

AUGUST 2021 VOLUME 44 NUMBER 3

The **Southwestern
Archivist**



FEATURE

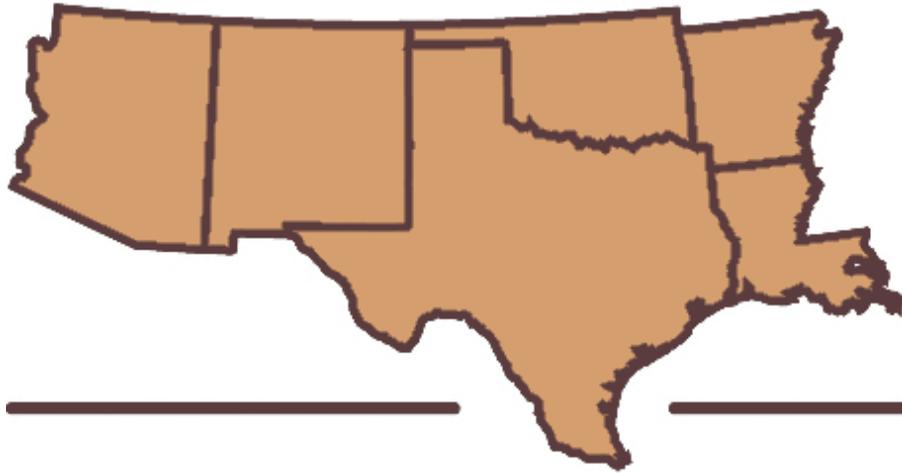
Diverse Archives and Diverse Archivists: An
Interview with Ayshea Khan

IN MEMORIAM

Leon Metz



— 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.

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



@societyofsouthwestarchivists



@southwestarchivists



@SWarchivists



FROM THE EDITOR



Introducing the inaugural edition of the new *Southwestern Archivist*! The visionary decision made in 2018 by our former editor Nicholas Wojcik and the Board to go digital is finally paying off. Going digital means breaking free from the restrictions of print layout designs. I remember during the 2021 Spring Board meeting, there was a collective cheer of excitement when the 50th Anniversary medallion, as seen on the cover, was revealed. Much of the newsletter's new look is inspired by the graphic. I hope the issue's colorful palette, pull-outs, highlights, quotes, and info-graphics make for a more engaged reading experience.

From now to leading up to the 2022 annual conference in Houston, we will be featuring stories, news and personal anecdotes about the 50 year history of SSA, starting with a touching tribute to one of the organizations founding members, Leon Metz. The photo of Metz from 1968, sitting on the floor surrounded by piles of paper is fantastic, but I was most struck by Metz's amused and knowing, Mona Lisa-esque smile. This was clearly a man who loved his work.

In this issue, we are returning to our interview series about "Diverse Archives and Diverse Archivists" with an in depth conversation with SSA Diversity and Outreach Committee Chair, Ayshea Khan. Khan delivers some practical advice on how she translates her passion for under-represented communities in archives, into real-life actions.

In regional news, we learn about the courageous post-WWII "Flying Farmers" of Oklahoma, pioneering ideas in aviation that led to a huge transformation in the agricultural industry. Thirty years later a transformation of a different kind was taking place in wildlife conservation when seven determined women created Wild Basin Preserve just 10 miles from the Texas State Capitol.

Uncovering and preserving these types of stories connects them to the present. Knowing we are leaders and participants in this collective practice of archival work, is a good feeling. Maybe that's what Leon Metz was smiling about.

Krishna Shenoy

2021 ADVERTISERS

Atlas Systems
Hollinger Metal Edge
Lucidea
Northeast Document Conservation Center
Northern Micrographics

ADVERTISE WITH SSA

Please see our rate sheet at
southwestarchivists.org or contact
Krishna Shenoy at
kedarkima@hotmail.com



CONTENTS

FEATURE

5

Diverse Archives and Diverse Archivists

An Interview with Ayshea Khan,
Asian Pacific American Community Archivist
at the Austin History Center

SSA NEWS

3

From the Editor
Krishna Shenoy

6

From the President
Daniel Alonzo

8

Professional Development Committee
Dylan McDonald

8

Seeking Nominations for Distinguished Service Award
Amy Rushing

10

Going with the Flow SSA 2021
Edward Benoit and Leslie Bourgeois

12

Membership Committee News
Katie Gray

12

Publications Committee News
Krishna Shenoy

13

News from SAA Visual Material Section
Gerrienne Schaad

13

Leadership Log
Blake Relle

13

David B. Gracy II Scholarship Fund
Syliva Podwika

17

SSA at 50: Snapshots from Five Decades
John Slate

19

Leon Metz: Remembering UTEP's First Archivist
Claudia Rivers

TALK OF THE REGION

21

Flying Farmers & Farm and Home Week at OAMC
Patrice-Andre Prud'homme

REPOSITORY NEWS

22

Wild Basin's History Now Open for Research at St. Edward's
Travis H. Williams

Diverse Archives and Diverse Archivists: An Interview with Ayshea Khan [she/her] Asian Pacific American Community Archivist at the Austin History Center

This is the fourth in an occasional series developed in consultation with the Diversity Committee to spotlight diverse archives and archivists in the Southwest.



