

**Society of Florida Archivists**

THE FLORIDA ARCHIVIST

Dear SFA Members,

HELLO
my name isTomaro I. Taylor
President

It seems a little odd that I should be making “front-page news.” As the SFA newsletter editor for the past year and a half, I’m much more accustomed to soliciting, compiling, editing and publishing than writing content. But, as my commitment to SFA grows, so does my responsibility. Now, in addition to any behind-the-scenes work conducted towards putting together our quarterly newsletter, I get to move forward and introduce the items about which all of us are talking, thinking, or doing. It’s an exciting position to be in but not as exciting as serving as your 2012-13 President.

Fortunately, I’m not alone in my excitement. Please join me in welcoming this year’s Executive Officers:

- Florence Turcotte, Vice President
- Beatrice Skokan, Secretary
- Kathy Turner Thompson, Treasurer
- Katherine Fleming, Director
- William Modrow, Director
- Michael Zaidman, Immediate Past President

In mid-June, the SFA Board met to discuss objectives for the coming year. Our utmost priority is sustaining the momentum of previous Boards by continuing to move SFA forward. How will we do this? The Board plans to increase the number of opportunities that will afford our members more active engagement within the organization. We also plan to identify other organizations with which we can work collaboratively to provide programs of benefit to our members. Even though a few things are in the works, we are still open to ideas. If you have suggestions for ways to increase member involvement or know of individuals who can serve as contacts for potential collaborative projects, please do not hesitate to send them my way; phone calls and e-mails are always welcome.

As we work on finding ways to boost member participation, the Board also has been considering ways to boost revenue. Although it is never popular to increase membership dues or conference registration rates, these funding sources must be considered to support the continued growth of SFA. We are still in the discussion stage and are not able (or willing) to make final decisions without the membership’s approval; as such, we are open to other ideas that will help us ensure the sustainability of SFA as an organization. Please send your comments or concerns to me, Mary Flekke (Membership Chair) or Burt Altman (2013 Annual Meeting Local Arrangement Chair). Remember: We can’t take your thoughts into consideration if we don’t know what they are.

Yes, the rumors are true— we have been busy. You can look forward to the Board working diligently this year to further enhance the role and position of SFA as well as the benefits provided to our members.

So, hello, SFA! I’m happy to be working with the Board and all of you on these and other endeavors for our great state and our great profession.

HISTORY IS THRILLING BECAUSE IT IS ALIVE. The ongoing discovery of new information challenges and informs time worn standards, fanciful myths, and rooted interpretations. Staff at the **HB Plant Museum in Tampa** is always learning new facts and details about Henry Plant and the Tampa Bay Hotel. Inspired by the current exhibit *Japan and the Victorians*, recent research has led to the discovery that Henry Plant did indeed travel to Japan, a story shared with visitors for years but never verified by documentation.

Two letters uncovered in the Florida State Archives by SFA member Boyd Murphree and a June 9, 1897 *Florida Times Union* newspaper article confirm that Henry and Margaret Plant traveled to Japan in 1897. This revelation is even more significant because Plant was on an official mission carrying a letter of introduction to the Emperor of Japan from Governor William D. Bloxham. Governor Bloxham designated Plant to represent the State of Florida; Plant was charged with seeking an audience with Emperor Mutsuhito to request the Japanese government send a commissioner to the International Fishery Congress, being held at the Tampa Bay Hotel in January 1898. Copies of the letters and article can be read at the Museum's exhibit reading table.

- Sally Shifke, Henry B. Plant Museum Relations

UM LIBRARIES RECEIVE NHPRC GRANT

The Orange County Regional History Center recently [updated its online database](#) to include over 11,000 catalog records. The catalog includes materials related to the history of Orlando, Orange County, and Central Florida. The online catalog is updated bi-annually, with the next update occurring in December 2012. As this is only a portion of the Center's holdings, researchers should [contact staff](#) if the information sought is not found.

The University of Miami Libraries Special Collections has been awarded a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant. This \$153,809 award will allow the Special Collections Division to process the Pan American World Airways, Inc. records, which total over 1600 boxes of materials, including photographs, correspondence, flight plans, maps, business records, and memorabilia. This is one of the Division's most requested and used collections; it has been used for the writing of books, articles, theses, screenplays, and popular culture events (i.e., the television show "Pan Am").

For additional information about the collection or the grant, contact [Beatrice Skokan](#).



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PUBLICATIONS
& RECORDS COMMISSION



Top: Pan American's first flight attendants.



