

*The*

# Southwestern Archivist



August 2020

Volume 43, Issue 3

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## Society of Southwest Archivists

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.

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.

Annual Membership dues are \$25.00 for individuals, with a reduced rate of \$15.00 for students and retirees. Institutional newsletter subscriptions are \$25.00.

More information about membership can be found at our website [southwestarchivists.org](http://southwestarchivists.org)

## SUBMISSIONS TO THE SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVIST

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 JPG 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.

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. Please e-mail the editor, Nicholas Wojcik, or your area liaison if you have any questions about a proposed article.

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## FEATURES

UTA Photograph Collection, News Service Collection  
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*Michael Barera*



An example of a UTA News Service Photograph Collection image on Wikimedia Commons, in this case a photo of UTA wheelchair basketball player Abu Yiller (left) and UTA volleyball player Judith McGill. Screenshot from Wikimedia Commons ([CC BY-SA 3.0](#)), image itself from the UTA Libraries Digital Gallery ([CC BY 4.0](#)).

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*Joe Califano, President Lyndon B. Johnson. (Photo: LBJ Presidential Library and Museum. Link: <http://www.lbjlibrary.net/collections/photo-archive/photolab-detail.html?id=733>).*

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# SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST ARCHIVISTS

## STATEMENT CONDEMNING RACIAL VIOLENCE



The Society of Southwest Archivists condemns the continued racist acts of violence committed against members of our Black communities by law enforcement across the country and abetted and supported by public officials at all levels of government. As a professional organization, we are outraged and stand in solidarity with the family members and protesters around the world who seek justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and the long line of named and unnamed Black lives that have been lost to police brutality. We take this moment to say their names and affirm that **#BlackLivesMatter**.

The murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers was a byproduct of the systemic racism and white supremacy that has been a part of United States government since its founding. As archivists, we know the historical evidence bears witness to the legacy of oppression, violence, and death that structural racism has imposed on Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and other communities of color. When it comes to perpetuating institutional racism and white supremacist culture, archives are no exception.

Those participating in the protests, marches, and vigils in cities and towns across the Southwest have collectively demanded change. From Phoenix and New Orleans, to Little Rock and El Paso, people have communally turned out in great numbers to vocalize and demonstrate their anger at a justice system that devalues Black lives. When our civic institutions continue to assault the rights of people of color, denying something as basic as the ability to breathe, we must take action. The response from local, state, and federal law enforcement and elected officials to these displays of solidarity indicates that there is much work still to be done in protecting human rights.

We recognize that issuing a statement is only the first step. SSA is committed to the long-term work of dismantling structural racism through the continued processes of education, listening, and action. We urge white archivists to acknowledge their privilege, to do the self-work needed to develop an anti-racist analysis, and to step back and center Black voices and the stories our Black archives have to tell. We have an ethical responsibility to collect, preserve, and provide access to a full record of the social movements that seek to bring about a more just and equal society. Silence is not an option and we must not remain neutral. Engaging in active, vocal, anti-racist work is the only way to create a truly inclusive archival profession that supports the care of our Black archives workers and archives.

We hope that all our members are staying safe during this horrific moment in our history. We especially hold space for our Black archives workers and their families during this time of repeated trauma and grief. Many people have so eloquently pointed out that fires can be put out, windows can be replaced, property can be rebuilt; George Floyd and the countless other Black lives who have also suffered his fate are gone forever. As archivists and human beings, we commit to remembering their names and preserving their stories.

In addition to this statement, we encourage you to support our **SSA Member State Bail Funds**. SSA also stands in solidarity with other archival, library, museum, and history organizations who have also expressed outrage, including:

American Alliance of Museums (AAM) – **For Museum Leaders Who Want To Do Better**

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) – **Statement**

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (ALA) – **Statement Condemning Increased Violence and Racism Towards Black Americans and People of Color** and **ALA Executive Board stands with BCALA in condemning violence and racism towards Black people and all People of Color**

National Council on Public History (NCPH) – **Statement on the Killing of George Floyd**

Society of American Archivists (SAA) – **SAA Council Statement on Black Lives and Archives**

Texas Digital Library (TDL) – **Statement Against Racism**

Texas Library Association (TLA) – **TLA Condemns Racism and Violence**

### **Anti-racism Resources for Archivists:**

Texas Digital Library staff have compiled resources on anti-racist work, particularly those relevant to libraries and archives. “**Texas Digital Library Anti-Racism Resources**.” June 2020.

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and the National Council on Public History (NCPH). **The Inclusive Historian’s Handbook**. 2019-2020.

Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia Anti-Racist Description Working Group. “**Anti-Racist Description Resources**.” Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia. October 2019.

Michelle Caswell, “**Teaching to Dismantle White Supremacy in Archives**,” *The Library Quarterly: Information, Community, Policy* 87, no. 3, July 2017.

Bergis Jules, Ed Summers, Dr. Vernon Mitchell, Jr. DocNow: **Ethical Considerations for Archiving Social Media Content Generated by Contemporary Social Movements: Challenges, Opportunities, and Recommendations**. April 2018.

Ng, Yvonne. **WITNESS: Community-Based Approaches to Archives From the Black Lives Matter Movement**.

# SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST ARCHIVISTS ENDORSE THE PROTOCOLS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHIVAL MATERIALS



The Society of Southwest Archivists leadership is pleased to announce its endorsement of the **Protocols for Native American Archival Materials**. The Protocols for Native American Archival Materials were developed by archives professionals and Native American community stakeholders to promote best practices for preserving and providing access to Native American materials held by non-tribal institutions. The Protocols underscore the importance of consultation with Native Nations in policy decisions regarding Native American cultural materials, understanding Native American values and perspectives, rethinking public accessibility and use of some materials, and providing culturally responsive context for archival collections.

Learn more:

Society of Southwest Archivists Workshop: **Protocols 101: How to Start the Conversion at Your Institution** presented by Nicholas Wojcik with guest speaker Veronica Reyes-Escudero at the 2019 SSA Annual Conference in Tucson, Arizona. The content for this workshop was adapted from the Society of American Archivists Native American Archives Section and sponsored by the Society of Southwest Archivists, distributed under CC BY-NC-ND.

## **Society of American Archivists Native American Archives Section**

Society of American Archivists Native American Archives Section **Resources** including webinars, implementation case studies, a Cultural Audit for Native American Collections, Inter-institutional Memorandum of Understanding Example, and Institutional Profiles and Scenarios.