FEATURE

Interview by Krishna Shenoy, Editor

Ayshea Khan (she/her) is the Asian Pacific American Community Archivist at the Austin History Center, a division of the Austin Public Library and Chair of the SSA Diversity & Outreach Committee. Through her position at AHC, she works alongside community members to collaboratively collect, preserve and advocate for Austin’s vibrant Asian American history. Community-driven storytelling within communities of color has always been at the heart of her work as an archivist, filmmaker, and educator. She holds a B.S. in Cinema & Photography from Ithaca College and she received her M.S.I.S. in 2016 from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a Certified Archivist and a 2021-2023 RBS-Mellon Cultural Heritage Fellow. Ayshea has served in leadership positions with the Society of Southwest Archivists, Asian Pacific American Library Association, and is a founding member of the Breaking Library Silos for Social Justice collective in Austin. She has been a longtime volunteer and collaborator with the South Asian American Digital Archive and proudly serves on its Board of Directors.

Continued on page 14



FROM THE PRESIDENT

A couple of weeks ago, my co-workers and I all got a seemingly run of the mill email from our IT department telling us about recent updates that were coming and if we could please leave our computers on.

I always leave my computer on. Who has the time to shut down their computer nowadays?

Buried near the bottom of this email were a couple of sentences followed by "who read this far and who can name where this quote is from?"

Devoid of tone, this question functioned as a Rorschach test among the group of co-workers I had stayed close to during the pandemic. Some read it as the usual snarkiness you get from the IT department, some saw it the "frayed ends of sanity" from someone trying to do their job during a pandemic, yet others saw through the clearly resentful lenses at a better paid employee being made to beg, cajole, and nag.

The latter being business as usual for archivists.

But didn't we all feel like any and every interpretation of this IT guy at various times over the last (sigh) 17 months (heavy sigh).

How many emails have you drafted, laden with sarcasm, derision, or even open hostility, only to pull back, sleep on it, and send only the most professional of clap backs, "as per my last email."? How many deadlines did you blow past or projects did you just drop in order to get through a workday? How much harder has it been to beg, cajole, and nag internal customers, researchers, and donors?

I, personally, struggled with the broader purpose of my job, my profession, and my life.

During the awful and uncertain first few months, when the archives of the Texas General Land Office seemed as unimportant as shaving or wearing jeans, I decided to donate one of my kidneys. Nothing I did seemed to matter anymore. I couldn't even help my own father, who had developed dementia the year earlier and was equally threatened by both the virus itself and the ill effects of quarantine. But I could help someone.

It was, perhaps, an overreaction.

During the awful and uncertain first few months, when the archives seemed as unimportant as shaving or wearing jeans, I decided to donate one of my kidneys. Nothing I did seemed to matter anymore... But I could help someone.

Continued on page 7



All this to say that if you are still with us, give yourself a break. Life is a gift. The work will always be there.

Over the next year SSA will continue to offer virtual workshops. This fall, we will begin to publicize the SSA Internship Program, where we will be able to offer one or two small archives funding to hire and pay a student worker during summer 2022. Beginning in the new year, we will debut a new institutional membership model, more closely aligned with how other associations administer their institutional memberships.

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Society of Southwest Archivists. The 50th Anniversary Committee will provide ways over the year in which we can all participate in the anniversary culminating in an in-person celebration in Houston at the Annual Meeting, May 17-21. And if you've made it this far, can you tell me the name of the album I'm quoting from?

*Stay tuned for more details about the Summer 2022
SSA Internship Program.*

Whether your **ArchivesSpace** project is a small step or a giant leap, **Atlas Systems** can help.

You have a job to do.
We help you do it.

Atlas Systems ArchivesSpace Services

- > Training & Support
- > Migration
- > Implementation
- > Hosting
- > Data Conversion
- > Custom Consulting

ATLAS SYSTEMS IS AN ARCHIVSPACE REGISTERED SERVICE PROVIDER



When you need help with ArchivesSpace, you shouldn't have to think about how big or small the challenge is. Atlas is committed to providing the help you need—big project or small.

For more information, contact us at www.atlas-sys.com/archivesspace

▶ FOR A FREE TRIAL, visit www.atlas-sys.com/ospace-trial for details

Professional Development Committee (PDC) Report

Dylan McDonald, CA, Professional Development Committee Chair



SSA COMMITTEES

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) hosted two workshops in May during the Society's Annual Meeting.

Responsive Archival Instruction in a Global Pandemic with trainers Julie Tanaka and Claudia Willett of Arizona State University had 16 attendees, and

Funding the Work: Designing Competitive Grant Projects with trainer Nancy Melley of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission had 13 attendees.

The committee appreciates the excellent sessions these trainers provided, particularly the shared toolkits and direct feedback regarding attendee's proposed projects. The two workshops raised a total of \$945.00 in donations and recordings of the presentations will soon be available to view on the Society's YouTube Channel.

To ensure continuity of PDC efforts, the committee is currently drafting policies and procedures regarding workshops, webinars, and other development offerings. We greatly appreciate the previous documentation created by current and former PDC members as we work to refine necessary infrastructure. This effort will undoubtedly help during the transitions and yearly turnover that takes place in a voluntary organization like SSA.

Serve on this committee

The committee is looking to expand its numbers. If you would like to be involved in developing workshops and educational programming for your SSA peers, please contact pdc@southwestarchivists.org to get involved. Thank you for your consideration.

Seeking Nominations for the SSA Distinguished Service Award

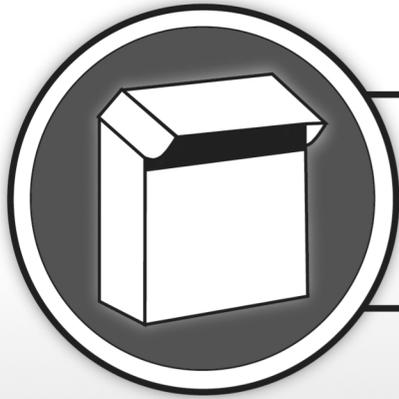
Amy Rushing, Immediate Past President and Distinguished Service Award Committee Chair

The SSA Distinguished Service Award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Society and to the archival profession. Since 1996, Hollinger Metal Edge Inc. has sponsored this award and it will be presented to the honoree at the 2022 SSA annual meeting during the Saturday morning business meeting.

