

From the President

Adina Riggins

In the spirit of openness and humility, I confess that SNCA is giving me my first presidential opportunity. I am not even a frequent office-holder. I was class secretary in 4th grade. Much later in graduate school, I was elected treasurer of the Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists (SCOSSA) at UNC-Chapel Hill. Soon after moving to Wilmington, I joined Toastmasters, an international speaking and communication organization, serving as charter member of a local chapter and rotating through the offices of secretary, treasurer, and vice president.

I am honored to take a big leap from my previous leadership responsibilities to serve SNCA. My involvement in our organization grew gradually. My first SNCA meeting was in the fall of 1999 in New Bern. Driving from Chapel Hill in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd, I remember thinking that this surely must be a special group to support eastern North Carolina after the terrible floods. Next I attended the spring 2001 meeting in Greenville. At that time, the state was enduring financial difficulties, not unlike our current economic situation. I was pleased then, as I am now, that SNCA dues remained affordable. SNCA fulfills an important role by providing professional educational opportunities for archivists who cannot travel to national or regional conferences, and by offering "lone arrangers" the chance to network with others in the profession. A couple of years after the Greenville meeting, I served as local arrangements coordinator. At another point, I was asked to participate on a panel. Then I volunteered for a panel. Before I knew it, I had been at my institution for seven years, and the SNCA executive board nominated me to serve as vice president/president-elect.

I offer my story not only to introduce myself to people who do not know me. My hope is that some of you see yourselves in my story. Perhaps you have been marginally involved with SNCA for many years—as I had been—or maybe you are new to the state and/or profession. I am here to tell you that involvement with SNCA is possible at all levels. This group is a friendly one, and committee memberships offer you the chance to develop skills in event planning, presentation-making, scholarly writing and editing, and more.

At our most recent meeting this past March in Durham, the membership approved an amendment reducing the number of meetings from two to one per year. We will now offer a longer and more substantial meeting in the spring. Our next meeting will be held in the Southern Pines/Pinehurst area. In addition, SNCA plans to offer a fall workshop and to host educational opportunities for students throughout the year. Ensuring that our membership feels engaged and excited throughout the year will be the board's primary focus while I am president.

As you peruse this newsletter, think about what individual talents you could lend SNCA. Your participation alone elevates the organization. Just think—the next first-time president could be you. If you are a longtime member with a distinguished history of SNCA leadership, consider reintroducing yourself to a new generation by joining a committee or coordinating a panel discussion. Your expertise and leadership could be just what SNCA needs at this time.

I am happy and privileged to serve you and SNCA, and I look forward to collaboration in 2009-2010 and beyond.

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Fall Meeting Roundup

Adina Riggins

The SNCA 2009 Spring Meeting was held at the Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library. Attendees had the chance to admire Duke's new Bostock Library, which opened in 2005, and many attendees kept up with the proceedings of the Men's ACC Basketball Tournament during breaks. There were over 90 people in attendance at the general meeting, not including the pre-meeting workshops.

Twenty-two people registered for the "MARC According to DACS: Archival Cataloging to the National Content Standards" SAA workshop, co-sponsored by Duke University Libraries and taught by SNCA members Lynn Holdzkom and Kathy Wisser. In addition, Stephen Fletcher taught a daylong workshop entitled "Photographic Formats: Identification and Preservation for Archival Processing," while Seth Shaw taught "Electronic Records: Principles and Practices" in the Smith Warehouse, the new off-campus home for Duke University Libraries' technical services.

The Duke University Archives and the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collection Library generously sponsored the reception, held in the Biddle Rare Book Room on Thursday evening.

Dr. David Cecelski, an independent historian and author, delivered a warm and informative opening plenary in which he detailed his longtime association with archivists. A theme that emerged from Dr. Cecelski's talk was his opinion that face-to-face interaction between archivists and researchers is vital to the researcher's project, and cannot be reproduced in an electronic environment.

Nonetheless, the electronic environment is where many of our users learn about our collections. Panelists for "Project Update: Endeca EAD Task Group" discussed a pilot project to make EAD finding aid information available in TRLN institutions' catalog records.

Following lunch and the business meeting, a panel discussion was held on keeping an institution strong and viable during a weak economy. Discussion followed, including ideas such as recruiting more volunteers and establishing relationships and reporting lines that maximize the visibility of archives.

