

# the Florida Archivist

## ARCHIVES SPOTLIGHT

### Tarpon Club Collection Florida State University

by Hannah Wiatt Davis, Heritage Protocol & University  
Archives Archival Assistant



*Florida State University Tarpon Club Collection. MSS 2005-011.*

The FSU Tarpon Club Collection, 1931-1994 documents the history of FSU's longest running club through official records, correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, performance programs, and films. The Life Saving Corps began holding exhibitions in the Montgomery Gym indoor pool demonstrating aquatic skills during the 1930s. These exhibitions featured form swimming, figure swimming, speed swimming, lifesaving techniques, diving, and canoe handling. The Tarpon Club began during the early 1920s as the Florida State College for Women (FSCW) Life Saving Corps. In the spring of 1937, members of the Corps under the direction of Betty Washburn formed the Tarpon Club, choosing the tarpon fish as its mascot due to its reputation of being an acrobat of Florida waters. The club presented its first "water pageant" in the fall of that year featuring swimming stroke demonstrations and floating patterns performed with musical accompaniment. The Club continued to perform at least one production per year, with each show containing a central theme, until its disbandment in 1994.

*Continued on page 11.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Erin Mahaney  
SFA President*

I hope everyone had a happy American Archives Month! Many thanks to our Committee Chair Susan Swiatosz, all the committee members, and member contributors for the wonderful updates from around the state. It's so important for us to take advantage of this opportunity to share our enthusiasm for archives with our institutions,

community, and colleagues in Florida and beyond. If you have ideas for next year's American Archives Month, please consider volunteering for the committee!

Thank you to everyone who joined us and the Society of Georgia Archivists at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto, October 13-14 for *Defining Archives: Ingenuity, Innovation, and New Perspectives*. Despite Hurricane Matthew, we made it to Savannah and had an amazing conference. The Annual Meeting Local Arrangements and Programming Committees from both Florida and Georgia handled the schedule and program changes and adjustments with the hotel beautifully. Special thanks to our Florida colleagues: Committee Chair Sandra Varry and previous Committee Member Tomaro Taylor for their hard work to make this year's joint annual meeting a success.

This unique joint annual meeting offered members an opportunity to connect with Georgia and other regional archivists and hear about the initiatives they undertake, the challenges they face, and the success they have enjoyed. We are grateful to all the presenters for sharing their sessions, papers, workshop, and posters, and to our keynote speaker Dr. Meredith Evans of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Most important, thank you to our members who attended, contributed, and as always, made what we do as a Society worthwhile.

Our Annual Business Meeting included the Board and Committee reports, Judith Beale scholarships, awards and certificates, and a discussion of the recent bylaws revisions including information on our new College and University Archives Section. Stay tuned for those revisions as well as upcoming information about our 2017 Annual Meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida.

*Continued on page 11.*

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### Florida Connecting to Collections Upcoming Workshops

*Module 1: Policies vs. Plans vs. Procedures / Scope of Collections / Acquisitions & Accessions - Deaccessions & Disposals*

#### **Workshop #1:** Webinar/In-Person Discussions

Date: December 9, 2016

Locations: Wolfsonian-FIU, Ringling-Sarasota, St. Augustine Lighthouse

Mid-Module Potential Webinars: Found in Collections or Direct Care of Collections (AAM White Paper)

#### **Workshop #2:** Collections Assessment/Practical Exercise

Date: January 20, 2017

Locations: TBD

Application Deadline: November 30, 2016

For more information on the Connecting to Collections program, visit:

<http://www.flamuseums.org/professional-development/florida-connecting-to-collections-program/2016-collections-policies-collections-care-enhancement/>.



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## MEMBER & INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

### 2016 Florida History Fair



Sandra Varry, Kayla Rubenstein, and Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner

The winner of the SFA-sponsored Best Use of Primary Sources award at the 2016 Florida History Fair was Kayla Rubenstein of the American Heritage School in Plantation. Kayla's project was in the Junior Individual Performance category and was called *Sarah Tracy: Preserving Mt. Vernon During the Civil War*.

The 2017 National History Day theme is *Taking a Stand in History*. The Florida History Day state contest will be held from April 30 to May 2, 2017 in Tallahassee.

### Henry B. Plant Museum Presents 35th Annual Victorian Stroll

Experience the extravagance and grandeur of a Victorian Christmas at the former 1891 Tampa Bay Hotel during the Henry B. Plant Museum's Victorian Christmas Stroll.