To submit a nomination, please provide the following:

- Brief description of the nominee and their contribution and impact on SSA and the profession (250-word limit);
- Letter(s) of nomination or support for the nominee;
- Up to three (3) supporting documents (E.g. publications or websites).

Please submit the nomination package electronically by emailing it in a PDF format to amy.rushing@utsa.edu.



HOLLINGER METAL EDGE

Archival Storage Materials

The Quality Source



hollingermetalede.com

1-800-862-2228 1-800-634-0491

**Don't let price determine the products you want.
We will Beat all competitor's Prices.**



SSA COMMITTEES

Thank you to the overwhelming 321 participants who attended this year’s virtual meeting! The LAC extends particular appreciation to our seven sponsors and exhibitors. The meeting included over 100 unique speakers and the move to the virtual platform met resounding success. This year’s conference theme, “Going with the Flow,” married the original physical Baton Rouge location’s muddy Mississippi River with the flexibility required to survive and thrive in a global pandemic. The annual meeting workshops on archival grant projects and responsive archival instruction were held on the Friday before the main meeting.

On Monday morning, Casey Davis-Kaufman kicked off the meeting with her plenary address, “Traversing Currents + Creating Currents: Reflections of an AV Archivist,” to a packed virtual room of 164 attendees. Casey shared her experience working with content creators, collaborating across institutions, navigating copyright issues to provide broad access, listening to, and addressing user needs, leading teams and responding to global crises and calls for justice. She shared thoughts on how archivists can and must continue to traverse the currents strategically, effectively and compassionately, as well as create new currents, both within the field and across society. The day continued with educational sessions, a break with vendors, and a virtual welcome session.



Annual Meeting plenary speaker
Casey Davis-Kaufman

One of the most successful elements of this year’s meeting were the virtual repository tours with nearly 350 views. Ten local repositories provided participants with a behind the scenes look at their institutions including: the Angola Museum, the Diocese of Baton Rouge Archives & Records Center, the East Baton Rouge Public Library, the Louisiana Old State Capitol, the Louisiana State Archives, LSU Hill Memorial Library, the National Hansen’s Disease Museum, Southern University Baton Rouge John B. Cade Library & Archives, the State Library of Louisiana, and the West Baton Rouge Museum.

The SSA 2021 Programming Committee put together an amazing collection of educational presentations over the entire meeting with topics ranging from collaborative and community-based projects to prioritizing diversity, equity and inclusion to the impacts of Covid-19 in the archival world. The 23 education sessions were widely attended with a combined 1,533 participants.



Going with the Flow Stats

- 164 plenary session attendees
- 321 conference participants
- 100+ unique speakers
- 7 sponsors and exhibitors
- 350 views of virtual repository tours
- 10 local repository tours

Continued on page 11



SSA COMMITTEES



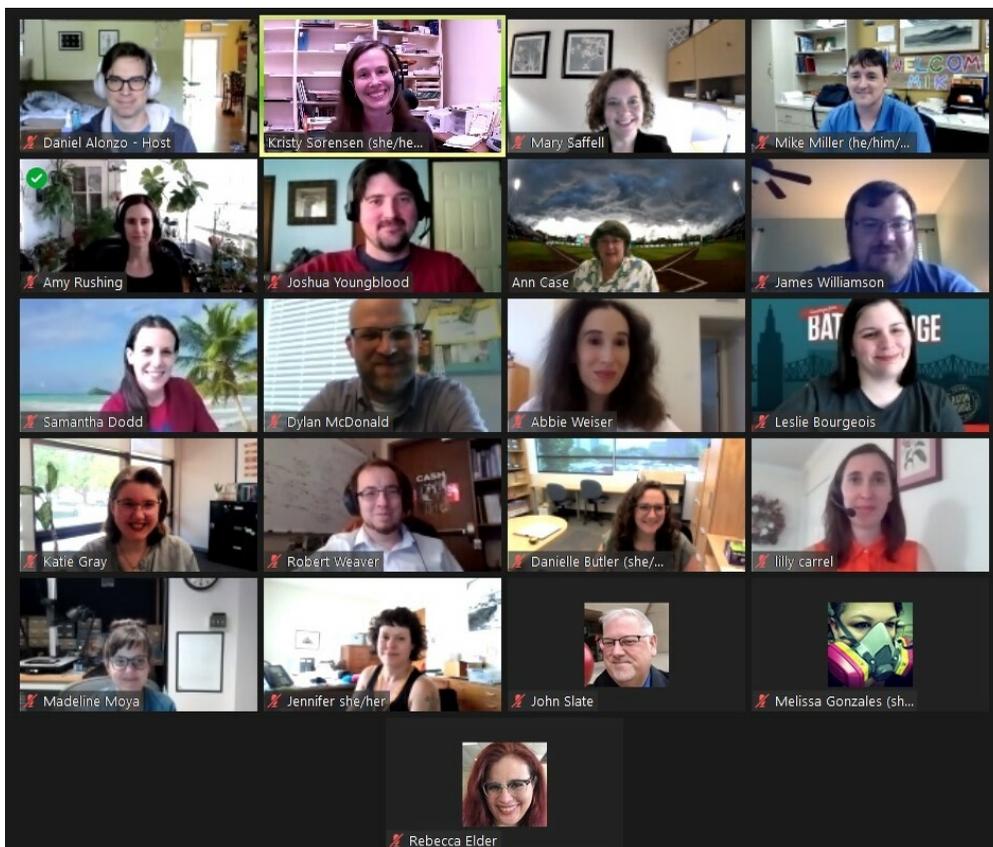
The meeting included daily social events as well with late afternoon virtual gatherings including the annual SNAPpy Hour and a Thursday evening trivia competition with SLOTTO tickets on the line. Speaking of SLOTTO, Melissa Gonzales graced the annual business meeting dressed in a Moulin Rouge tiger costume to emcee the SLOTTO silent auction and drawing. The annual meeting raised \$2,040 for the SSA scholarship funds during registration. During the SSA Business Meeting the Distinguished Service Award was presented to Kristy Sorensen. The annual meeting concluded with four educational sessions and a final break with vendors.