Unfortunately, the planned session "SNCA at 25: A Presidential Perspective" was not held due to cancellations by most of the panelists. SNCA hopes to hear from its past presidents at future events.

Representatives from Hollinger, Metal Edge and the History Press staffed vendor tables during the meeting, and offered generous door prizes. In addition, UNC Press donated a book by speaker David Cecelski for a door prize.

Thank you to all who attended this meeting, and to the 2008-2009 Program Committee (David Chiswell, Dawne Lucas, Karen Paar, and Adina Riggins) and to the Spring 2009 Local Arrangements Team (Jodi Berkowitz, Dean Jeffrey, Dawne Lucas, Tim Pyatt, and Kim Sims.) It was a great meeting and it couldn't have happened without you!

Fall Meeting Photographs

Stephen Fletcher



Chris Meekins



David Cecelski



Dawne Howard Lucas



Derek Rodriguez



Jan Blodgett



Linda Sellars



Sarah Koonts



Russell Koonts



Noah Huffman

Regional Social Events

Alston Gentry, our new Membership Committee Chair, is looking for volunteers to help organize one social event during the fall in each of the three areas of the state: west, central, and east. If you are interested in helping organize an event for your area, please contact Alston at alston_gentry@ncsu.edu.

National Genealogical Conference in Raleigh

This year Raleigh plays host to the National Genealogical Conference. SNCA sponsored promotional material for the conference, due to the educational component. Registration has exceeded 1400 and the North Carolina State Archives (NCSA) expects record usage and visitation during the week of May 9-16, 2009. The NCSA is looking forward to this chance to shine and I will report on the event in the next newsletter; stay tuned! -Chris Meekins

ARL Working Group Releases Discussion Report

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Working Group on Special Collections is pleased to announce the release of a discussion report that identifies key issues in the management and exposure of special collections material in the 21st century.

The report highlights the need for research library leadership to support actions that will increase the visibility and use of special collections and promote both existing and developing best practices in the stewardship of unique and distinctive collections.

With this report, the working group intends to provide an enhanced understanding within research communities of the unique and irreplaceable contribution that special collections make to scholarship, and to the general public good. We hope to provide a framework within which important discussions of policy may take place.

The working group invites further input from the many professionals who are charged with handling rare and unique materials about the perplexing challenges they face in response to this discussion document.

The report is freely available on the ARL Web site at:
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/scwg-report.pdf>.

ARL will host a related forum on special collections in the 21st century, immediately following the fall ARL Membership Meeting in Washington DC, October 15-16, 2009. In addition to addressing emerging issues for traditional special collections, the forum will explore the challenges of born-digital collections that increasingly comprise the unique content held by research libraries. The forum agenda and registration information will be released on the ARL Web site this summer. -Lisa Carter

New Website from East Carolina University

ECU's Joyner Library is pleased to announce the launch of its all-new Digital Collections portal at <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu>. The site offers a one-stop-shop for finding the library's special collections online. Materials from across the holdings of the library are selected for digital conversion. Then these materials are added to our growing website.

Historical items from the University Archives, manuscripts, photographs, rare books, and maps are all featured, along with many other types of materials. Prior to the launch of this site, the only access to these items was through use of the library's Special Collections Department Reading Room. With the new Digital Collections portal, you can find and use these items anytime and from any place.

You can try simple or advanced searches, browse through collections, or use the subject cloud to discover items you may not have known the library owned. Each record allows you to comment on or tag items, so you can also make your own mark on our collections.

The items in the web site at present focus on several major themes and collections, including:

- African American history
- Agriculture
- Fine and performing arts
- Postcards of Eastern North Carolina
- Letters from the Civil War in the Robert B. Caldwell Collection
- Naval and maritime history
- Military history
- The history of East Carolina University

In the coming months, Digital Collections will be adding more and more material to the site. Sound recordings in the Centennial Oral History collection will be the next major addition. These interviews relate the experiences of ECU alumni who were the first in their families to attend college. The collection was created in honor of ECU's Centennial year, and its release will coincide with a public program on March 26 to honor the twenty interviewees who participated in the project.