Allowing visitors a glimpse of Christmas past, the event runs every day from December 1st – 23rd, 10 am – 8 pm daily.

During the Victorian Christmas Stroll, visitors will explore the Museum transformed by Christmas trees. Decorations include vintage fashions, antique toys, locally sourced cigar boxes, and fanciful ornaments. New to the festivities this year are Welcome to Florida complete with a tree adorned with all things Florida; a fanciful tree made of softly lit wine bottles; and handmade Temari balls reminiscent of Mr. and Mrs. Plant's travels to distant lands.

The Victorian Christmas Stroll celebrates the warmth and spirit of an old fashioned holiday. Complimentary cider and cookies will be served on the veranda each day while holiday music floats through the air. Guests can enjoy live music each evening from 6 pm – 8 pm.



### Launch of Palm Beach State College Heritage Trail



Palm Beach State College has launched its Lake Worth Campus Heritage Trail, spearheaded by Library Archivist Janet DeVries Naughton. This tour highlights Palm Beach State College, Florida's oldest public community college, founded in 1933. The Lake Worth Campus is the college's largest campus, and opened in 1957. The college was formerly known as Palm Beach Junior College and Palm Beach Community College. This Heritage Trail Tour features 18 tour points highlighting some of the interesting and historical features of the college. The tour was accepted by Human Resources as part of their new employee onboarding, and it has also been recommended as part of the First Year Experience and the SLS 1501 classes.

### Rollins Archivist Publishes on Chinese Immigration in the South



Professor and Olin Library Archivist Wenxian Zhang recently published the essay "Chinese in Florida: History, Struggles and Contributions to the Sunshine State," which appears as a chapter in *Far East, Down South: Asians in the American South*.

The book, which is edited by Rayond A. Mohl, John E. Van Sant, and Chizuru Saeki, is a collection of essays that restores and explores Asian immigration in the South—an often-overlooked part of the South's story. By adding a new dimension to the popular understanding of southern history, the book seeks to document the historic presence of Asians in the region since the mid-19th century, the sources of numerous waves of contemporary Asian immigration, and the steady spread of Asians out from the coastal port cities to other parts of the American South.

# The Legend of José Luis Avellanal

## Gil Gott, Plant City Photo Archives and History Center

One day a woman donated several old items she was discarding from her years of collecting from antique shops to the Plant City Photo Archives and History Center. The day was June 1st. Among the items was a diploma in an old battered frame. After removing and cleaning the diploma, we could read that it was issued by the High School of Hillsborough County to José Luis Avellanal y Jimenez, dated June 1, 1922.

Oddly, after that day, peculiar things began to happen around the office, including computer glitches and part of the ceiling falling in. Who was this José Luis Avellanal? We learned from Andrew Huse, archivist at USF Special Collections, who informed us that USF had a large collection of materials on the Avellanal family, and Tampa Tribune reporter Paul Guzzo, that José Luis was the son of Dr. José Ramon Avellanal. And that José Luis had a strange and mystical history.

Dr. Avellanal was born in Spain and educated in the Spanish colony of Cuba, where his family owned a sugar cane farm leased to sharecroppers.

He later spent a year in Costa Rica fighting a yellow fever epidemic then moved to Ybor City in 1904 to serve as a doctor for its growing immigrant community. José Ramon Avellanal became medical director of the new Centro Español Hospital on Bayshore Boulevard, and in 1911, he established the El Bien Publico medical center, attracting a patient membership of over 20,000 by the time he passed away in 1927 (Special Collections records). Dr. Avellanal also owned a cigar factory, a public welfare company, and drugstores.



*The High School of Hillsborough County Diploma of José Luis Avellanal y Jimenez,  
Dated June 1, 1922*

José Luis Avellanal, however, wanted people to believe he could talk to the dead, even raise them up. He claimed to be a gynecologist and plastic surgeon, yet it is unclear whether he was properly trained in either field. He strutted around Tampa wearing a Mexican lieutenant's uniform, though he may never have served a day in that country's armed forces. Historians often label Avellanal's real life exploits as some of Tampa's most fascinating true stories.