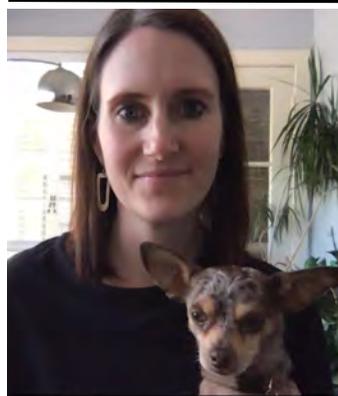
## FROM THE EDITOR

NICHOLAS WOJCIK

With SSA's Annual Meeting canceled, we unfortunately are unable to deliver a recap here. Rather, we are pleased to present SSA's recent *Statement Condemning Racial Violence* and endorsement of the *Protocols for Native American Materials*. We hope you also enjoy reading about archiving Cuban comics, UTA photograph collections on Wikimedia Commons, Latinx campus community exhibitions, SSA's Distinguished Service Award winner, and much more. You'll notice this issue is almost exclusively Texas news. Other states - we want to hear from you, so please consider writing an article for your next issue (see page 2 for submission guidelines)! Thank you to all those who submitted; you help make our organization great.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

AMY RUSHING, SSA PRESIDENT, 2020-2021



Dear Colleagues,

It is my honor to serve as the Society of Southwest Archivists' president for 2020-21. Could we ever have predicted that a global pandemic would cancel our Annual Meeting? I was very much looking forward to seeing old friends, making new friends, and getting to know my fellow Board members and Committee Chairs. I know we were all disappointed and it was a difficult decision. It is my hope that we will be able to convene the 2021 meeting in person.

Last year, under past president Joshua Youngblood's leadership, the Board voted in favor of endorsing the [Protocols for Native American Archival Materials](#). The recommendation was added to the March 2020 election ballot for membership vote and it passed by overwhelming majority. On June 24, 2020, SSA announced its endorsement of the *Protocols*.

Also in June, the Executive Board released a [Statement Condemning Racial Violence](#) in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and other archival, library, museum, and history organizations that have expressed outrage at the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and many others who have lost their lives to police brutality. As a professional organization, we recognize our role in ensuring that the historical record documents and amplifies the voices of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and all communities of color, and we also recognize our responsibility to listen to and learn from these communities' voices.

Issuing statements is only a first step. Systemic change requires a long-term coordinated strategy with active support from the membership. Building on SSA's past work to move the organization toward a more diverse and inclusive organization, I look forward to working with my fellow Board Members and Committee Chairs to provide a series of online resources and learning opportunities for our membership to continue to learn about and engage in culturally competent archival practices.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the organization. I hope you will reach out to me during this time with any thoughts, concerns, or ideas about SSA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Amy Rushing".

Amy Rushing

[amy.rushing@utsa.edu](mailto:amy.rushing@utsa.edu)



## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January 10

April 10

July 10

October 10

## ADVERTISE WITH SSA

Please see our rate sheet at [southwestarchivists.org](http://southwestarchivists.org) or contact Nicholas Wojcik at [nwo@ou.edu](mailto:nwo@ou.edu).

## 2020 ADVERTISERS

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

2021 - Baton Rouge, LA



# UTA Photograph Collection, News Service Photograph Collection Now on Wikimedia Commons, Used in Wikipedia Articles

**Michael Barera, CA,  
University of Texas at Arlington Libraries**

All of the digitized photos in the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Libraries Special Collections' [UTA Photograph Collection](#) and [UTA News Service Photograph Collection](#) are now on Wikimedia Commons and many of them have already been used to illustrate Wikipedia articles.

UTA Libraries has shared 426 individual photographs from these two collections that document university history from its foundation in 1895 to the 2010s with Wikimedia Commons, the image and media host site behind Wikipedia. Already, 94 of them have been used in Wikipedia articles in 19 different languages.

In preparation for this project, I worked with Jeff Downing and **Claudia Catanzaro Solis** in the Digital Creation department and Krystal Schenk in the Marketing and Communications department to

change the license used for all of these photographs on the [Digital Gallery](#) from the UTA Libraries' default [CC BY-NC](#) license to the [CC BY](#) license, as the latter is compatible with Wikimedia projects like Wikipedia while the former is not.

Then these photos were uploaded to Wikimedia Commons with full metadata as well as proper source, license, and category information. Most of the metadata used is taken directly from the metadata already on the Digital Gallery, namely the titles and descriptions of each photograph involved. The other fields on Wikimedia Commons include a date field where dates are formatted in the ISO standard (i.e., "2020-07-09" for July 9, 2020), a source field that universally includes the text "UTA

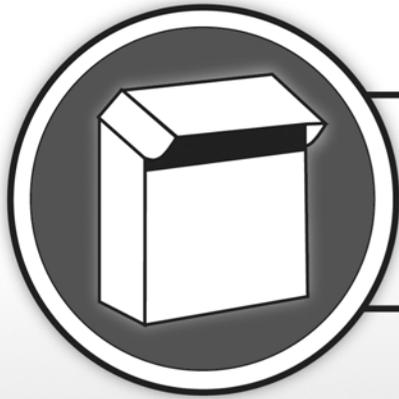


An example of a UTA News Service Photograph Collection image on Wikimedia Commons, in this case a photo of UTA wheelchair basketball player Abu Yiller (left) and UTA volleyball player Judith McGill. Screenshot from Wikimedia Commons ([CC BY-SA 3.0](#)), image itself from the UTA Libraries Digital Gallery ([CC BY 4.0](#)).

Libraries Digital Gallery" (which is linked to the exact page on the Digital Gallery that hosts each respective image), and an author field that includes the text "UTA Photograph Collection" or "UTA News Service Photograph Collection" (depending on which collection the image is from, although both link to the [UTA Libraries section of the Wikipedia article on UTA](#)).

Beneath this metadata in the "summary" section of the file page, there is a "licensing" section. For every image contributed in this project, there is a header identifying that this image is part of a cooperation project with the UTA

*Continued on page 12*



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## 2020 SSA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



**MARK LAMBERT, CHAIR, SSA DSA COMMITTEE (SSA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT),  
CHRISTINA WOLF AND TIM NUTT, SSA DSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Please join us in congratulating **Katherine (Katie) A. Salzmann**, Lead Archivist at the Wittliff Collections, Texas State University, this year's recipient of the SSA Distinguished Service Award!

A little about Katie's service to SSA. She has served SSA as Vice-President in 2013-2014; as President in 2014-2015; and as Immediate Past-President in 2015-2016; She has also served as Chair of the Program Committee in 2013-2014; as Chair of the Annual Meeting Site Selection Committee in 2016-2018; and as Co-Chair of the Publications Committee, 2007-2012, and as co-editor of the *Southwestern Archivist*, and as a member of the Professional Development Committee, 2005-2007.

Katie's service with the Society of American Archivists includes as Chair of the Committee on Education in 2009-2010; as Vice Chair of the Committee on Education in 2008-2009; as Chair of the Committee on Graduate Archival Education in 2007-2008; and as Member of the Theodore Calvin Pease Award Subcommittee in 2008. She was also a Member of the Manuscripts Section Steering Committee in 2007-2009; a Member of the Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee in 2008-2009; and a Member of the Joint SAA-ALA Committee, as the Society of American Archivists representative in 2002-2004; and finally, as a Member of the Preservation Section Education Committee in 2004-2006.

Katie's teaching and mentorship includes serving as a lecturer in the Public History Program of Texas State University, in San Marcos, TX, for the last 15 years, where she has strongly influenced a new generation of archivists and public historians while teaching archival management. Katie's service to the profession also includes a stint as a member of the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, 2003-2004.

