy enabled his voice to be heard clear to the back of the ballroom as he proclaimed that current circumstances were the perfect example of the perils of digital archives! Everyone maintained a good sense of humor, and we all survived the blackout in good form. The conference adjourned for a repository tour at UT Arlington Central Library where visitors saw the new Fab Lab, new cold storage vault, and Special Collections. Some elected to stay for a program at the neighboring UTA Planetarium. With the lights back on, the conference resumed a normal schedule on Friday.

Vendors were located just outside the SSA meeting rooms, so attendees had an exceptional opportunity to interact with them while completing their vendor passport for entry into a $100 gift card drawing. Mary Manning was the lucky winner!

Following the “Game On” theme, Friday night’s “main event” took place at Arlington’s International Bowling Museum. SSAers strolled through exhibits documenting the history of bowling and tried their luck on vintage bowling lanes featuring handset pins. The Saturday morning breakfast business meeting included committee reports and the Distinguished Service Award made to Carol Bartels. SLOTTO was energetically emceed by Melissa Gonzales.

Total attendance at the 2015 meeting was 208 registrants. With generous support from sponsors and vendors, and a substantial reduction negotiated for hotel services on the day of the blackout, the meeting is expected to generate a nice surplus which will go back to benefit scholarships and the organization as a whole. Special thanks to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee for a job well done!
Here is One Reason Why Employers Hire Certified Archivists:

“Numerous employers including myself have found that the CA designation informs search committees that an applicant has a clear level of competence for any archival position. When you receive dozens of resumes for an archival position, the CA is extremely helpful in evaluating a candidate’s essential qualifications.”

-- Pam Hackbart-Dean, Southern Illinois University

Included among the employers who have recently advertised for Certified Archivists are: Southern Illinois University, State of Oregon, University of Texas, National Art Gallery, University of California at Davis, Library of Virginia, State University of New York at Fredonia, Arizona Historical Society, Loyola University, State of New Mexico, University of Arkansas, History Associates, and Texas A&M.

More information about becoming a Certified Archivist is available at http://www.certifiedarchivists.org or by contacting the Academy of Certified Archivists at aca@caphill.com or 518-694-8471.

Make plans now for the next Certified Archivist examination August 3, 2016, to be held in Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle and Los Angeles -- and wherever 5 or more candidates wish to take it!
The time is fast approaching to consider session proposals for the SSA 2016 meeting in Oklahoma City. The meeting’s theme, Native Routes, lends itself to topics from all the geographic areas in our organization. Sessions dealing with transportation and communications would especially fit the theme, of course, but the title has another sense, too. While Oklahoma is well known for its tribal population, all six states that comprise the Society of Southwest Archivists’ territory have Native American residents. The Program and Local Arrangement Committees encourage participants to propose sessions that treat the issues involved with archives of indigenous people. We hope to dedicate Saturday to sessions relating to archives of Native Americans, other ethnic minorities, and small or under-represented segments of our profession. The deadline for proposal submissions is November 27, but please feel free to submit early and often. If you have questions, contact me or one of the other Program Committee members.

An online form will be available on the SSA site soon. The Program Committee invites submission proposals that may include, but are not limited to, the following formats:

**Traditional:** A session chair and two to three speakers presenting fully prepared papers on an archival topic (15-20 minutes each), followed by a comment and discussion period. 90-minute session.

**Panel Discussion:** Up to five panelists with perspectives on a given topic and a chair or moderator to lead the discussion and field questions from the audience. 90-minute session.

**Boot Camp:** An instructional session with up to two “drill sergeants” or instructors. 90-minute session.

**Single Paper:** An individual may propose a single paper (15-20 minutes), and the Program Committee will make every effort to either add it to an existing session proposal, or develop a new session around the topic.

We are still looking for committee members, especially from New Mexico or Arizona, since I think participation from those states will be very important. If you are willing and able to help, let me know!