Melissa Gonzales as SLOTTO emcee

We look forward to seeing everyone in person next year in Houston!

If you participated in this year's meeting, remember you can still access the virtual attendee hub at <https://cvent.me/7yKvQ9> until August 19!



Screenshot from the SSA outgoing board meeting

Membership Committee News

Katie Gray, Membership Committee Chair



SSA COMMITTEES



Greetings from your new Membership Chair, Katie Gray. On behalf of the Membership Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Chair, Amy Mondt, for her leadership.

The Membership Committee is pleased to report that we have gained 64 new members since the beginning of the year, giving us a current total of 496 active members. In these difficult times, it is gratifying to know that so many professionals find value in being a part of our organization. Remember that we are here to answer any of your membership questions or to provide you with materials to help spread the word about SSA.

Publications Committee News

Krishna Shenoy, Editor and Publications Committee Chair

This June, the Publications Committee put a call out to fill three outstanding positions. We specifically reached out to new SSA members who listed an interest in serving on the Publications Committee. We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Committee.



Blake Relle is the new Leadership Log Liaison. Blake serves as an Archives Specialist at the Louisiana State Archives where he fulfills request for materials made by the public as well as state agencies.



Stephen (Steve) Hussman is the new Arizona State Liaison. Steve is Curator of Political Affairs Collections/Curator of The History of Science Collections at University of Arizona Libraries.

*The Co-Editor position still remains open.
Email Krishna Shenoy, Editor
[kedarkima@hotmail.com]
to learn more .*

Special thanks to Katie Gray, Membership Chair for assisting in the search and to all those who responded, offering to step up and help.

This year, the SSA Board is trying something new. Each SSA committee is assigned a Board member to act as liaison to the committees. The intent here is foster more collaboration between the committees and the Board. The Publications Committee is fortunate to have Rebecca Romanchuk as our Board Liaison. Welcome Rebecca!

New from SAA Visual Materials Section

Gerrienne Schaad, Out-of-Region, Publications Committee



SSA COMMITTEES

Views, the blog for the Visual Materials Section (VMS) of the Society of American Archivists, is pleased to announce **20 new posts**: (<https://saavmsblog.wixsite.com/views/blog>)

- **In Depth** -- Dive into Patrick Cullom's post about a great project at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill resulting in alt-text metadata being generated for nearly 10,000 images.
- **In Focus** -- Check out ten new visual materials related "snapshots," including facts, notices, items of interest, and creative content.
- **New in Print** -- Browse the highlights of nine new publications related to visual materials curated by a member of the VMS editorial team.

Comments or questions? Please contact saavms.blog@gmail.com.

Leadership Log

Blake Relle, Publications Committee



Mike Widener, who retired as the Yale University Law Library's Rare Book Librarian in April 2021, is now the U.S. Advisor for Bibliopathos Libreria Antiquaria, a rare book dealer based in Verona, Italy. He resides in Maryland.

David B. Gracy II Scholarship Fund

Slyvia Podwika, Treasurer



Thank you to the following donors to the to David B. Gracy II Scholarship Fund.

Kristy Sorensen

Kay and Robert Bost

Bob Henderson

In honor of archival educator and enthusiast, Dr. David B. Gracy II, this scholarship will provide \$1000 in book fee and tuition assistance for up to five SSA student members enrolled in graduate archival education programs, including Public History, Applied History, Library Science or Information Studies, at institutions within the SSA Region.

Diverse Archives and Diverse Archivists: An Interview with Ayshea Khan (continued from page 5)

1. *You have a great career as an archivist — can you share five key suggestions for new information professionals?*

1. Throughout your career, **seek mentors**, either formally or informally. This can be through professional organizations, conferences, your graduate school cohort, or the workplace.
2. As you advance, be sure to **bring others with you** and never forget to honor the wisdom and power our younger generations hold.
3. Take time to **learn the community you serve** as well as your own position within that community. Work slowly, with intention, and remember that building community trust always takes longer than you think.
4. You don't think you're qualified for a position, scholarship, or other professional development opportunity? **Apply anyway!** We oftentimes underestimate our own worth and you never know who else is applying. If you're not the right fit, you still may get an opportunity to learn more about the organization, future goals you can set for yourself, or be on the hiring panel's radar for positions in the future.
5. Finally, **take time to rest**, use your leave time, and nourish the interests you have outside of the field.

2. *What inspired your interest in Archives?*

I have always been invested in the power of storytelling within social change movements. Prior to graduate school, my background was in nonfiction filmmaking and youth media literacy. I first encountered archives as a researcher and educator and became increasingly more curious about the politics behind preservation. I am grateful for my time as a volunteer at the [Texas Archive of the Moving Image](#), which provided me with the hands-on experience and the mentorship I needed to solidify my interest in pursuing graduate school. I was also transformed by the work of the [South Asian American Digital Archive \(SAADA\)](#), which was the first time I saw complex historical narratives of biracial South Asian American identities that mirrored my own. Being able to contribute to [SAADA's First Days Project](#) in graduate school was incredibly personal, healing work that laid the foundation for my love of community-driven archives.