José Luis Avellanal died in 1982 at age 78, and legend has it that his ghost haunts Ybor City along with the spirits of women he is said to have slain in his quest to learn how to revive the deceased. And each Halloween season brings a revamped version of Avellanal's life, one that links him with murder to fit the ghoulish holiday. This version has been told so often it is repeated by many as fact. We don't know about that, but we were glad to donate the original diploma to Andy Huse and the USF Special Collections section and get José Luis out of our office. It has been wonderfully normal since then.

*Thanks to Andrew Huse, USF Special Collections, and Paul Guzzo, Tampa Tribune, for most of the information in this article, and TBO.com for the image of José Luis.*



*José Luis Avellanal y Jimenez*



# 2016 SFA/SGA Annual Meeting

## Annual Meeting Recap

Florida and Georgia archivists met in Savannah from October 13-14 for our first joint annual meeting. Sessions were held all day on the 13th with SFA's annual business meeting held in the afternoon. The changes to the bylaws were discussed, and a vote to adopt them will be held. The next election will be held at the 2017 Annual Meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 10 - 12 in St. Petersburg.

Following the annual business meeting, a reception was held for SFA and SGA members at the Columbia Club. A half-day of sessions was held on the 14th, and a planned tour of the Bonaventure Cemetery in the afternoon was cancelled due to the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

## 2016 Judith Beale Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Judith Beale Scholarship. The purpose of the Judith Beale Scholarship is to increase the participation of students, new professionals and those with financial need. Since 2005, the Judith Beale Scholarship has been awarded to 53 recipients and enabled those recipients to attend the annual meetings of the Society of Florida Archivists.

**Ashley Ashabranner** is currently pursuing the Masters of Arts in Library and Information Sciences from the University of South Florida. She also works for USF's Shimberg Health Sciences Library. Ashley presented a poster titled A Concept Map Approach to Organizing Archive Collections during SFA's 2016 annual meeting.

**Jennifer Bowne** is the Reference and Instruction Librarian at St. Petersburg College, is new to the profession and is the lone arranger in the College Archives. She is passionate about preserving history and outreach. Jennifer was a 2016 attendee of the Georgia Archives Institute.

**Gilbert Gott** is the Executive Director of the Plant City Photo Archives and History Center and has served in that role since its inception. Gilbert has worked to promote local history through continuing education and outreach programs aimed at promoting community involvement.

**Jocelyn Hurtado** is the Archivist for the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida and is new to the archives profession. She has a background in anthropology and a strong interest in history and preservation. Jocelyn was a 2016 attendee of the Georgia Archives Institute.

**Sarah Kautz** is currently pursuing the Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Sarah presented a poster titled Ground Control to Archivists Above: Unveiling Legacies & Launching Careers Through Internships during SFA's annual meeting. She is currently an intern at the Florida

Institute of Technology's Evans Library Special Collections.

**Mary Rubin** is currently pursuing the Masters of Arts in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida. She is currently the Senior Archivist at the University of Central Florida's Special Collections and Archives. She has a Digital Archives Specialist Certificate from the Society of American Archivists and is interested in student preservation outreach.

Special acknowledgement is also in order to members of the Scholarship Committee: Michele Gibney, LuAnn Mims and Elliot Williams, and chair Brittney Farley.

*For more photos from the meeting, visit SFA's Facebook group.*



For an excerpt of a paper presented at the meeting, see "Lone Arrangers as Team Players" on page 11.

# 2016 SFA/SCA Annual Meeting

## 2016 Award of Excellence and Lifetime Achievement Award

This year's Award of Excellence was presented posthumously to **Sister Dorothy Neuhofer**, O.S.B., Ph. D. Sister Dorothy, as she was known, dedicated herself to lifelong learning and to the library and archival professions. Celebrating 50 years at Saint Leo University, from 1965 – 2015, she held many positions within the Daniel J. Cannon Memorial Library at the university, including her latest role as University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian. Additionally, she began library instruction classes, planned a library expansion project, and actively served various professional organizations.

Sister Dorothy, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida, was serving as the archivist for the Holy Name Monastery. She earned her Master's in Library Science at Rosary College (now Dominican University) and Ph. D. in Library Science from Florida State University. In addition, she earned a Master's in Church Administration from Catholic University of America. She turned her dissertation into the book *In the Benedictine Tradition: The Origins and Early Development of Two College Libraries*, published in 1999. Sister Dorothy passed away on October 14, 2015.