Program Committee:
Claudia Rivers crivers@utep.edu, University of Texas at El Paso
Sean Benjamin sbenjam@tulane.edu, Tulane University
Lilly Carrel carrel@uark.edu, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
Jessica Tucker jtucker@tsl.texas.gov, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Local Arrangements Liaison:
Judie Matthews Judith.Matthews@libraries.ok.gov, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Committee members are dedicated to planning a great program for the meeting in Oklahoma City and would be happy to work with you!
Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City May 18-21, 2016

The Local Arrangements Committee for the 2016 SSA Annual Meeting will be hosting a special Saturday schedule focusing primarily on archiving and Indigenous populations. The intent is to foster cross-cultural communication, educating all participants to their individual needs. The Society of Southwest Archivists strives to create an opportunity that moves beyond the cultural imperialism that has plagued collecting in previous centuries, and honor contemporary Native people and their authority and expertise in preserving their cultural materials for future generations. By offering this special Saturday, we aim to form working relationships with tribal institutions, and create a more diverse archival organization and community.
“Local theater, movie and TV fans will see Roy Rogers’ famed dog, Bullet, for the first time when the two appear in person at Rogers’ forthcoming show in Municipal Auditorium.”

[Photograph 2012.201.B1103.0244], Photograph, March 29, 1953; Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

“This is the original design, complete with dome, for our state Capitol.”

Beckel, Jim. [Photograph 2012.201.B0163B.0141], Photograph, August 17, 1889; Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

“Oklahoma City Oil wells State Capitol Building”

[Photograph 2012.201.B0163B.0533], Photograph, April 12, 1946; Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
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and time-limited and have proven very cost-effective for maximizing resources, decreasing backlogs, and increasing public access.

Breaking with tradition and perceived barriers and in order to increase access statewide, we developed a courier-based interlibrary loan service between branches. Most of this traffic occurs between Tucson and Tempe, which have the heaviest reference requests. Depending on the condition, size, and rarity of the requested materials, we will arrange for transport to the branch closest to the researcher.

Although we operate as a statewide division, we also acknowledge the unique nature of each branch. Our collection policies reflect specific strengths and needs with an eye towards avoiding duplication. This has resulted in more inter-branch donor referrals, broader reference services and more sustainable collecting. Efforts have focused on hidden collections, storage conditions, and access, particularly in Yuma and Flagstaff. Tempe serves as a nerve center for setting statewide priorities, developing budgets, and coordinating resources. The Tempe collections largely reflect 20th and 21st developments in Central Arizona. Also, the bulk of Tempe reference requests are online, freeing up the reading room for processing, division meetings, and classroom instruction.

AHS headquarters are located in Tucson. As such, the Tucson archives was the first location to collect and provide public access to the Society’s holdings. This branch has very high in-person and remote reference numbers. The archivists take advantage of the high volume of visitors and the busy reading room schedule to focus on community-based efforts: exhibits, outreach, academic partnerships, and improved access to Spanish-language collections. The Tucson branch is also in close proximity to the University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Sciences and hosts archives students and related groups for meetings, workshops, tours, and lectures.

While the “one archives division – multiple locations” approach is a work in progress for this agency and deserves further study, the following observations are worth noting. Mobility, and the flexibility and collectivity that comes with it, has enabled us to proactively spread scarce resources and tackle large projects. It has also resulted in an adaptable, creative, and risk-taking team: improved communication, resourceful problem-solving, more public service, more successful grant applications, more community connections, more field-tested professional development and a wider and deeper scope of practice.

For more information about the Arizona Historical Society, please contact Laura Hoff at lhoff@azhs.gov or (520)617-1151.
The University of Arkansas at Little Rock’s Sequoyah National Research Center (SNRC) was awarded a $56,000 grant by the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) to process and catalog the Garrard Ardeneum Collection and to hire a project archivist.

The Garrard Ardeneum Collection was donated by Francine Locke Bray of Antlers, Oklahoma, on behalf of the Garrard Ardeneum in McAlester, Oklahoma. The collection consists of 100 cubic feet of material amassed by Allece Locke (Mrs. Tom) Garrard (1909-1999), a descendant of two well-known American Indian families. Her father was Benjamin Davis Locke, Choctaw soldier and writer, whose brother Victor was not only chief of the Choctaws in Oklahoma (1911-1918) but Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes. Allece’s mother was Eleanor Davis, the daughter of Alice Brown Davis, the first female chief of the Seminoles (1923).

