



ACA News

The Newsletter of the Academy of Certified Archivists Issue 95 Fall 2017

President's Message

Louis E. Jones, Ph.D., CA
Wayne State University
Walter P. Reuther Library
Detroit, Michigan



This past December, I received a letter from William Welge, CA, a long-time ACA member who requested a transfer to emeritus status within the Academy after a long and rewarding career at the Oklahoma Historical Society. A member of the Academy's 1989 inaugural class, I was heartened to hear of his support for certification during its formative years and pride in achieving the rank of certified archivist, Oklahoma's first such archivist. I was likewise reminded of the challenges associated with developing certification as a standard within the profession and of the member-driven commitment that helped to sustain the organization.

As the idea for archival certification transitioned from debates on its merits and form and then into the actual founding of the organization, the Academy then sought to develop a role delineation statement outlining the major areas of archival administration on which to test applicants, establish an exam, construct a bibliography from which to generate that exam, seek incorporation status, create bylaws, inclusive of an organizational structure, institute a recertification process, and settle upon a budget, among other efforts. None of this would have been possible without a committed membership willing to support the Academy over a long span of years. William Welge's letter reminded me of the many other members like him, many of which remain affiliated with the Academy as emeritus members.

I'll be the first to concede that many archivists who have not pursued certification are fully engaged with the profession beyond what their

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President's Message *(continued from previous page)*

employers demand from them during working hours. I know, because I work with a number of such archivists myself. For certified archivists, however, it is a requirement. This engagement means that certified archivists are often, as former SAA President Daphne DeLeon, CA once opined, service oriented, a quality that sustains more than one's own career, but a profession as well. William Welge is of this mold. As he mentioned, he volunteers at the Oklahoma Historical Society, which employed him for many years, and currently serves as "the president of the Oklahoma City/County Historical Society where," he says, "my archival skills are needed." Welge is not unlike many other members who remain active in the field after their formal retirement. By the time that many of them retire, service becomes hardwired into their DNA. And it is this continued involvement and mindset, whether as active members or as those who have entered the ranks of the retired that contributes to the health of this noble profession. It is worth noting that the new members whose names are found further within these pages are helping to sustain the organization through their membership. The Academy thanks them for successfully working toward certification and looks forward to their own contributions to the field.

* * *

Further within these pages you will find statements from Terry Baxter, CA and Meredith Evans, both candidates for SAA president. I encourage you to read them carefully and consider how they envision working with the Academy in pursuit of our shared vision to ensure the professionalization of the field.

From the Regent for Certification Maintenance

Tara Laver, CA
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Kansas City, MO



The new year kicks off a new cycle of certification maintenance.

Certified archivists may either recertify by re-taking the ACA exam in late July or by petition, which entails reporting activities and accomplishments in the five areas of qualifying professional employment; education; professional participation and outreach; professional service; and writing, publishing, and editing. Most opt to submit a petition, and we are now accepting them for the 2017 cohort; they are due by May 31, 2017.

Petitions should report activities from January 2012 through December 2016. Everything you need is linked in the "Recertification by Petition" area of <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/members-area/>, including access to the online form through which you will ultimately submit everything. Those opting

to recertify by exam can find the link to sign up at <https://certifiedarchivists.wufoo.com/forms/qxn7jl1n30p5h/>. Please note that there is no fee for those who are taking the exam to maintain their certification, and they do not need to provide the qualifying documentation required of new applicants.

Not sure if you are due this year? You're probably not alone! There is often some confusion about one's timeframe for recertifying. If you are among the CAs scheduled to recertify this year, you will have received notification by now. If you think you may be due but have not heard from us, you may be late on your dues or not have updated your contact information. Feel free to contact Secretariat Abby Curro (aca@caphill.com) or me (contact info below) to confirm your schedule.

Another area that sometimes causes confusion is where to enter some activities in the petition. It is important to remember that all experiences and activities can only be counted in one category at a

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From the Regent for Certification

Maintenance *(Continued from Previous Page)*

time. Generally, accomplishments that fall within your job description or that are achieved in fulfilling the requirements of your position are part of your employment, which is represented in Section A. “Extra-curricular” activities—that is most anything else you do, such as attending and presenting conferences, serving on professional organization committees, or publishing articles—go in the appropriate subsequent sections.

Recertification time also brings up a time for some members to consider applying for emeritus status. For those who have retired or are no longer engaged in daily archival work as part of their employment, applying for emeritus status may be desirable instead of recertifying by petition or exam. Please see <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/members-area/emeritus-status/> for additional information and the process for applying for this status.

When you participate in the certification maintenance process, you renew your commitment and dedication to our profession’s high standards. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at tlaver@nelson-atkins.org or 816-751-1354.