This new portal also hosts the North Carolina Digital Collections Collaboratory blog (<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/collaboratory>). This blog was created for digital collections practitioners in North Carolina to share experiences, exchange ideas, and develop collaborations. Blog creators Gretchen Gueguen and Jill Katte realized that many of in the field face the same challenges related to workflow, platforms, and institutional support, and thought we could all benefit from potential solutions. Although the blog will focus on digital collections in North Carolina, all are invited to take a look, as the discussions will most likely touch on issues affecting more than just our home state. Thoughtful comments and additions to the discussion are welcome.

Awards

"Peeling Back the Bark," the blog of the **Forest History Society**, won a 2009 Best Archives on the Web Award from ArchivesNext. "Peeling Back the Bark" was a winner in the Best Institutional Blog category.

Check it out at <http://www.peelingbackthebark.org/> and see more of the winners at <http://www.archivesnext.com/?p=270> .

The Cherokee Preservation Foundation awarded \$87,770 to Anna Fariello, Associate Professor at **Western Carolina University**, to continue Hunter Library's Cherokee Crafts Documentation project. The second year of the project will focus on Cherokee potters and pottery during the first part of the 20th century. The project includes research on collections at the Museum of the Cherokee and at Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual. Artifacts will be photographed and uploaded to the Hunter Library Craft Revival digital collection at <http://craftrevival.wcu.edu>. A companion website includes a written history of heritage crafts of the region. The project plan also includes printing copies of a guidebook on Cherokee pottery. This book follows *Cherokee Baskets* and is the second in the *From the Hands of our Elders* series.

Publications

SNCA members may be interested in an article recently published in *Southern Cultures*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Spring 2009. The article, by William E. King, **Duke University** Archivist Emeritus and former SNCA member, is entitled "The Discovery of an Architect: Duke University and Julian F. Abele." Julian F. Abele was an African American architect, who, as chief designer and inheritor of the Philadelphia firm of Horace Trumbauer, designed the campuses for the new university between 1924 and 1950. King's article outlines issues of discovery, position and title, personality, institutional relationships, and societal segregation. The story is replete with archival and historical concerns.

Exhibits

The Special Collections and University Archives Department of **UNC-Greensboro's** Jackson Library has been busy creating online exhibits, such as a timeline of university history and selections of campus views, postcards and artifacts. Digital exhibits old and new can be found from: <http://library.uncg.edu/depts/archives/exhibits/>.

UNC-Chapel Hill would like you to know about two notable exhibits from their special collections.

Writing the South will feature the lives, the work, and the legacies of selected Southern writers from the past century. Special attention will be paid to writers who have been affiliated with the University and the surrounding community, such as: Thomas Wolfe, Robert Ruark, Paul Green and Walker Percy. Displaying historic photographs, rare printed material, original documents, and ephemera, this exhibit will trace the development of each author's writing about the South, will highlight the influence of antecedents and contemporaries on their writing, and will celebrate the lasting impact each writer has had on the state, the nation, and the world. The Louis Round Wilson Special Collection Library proudly sponsors this exhibit as its contribution to the 2009 North Carolina Literary Festival (held on UNC's campus September 10-13, 2009).

We Shall Not Be Moved: African Americans in the South, 18th Century to the Present will be hosted by the Southern Historical Collection this fall. The American South—the place, its past, and its people—is of special significance to African American history, and the questions of race are at the heart of the southern experience. From the period of enslavement through the “Long Civil Rights Movement” to the present, the struggles and triumphs of African American life have shaped the South and changed the nation and the world. This exhibition will include selected historical manuscripts, photographs, and artifacts documenting African American life and culture in the South, including many newly acquired items from the SHC and documents not previously placed on display. The opening will coincide with the release of the revised online edition of the *Guide to African American Resources in the Southern Historical Collection*.

Society of North Carolina Archivists



[REDACTED]
P. O. Box 20448
RALEIGH, NC 27619

WWW.NCARCHIVISTS.ORG

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Editor:

Michelle Belden
UNC-Greensboro

The Society of North Carolina Archivists is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a common concern in the preservation and use of archival and manuscript materials.

The purpose of the society is to promote cooperation and exchange of information among individuals and institutions interested in the preservation of the archival and manuscript resources in North Carolina; to share information on archival methodology and the availability of research materials; to provide a forum for discussion of matters of common concern as they pertain to the archival profession in North Carolina; and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines. Dues are \$25.00 per year.