Allece, like many Indians in early Oklahoma, became affluent primarily through her marriage to Tom, nephew of wealthy energy magnate Jay G. Puterbaugh, who made Tom president of his McAlester Fuel Company. After Tom’s death in 1984, Allece engaged in many philanthropic endeavors and strongly supported the arts. The collection reflects these personal connections and endeavors, including records on company and personal finances, social and political organizations, photographs, personal correspondence, genealogy and history. One particularly interesting series of records includes photographs and scrapbooks from her work in 1945 to establish The American Way Army Special Services Club in Munich, Germany.

Processing of the collection is expected to begin in August 2015 with plans to complete the work by the end of 2016. For more information, please contact Erin Fehr at efehr@ualr.edu.
The award-winning 2013 movie *12 Years a Slave* about Solomon Northrup, a free man of color from New York who was sold into slavery in Louisiana, brought unprecedented attention to the history of free people of color in the United States. It is somewhat ironic that Northrup ended up in Louisiana, for it had one of the largest and most significant populations of free people of color. Those interested in exploring the history of this group can now do so in a recently released, free online resource available at [http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/fpoc/](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/fpoc/).

“Free People of Color in Louisiana: Revealing an Unknown Past,” is a collaborative digital project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities that brings together and provides access to over 30,000 pages of family and personal papers, business records, and public documents from the LSU Libraries’ Special Collections, the Louisiana State Museum Historical Center, the Historic New Orleans Collection, Tulane University’s Louisiana Research Collection, and New Orleans Public Library. LSU Libraries received the $194,152 two-year grant in 2013.

“Relatively few collections of papers from free families of color survive in archives in Louisiana, nor are they numerous in archives elsewhere in the United States,” said Curator of Manuscripts and Project Co-Director Tara Laver. “The most extensive collections of family papers for free people of color held by Louisiana repositories are, in fact, split across institutions. Digitizing these records has allowed us to reunite them virtually, making these materials accessible in one place for the use of historians, descendants of free people of color, genealogists, students, teachers, and anyone who is interested in this important aspect of our nation’s history.”

Free people of color were individuals of African descent who lived in colonial and antebellum America and were born free or had escaped the bonds of enslavement before slavery was abolished in 1865. By 1810, free people of color composed 29 percent of New Orleans’s population, a demographic unmatched by any other U.S. city or territory. Baton Rouge, St. Landry Parish, and the Cane River area near Natchitoches, Louisiana also had significant numbers of free people of color. Inhabiting the space between slavery and freedom made their ambiguous and incongruent status one of the most talked about “problems” of the first half of the nineteenth century, yet their history has understandably been largely overshadowed by the harsh story of slavery in America.

But indeed there are many fascinating stories to be discovered among the documents found in the digital collection. Bellazaire Meullion, daughter of a formerly enslaved son of a French officer and a slave woman, operated a plantation on Bayou Teche and filed claims against the U.S. government for property seized during the Civil War. Her brother Donat and other male family members became active in Republican state politics almost immediately after blacks gained the vote. Successful businessman, barber, diarist, and plantation owner William Johnson of Natchez, Mississippi, was murdered over a property dispute; his wife Ann eventually assumed management of the family’s business interests, and their daughters became teachers in the African American community in Natchez. White New Orleans planter John McDonogh emancipated many of his slaves, who were able to purchase their freedom, and arranged for their settlement in Liberia, from where they wrote him about their lives and experiences in the colony. As architects, builders, and entrepreneurs, the Soulié family contributed to the rich architectural history of New Orleans and helped build and sustain the community of free people of color in the city. These individuals’ histories are largely told through family or personal papers. Public records such as emancipation petitions provide insight into individual free people of color’s experiences.
before they were free and the circumstances around their emancipation.Indenture agreements help understand the participation of free people of color in skilled trades such as masonry and carpentry and the associated and supporting network of sponsors and craft masters, many also free people of color.