"I first encountered archives as a researcher/educator and becoming more curious about the politics behind preservation."

FEATURE

3. *In your opinion, what are the most pressing issues in Archives today?*

There is a lot of exciting work happening in our field right now. I am particularly interested in the discussions around reparative and anti-racist (re)description of archival materials held at predominately white institutions. This includes dismantling colonial narratives, contextualizing racist language and imagery, and providing more robust description for those who have been traditionally minimized by our archival institutions. I am inspired by the work of Jessica Tai of Yale University and her use of [Cultural Humility as a Framework for Anti-Oppressive Archival Description](#). Her emphasis on critical self-reflection and community-centered approaches can be applied to so many areas of our work as archival workers. I am also invested in the conversation around transforming the cultures and policies of our Reading Room spaces to decenter policing and white supremacy in favor of accessibility, generative cultural exchange, and racial equity.

"I am invested in the conversation around transforming the cultures and policies of our Reading Room spaces to de-center policing and white supremacy in favor of accessibility, generative cultural exchange, and racial equity."

Continued on page 15

Diverse Archives and Diverse Archivists: An Interview with Ayshea Khan (continued from page 14)

4. Do you think Archives are properly preserving the diverse array of voices in our country?

I do not believe that archival institutions can “properly” preserve a diverse array of voices without a workplace culture and leadership that accurately reflects the diverse community you are aiming to serve. As a predominately white, able-bodied, heteronormative field, we have such a long way to go. That being said, I have a lot of admiration for the work being done by BIPOC, queer, trans, and disabled memory workers who are operating both from within and outside of traditional archival institutions. For example, the [Community-Driven Archives initiative](#) led by Nancy Godoy at Arizona State University is making great strides at making safe, intersectional spaces for communities to heal, redefine the archives and preserve their histories themselves. Relatedly, there also appears to be increased energy around post-custodial models implemented by institutions such as UCLA and UT-Austin. I am also encouraged by more funding available for community-based archives (CBAs) like [Texas After Violence Project](#) and SAADA. So I approach our field with both critical love and hope.

"I do not believe that archival institutions can “properly” preserve a diverse array of voices without a workplace culture and leadership that accurately reflects the diverse community you are aiming to serve."

5. How can Archive and MLIS students actively ensure that diverse voices are represented in our information spaces?

I think resisting the urge to quick fix issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion is key. As Dorothy Berry states in her recent up//root article, [The House that Archives Built](#), “Problems that took years to build are not often dismantled in an hour. There are beams of harm stretching out across the order of these collections, their provenance, and their description.” We are often seeking a manual or workflow when really this work requires critical self-reflection, active collaboration, and a redistribution of power and resources to the folks Archives have consistently marginalized and enacted violence upon. If I find myself in a decision-making space, big or small, I always try to ask myself: “who is at the table right now?” Does that group of people reflect the community I am trying to serve? If not, bring those people in, even if it requires stepping down, actively listening, or exiting the space altogether. Connecting to my previous point in the first question, we need to take time to learn and build trust with our communities to ensure they are represented authentically.

6. What is one misconception people have about Archives or about your job that you wish you could correct?

As the Asian Pacific American Community Archivist at the Austin History Center, **I think that there is a misconception that I am a community expert or the representative voice for the communities I serve. This is not true**—I am flawed, constantly learning, and have my own internalized racism that I am working to dismantle. I am an early career archivist who works at a predominately white institution that did not decide to prioritize my community’s history until 2000. The expertise resides in the members of Austin’s local APA community, not in me or the Austin History Center. Our local Asian Pacific American communities are incredibly diverse, complicated, and cannot be served adequately by one person. That is why I strongly believe in building our voice collectively. I feel honored to be able to facilitate archival resources, preservation, and storytelling in collaboration with my communities through my position.

Continued on page 16

Diverse Archives and Diverse Archivists: An Interview with Ayshea Khan (continued from page 15)

7. We've talked about diversity IN the Archives, but what can be done to increase diversity in the archive workforce?

So much can be done, it is hard to know where to start! There is a need for a real culture change in our profession and in our workplaces so that our diverse communities feel safe and empowered to bring their full selves to this field. Just as our archival standards and theory were constructed to preserve narratives of white supremacy, so much of our archival workplace culture also embodies [characteristics of white supremacy](#). I would love to see **collective and personal reflection** on how we uphold these characteristics in the workplace and take steps to dismantle them. I also feel like we need to **look critically at the barriers to access MSIS graduate education**. For example, I hope the energy around student debt and salary transparency that SSA has created continues because that is such a huge barrier. One thing in terms of hiring I would like to see are **diverse hiring panels and a reevaluation of how we measure qualifying experience**, especially when working with diverse collections. Technical expertise so often outweighs critical skills our field needs such as cultural competency, community engagement, and lived experience.

"There is a need for a real culture change in our profession and in our workplaces so that our diverse communities feel safe and empowered to bring their full selves to this field."

AEON DELIVERS

The Automated Request and Workflow Management Software designed specifically for special collections libraries and archives.

Your Researchers want to **find it, request it, see it.**



WITH AEON, THEY CAN.

Aeon
Managing Archives and Special Collections

ATLAS SYSTEMS

YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO. WE HELP YOU DO IT.

- **Enhanced services for your users**, increasing access to your special collections remotely or onsite. Aeon allows researchers to register, request resources or scans, and pay for resources online – maximizing their time and the time of your staff.
- **Increased staff efficiency saves time and money.** Aeon automates request fulfillment, routine tasks, and data tracking to allowing staff to manage requests while gathering analytical usage statistics.
- **Improved security for your rare and priceless resources.** Aeon focuses on your material – where it's been, where it needs to go. Aeon is designed to know who last had a resource and directs staff on what should happen next.