*Awards Chair Janet DeVries with Carol Moon and Doris Van Kampen*

A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Burt Altman** in recognition of his longtime service to the Society of Florida Archivists. Burt had previously written a piece on getting his start as an archivist for the Suffolk County Archaeological Association Newsletter, a portion of which will appear below.

### *Researching Long Island History During the CETA Program: How I Became an Archivist* by Burt Altman

During the mid 1970s when I lived in Long Island, I was employed for about two years by the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums through the Federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act



*Burt Altman with Awards Chair Janet DeVries*

(CETA), an outgrowth of President Johnson's War on Poverty that began in 1964.

I worked at the Nassau County Museum and Reference Library in Eisenhower park, under the direction of Nassau County historian and author Richard A. Winch and Librarian Mary Louise Matera. My work consisted of creating typed inventories of 17th-19th Century deeds, wills, and other business and personal papers of Long Island residents during those periods. Some of the oldest and most fascinating records, particularly for eastern Long Island, documented land sales and various business transactions between representatives of the Shinnecock and Montauk tribes and land settlers.

My most fulfilling time was spent for the Curator of Anthropology Ronald Wyatt at the Gravies Point Museum and Preserve in Glen Cove. At that time, environmental impact studies were being conducted by the Nassau County Department of Public Works, and the reports that were generated from those studies were a new requirement to ensure the preservation of significant historical and archaeological sites. My specific responsibility was to conduct historical research in as many archival repositories in the New York City area as possible that would provide for evidence of former Indian settlements that could be protected from future development.

After I completed my projects at the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums, I worked at several public libraries and finally found my niche as a certified archivist at Florida State University. My experience in the CETA program nearly 40 years ago lit the spark that launched my career as an archivist.

*The Suffolk County Archaeological Association will be putting their newsletter archives online soon at <http://www.scaa-ny.org/>.*

Special thanks to Awards Committee members Laura Capell, Laura Moree, and chair Janet DeVries.



# 2016 Archives Month: Found it in the Archives

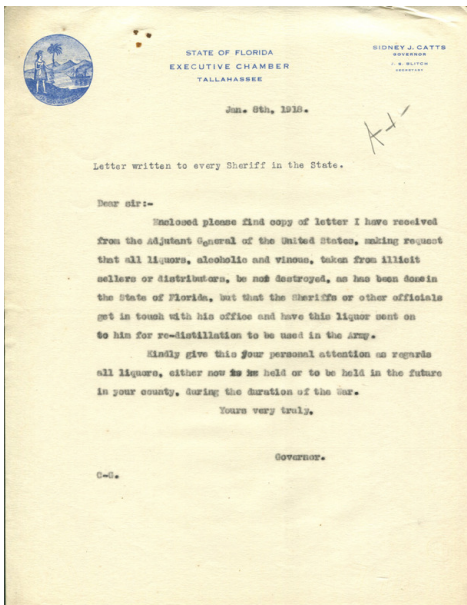
We asked Florida archivists to submit interesting single items for the Found It in Our Florida Archives features. To learn more about these items, visit <http://florida-archivists.org/2016-Florida-Archives-Month>.



Cottrell Photograph Collection, UWF University Archives and West Florida History Center  
Submitted by Dean DeBolt, University of West Florida



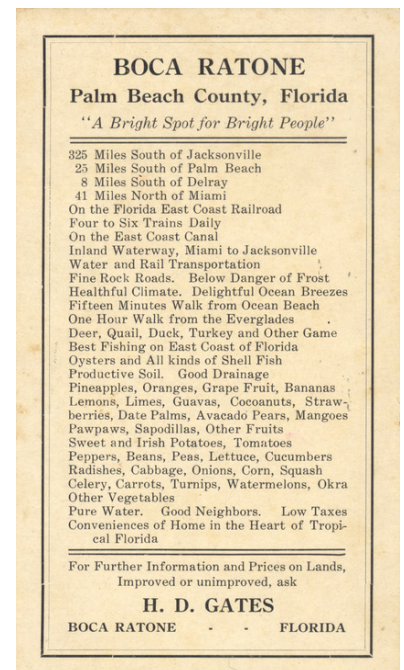
Four women in Playtex bathing caps, circa 1950s. Florida State University Tarpon Club Collection. MSS 2005-011.  
Submitted by Sandra Varry, Florida State University



Letter from the Sidney Catts Papers, UWF University Archives and West Florida History Center  
Submitted by Dean DeBolt, University of West Florida