“These are just a few examples of the possibilities to research and explore,” said Project Librarian Jessica Mlotkowski. “Uniting these papers digitally shows how diverse the lives of free people of color truly were—across families, places, and time periods. Most exciting of all, the collection provides access to their own words in an unprecedented way.”

For additional information about the project contact Laver at tzachar@lsu.edu.

**LSU_Meullion Family Papers. Bellazaire Meullion amnesty oath, 1865 August 23.**

Bellazaire Meullion amnesty oath, Meullion Family Papers, Mss. 243, 294, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Bellazaire Meullion was a free woman of color and plantation owner of St. Landry Parish. She signed this loyalty oath to the U.S. soon after the end of the Civil War.

**LSU_William T. Johnson and family papers.**

Group portrait, approximately 1900-1910.

Group portrait of (left to right) Dr. Henry Lewis Bailey, one of the first African American graduates of Harvard and a founder of the Niagara Movement, an unidentified man, Amanda Bailey, and William R. Johnson, who was a descendant of free people of color William and Ann Johnson of Natchez, Miss. Johnston lodged with the Baileys during his studies at Howard University. William T. Johnson and Family Memorial Papers, Mss. 529m, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this release do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum is pleased to announce the donation of the Frances O’Brien Papers relating to Georgia O’Keeffe, which document the friendship between the two women artists from the mid-1940s to the early 1970s.

Georgia O’Keeffe (1887-1986) is known internationally for her distinct and iconic works of art and her original contributions to American Modernism. Frances O’Brien (1904-1990) was an accomplished portrait artist, completing portraits of well-known subjects such as Irving Berlin, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, William L. Shirer, Winston S. Churchill, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Grandma Moses. For many years, she did cover portraits for magazines, primarily The Saturday Review. The two independent and hard-working professional artists were friends in New York City and shared an apartment shortly after O’Keeffe’s husband Alfred Stieglitz died in 1946. Over the years they corresponded regularly and visited one another after both relocating permanently to the Southwest, O’Brien in Arizona and O’Keeffe in New Mexico.

The collection includes correspondence (primarily handwritten letters from O’Keeffe to O’Brien), oral histories conducted with O’Brien about O’Keeffe, and images of O’Brien and O’Keeffe in New Mexico and Arizona dating from the late 1940s to early 1970s. The papers have been processed and an EAD finding aid is available on the Museum’s website. By the end of the summer, the public will have online access to digital images of the photographs and letters.

The Papers of Frances O’Brien relating to Georgia O’Keeffe were generously donated to the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum by Brian and Bina Garfield. For more information or to access the collection, contact Elizabeth Ehrnst at eehrnst@okeeffemuseum.org or visit okeeffemuseum.org/archives.

Lamar University Receives Rescuing Texas History Grant
Penny Clark, CA, Lamar University, Mary & John Gray Library

Through the Portal to Texas History’s 2014 Rescuing Texas History mini-grant program, Lamar University’s Special Collections received $1000 to have 200 negatives from the Larry Jene Fisher Collection digitized and made available to researchers via the Portal.

The Fisher Collection reflects the diverse interests and tireless curiosity of a Renaissance man of Southeast Texas. Fisher’s work as a photographer, filmmaker, environmental activist, musician, pilot, and traveler are all reflected in his images. The collection, chiefly composed of photographic negatives taken in the late 1930s to early 1950s, document a wealth of quintessentially Texas images including rugged West Texas drilling crews, the dedication of a Catholic church, a cattle roundup, harvesting citrus fruit in the Rio Grande Valley, and the Huntsville Prison Rodeo.

A special strength of Fisher’s collection is his documentation of the Big Thicket, a densely wooded region north of Beaumont, which was rapidly disappearing due to the lumber and petroleum industries and development. Fisher’s photos, some of which are now on the Portal, played a key role in early attempts to create a national park in the Big Thicket. Fisher’s photos helped document the Thicket’s abundance of plant and animal life which was published in a book which called for the Thicket’s preservation.