One of Katie's nominators wrote: "Their thoughtful and organized leadership style [as SSA President] made our work with SSA that year smooth and productive (and fun!)."

Additionally, they wrote: "The nominee had the idea for the SSA Community Outreach Fund. Since then, the

Community Outreach Fund has provided monetary support for many archival advocacy events across the region. Requests continue to grow each year, showing that there is a real need for this kind of support. The Community Outreach Fund gives the Society a tangible and practical way to support archives and archivists in their outreach efforts and is a key part of this nominee's legacy."



Katherine (Katie) A. Salzmann, recipient of the 2020 SSA Distinguished Service Award.

Another wrote: "They are a quiet leader who doesn't draw attention to themselves, but gets the job done efficiently and correctly. They support their colleagues and are a real leader."

Another letter said: "They brought fresh ideas and changes to the way SSA managed advertising, and they brought energy and

vision to their role of newsletter co-editor." Also: "During 2008-2010, they were Vice Chair and Chair of the SAA Committee on Education. During their tenure, they led the effort to look into graduate archival education. The guide to archival education is still in service to the profession in 2020."

The letter continued: "One of their major contributions to the profession is their dedication in creating and teaching the Archival Principles and Management graduate course. They have created the curriculum and update it every semester. Consequently, they served on numerous History student's graduate comprehensive exam committees."

Another wrote: "Their approachable demeanor encourages public interest and engagement in all that archives have to offer. Countless patrons have sung their praises for aiding in their research and publications."

Katie holds a B.A. in English from the College of Wooster in 1992, and an MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin in 1995, with a concentration in archival administration.

Prior to joining Texas State, Katie was the Archivist & Curator of Manuscripts for the Special Collections department of Morris Library at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (during 1999-2004). Prior to that, she was a Manuscripts Librarian at Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (dates of tenure: 1996-1999).

# SSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



## ROBERT WEAVER, COMMITTEE CHAIR

The results of the 2020 election are as follows:

VP/President Elect: **Daniel Alonzo**

Secretary: **Mary Saffell**

Executive Board, 2020-2022: **Dylan McDonald, Madeline Moya, and Alexis Peregoy**

Nominating Committee: **Shannon Lausch**

Scholarship Committee: **Katie Rojas**

There were 224 votes cast in response to 502 ballots sent, for a return rate of 45% (up from 37% last year).

Thank you to all who agreed to be on the ballot in 2020. Your offer of leadership to SSA is truly appreciated.

If you are interested in being a candidate for the 2020 year or in nominating another person, please notify one of the members of the Nominating Committee Listed below.

**Robert Weaver** ([robert.g.weaver@ttu.edu](mailto:robert.g.weaver@ttu.edu))

**Shannon Lausch** ([smlausch@ualr.edu](mailto:smlausch@ualr.edu))

# SSA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

## AMY MONDT, CA, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The membership committee is happy to report that we have had 46 new members join so far this year. Welcome to the new members and hopefully you are enjoying all the benefits of your membership.

Also, the Membership Committee has some new members: **Danielle Butler** (AR), **Jennifer Donner** (OK), **Blake Relle** (LA), and **Sheon Montgomery** (TX). **Kathleen Gray** (NM) has also joined the committee and has graciously agreed to be the new Vice Chair. Welcome everyone to the committee.

Request a free demo to see what ArchivEra can do for your archives! [sales@lucidea.com](mailto:sales@lucidea.com)

[lucidea.com/archivera](http://lucidea.com/archivera)

# STATE PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT



ABBIE WEISER, CA, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

The State Partnerships and Outreach Committee (SPOC) encourages archival professionals to reach beyond our own professional groups and present at historical, genealogical, and other conferences that attract users of archives and potential donors of archival material.

SPOC held two meetings via Zoom in May. During these meetings, I volunteered to serve as Chair and **Cheyron Woods** volunteered to be Vice-Chair. Members **James Williamson**, **Jenna Cooper**, and **John Slate** will continue to update our resource spreadsheet that lists opportunities for archivists to present or do outreach work at non-archives conferences, workshops, and other events. Please let us know of any presentation opportunities in your area by contacting me at [ahweiser@utep.edu](mailto:ahweiser@utep.edu). The spreadsheet is available on the SPOC webpage: <https://www.southwestarchivists.org/home/committee-on-state-partnerships-and-outreach/>.

Several members of SPOC are currently working on an article for *Archival Outlook*, the bimonthly magazine of the Society of American Archivists (SAA). The article will recount the committee's origins and activities, particularly the SPOC sessions held at recent SSA and SAA meetings. Thank you to **Mike Miller** for organizing this group effort and volunteering to compile and edit our text.

For more information, please contact **Abbie Weiser** at [ahweiser@utep.edu](mailto:ahweiser@utep.edu) or call at 915-747-6839.

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKING ARIZONA LIAISON

KRISHNA SHENOY, SSA ASSISTANT EDITOR

SSA is in need of a new state liaison for Arizona. The main responsibility of a state liaison is soliciting and collecting articles for the newsletter from your area and then submitting them, along with images, to the newsletter editors. Liaisons do some light editing as needed, check to make sure that submissions include the contributors' name and contact information, with captions and citations as needed for images, and that the image files are print-ready. The newsletter is published quarterly and the time commitment is easily manageable. It is a great way to get more involved with SSA, serve your archival community, and learn more about your colleagues activities. Liaison's can also suggest content for SSA's social media pages. The Liaison's provide valuable assistance in putting the newsletter together and making sure all the SSA states are well-represented. We want to thank the outgoing Arizona state liaison, Dani Stuchel for her service. If you are interested in the position or want to learn more, please contact Nicholas Wojcik, Editor [[nwo@ou.edu](mailto:nwo@ou.edu)] or Krishna Shenoy, Assistant Editor [[kedarkima@hotmail.com](mailto:kedarkima@hotmail.com)].

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# UTA COLLECTIONS ON WIKIMEDIA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)



**Reby Cary** (September 9, 1920 – December 7, 2018) was an American educator, politician, and historian in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He was the first black school board member in Fort Worth and served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1979 to 1985. He was the author of numerous books about the history of African Americans in North Texas.