To learn why more than **100 institutions now use Aeon**, contact us at aeon@atlas-sys.com.

Service. Security. Statistics.

SSA at 50: Snapshots From Five Decades

John H. Slate, Chair, 50th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee



This is the first installment of a series of articles that commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Society of Southwest Archivists.

Let's begin at the beginning! On May 5, 1972 thirty-five archivists, librarians, and historians met at the University of Texas at Arlington to form the Society. The group drafted a constitution and bylaws. According to Charles Schultz' institutional history of SSA, attendees "sought most of all to foster and promote cooperation within the archival profession as well as among the several professions interested in archives and manuscripts as creators, collectors, preservers, and users. Next they sought to provide opportunities for educational development, not only for archivists, but also for users of archives." They also wanted to advance what today would be called 'best practices.'



Clipping from the Arlington Daily News, Monday, May 8, 1972, courtesy of the SSA archives, Baylor University.

"Historical Meeting—The first meeting of the Southwestern Archives Society was held recently at the University of Texas at Arlington. Among those in attendance were, left to right, Dr. Edwin A. Davis, Managing Editor of the "Louisiana Historian" at Louisiana State University; John M. Kinney, Director of the Texas State Archives; Samuel A. Sizer, Curator of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas; Robert L. Clark, Jr., Archivist for the State of Oklahoma, and Ivan D. Eyler, Regional Director of the National Archives and Records Service in Fort Worth."

Continued on page 18

SSA at 50: Snapshots From Five Decades (continue from page 17)



The first roster of elected officers of the Society reads like a who's who of the archives and history community of the Southwest. A. Otis Hebert, Jr., director of the Louisiana Department of Archives and Records was named president. Dr. Sandra Swickard Myres, associate professor of history at the University of Texas at Arlington, was elected vice president. C. George Younkin, chief of the branch archives at the National Archives and Records Center at Fort Worth, was elected secretary - treasurer.

The first board was composed of a number of legendary heavy hitters in the archives community. Sister M. Claude Lane, archivist of the Catholic Archives of Texas, and Chester V. Kielman, university archivist of the University of Texas at Austin were elected to two-year terms on the executive board. Leon Metz, local historian, author, and archivist at the University of Texas at El Paso, and Bob Clark, state archivist of Oklahoma were elected to one-year terms. SSA sponsors and funds the Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award, presented annually since 1974 by the Society of American Archivists. It is the only SAA award sponsored by a regional organization. SSA has also sponsored and awarded the A. Otis Hebert, Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship since 1977.

This led up to our first annual meeting, which was held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman on June 7th and 8th, 1973. At that first meeting, presentations and discussion revolved around copyright law, preservation and conservation, arrangement and description, reference topics, microfilming, and photographic collections preservation and access.

Let Us Hear From You

Celebrate SSA's 50th Anniversary

What can you do to help?

Send in your most memorable moments of SSA! Whether it took place this year, fifteen years ago, or fifty years ago, we want to know what memorable moments stand out when you think back over your SSA membership.

Was there a particular session or workshop that changed the way you practiced Archives?

Did something memorable happen at the annual meeting?

How did you meet your best SSA friend?

Whether it's funny or sad, poignant or boring; we want to know your most memorable moments in SSA.

Send memorable moments to John Slate john.slate@dallascityhall.com

Leon Metz: Remembering UTEP's First Archivist

Claudia Rivers, Head, Special Collections, University of Texas at El Paso Library



IN MEMORIAM

Leon Claire Metz, author of several popular books on the history of El Paso, died on November 15, 2020, succumbing to the coronavirus epidemic at age 90. He was one of the founding members of the Society of Southwest Archivists.

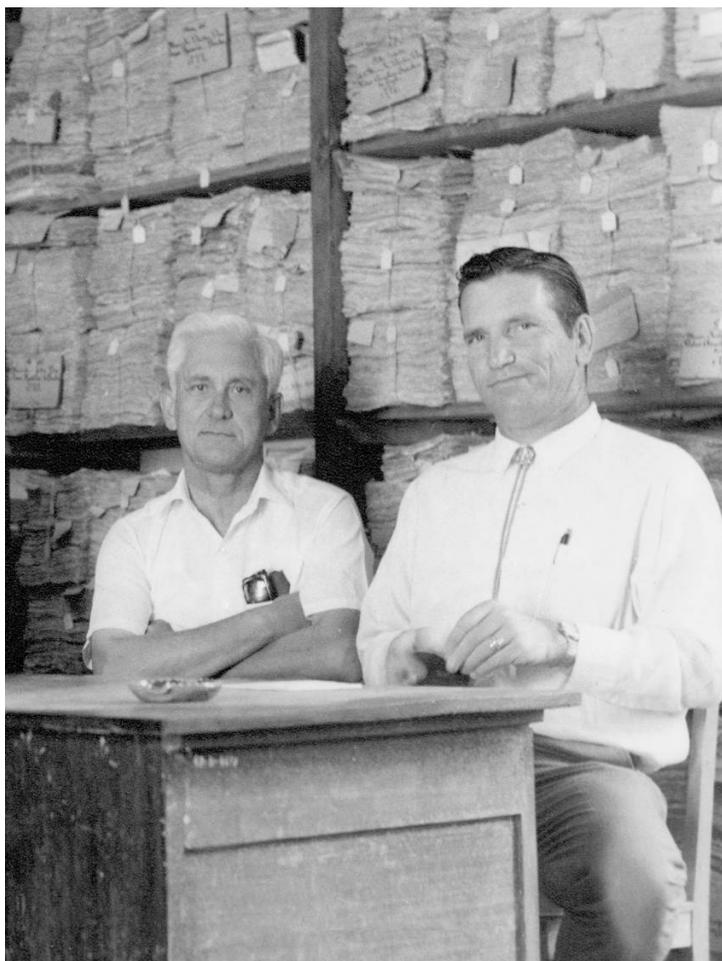
Leon was the first person to supervise the archives (or special collections, as it was later called) at The University of Texas at El Paso Library. When I came to El Paso to work there, I soon learned that I was following a local legend. Leon had an oversized personality and had been responsible for the University acquiring many of the collections of personal papers and organizational records that have drawn researchers to the library from all over the world.