Fisher’s collection also documents the Civil Air Patrol, a group of pilots who sought to protect shipping in the Gulf of Mexico from attack by Nazi submarines. His photos depict a wide array of CAP members both at work and play. The photos on the Portal, which are only a tiny portion of the collection, may be viewed at http://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=Larry+Jene+Fisher&t=fulltext . For more information contact Penny Clark at Penny.Clark@lamar.edu.

San Antonio African American Funeral Program Collection
Matt De Waelsche, San Antonio Public Library

On June 17 Matt De Waelsche, Archivist/Librarian II from the Texana/Genealogy Department of the Central San Antonio Public Library received the Sojourner Truth Advocacy Award from the San Antonio Juneteenth Association for collecting African-American funeral programs documenting the history of the local black community. The Texana/Genealogy Department has been collecting programs for over ten years.

The collection began modestly in the summer of 2005 when a woman whose mother-in-law had recently died brought in about twenty five programs. She didn’t know what to do with them and her church pastor suggested that she bring them to the local history department of the public library. Frank Faulkner, the Texana/Genealogy manager at the time, set up an Excel spreadsheet where we recorded the subject’s names, date of funeral service, church, funeral home, cemetery and any notes of interest. We put the programs in acid free sleeves and stored them in alphabetical order in notebook binders.

We began soliciting donations from other members of the community and the collection rapidly grew. As of July 1, the collection now contains almost 4,500 total programs. Over three quarters of them are from San Antonio and the immediate surrounding area but there are some from around the state of Texas and a few from other states as well, most having some tie to the San Antonio area. They range in date from 1900 up to the present, with most from after 2000. The subject’s ages range from infants to centenarians. They represent prominent professionals (religious leaders, politicians, doctors, lawyers, educators and business people) and interesting historical figures (Negro League baseball players and Tuskegee Airmen), but most are just regular neighborhood people. Some of the programs are elaborate colorful works of art up to twenty pages while others are simple and plain and only a few pages. Almost all of them include obituaries, many of which may not have been published anyplace else and might have been lost to history.

In the fall of 2013 the library received a grant to have over 3000 of them digitized and posted on the University of North Texas’ Portal to Texas History at http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collection/AAFP/browse. We are having an additional 675 scanned and added to the Portal this fall and hope to add more to the collection each year. It has been a wonderful collaborative social history project helping to chronicle the history of a largely underreported and ignored segment of the population.

For more information contact Matt De Waelsche at Thomas.Dewaelsche@sanantonio.gov.
New Exhibit Spotlights U.S.–Mexican War
Lisa A. Struthers, San Jacinto Museum of History

“A Destined Conflict: The U.S.–Mexican War” opened on July 4, 2015, an exhibit focusing on that decisive war which occurred from 1846 to 1848. The first armed conflict involving the United States that was chiefly fought on foreign soil, the official cause of the war was both the American annexation of the Republic of Texas and the dispute over whether the national border was the Rio Grande or the Nueces River. By the war’s end, Mexico had lost nearly half of its territory and the United States became a continental power.

A wide array of contemporary artifacts—from newspapers and prints, to documents and artifacts written and owned by many of the key players in the conflict—will be on display and provide insight into how those in charge, the men in the field, and the press back home viewed the series of engagements in a conflict that saw many more soldiers dying from disease than battle. The exhibit features the work of soldier-artist Samuel Chamberlain, whose scrapbook containing 140 watercolors of the war was acquired by the Museum in 1956. A selection of the watercolors are contrasted with popular prints, and are accompanied by political cartoons, photographs, broadsides, correspondence, artifacts, and maps that illuminate the conflict.

From the first engagement in Palo Alto, Texas, to the Halls of Montezuma in Mexico City, the exhibit chronicles this decisive and divisive conflict. The signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the conflict, marked the end of a war and the beginning of a lengthy U.S. political debate over slavery in the acquired territories.

For more information, contact Lisa Struthers at (281) 479-2421, or at lstruthers@sanjacinto-museum.org.

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Lamar University’s Archives and Special Collections is pleased to announce that they utilized a TexTreasures grant of over $11,000 to digitize Lamar’s school newspapers. The grant was awarded by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, which administers the program with funds from the Institute of Museum and Library services.