Hand Jive 1980, Lake Park, FL  
JM Family Enterprises, 1980/11  
Submitted by Michael Zaidman, JM Family Enterprises



Promotional card or handbill, 2013.45.6 (Gates Collection) circa 1915-1917, Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum collections  
Submitted by Susan Gillis, Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum



## 2016 Archives Month: Archives Spotlights

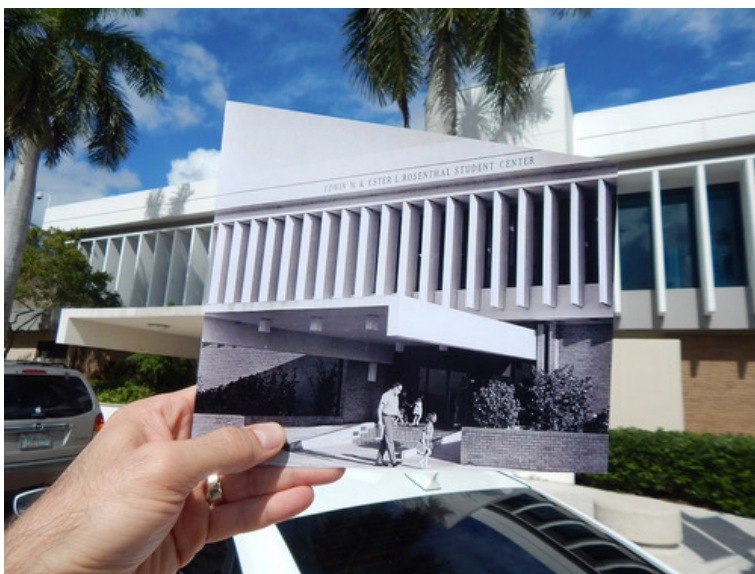
We asked Florida archivists to submit interesting collections for the Archives Spotlight features. To learn more about these collections and institutions, visit <http://florida-archivists.org/2016-Florida-Archives-Month>.



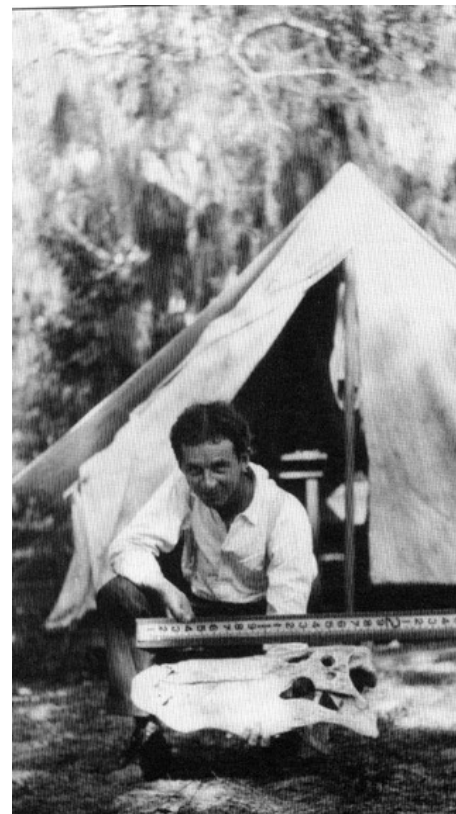
**Patricia Stephens Due Papers**  
State Archives of Florida



**Edwin Osgood Grover Collection**  
Rollins College



**"Looking Into the Past" Project**  
Nova Southeastern University



**Allen Carleton Nydegger Collection**  
Lake Wales Public Library



## Rare Books at the McKay Archives

Gerrianne Schaad, College Archivist, Florida Southern College



Rare books are not archival, but many of us have an exhibit component to our job duties. This semester I was tasked with curating an exhibit of rare texts and manuscripts. Florida Southern College's Roux Library is a small library, and while we have been in business since 1883, that business has not been to collect heavily in the book arts. In July of 2015 we were approached to hold an exhibit of rare books and manuscripts held by The Remnant Trust, Inc.

The Remnant Trust is a "public educational foundation that shares ... works dealing with the topics of individual liberty and human dignity ... (with) colleges, universities and other organizations for

use by students, faculty, scholars and the general public. Those exposed are encouraged to touch, feel and read the originals, including first English translations."

The provost was enthusiastic about the offer to host an exhibit. Library and Archives personnel were excited to delve into the curation and exhibit of these special collection materials. We were soon sending book lists to campus faculty to see if they wanted to participate in a lecture series. Nine professors signed up to participate and chose 35 titles to talk about and incorporate in their semester classes.