When I met Leon, I found out that one of his favorite stories was how he had come to work as an archivist. He said that he was visiting with Baxter Polk in his office when the head librarian asked if he would like to take up a new position: University Archivist. Leon said he told Baxter he would need to think about it. He then hurried across campus to the office of English professor C. L. Sonnichsen. According to Leon's tale, he asked, "Doc, what *is* an archivist?" Sonnichsen explained, and Leon hastened to accept the offered position.

Although he did not have formal training in the field when he started in 1967, he was an enthusiastic advocate for the history of the region. To get more familiarity with the discipline, he attended an Institute of Archival Studies training session in Denver, Colorado, and soon began to collect the papers of distinguished El Pasoans like R.E. Thomason, Josephine Clardy Fox, Claude Hudspeth, and Chris P. Fox. He worked with history professor W. H. Timmons to set up microfilming projects in Mexico. Within a few years, colleagues regarded him as an important figure for the archives of the region.

In 1972, Leon Metz was among the thirty-five historians, librarians, and archivists who gathered in Arlington, Texas, to found a society to promote archives: the Society of Southwest Archivists. Leon served on the very first governing board. In 1977, the Society met at the Paso del Norte Hotel for its fifth annual meeting—the first of three occasions that the group has met in El Paso at the same historic hotel.

When I was co-chair of the local arrangements committee here in 1994, I was debating who should be the keynote speaker. Dawn Letson, archivist at Texas



Dr. W.H. Timmons and Leon Metz in Mexico for the Mexican Microfilm Project, circa late 1960s, Leon Metz papers, MS157. C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections, University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Continued on page 20

Leon Metz: Remembering UTEP's First Archivist (continued from page 19)



IN MEMORIAM

Women's University, suggested, "Have Leon Metz do his thirty-minute History of El Paso." I followed her suggestion, and Leon came back to address the organization he had helped to form.

The El Paso County Historical Society plans to produce a special edition of its publication, *Password*, honoring Leon Metz who was also a long-time member and former president of that organization. Leon wrote many articles for the journal, a regular column in the *El Paso Times*, and hosted a radio show about El Paso history. Perhaps the best-known of his seventeen books is *John Wesley Hardin: Dark Angel of Texas*. His papers, often consulted by researchers, are at the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department at the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Rest in peace, Leon.



Leon Metz sorting the R.E. Thomason papers in the original Archives Department office, 1968, NOVA. C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections, University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Flying Farmers & Farm and Home Week at OAMC

Patrice-Andre Prud'homme, PhD and David C. Peters, Oklahoma State University



TALK OF THE REGION



Starr Nelson of Delta, Colorado, captured at the Thirty-Nine Annual Farm and Home Week and Second Annual National Flying Farmers Convention, August 1947, when Starr Nelson landed in Stillwater Airport. Image courtesy of the Film Collection of OSU Archives.

It started as a small group of farmers who flew to Stillwater, Oklahoma during the 36th Farm Home and Home Week event in August of 1944. Soon the Oklahoma Flying Farmers organization was born with support from President Henry G. Bennett of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (OAMC).

By the 1940s, "farmers successfully lobbied airplane companies to design airplanes for agricultural use" (Flynn, 2004, p. 4) as airplanes would be used for flying to the nearest town for quicker equipment repair during harvest time, surveying a large acreage for crop management, checking fences or saving people's lives by flying them to the nearest medical facility

In 1946, OAMC hosted the first National Flying Farmers Association Conference. Forrest Watson, President of the Oklahoma Flying Farmers stated, "The Flying Farmers Association is truly representative of the most progressive farming and ranching interests. Its popularity forecasts a tremendous expansion in this new fast form of transportation as a utility operation of great practical value to farmers and ranchers throughout the nation" (Evans and Zwink, 1983, p. 62). The organization became international in scope in 1961, known as the International Flying Farmers, headquartered today in Illinois.

With funding from the National Film Preservation Foundation, the OSU Library Archives prepared these films of cultural and historical significance in the history of the United States for public access, where pioneering ideas in aviation led to a huge transformation in the agricultural industry.

The films are available at

<https://library.okstate.edu/search-and-find/collections/digital-collections/flying-farmers-and-home-week-at-oamc>.

For more information, please contact Oklahoma State University Archives at libscua@okstate.edu.

Wild Basin's History Now Open for Research at St. Edward's

Travis H. Williams, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, St. Edward's University



REPOSITORY NEWS

The Munday Library Department of Archives and Special Collections at St. Edward's University is pleased to announce that the Wild Basin Records Collection, 22 linear feet of materials that document the history of this iconic Austin organization, is now open for research use.



The founders of Wild Basin reunited on the site in 1992. Wild Basin Records Collection (SEUA0002), Munday Library, St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas.

Wild Basin, a 227 acre nature preserve only 10 miles from the Texas State Capitol, was founded by seven visionary women in the 1970s. They were able to defy the odds by forming unprecedented partnerships with city, state, and federal agencies and by igniting community support to raise the additional funds needed to establish the preserve. The site, which is a refuge for a number of endangered and threatened species of birds, plants, and other wildlife, has served as a recreational and educational center ever since. Today it includes over 2 miles of public walking trails and functions as an educational lab through a partnership with St. Edward's University.