Lamar’s newspapers are a rich source of history, documenting not only the administration and faculty, but also student life, ranging from sports and holiday celebrations as well as student culture from the days of beanies and ducklings in the frog pond to protesting the Vietnam War. Moreover, the school newspaper is a unique source on the changing role of women and African-Americans.

Unfortunately, the only way to utilize the newspapers was to painstakingly look through the original issues, as there was no index and no microfilm. This was a process that was both slow and damaging to the brittle, fragile, newspapers. Now these amazing treasures are fully accessible to patrons, throughout the globe, whether alums, scholars, members of the press, or just the curious. Anyone can simply type in any term, whether it is a name, an organization, or a subject, and articles will instantly appear with the term highlighted. The newspapers, which are composed of 16,864 pages, appear in full color so that the historic nature of the newspapers is preserved as well as making the photographs more useable.

Although the university’s origins date to 1923, the digitized newspapers are only for 72 years of the school’s history. While Lamar began publishing a newspaper back in 1923, when it was South Park Junior College, the earliest newspapers in Lamar’s holdings date to 1933. However, many years of our holdings are totally or partially missing. Thanks to collaboration with the University Press, the project will include a complete run from the 1961-1962 school year to the present.

The newspapers are available on the web at [http://tinyurl.com/univpress](http://tinyurl.com/univpress) or on the Portal to Texas History at [texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/LAMU/browse](http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/LAMU/browse).

For more information on Lamar’s newspapers please contact Penny Clark, Lamar University Archivist at Penny.Clark@lamar.edu.
The sixth Annual Save Texas History Symposium will take a look at the history of Austin in a new light. The symposium, “In the Shadow of the Dome: Austin by Day & Night,” will examine diverse aspects of Austin’s history, including the Texas Supreme Court and the destruction of one Capitol Building and the construction of another. Additionally, the symposium will also delve into some of the less celebrated aspects of Austin’s history. One speaker will examine the Pig War, an obscure dispute that wrought serious diplomatic repercussions for the Republic of Texas. Another will investigate the Servant Girl Annihilator, a serial killer who stalked the streets of Austin in 1884 and 1885. Rounding out the agenda is an exploration of the slave narratives of early Austin, as well as tales from Guy Town.

Perhaps of most interest to members of the Society of Southwest Archivists will be a presentation by Dr. David Gracy II, titled “Whatever You Do, Let it be Done Well and Satisfactory: George Washington Littlefield’s Contemporary and Lasting Influence on Austin.”

The Save Texas History Symposium will be on Saturday, November 14 at the William B. Travis Building. Registration starts at $65.

More information about the symposium and registration can be found at www.savetexashistory.org or by contacting James Harkins at james.harkins@glo.texas.gov or 512.463.3289.
The Texana Foundation donated five historic maps to the Texas General Land Office Archives (GLO) in May 2015. This represents the largest single donation of historic maps to the GLO.

Jeff Morgenthaler, President and Founder of the Texana Foundation, approached the Texas General Land Office earlier this year, inquiring how the Texana Foundation could help the agency’s Save Texas History program. He decided that acquiring a selection of significant historic maps for the General Land Office was the best way that he could show his support.

“It is rewarding to acquire valuable historic items and ensure that these treasures will be safely preserved and made accessible,” Morgenthaler said. “Over the last decade, I have sought partners to share my passion for Texas history. It has been a complete pleasure to work with the Texas General Land Office.”

The donated maps are:

* Alexander von Humboldt’s 1804 masterpiece, Carte General Du Royaume De La Nouvelle Espagne..., one of the most influential maps of Mexico, Texas, and the Southwest. This map was the standard view of the region for almost 30 years and has been described as one of the six most important maps of Texas.

* Victor Levasseur’s Amerique Septentrionale (circa 1845) a decorative atlas map of North America that shows an unusually small configuration for the Republic of Texas. The border features North American flora and fauna, and a scene of Europeans bargaining for indigenous products.