**Contents** (hide)

- Biography
  - Early life and education
  - Career
  - Personal life
- Publications
- References
- External links

**Biography** [edit]

**Early life and education** [edit]

Reby Cary was born September 9, 1920 in Fort Worth, Texas. His father was the Reverend Smith Cary (d. 1969), founder of the Rising Star Baptist Church and native of Jacksonville, Texas.<sup>[1]</sup> Cary grew up in a strict, religious household and created his mother with his success, explaining that, "When my friends were out playing marbles, my mother would say, 'Get back in the house and study.' If she saw me with my head outside of a book, my behind would soon be on fire. It never changed."<sup>[2]</sup> As a child during the Depression, Cary mowed yards to earn money.<sup>[3]</sup> He graduated from Fort Worth's renowned I.M. Terrell High School in 1937. In 1941, he earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from historically black Prairie View A&M University. When Cary was drafted into military service in 1942, he had completed coursework toward a master's degree at Prairie View.<sup>[4]</sup>

Cary received his draft notice in 1942 and enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. He was one of the first African Americans to graduate from the Coast Guard's radioman school in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Cary was assigned to the USS *Cambria* and served the Pacific Theater of World War II, including the invasions of Japan and Okinawa.<sup>[5]</sup> Cary completed his master's degree in history and political science at North Texas State University after his discharge and later undertook postgraduate coursework at North Texas State University and Texas Christian University.<sup>[6]</sup>

**Career** [edit]

**Member of the Texas House of Representatives**

<b>In office</b>	1979–1985
<b>Constituency</b>	District 95
<b>Personal details</b>	
<b>Born</b>	September 9, 1920 Fort Worth, Texas U.S.
<b>Died</b>	December 7, 2018 (aged 98) Fort Worth, Texas U.S.

An example of a UTA-related Wikipedia article now illustrated by a UTA photo, in this case the article on Reby Cary, the first African American faculty member in UTA history. Screenshot from English Wikipedia ([CC BY-SA 3.0](#)).

Libraries, including the UTA logo and a brief explanation about the library and the university. Immediately below is the CC BY license itself, which states the freedoms allowed and the only required condition (attribution) while also providing a link to the full text of the license on the Creative Commons website.

At the bottom of the file page are relevant Wikimedia Commons categories, which conform to the hierarchical categorization norms of the site. These categories allow the images contributed to be found by browsing, much like effective description allows them to be found by searching. All images in this collaboration include the "History of the University of Texas at Arlington" category, followed by the main topical categories (such as people, buildings, or events depicted), and then by temporal/geographical categories (such as "1980 in Texas"). At the very bottom are "hidden categories," which are used for administrative purposes on Wikimedia Commons, such as tracking metrics for either the whole collaboration project or specific aspects of it.

These photos have also been added,

where appropriate, into Wikipedia articles. Most of these uses have been to articles directly related to the university and its history. For example, the Wikipedia articles on the [University of Texas at Arlington](#) itself, its [history from 1917 to 1965](#), university presidents such as [Jack Woolf](#) and [Wendell Nedderman](#), and UTA faculty such as [Reby Cary](#) and [Sandra Myres](#) have all been enhanced with photos from these two collections.

A substantial number of photos have also been added to Wikipedia articles on more general topics or topics not obviously related to UTA. Some of these topics are unsurprising, such as prominent Texas political figures such as former governor [John Connally](#) and former Arlington mayor [Tom Vandergriff](#), the [Reserve Officers' Training Corps](#), and [library circulation](#). Others are much more surprising, such as [apple bobbing](#), [pesticide application](#), and [egg drop competition](#). While the UTA Libraries Special Collections department did not set out trying to document apple bobbing or egg drop competitions in its collections, it has high-quality images of these events and Wikipedia has articles about them but previously insufficient

illustration, which created an opportunity to fill gaps in Wikipedia's content while also providing a broader audience for our images.

Many photos have also been added to Wikipedia articles in languages other than English. For example, portraits from these two collections have been used to illustrate the [French-language article on Liz Carpenter](#), the [German-language article on James A. Michener](#), the [Portuguese-language article on Tom Vandergriff](#), and the [Arabic-language article on Scott Cross](#). Photos of the UTA campus have also been used in the [Chinese-language](#) and [Japanese-language articles about UTA itself](#).

One of the principle advantages of uploading photographs to Wikimedia Commons is that it allows all its files to be used on every language Wikipedia as if they were uploaded locally. This greatly facilitates the ability to use photographs on multiple projects in multiple languages, while also helping all Wikipedias (especially the smaller ones) obtain quality illustrations for their articles.

Related to this is the development of

*Continued on page 13*

# UTA COLLECTIONS ON WIKIMEDIA



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

Summary [edit]

Description	English: Rodney Lewis and Wanda Jo Holiday, University of Texas at Arlington Homecoming King and Queen, 1980. Holiday became the first black student to be elected Homecoming Queen at U. T. A. and Lewis, also a black student, became the first U. T. A. Homecoming King in the school's history.
Date	1980
Source	UTA Libraries Digital Gallery
Author	University of Texas at Arlington News Service Photograph Collection

Licensing [edit]

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"Summary" and "Licensing" information from an example image. Screenshot from Wikimedia Commons ([CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)).

Wikidata, another Wikimedia project that serves as a central repository for information such as statistics while also linking together articles about the same subject in different languages. Some UTA images are of sufficiently high quality that they have been added to the Wikidata "image" parameter, which essentially designates them as a preferred image across projects and languages. While not implemented by every Wikipedia, some Wikipedias are already taking these preferred images from Wikidata and inserting them automatically into articles, especially biographies. For example, the Wikidata pages on [Emerson Emory](#) and [Scott Cross](#) feature UTA photographs, and in the latter case Cross's portrait is now used automatically on [his Arabic Wikipedia article](#), without the image ever being added to the article code itself.

In total, there are 426 photographs from these two collections that have been digitized and uploaded to Wikimedia Commons. Of these, 94 individual images have been used in Wikipedia articles in total, and the total number of uses is 158 (note that a single image can be used more than once). English Wikipedia is the clear leader in terms of use, as 104 different English Wikipedia articles

are illustrated by photos from one of these two collections. Other Wikipedias with substantial use of these photos include Spanish (8 uses), German (7), and Arabic, French, and Welsh (3 each).

Viewership of these articles has helped increase the [total page views of all Wikipedia articles with UTA Libraries Special Collections images](#), which includes other collections, most notably maps that were shared with Wikimedia Commons last summer. Before the UTA Photograph Collection or UTA News Service Photograph Collection began being uploaded, as recently as March 2020, total page views for Wikipedia articles with UTA images were consistently between 710,000 and 860,000 every month between November 2019 and March 2020. Then, in April 2020, this number climbed to over 1.2 million page views, and by May 2020, it reached over 1.6 million. In June 2020, total page views fell to just over 1.1 million, although this is still substantially higher than pre-April totals.

An analysis of the most-viewed pages in April revealed that approximately two-thirds of this increase was due to adding

photographs from these two collections into Wikipedia articles, while the other one-third of the increase was caused by an essentially across-the-board increase in viewership of Wikipedia articles due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because anything contributed to Wikimedia Commons will continue to be discovered by other Wikipedians and used in other Wikipedia articles (often in ways not anticipated by the uploader), the total viewership of entire collections generally increases as time progresses. However, articles do routinely see drops in their page views, not just increases, as was the case in June.

UTA Libraries Special Collections looks forward to many more future contributions to Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons. These 426 photographs from two UTA history-related photo collections are only the tip of the iceberg!

For more information contact **Michael Barera** via e-mail [michael.barera@uta.edu](mailto:michael.barera@uta.edu) or phone (817) 272-7511.