The Records Collection includes extensive documentation of the organization's establishment, outreach efforts, wildlife, and board activities. The collection is open to researchers by appointment only (contact archives@stedwards.edu).



Undated photograph of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler, which can still be spotted today in the preserve. Wild Basin Records Collection (SEUA0002), Munday Library, St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas

Continued on page 23

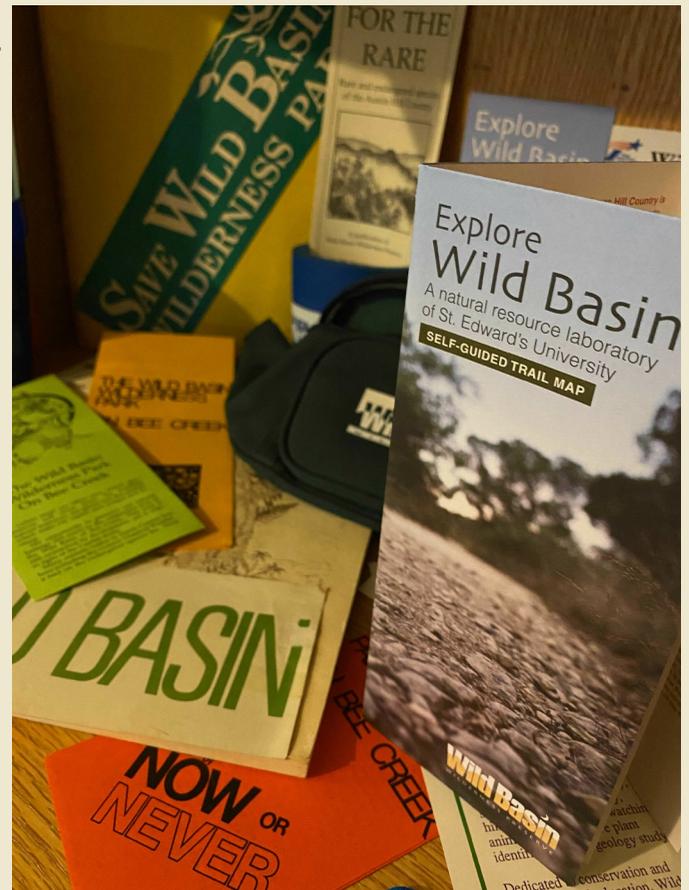


REPOSITORY NEWS

Selected resources are currently being digitized and will be available on the web early in 2022. A searchable overview of the collection's contents is available at

<https://bit.ly/WildBasinRecordsIndex>

Just as St. Edward's University is proud to partner with Wild Basin, so too is Munday Library proud to be the official repository of the organization's cherished history. Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Travis H. Williams notes, "Wild Basin is not only an Austin treasure, but its story is a tale that inspires the heart and mind of anyone who hears it. We are honored to be trusted with keeping that story and are thrilled to bring it to a wider audience."



Items from the Wild Basin now on display in the Tocker Reading Room at St. Edward's University.



NORTHEAST
DOCUMENT
CONSERVATION
CENTER

SERVING CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS NATIONWIDE

Conservation Treatment • Digital Imaging
Audio Preservation • Training • Resources

www.nedcc.org • (978) 470-1010

The Southwestern Archivist

Submissions

Submission guidelines are as follows:

- Repository news items showcases significant projects, donations or purchases, exhibitions, grants received, and similar activities.
- Leadership Log items highlight professional accomplishments such as promotions, career changes, retirement, awards, publications, and presentations.
- Submissions are written in a style consistent with a professional publication, including a title, the author's name, institutional affiliation, and contact information.
- Suggested word count is 150-600 words.
- Images, sent as separate files, with captions and attributions, are encouraged.
- Articles may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

Editor

Krishna Shenoy
kedarkima@hotmail.com

Assistant Editor

Nicholas Wojcik
nwo@ou.edu

Arizona

Steve Hussman
shussman@email.arizona.edu

New Mexico

Jennifer Olguin
jchavez@nmsu.edu

South Texas

Joseph Lueck
jlueck@central.uh.edu

Louisiana

Ann Case
acase@tulane.edu

Arkansas

Shannon Lausch
smlausch@ualr.edu

Oklahoma

Amanda Hudson
amanda.hudson@chickasaw.net

Out-of-Region

Gerianne Schaad
gschaad@flsouthern.edu

Submission Deadlines
January 10 | April 10
July 10 | October 10

North Texas

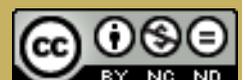
Patrizia Nava
patrizia.nava@utdallas.edu

Leadership Log

Blake Relle
blakerelleSSA@gmail.com

The *Southwestern Archivist* is published quarterly by the Society of Southwest Archivists. Inquiries may be sent by mail to P.O. Box 301311, Austin, TX 78703-0022 or by e-mail to southwestarchivists@gmail.com. Reproduction of material is permitted as long as credit is given in accordance with our creative commons license.

Southwestern Archivist ISSN 1056-1021



The Ender



Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting Houston, May 18-21, 2022



Did you serve as an officer or committee chair on the SSA Board? Are your records in the SSA Archives?

This year, make a special effort to turn over your SSA records (digital or analog) to the SSA Archives by contacting Benna Vaughan [benna_vaughan@baylor.edu] at Baylor University.



ARCHIVERA

Solves today's archives collections management challenges, ready for tomorrow's

Archives Collections Management
INNOVATIVE, UNRIVALED

Purpose-built to a higher standard... yours