* John Tallis’s Mexico, California and Texas (1851), a small, decorative, hand-colored atlas map. It features pre-Mexican War boundaries, and includes the gold fields of Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley, as well as Texas at its largest configuration.

The Texana Foundation encourages interest and excellence in preserving and writing Texas history. The foundation’s projects include writers’ workshops and conferences, Texana e-book development, public library collection development, and underwriting and producing historical displays. Morgenthaler is the author of several nonfiction books about the history of Texas, including the award-winning The River Has Never Divided Us. His recent study of the historic Pinta Trail, based largely on the maps and surveys of the GLO, prompted his interest in the GLO’s map collection.

View maps online at www.glo.texas.gov. For further information contact James Harkins at james.harkins@glo.texas.gov or 512.463.3289.

Humboldt’s map, which was donated by the Texana Foundation, is considered one of the six most important maps in Texas history.
May 2015 broke Texas weather record books, as SSA conference attendees can attest. After an overnight storm, we soldiered through a morning-long power outage at the conference hotel. Despite the morning’s technical difficulties, Archivists of Central Texas (ACT) members shared experiences from the Austin Archives Bazaar. While designed as a public outreach effort, the Bazaar had the added benefit of forming new relationships among area archivists and strengthening existing collaborations. We had no idea how these relationships would soon contribute to the area’s recovery from a major disaster.

The night of our return home from Arlington, a devastating flash flood swept down the Blanco River, with floodwaters surging 33 feet in just three hours. Compounding the terrible loss of life was staggering property damage: over a thousand homes in Hays County were damaged or destroyed, and countless irreplaceable personal mementos were swept down the river. As the recovery began, first responders and other volunteers began to find photographs, albums and documents of all kinds, and the Wimberley Village Library offered to serve as a gathering place for found materials. In a separate disaster response, Karen Pavelka and Rebecca Elder from the University of Texas School of Information coordinated an advice hotline for flood victims and offered materials salvage workshops.

Carolyn Manning, Wimberley’s library director, scheduled an iSchool workshop in late May, and several ACT members traveled to Wimberley with Pavelka and Elder to assess how our archival skills could assist the library’s project. ACT members from the Austin History Center, the Briscoe Center, the Texas General Land Office, the Texas State Library and Archives, Whole Foods, and the UT iSchool volunteered over the next several days accepting new finds, performing minor conservation triage and organizing the photographs at the library.

Even with dozens of flood survivors claiming photographs, the project quickly overwhelmed the library’s available space, and the operation moved to Wimberley’s Katherine Ann Porter School. To allow for storage of the photographs until their return to owners (a process which could take years), the Library was granted the National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives (formerly the SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund) for archival housing and other supplies, with additional supplies provided by Hollinger Metal Edge and the Texas General Land Office. In late June, a large group of ACT members from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the Briscoe Center, the General Land Office, the Ransom Center, Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI), Texas State Library and Archives and UT. Libraries participated in a day of service in Wimberley to clean and pack the photographs, with Karen Pavelka and Rebecca Elder providing conservation guidance. The library’s project has been a huge success; at the time of ACT’s day of service, 3,500 of 7,000 found photographs had been returned to their owners, largely through the help of social media (see https://www.facebook.com/groups/WimberleyLostAndFound/)

ACT continues to contribute to ongoing recovery efforts. TAMI recently digitized a found film, allowing for successful identification of the film’s owner. Additionally, ACT members gathered images for treatment by University of Delaware conservators-in-training, supervised by Dr. Debra Hess Norris. While our members are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community, we are also appreciative of the professional development provided by the experience; volunteering in Wimberley has left us better prepared for responding to a disaster in our own repositories by giving us experience with disaster recovery grants, basic triage methods and disaster response planning and management. Above all, we’ve learned the value of the support network available in the local archives community.

For more information on the Wimberley project, see:
* Rebecca and Karen give a workshop on preservation at the library: http://www.kvue.com/story/news/local/hays-county/2015/05/31/wimberley-photographs-archives-flooding/28258773/
* The scene at the Katherine Ann Porter School and the library: https://www.flickr.com/photos/128765050@N03/albums/72157653779446001, https://www.flickr.com/photos/128765050@N03/albums/72157654262501835, https://www.flickr.com/photos/128765050@N03/albums/72157655382661139
ACT members clean photographs during the ACT day of service in Wimberley at the Katherine Ann Porter School.