# TALK OF THE REGION



Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO)  
Spring/Summer 2020 Updates  
*Rebecca Romanchuk, Archives and Information Services, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 2020 TARO Steering Committee Chair*

TARO held its 6th annual Brown Bag session as a noontime webinar on June 23, 2020, achieving a record attendance of over 100 people who learned about TARO's grant activities to improve its website and search function and to assist institutions in becoming new TARO members. If you missed it, not to worry! The links to the video recording, presentation slides, and our fact sheet are available at our TARO Today blog, <http://sites.utexas.edu/taro/2020/06/25/2020-taro-brown-bag-wrap-up-we-want-to-hear-from-you/>. Links to a survey to get your feedback about our webinar and to a TARO volunteer sign-up sheet are also provided. If you are employed at a TARO member institution, becoming involved with our volunteer efforts is a great way to make sure your institution's perspective is considered in the earliest stages of our grant work.

The webinar also served as a chance for those attending to meet some of the 28 dedicated people who give their time for TARO by serving on its elected steering committee and its volunteer subcommittees. Our steering committee consists of seven elected officers and a permanent representative of UT Libraries, TARO's institutional home. This fall, nominations will be accepted for two of the steering committee officer positions: vice chair (a three-year commitment, 2021-2023, serving the second year as chair and the third year as immediate past chair, each with specific duties) and secretary (service is for two years, 2021-2022). Watch for our announcement in September calling for nominations for our November election, which will appear on the TARO Today blog, our TARO member email list, and social media and message boards of SSA and other Texas professional archival groups.

Is your institution interested in becoming a TARO member? There are two ways to join. One is through our Summerlee Foundation grant-funded New Member Initiative, which supports vendor encoding of finding aids to help new or dormant TARO member repositories participate in TARO. This initiative now has 13 participants, and we seek several more to join every year. The project is overseen by the immediate



2020 TARO Brown Bag Webinar. (Photo provided by the author)

past chair of the TARO Steering Committee (which for 2020 is Carla Alvarez) and supported by a quality assurance team of seasoned encoding volunteers from TARO member repositories. Contact current TARO Steering Committee Chair Rebecca Romanchuk at [rromanchuk@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:rromanchuk@tsl.texas.gov) if your repository wants to become a new TARO member through this initiative. Also contact her if your repository would like to join TARO as a self-sustaining member able to create its own EAD finding aids (repositories using ArchivesSpace can export EAD finding aids using these steps available on the TARO Today blog, <https://sites.utexas.edu/taro/submitting-finding-aids-now/using-archivesspace/>). There has never been a better time to join TARO, where institutions across Texas contribute description of their diverse archival collections to a finding aid consortium used by researchers worldwide.

## Stay in Touch

TARO working wiki: <http://texastaro.pbworks.com/>  
TARO Today: <http://sites.utexas.edu/taro/>  
TARO Best Practices Guidelines: <http://bit.ly/2Alonsy>  
Rebecca Romanchuk  
Archives and Information Services  
Texas State Library and Archives Commission  
PO Box 12927  
1201 Brazos St.  
Austin, Texas 78711-2927  
512-475-1734  
[rromanchuk@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:rromanchuk@tsl.texas.gov)

# TALK OF THE REGION



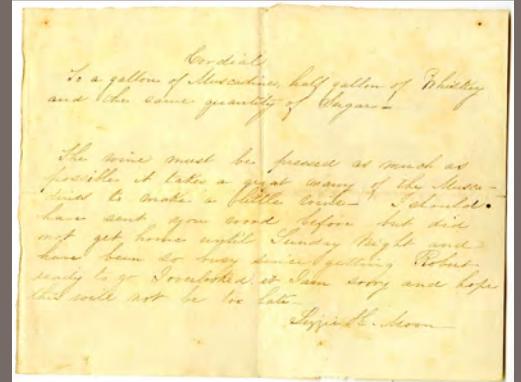
## Using Your Time Wisely

Jennifer Ottinger, Graduate Student, University of Southern Mississippi

Practica are usually a part of a graduate certificate in archives and special collections. Living in Texas and attending an online program at the University of Southern Mississippi, I knew I was going to have to be creative with my practicum location, and with the pandemic's shutdown of normal life, my prospects of completing my practicum seemed nearly impossible. Thankfully, The University of Mississippi (UM) used COVID-19 to think outside the box. Utilizing this "work from home" time, archivists utilized this opportunity to dive headlong into one of their ongoing projects. When I found out that they would take on a student from out of state, I could not contain my excitement. I quickly inquired, finalized paperwork for my graduate program, and began my practicum working with their Civil War Collection.

UM's collection became official in 1975 and has been growing ever since. Jennifer Ford, Head of Archives and Special Collections, says 98% of the collection exists because of donations. In 2006, they started digitizing their collection, and although much of the collection is online for viewing on eGrove ([https://egrove.olemiss.edu/civ\\_war/](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/civ_war/)), their online platform for the Civil War Collection, it was simply that, viewable only. That is where my help through my practicum comes in. My job is to transcribe portions of the collection, which will make it more searchable, therefore more accessible to patrons.

I feel fortunate that I have this opportunity to carry on with my education through these new times, and the transcription project gets to move to the top of the University's "to do" list. I am hoping more collections use this time to seek out graduate students to tackle similar jobs that can be done online making collections not only viewable to all, but searchable and accessible as well.



Lizzie H Moon's cordial recipe is one of the many items that is included in the transcription project. The Edmondson/Bray/Williams/Stidham Collection, which is part of the Civil War Collection at the University of Mississippi. (Photo provided by the University of Southern Mississippi.)

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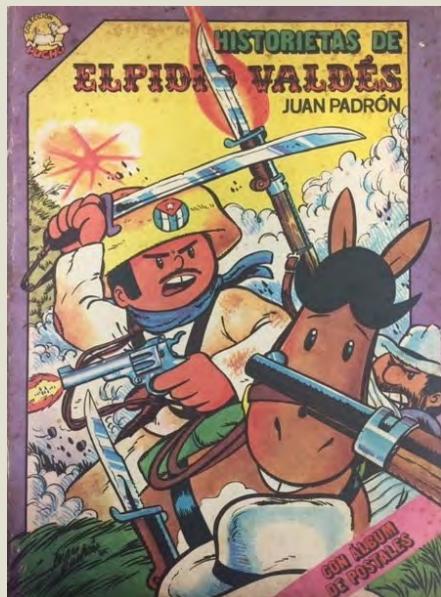
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# REPOSITORY NEWS



**Cuban Comics in the Castro Era**  
*Gilbert Borrego, CA, Digital Repository Specialist,*  
*University of Texas Libraries*

The Benson Latin American Collection has finished processing the Caridad Blanco Collection of Cuban Comic Books. Blanco, a Havana-based artist and curator, collected over 700 examples of stand-alone comics and newspaper supplements created between 1937 and 2018. The finding aid is available online for