After looking at the list, I added another dozen books (we finally received 49 titles or 63 volumes) to round out a theme of "The



*Setting up the display cases*



*Attendees handling books after a lecture.*

History of the Book." The prime pieces I chose to display were a Sumerian Foundation Cone (c. 2500 BCE), a leaf from a handwritten document by Thomas Aquinas (dated 1447), and a leaf from the Gutenberg Bible (dated 1455) to illustrate to students what forms of printed materials existed before typed texts and e-books.

The lecture series wrapped up November 9, and the books will be returned to the Remnant Trust on December 9. I believe the exhibit has been a success. I have honed my exhibit skills, taught some interesting classes, hosted colleagues and Library school graduate students, and generally had fun seeing people's eyes light up when they get to hold and read a book or page from a rare manuscript that might be older than anything else they have ever seen in their lifetime.

More information and photos from the exhibit can be viewed at <http://libguides.flsouthern.edu/RemnantTrust>.



*Archives Spotlight, continued from front page*

During its long existence, the Tarpon Club garnered a number of awards and received invitations to perform at national and international aquatic exhibitions. The International Academy of Aquatic Art and the National Institute for Creative Aquatics recognized the Tarpons' skill through the years with numerous awards, and the club also received an award for its performance in the United States Synchronized Swimming Collegiate National Championships. When the Club disbanded in 1994, it was the Nation's oldest continuously active collegiate swim group as well as the oldest club on the Florida State University campus.



*Tarpon Club swims Florida Festivals program, 1966.*

*President's Address, continued from front page*

I want to recognize in particular the chairs and members of the Web Communications Team, Bylaws Committee, Audit Committee, Membership Committee, Judith Beale Scholarship Committee, and Awards Committee for their work leading up to the Annual Business Meeting this year. As always, a huge thank you to the Board members and Affiliates. It is your involvement and your commitment to serving the Society that facilitates the opportunities, resources, and support we strive to provide for our members. Thank you!

**Lone Arrangers as Team Players**

Diane Newman, Florida Institute of Technology

*This is an excerpt from a paper presented at the SFA/SGA meeting.*

This year's conference topic "Defining Archives" focuses on a myriad of new roles facing archivists today. University expectations of collection development are a direct response to living in the digital world. Large heavily endowed libraries benefit from having skilled archivists to accomplish specific tasks. A smaller archive like the one I curate at Florida Tech depends upon a lone arranger for Special Collections, and yet, my duties require training outside traditional archive responsibilities.

This paper intends to present innovative methods I used to multiply my efforts by reaching out to experts for their support. I will relay personal experiences to demonstrate practical ways to build robust archives. I hope my story proves a lone arranger with a strong backup team can win the game.

The first team I want to talk about is the one I created inside my office at Florida Tech. Each semester, I requested about five Federal Work Study and College Roll students. These student workers multiplied my efforts. Florida Tech students are not only bright, but they work hard. It takes many hours to digitize and create metadata. They edited audio-visual recordings, created spreadsheets, wrote computer code and organized files. They helped me produce brochures, presentation materials, exhibits, and more. I may have been the official lone arranger, but I was surrounded by effective team players.

Before I became an archivist at Florida Tech, the Instructional Technology (IT) department videotaped a series with the Chair of Humanities interviewing the school's pioneers. Recorded with two cameras, each interview required editing the raw footage into a polished program. I requested assistance from our Instructional Technology department. A Federal Work Study student used IT editing equipment under IT supervision. In addition to synthesizing the individual interviews, we needed to add an introduction, titling, credits and music. The IT team put together a collage of relevant photographs for the series introduction. The student added titling and end credits. Best of all, we received permission to use music for the intro and credits from a CD recording of the Florida Tech faculty band. I am proud to say the Florida Tech Pioneer Series 1 is now online.

I end by summarizing my approach to dealing with the challenges many archivists face today: You are not alone. Take advantage of experts around you. Ask for their help in a way they won't want to refuse you. Use your imagination. Put yourself in your team-member's place. To paraphrase the poet Robert Frost, men work together whether they work together or apart.

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**Save the dates!**

SFA 2017 will tentatively be held  
**May 10-12, 2017** in St. Petersburg.

**See you there!**



State Archives of Florida