ACT member Kristy Sorenson, Associate Director of the Library and Head of Archives and Records Management at Austin Seminary, cleans a photograph during ACT’s day of service in Wimberley.
In the spring of 2015, three University of Texas at Austin’s School of Information faculty members received a three-year $763,000 Andrew Mellon Foundation grant to develop and implement a digital archives that will help preserve and provide access to a collection of historical records from a Virginia mental institution, Central State Hospital. King Davis, Patricia Galloway, and Unmil Karadkar, along with several post-doctoral researchers, are working to create a digital infrastructure, including a dark archives and an online portal that will enable researchers such as genealogists, social historians, and epidemiologists to utilize the unique collection.

The hospital, formerly called the Central Lunatic Asylum for Colored Insane, is located in Petersburg, Virginia. At the end of the Civil War, the hospital emerged out of pressure on the state by the Freedmen’s Bureau to create educational and medical facilities for newly freed African Americans in the South. The mental hospital, which was the first to serve the African American population and one of the few such facilities to exist during the almost 100-year period of de jure segregation and Jim Crow laws in the South, was desegregated in 1968. Today, Central State continues to provide mental healthcare to the surrounding local communities.

The collection of records, which continues to reside under the hospital’s custodianship but may be transferred to the Library of Virginia within the next several years, includes 19th and 20th century materials such as photographs, board minutes, case files, and admission records. Most of the documents are hand-written, which offers a particular technical challenge to the UT-Austin team to determine how best to redact information protected under current state and federal privacy laws.

A major impetus behind the project is to develop an archives model that can accommodate the legal and ethical privacy needs associated with records containing potentially sensitive information. In the first stage of the project prior to the technical development of the digital archives, the project team is working to better understand the privacy and access needs of various groups of people who may have emotional, political, social, or economic stakes in the archival Central State records. The team then intends to develop a flexible digital archives infrastructure that can accommodate many, if not all, of those fluctuating needs.

The project team is also conducting nationwide studies in order to determine how the digital archives developed for the Central State collection can become a model for other institutions with sensitive records. The team is looking at how state-level health information privacy laws can affect research, as well as the capabilities of state archives to create and maintain digital collections with restricted information. It is the team’s hope to demonstrate, and potentially to provide, a digital archives framework that other custodians of sensitive collections can use to make previously underutilized materials digitally accessible while continuing to uphold current medical information laws and the privacy needs of the record creators and record subjects.

For more information about the project, contact Patricia Galloway at galloway@ischool.utexas.edu.
Leadership Log
Krishna Shenoy, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

Adrienne Cain, Oral History and Media Librarian for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (Houston Public Library) has been selected to serve on the 2015-2017 Board of Directors for the Texas Oral History Association. The Texas Oral History Association (TOHA) is a network for oral history practitioners that promotes the use of professional interviewing and archiving standards. At HMRC, Adrienne facilitates access to a collection of over 1500 oral histories through organizing, arranging, describing, transcribing, digitizing and developing of policies and procedures. As she continues to build the oral history collection by soliciting and recording interviews, she also preserves the oral histories in the collection which are housed in various formats and on various media.

Linda K. Gill retired on December 31, 2014 as Branch Manager of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and History Library, a branch of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library. Linda began work as a Genealogy Associate in 2000 and was promoted to Branch Manager in 2011. She has been a member of Society of Southwest Archivists since 2000 and attended three regional conferences. Linda plans to continue independent research and writing books.

Peter Kurilecz joined Denton County in February as the Assistant Manager of electronic records. In May, he provided the opening keynote speech for the Information and Records Management Society at the United Kingdom’s annual conference in Wales. Later in June, he presented at Association of Record Managers and Administrators (ARMA) International’s EU Conference in Brussels, Belgium. On July 1, 2015, Peter also began his term as President of ARMA.

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