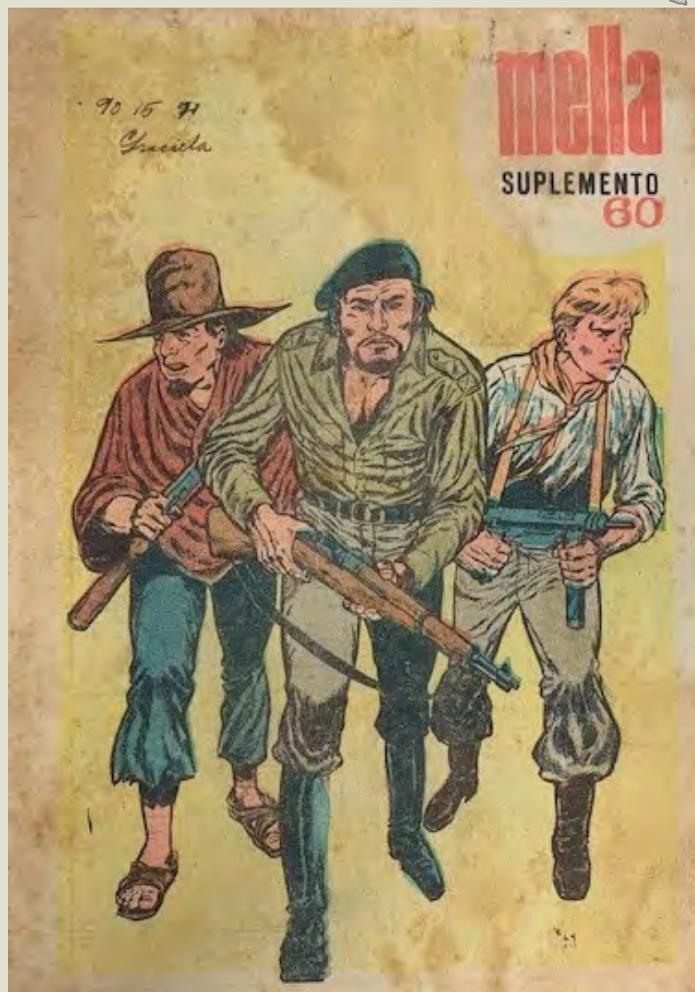
Above: "Historietas de Elpidio Valdés," Juan Padrón Blanco, 1985. Benson Latin American Collection.

Below: Nikita Khrushchev and Dwight D. Eisenhower on the cover of "Zig-Zag," no. 1079, Aug. 1959. Benson Latin American Collection (Photos: University of Texas at Austin Libraries.)



researchers through TARO. The physical exhibit materials are available through Texas ScholarWorks and the digital exhibition is available through Scalar. The finding aid and exhibitions were curated by Digital Repository Specialist **Gilbert Borrego** and was part of his fall 2019 Capstone Experience course in partial fulfillment of his MSIS, School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin.

The publishing industry of Cuba experienced a seismic shift in 1959 when Fidel Castro won a revolutionary war against dictator Fulgencio Batista. With this change, underground and subversive media creators of the Batista era became an important part of the new socialist culture. This helped to mobilize



"Mella Suplemento," no. 60, undated. Benson Latin American Collection. (Photo: University of Texas Libraries.)

the masses in support of the new Castro government and against U.S. capitalistic ideology. A new world opened up for the creators of comics, who now had the singular purpose of supporting their new government while still appealing to their readers. In this early era, many of these readers were children, who continued to consume U.S.-created comic books and the ideals that went with them.

Widespread suspicion held that beloved American comics were imperialistic indoctrination tools for Cuban children. In response, the new Cuban government began utilizing comics as a means to teach values that aligned with revolutionary doctrine. Cuban-created comics replaced American ones on the shelves. These works appealed to highly literate youth. Mixing adventure, comedy, and the ideological tenets of the new government, they portrayed revolution as necessary and exciting, especially for the country's youth. Characters included native people, revolutionaries, anthropomorphic animals, and futuristic explorers.

*Continued on page 17*

# REPOSITORY NEWS

(FROM PAGE 16)



Collage of comic covers with various titles from the Benson Latin American Collection. (Photo: University of Texas at Austin Libraries.)

Cuban comics used satire to roast many of the people and policies that were in contradiction to the Castro government. Popular targets included U.S. presidents Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy; pre-revolutionary targets even included Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. However, they were also careful to shed a positive light on leaders such as Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. In the Cuban context, heroes were adventurous, brave, and (most importantly) of the people.

An economic crisis in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union, as well as ongoing U.S. embargoes, led to shortages of ink, paper, and other supplies. Creators had to be inventive to continue producing their art. They obtained materials from friends in other countries, scrounged for scraps, and even made their own materials from natural resources. Crisis, it turned out, bred more creativity.

Due to numerous issues, the comic genre is not as popular in Cuba today as it used to be. Material shortages and other factors contribute to a lack of

readership. Without this continued exposure to comics, a generation of readers, particularly children, did not develop the same interest in comics. To compound this, comics in Cuba are still associated with youth, rather than adult, audiences.

Despite these economic and cultural upheavals, the Cuban publishing community is resilient and resourceful. Many well-known titles have continued to publish through the 2000s. Other titles have moved to the digital sphere. Scholarship around comics continues to grow as the academics recognize the cultural importance of this medium. The members of the Cuban comic community show a spirit of survival and endurance. They frequently win international awards and have earned the respect of other countries with their views of the world stage and their place on it. They look with measured optimism toward an uncertain future despite the difficulties of the present.

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# TALK OF THE REGION



## WPA-Built Structures in Oklahoma

*Patrice-Andre Prud'homme, PhD, Director of Digital Curation and David Peters, Head and Assistant Professor of Archives, Oklahoma State University*



Collage of WPA projects documented by W. David Baird. (Photo provided by the authors)

In the mid 1980's Oklahoma State University History Department Head Dr. W. David Baird (b. July 8, 1939, Edmond, OK) directed an Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey identifying surviving Works Progress Administration (WPA) project sites in Oklahoma counties. Graduate students working with Dr. Baird surveyed the state searching for remaining WPA structures completed five decades earlier. Basic descriptions, building purposes, and locations of structures were recorded along with images captured on 35 mm slides. When leaving OSU Dr. Baird donated materials to OSU Archives related to his research interests and supplemented this donation with a shipment of WPA slides and data sheets. This collection of slides, depicting structures built by the WPA in the state of Oklahoma is a tangible reminder of one of President Roosevelt's New Deal relief programs that provided a viable livelihood for many Oklahomans during the 1930s. The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office published Phase III of a report on 'WPA Structures Thematic Survey' in August 1987, authored by W. David Baird.

With funding from the National Archives--National Historical Publications and Records Commission and sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, the OSU Library Archives received a 2019 Improving Access to Collections Grant to help promote the online access and use of these historically significant and fragile analog materials. The project consisted of digitizing and providing metadata for 1,346 slides to augment our knowledge and awareness about WPA projects from 75 out of 77 counties across Oklahoma. Materials from Dr. Baird's Collection are accessible via the OSU Library digital collections website and the Digital Public Library of America.