Pan Am founder Juan T. Trippe (right) chats with aviation pioneer Charles A. Lindbergh on the tarmac in Panama. Pan Am began service from the United States to South America in 1928. Lindbergh was a long-time technical adviser to Pan Am, flying many survey flights in the 1930s. Pan American World Airways Photo

2012 Annual Meeting

Approximately 70 attendees, including several first-timers and students, descended on the Sarasota Hyatt for the [2012 Annual Meeting](#), held May 1-4. The pre-conference workshop, *Planning and Implementing Digital Projects*, kicked off the week and was followed by nine more presentations that covered topics ranging from creating archives to collaborative projects. A wonderful trolley tour highlighting homes in the style of the Sarasota School of Architecture concluded at sunset on Wednesday evening. The following night, staff at the Ringling Museum's Ca d'Zan graciously provided a private tour of John and Mable Ringling's private mansion. The tour was followed by a reception at the Museum's Treviso Restaurant.

The Hyatt proved to be a great meeting and social space for everyone, including our vendors. Sarasota's food and drinks (especially at outings to Shakespeare's English Pub and Munchies 420 Café) were also a plus. And, as always, the annual meeting provided a good atmosphere to meet and share with colleagues and friends, old and new.

Look forward to an excellent 30th Anniversary Meeting next year in Tallahassee!

- Sandra Varry, 2012 Local Arrangements Chair

2012 AWARDS

The Society of Florida Archivists recognizes two individuals whose professional contributions have significantly impacted the archival community.

Tomaro Taylor (Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute Research Library) is this year's recipient of the *SFA Award of Excellence*. Tomaro's dedication to the archival profession and her exemplary leadership are demonstrated through numerous contributions to the field. She has supervised and mentored graduate students at the University of South Florida, contributes to the scholarly record of the archives profession and served SFA, ACA, SAA, and IMLS as well as the Connecting to Collections and Opening Archives statewide initiatives.

Brooke Wooldridge (Digital Library of the Caribbean, Florida International University) received the *SFA Certificate of Recognition* for her exceptional efforts in assisting archival repositories damaged by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Brooke coordinated efforts by SFA, Hollinger Metal Edge, FSU, UF, UM, the Jim Moran Foundation and others to ensure that donations of archival supplies reached their proper destinations.

~ Save the Date ~

SFA's 30th Anniversary & Annual Meeting

Tallahassee, FL

May 7-10, 2013

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CERTIFIED ARCHIVISTS EXAM STUDY GROUP

As an experienced archivist, have you thought about becoming certified in your profession? I have considered it for

the past seven years but always found something to keep me from studying for the qualifying exam. Well, no more procrastination. I have decided to go full throttle and start preparing to become a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. I have more than a year to study for the exam, but I am not going to do it alone. After talking with colleagues at the recent SFA Annual Meeting, several of us have decided to form a study/support group to help increase our chances of passing the certification exam.

For the first time in many years, the Academy of Certified Archivists will host the exam in Orlando on August 7, 2013, at a location to be announced. Prior to sitting for the exam, archivists must submit a completed application and non-refundable \$50 application fee by the May 15, 2013 deadline. If approved, applicants will be invited to take the exam; upon passing, successful candidates must submit a \$150 certification fee. Annual membership dues are \$50, and recertification is required every five years.

In June, I put a request on the SFA listserv for those interested in taking the exam next year to contact me regarding the study group. We now have 21 archivists signed up. The purpose of the group is to collectively conquer the long list of recommended reading material. Together, we can share our knowledge and help each other understand the diverse archival principles that will be covered on the exam.

It has been a very long time since I prepared for an exam, and it will not be easy finding the time to study, but it will be important to commit a few hours each week towards achieving this goal. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me at mi-chael.zaidman@jimmoranfoundation.org. You, too, can embark on the quest to become a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists!

- Michael Zaidman, SFA Immediate Past President



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The Institute on Black Life-Center for Africa and the Diaspora at the University of South Florida has received a research grant from the USF Office of Community Engagement for the new initiative, *Our Stories Are Here: Cultural Landscapes of Race, Memory and Meaning in Tampa*. The project will involve oral histories and community workshops on preserving and archiving

BOCA RATON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWS

Susan Gillis, Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum



STATE GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED

The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum (BRHS&M) has been awarded a Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs grant in the amount of \$19,939. The funds, classified as General Program Support for fiscal year 2012-13, will be used to for outreach programs and exhibitions.