For more information, please contact Oklahoma State University Archives at [libscua@okstate.edu](mailto:libscua@okstate.edu).



Joe Califano, President Lyndon B. Johnson. (Photo: LBJ Presidential Library and Museum. Link: <http://www.lbibrary.net/collections/photo-archive/photolab-detail.html?id=733>).

Frequently, as the Accessions Archivist at the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas, I am asked whether we have finished processing all of our materials. The presumption, understandably, is that since the Library opened in May 1971, sufficient time has passed to establish intellectual control, organize and process, and review and open all of our holdings, which include approximately 45 million pages of print material, in addition to miles of video material, thousands of hours of audio recordings, and numerous unique artifacts, which receive caretaking by Museum staff. In short, however, the answer is an emphatic no. While questioner's eyebrows often raise in surprise, the reality is that not only are we still carefully working through material that arrived decades ago, some part of collections consisting of hundreds of Hollinger boxes of material, but we continue to receive new accessions regularly. This short article will discuss some of the type of new collections we have received in the past few years, as well as the important and actually voluminous category of accretions—donations added to

## ACCESSIONS: THE ARCHIVAL GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING

**Brian C. McNerney, Staff Archivist,  
Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential  
Library and Museum**

already-accessioned material. As I tell some of the volunteers who assist me at the Library, if someone seeks a profession with long-term job security, becoming an archivist is a reasonable option, since as any archivist knows, our work is really never, ever done.

One prominent collection we received just over two years ago is the Papers of Bess and Tyler Abell. Tyler Abell is the stepson of famed journalist and muckraker Drew Pearson, whose regular Washington Post column “The Merry-Go-Round” provided

gossip hounds and political junkies with an endless stream of insider knowledge about the shenanigans of high-level American figures, including presidents. Lyndon Johnson hosted Pearson at the White House for both social and official engagements regularly. Pearson’s stepson Tyler served as a Deputy Postmaster General, and then became the Director of Protocol within the White House during the Johnson administration. Drew Pearson’s own papers were already housed at the LBJ Library when Bess and Tyler’s own materials were donated and arrived in Austin in February 2018.

Tyler’s wife Bess was the daughter of the renowned long-serving Kentucky governor, Earle Clements, and she served as the

White House Social Secretary, a position in which her firm and steady hand during countless high-profile social events earned her the moniker “Iron Butterfly.” The Abells enjoyed a warm personal relationship with the Johnsons, and Lady Bird even served as the host for their wedding. Processing of this collection is ongoing, with approximately seventy boxes of material initially inventoried and described, and perhaps thirty forty more boxes expected to result from the remaining unprocessed portion of the joint collection.

*Continued on page 21*



Although it seems counterintuitive that the Library would still be actively receiving donations, in fact many of the people who worked with or were lifetime friends and associates of the Johnsons are now entering their late golden years or have recently passed away. Children of these participants in the Johnsons' lives are now seeking the optimal repository to preserve and make available for public research their parents' own legacies as recorded in correspondence files, scrapbooks, photographs, and other documentation. On average, over the past five years, the LBJ Library has accessioned at least ten new collections each year, ranging from small, two-letter gifts, such as the Papers of Robert Hardgrave, a retired University of Texas at Austin professor, who donated a 1956 and 1958 letter from then Senator and Democratic Leader Lyndon Johnson to the then-aspiring scholar, who wrote LBJ asking for advice, to more recently, the Papers of Edna Dato Frazer, a woman who worked for LBJ when he was the Texas director of the National Youth Administration in the 1930s, as well as in his early years as the Texas Congressman representing the state's 10th District, centered in the Texas Hill Country. Frazer's daughter donated three letters from Johnson to Ms. Frazer, thus making available correspondence between the woman, who along with her husband was an early professional close friend of the future President, but also who served him directly as an employee. Such donations fulfill the Library's goal of achieving as thorough a record as possible of Johnson's life and work.

Lastly, as an example of the Library receiving accretions to already-existing collections, there is

no more notable example than the many subsequent donations of the Papers of Joseph Califano, which have been delivered to 2313 Red River Street, the Library's address on the northeastern corner of the University of Texas campus. Califano served as Johnson's key domestic policy adviser during his presidency, and was intimately involved with every aspect of the wide-ranging social and legislative programs that LBJ so aggressively pursued. In addition to Office Files of his work as an Aide to the President, consisting of 100 boxes of material created during the administration, the Library already had approximately 750 boxes of personal papers reflecting Califano's work after 1969, when Johnson left office, including Califano's tenure as the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) under President Jimmy Carter in the 1970s. But Califano has proven an inexhaustible public servant, and the evidence arrives in Federal Records Center boxes by the dozens; just in the last three years, comprising a single accretion--the twelfth since the Papers were originally established--nearly thirty-five additional oversized boxes, mostly containing extensive



Bess Abell poses in evening gown. (Photo: LBJ Presidential Library and Museum. Link: <http://www.lbjlibrary.net/collections/photo-archive/photolab-detail.html?id=1382>).

scrapbooks curated by Califano himself to document his long career, ensure that there will be more processing and archival work on his vast documentary heritage for some time.

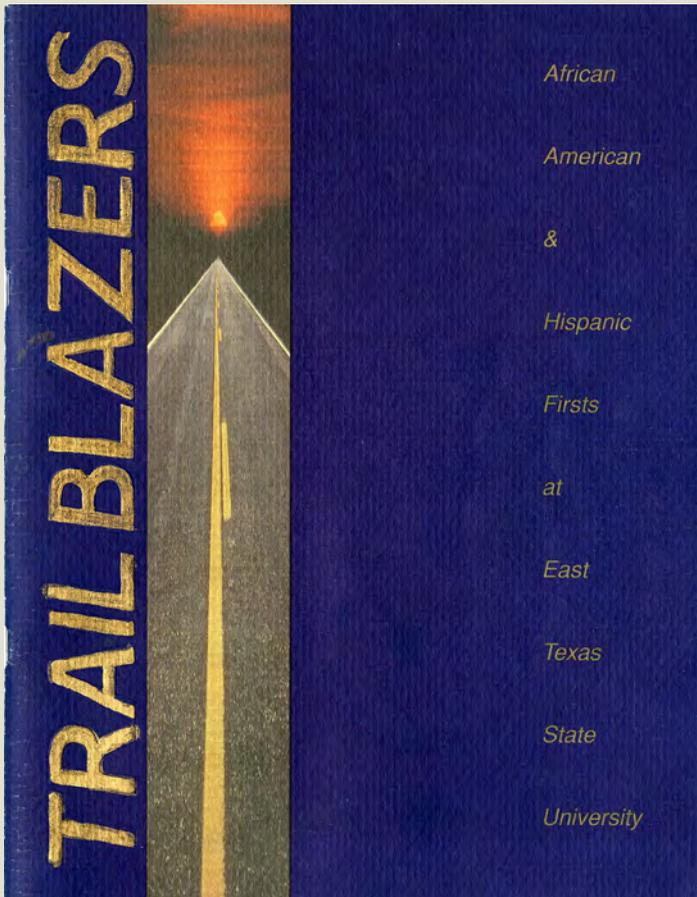
Meanwhile, volunteers help me unpack and begin to inventory these newer arrivals, and the hope is that in time, one or more of them will carry on the work of realizing the full potential of our varied accessions.

# REPOSITORY NEWS



## Latinx Lions: Creating a Campus Community Exhibition

Sawyer Magnus, Adam Northam, Josephine Rickman, and Jayson Douglas, Texas A&M University-Commerce



Trailblazers: this digital resource provided background information for early Hispanic administrators and faculty. (Photo: Northeast Texas Digital Collections, James G. Gee Library Special Collections, Texas A&M University-Commerce.)

The Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) at Texas A&M University-Commerce collaborated with the Office of Intercultural Engagement and Leadership on campus to create exhibits for display in their office featuring materials held by SCUA. The collaboration was instigated by Jayson Douglas, Associate Director for the Office of Intercultural Engagement and Leadership.

The Office of Intercultural Engagement and Leadership was created out of the merger of two other offices. Its mission is to use experiential learning to develop cultural competency as well as create new community leaders out of students through leadership education, service and engagement with the community, global education, and social justice/diversity education. The office also promotes cultural heritage months and coordinates special

commencement activities for women, African American, and Latin American students.

Based on the mission of the office, the SCUA staff began researching potential topics that coordinated with cultural heritage events during the fall semester. After searching through our university resources, the staff determined that creating a display focused on the contributions of the Latin American community at the university would be the most feasible.

The structure of the exhibit helped us determine the amount of information needed. We decided to divide it into four thematic sections: People, Student Organizations, Events, and Current Issues. This division allowed us to reveal more stories related to the community than a more linear narrative.

Several resources proved invaluable to our research. One publication called Trailblazers highlights significant Hispanic faculty and administrators in the history of Texas A&M University-Commerce. The Marketing and Communications Department's Flickr and SmugMug accounts contained images for student organizations and events pertaining to Latin American culture. The East Texan, student newspaper for TAMUC, provided a substantial amount of information related to events, current issues, and student organizations. The Locust yearbooks featured images and information about clubs and events that showed early Latin American students at the institution.

As the information was collected, we added images and text to a Google Doc for editing by all staff members and saved many of the images to our network drive. We selected the final images and text and planned the layout of the display in a Microsoft Publisher document. In addition to the four theme sections, the display included a title section with information about the collaboration and the location of more information.

Thanks to the help of a graduate student in the Office of Intercultural Engagement and Leadership, the exhibit text was translated into Spanish, making the entire display bilingual. Mounting and installation took place during the week prior to the opening ceremony for the office.

The display was a great success. Jayson and other staff members received many compliments from visitors after the unveiling during the office grand opening. Some of the visitors were so excited that

*Continued on page 23*

# REPOSITORY NEWS

(FROM PAGE 22)



The fully installed celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month and the grand opening of the Office of Intercultural Engagement and Leadership. (Photo provided by the authors.)

they assumed there would be a new display every week and asked what the subject of the next exhibit would be!

This project allowed us to consider many aspects of our own collections and reflect on potential changes for future displays. We learned that our holdings related to many minority groups on campus are lacking. We hope to remedy this situation by focusing more on collection development with these groups and increase archival awareness among student organizations. Given the short six-week deadline for the project, we also learned to budget more time for future displays to allow staff to fulfill other job tasks.

SCUA staff also developed and formalized exhibit creation procedures, which will be a useful guide for future displays. We considered directly connecting exhibit visitors to more related resources by creating



Student organizations comprised a substantial portion of the display. Having the text in Spanish and English helped visitors connect with the message of the exhibit. (Image provided by the authors..)

LibGuides accessed through QR codes. We also hope to broaden our outreach opportunity and create more chances for interaction by cycling exhibits to other locations on campus.

Collaboration within an institution provides an excellent opportunity for Archives and Special Collections staff to increase awareness among a community we serve.

For more information

contact Sawyer Magnus via e-mail at [Sawyer.magnus@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sawyer.magnus@tamuc.edu) or write a letter to Texas A&M University-Commerce, PO Box 3011, Commerce, TX 75429

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# REPOSITORY NEWS



## New Acquisition at UNT, the Byrd Williams Family Photography Collection

*Anna Esparza, Program Project Specialist,  
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"Photograph of stoves," Williams, Byrd M. (Byrd Moore), Sr. [1895, 1898]. Byrd Williams Family Photography Collection, University of North Texas.

In 2014, the University of North Texas Special Collections acquired the Byrd Williams Family Photography Collection. This collection comprises over 300,000 photographs from four generations of Texas photographers who are all named Byrd Williams. Also acquired within the collection are the cameras from the Byrd men, journals and correspondence between family members, ledgers from the hardware store, notebooks, personal scribbles, illustrations and other experimental artworks.

In the fall of 2019, we submitted an application to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for a TexTreasures grant to provide funding for the department to select, digitize and describe 3,000 items from the Byrd Williams Family Photograph Collection. The items selected include the work of the first three generations of Byrd Williams, composed of sensitive nitrate film negatives that are prone to physical degradation, along with photographic prints. Fearful that these photographs would be lost with time, our main focus was ensuring the negatives were digitized before the chemicals of the nitrate film could degrade them further.

The earliest photographs from the collection belong to Byrd Williams Sr., the patriarch of the family as well as the owner of a general store in Gainesville, Texas. Some of the photographs from Byrd Sr. are of his general store and the wares that he was selling there. Byrd Jr. graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in engineering, and took on a career as a land surveyor across the US. During his travels to survey land and work at construction sites, he carried his camera and photographed not only areas in Texas but across the country.



"A machine aiding in the construction of a large bridge," Williams, Byrd M. (Byrd Moore), Jr., 190u. Byrd Williams Family Photography Collection. University of North Texas Special Collections.

With the influence of his father and grandfather, Byrd III took on photography as a full-time profession and opened up the Byrd Photo Studio in the Westcliff neighborhood of Fort Worth, Texas. Beyond studio photography, Byrd III would photograph the daily life of his family, especially his wife Doris and their children. We are extremely thrilled to have these images available on the Portal to Texas History as we have finished selecting, digitizing and describing the 3,000 photographs before our Fall deadline, thus



"Photograph of Byrd Williams studio in Westcliff," Williams, Byrd M. (Byrd Moore), III, [1950,1960]. Byrd Williams Family Photography Collection. University of North Texas Special Collections.

making available more than 5,000 images from the Byrd Williams Family Photography Collection online.

If you would like to learn more about this collection or the Byrd Williams family visit the finding aid <https://findingaids.library.unt.edu/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=294>, digital collection <https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/BYRDW/>, or the book *Proof: Photographs from Four Generations of a Texas Family* <https://untpress.unt.edu/catalog/3718>

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