TOWN HALL NAMED FLORIDA'S TOP CIVIC BUILDING

Boca Raton Town Hall, the home of the Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum, has been named Florida's "top civic building" in an online competition conducted March-April 2012 by the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida). Town Hall also ranked 20th out of 100 buildings on the survey.

Palm Beach architect Addison Mizner developed the design for Boca Raton's City Hall in 1926. His two-story elaborate Mediterranean Revival design was scaled down to one story yet proved too expensive for the newly incorporated municipality. Delray architect William Alsmeyer replaced Mizner in 1927. He created the Mission Style structure that opened in Spring 1927. Town Hall served as a municipal structure until the 1980s and was restored through a community-wide effort led by the BRHS in 1984. Today, Town Hall is a city-owned building that serves as the BRHS's headquarters and home to the Boca Raton History Museum.



PARTNERSHIP HELPS

FUND HISTORIC NEWSPAPER PROJECT



The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum and the Boca Raton Pioneer Club are joining forces with the Delray Beach Historical Society (DBHS) in a project to preserve and make accessible back issues of the *Delray Beach News*. In 2004, the BRHS&M and the Pioneer Club worked together to digitize the *Boca Raton News* and the *Pelican*, Boca Raton's hometown papers dating back to the late 1940s. However, much of Boca Raton's historic people, places, and events are captured in the pages of Delray Beach's hometown paper, the *Delray Beach News*. The *News* began publication in 1923 and ended in 1986. Today DBHS maintains a collection of microfiche, microfilm, and original copies of *The News*. The Society has undertaken the digitization of the paper, however, much of the paper currently is not text searchable or "OCR" (optical character recognition), severely limiting access to the paper. Together the three agencies hope to make all of the *Delray Beach News* text searchable. The Boca Raton Pioneer Club recently gave the BRHS&M's Delray Newspaper Fund a \$2000 donation, which will be applied to the DBN "text searchable" project. Archivist Dottie Patterson (DBHS) hopes that this amount will fund the searchability of the earliest years of the *Delray Beach News*, 1923-1928, as they document the rise and fall of the Florida land boom, when Addison Mizner put the little town of Boca Raton on the map and Delray Beach grew into a resort destination. Dottie comments, "As archivist of the Delray Beach Historical Society I greatly appreciate the help of the Pioneer Club and the BRHS. Having more of the collection searchable will be a wonderful resource for all researchers of local history."

To learn more about the project or to offer a contribution towards the Delray Newspaper Fund, please contact:
Susan Gillis (BRHS&M) at Curator@bocahistory.org or
Dottie Patterson (DBHS) at dbhsarch@bellsouth.net.

personal collections. The resulting recordings and transcriptions will be made available to the public as part of the Institute on Black Life collection within the USF Libraries Special & Digital Collections. Select interviews will be available online. Contact Director [Cheryl Rodriguez](#), Ph.D. or Research Administrator [Elizabeth L. Dunham](#), CGW, CRA for additional information.

Communiqué

SFA Member News

... Phillip Stewart is this year's recipient of the Society of American Archivists' J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award. Phil's passion, research and efforts to document America's film heritage have led to the publication of eight books based on the motion picture holdings of NARA. He is recognized for his promotion, appreciation and support of archives.

... Florence "Flo" Turcotte has been awarded tenure and promotion at the University of Florida and has recently published "For this is an Enchanted Land: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and the Florida Environment" in the Spring 2012 edition of *The Florida Historical Quarterly*.

... Stephanie Gaub Antequino and Tana Mosier Porter, on behalf of the Historical Society of Central Florida, have published *Lost Orlando*, the latest in Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. All of the images used in the book are from the Orange County Regional History Center's collection.

... Wenxian Zhang (Rollins College) and his colleague Maurice O'Sullivan visited Shanghai for the publication of their award-winning Chinese translation of *A Trip to Florida for Health and Sport: The Lost 1855 Novel of Cyrus Parkhurst Condit*. During their trip, Wenxian and Maurice presented a seminar to faculty and graduate students at Shanghai University and had a conversation and book signing with students at the College of Foreign Languages at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology.

... Tomaro Taylor will take office as the Academy of Certified Archivist's new Regent for Exam Development in August. The two-year position serves as the chair of the ACA Exam Development Committee and is responsible for all aspects of developing the Certified Archivists exam.

News from SAA

... Applications are due October 1 for SAA's new Publications Editor. The editor will serve a three-year term beginning March 1, 2013. Additional information is available [at this link](#).

Conferences, Workshops & Webinars

... [EAD2HTML: Transforming your Finding Aids with XSL](#),

Amigos Library Services webinar (September 11-14)

... [Creating DACS-Compliant Finding Aids Using the Archivist's Toolkit](#), Morrow, GA (September 21)

... [Selection for Digitization](#), NEDCC webinar (September 27)

... [Hip Hop, Education, and Expanding the Archival Imagination](#), Atlanta, GA (September 28-29)

... [Banned Books Week](#) (September 30– October 6)

... [iPRES 2012](#), University of Toronto (October 1-5)

... [Sustaining Digital Collections– Digital Curation and Preservation](#), NEDCC workshop (October 18)

... [Focusing on Photographs: Identification & Preservation](#), Atlanta, GA (October 23-24)

... [Basic Electronic Records](#), St. Simons Island, GA (November 7)

... [The Best of Times: Genealogy + Training, FSGS 36th Annual Conference](#), Deerfield Beach (November 8-10).

... [Workflow for Digital Projects](#), NEDCC webinar (November 15)

... [Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy](#), Salt Lake City, UT (January 14-18)

... [Advanced XML: Further Adventures with XSLT](#), Washington, DC (March 25-27)

... [Preservation Week](#) (April 21-27)

Call for Proposals

... Proposals are sought for *Ethnic Archiving in the U.S. and Canada*, the forthcoming volume in the "Archives, Archivists and Society Identity Palimpsests" series. The deadline for submissions is August 30, 2012. Additional information can be found by [clicking here](#).

Miscellany

... The International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators seek photographs and illustrations to support revisions to 12 of 13 records management bulletins published between 1992 –2000. Contact [Paul Bergeron](#) for additional information.

... Professor Peter Mullen (Callahan, FL) is available to lecture on the following topics in observance of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War: Civil War medicine and Civil War feuds. Contact Professor Mullen at ppmullen2@msn.com for more information.

Attending the Archives Leadership Institute (ALI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in late July was one of the most significant hallmarks of my career as an archivist. As a seasoned archivist with more than 30 years in the profession—and one among many who had only been in the field for a few years or were in the middle of their careers—this was an outstanding opportunity to meet and network with new colleagues and leaders of our profession, share workplace experiences, discuss the future of the profession, and polish up on new tools and acquire new methods of managing change in our work environments.

The presenters at this year's Institute were: Maureen Sullivan, President of the American Library Association; Dr. Ellsworth Brown, Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society; Fynnette Eaton, electronic records archivist at NARA for more than 30 years; Peter Gottlieb, former Wisconsin state archivist and former president of the Society of American Archivists; Kathleen D. Roe, Director of Archives and Records Management Operations at the New York State Archives, author, and staunch advocate for archival programs; Christine Weideman, Director of Manuscripts and Archives at Yale University Library and a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists; and Tanya Zanish-Belcher, author of many publications, Past President of the Midwest Archives Conference and recently elected member of the SAA Council.

The topics that I found particularly insightful and practical included assessing your leadership strengths and weaknesses; strategies for leadership; change management; legislative advocacy; dealing with the media; mentoring; and managing staff shrinkage, hiring freezes, and budget shortfalls. Maureen Sullivan, the keynote leadership presenter, engaged everyone in a discussion of more current schools of management theories and practices that can be applied in the workplace.

Twenty-five participants accepted into the Institute represented academic archives, a medical archives, government archives (NARA and state), and an historical society. Everyone interacted through one-on-one and group discussions and through a series of case studies based on real life situations in archives. The case study approach was probably the most creative format; "teams" of five to six people presented their scenarios as short skits or mini-breakout sessions. For me, they enhanced the learning experience because everyone taught themselves by working through

an issue rather than listening to a lecture or reading management theories.

In sum, ALI was a truly rewarding experience for me. There were some great takeaways from the full week of meeting and interacting with new colleagues and outstanding speakers that probably couldn't be replicated elsewhere. I strongly encourage you to apply.

- *Burt Altman, SFA Website & Listserv Administrator*

Archival Certification: *Validate your achievements, knowledge and skills*

The 2012 Certified Archivist examination will be held August 8 in Boston, Minneapolis, Raleigh, San Diego, and Vancouver (BC) -- and wherever 5 or more candidates wish to take it.

*For the 2012 application or more information, go to:
www.certifiedarchivists.org
or
contact the Academy of Certified Archivists
(aca@caphill.com or
518-694-8471).*



*The application deadline is May 15,
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SFA is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a concern for the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. It is dedicated to the dissemination of information about such records and about sound archival methodology.

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