From the Vice President/ President-Elect

Todd Welch, CA
Cline Library
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, Arizona



Documenting the Academy’s History

This August the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) concludes twenty-eight years as the only professional certification program for archivists throughout the world. In the nearly three-

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ACA Officers

President (2016-17)	Louis E. Jones, Ph.D., CA Wayne State University Walter P. Reuther Library Detroit, Michigan
Vice President/ President-Elect (2016-17)	Todd Welch, CA Cline Library Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, Arizona
Treasurer (2016-18)	Gerriane Schaad, CA Florida Southern College Lakeland, FL
Secretary (2015-2017)	Emily Dominick, CA University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, Allen Library Seattle, Washington
Regent for Examination Administration (2015-2017)	Marcus Robyns, CA Northern Michigan University Marquette, Michigan
Regent for Examination Development (2016-18)	Rebecca Hankins, CA Texas A&M University Libraries College Station, TX
Regent for Certification Maintenance (2015-17)	Tara Laver, CA The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Kansas City, MO
Regent for Outreach (2016-18)	Elizabeth Scott, CA Project Archivist/ Consultant Easton, PA
Immediate Past President & Re- gent for Nominations (2015-16)	Mott R. Linn, DA, CA Clark University Worcester, Massachusetts

Contact information for the Officers and Regents is available on the ACA website:
www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/officers.html

SAA Presidential Candidate Statements

ACA President Louis Jones posed this question to the candidates for the SAA Presidency:

As both ACA and SAA envision their respective roles in the future of the archives profession, what goals or interests do both organizations hold in common and what approaches would you recommend for encouraging effective collaboration between the two organizations?

Their unedited responses follow.

Meredith Evans, Ph. D. Jimmy Carter Presidential Library



In the age of social media and ‘alternate facts’ it is more important than ever that the ACA and SAA work together and continue to agree on the professional competencies and core values listed on both websites. R. David Lankes, director of the University of South Carolina’s School of Library & Information Science has spent the last decade championing what he calls the ‘new librarianship.’ He promotes shifting the thought of libraries away from collections and physical space to knowledge and communities. Lankes’ often states that the mission of librarians should be to “improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.” I believe this is how archivists have approached our work for quite some time. We collect to respond to the *why* and ensure that documents and the context around them provide an understanding of the past while also fostering life-long learning and possibly new scholarship.

Both ACA and SAA believe in the role and work of archivists. We have a social responsibility to the public and must be grounded in archival theory and current practices to ensure we preserve and collect objectively and authentically regardless of format. Whether we interpret archival principles broadly or narrowly we must first be well versed in

Terry Baxter, CA Multnomah County Archives



I’d like to thank the Academy of Certified Archivists for providing an opportunity to talk about ways in which ACA and the Society of American Archivists could work together. I have been a certified archivist since 2004. My process was longer than most. I petitioned to take the exam at the 2002 SAA meeting in Birmingham. Alas, my plane sat on the Seattle tarmac with blown wheel hydraulics. I missed the exam and the 2003 SAA meeting. By the time I was able to sit for the exam in 2004, even though the petition process had been discontinued, I was allowed to take the exam with only a BS degree as education. So I believe I am the last archivist to certify by petition.

I mention this anecdote because it illustrates areas where SAA and ACA could expand collaboration to benefit the archives profession, archival organizations, and, most importantly, individual archivists.

Both SAA and ACA have a clear interest in identifying ways to ensure that professional archivists have a standard set of skills and knowledge that employers and colleagues can rely on. Through certification, continuing education, and guidelines for

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SAA Presidential Candidate Statements *(continued from previous page)*

Meredith Evans, Ph. D.

them and have a frame of reference to standards to make informed decisions about work. Both organizations aid in this process. They help us think about why we conduct our work and should inform how we do our work.

Both ACA and SAA keep archivists engaged in the profession and support continuing education. Certification enhances those who work in the profession regardless of their formal education and work experience. It also can be used to recruit and retain a robust and diverse workforce. If elected SAA President I would continue to encourage certification by supporting courses and study groups related to and for the exam, market testing days and ensure that there are places and proctors to host the exam and collaborate with the state and regional archival associations. Having worked in government funded and academic institutions for over 20 years I have seen hundreds of resumes and applications. While some include course work, many do not and when transcripts are requested it can be difficult to identify the ones that speak to archival work. This makes the ACA certification invaluable. It ensures a hiring manager or selector an understanding of archiving and knowledge related to the profession. It interprets archival competencies that are gained through reading, practice, professional development and formal/ informal learning.

Under my leadership SAA will be less insular. Joint meetings and committees with state and regional archival associations and agency have to be beneficial. I would like to see meaningful discussion between SAA and ACA regarding ethics in archival practice, specifically issues related to privacy, surveillance, and rights in web archives, social media data collections and other digital/

Terry Baxter, CA

graduate archival education, the two organizations have assumed complementary roles in the overall process of building a base of archival professionals.

I would encourage SAA and ACA to look for ways to build on this collaboration. SAA continues to grow its certificate based continuing education series. It could work with ACA to expand the set of certificates to represent basic core archival concepts and theory. Completion of this set of certificates could be an alternative to a graduate degree as a basic requirement for taking the ACA exam.

I believe that expanding the ways in which people can become professional archivists is a key component in increasing the diversity of professional archivists. This would support both organizations' goals and strengthen the general profession. It would also benefit individuals who are unable or unwilling to take on the expense of obtaining a graduate degree but still want to obtain the knowledge and skills required to work in a professional capacity. This approach would not invalidate the value of a graduate degree. It would just acknowledge that it is not the only way to obtain professional knowledge and skills.

Something like this would take significant time and conversation. In a more immediate vein, SAA and ACA should continue to build on their nearly 30 year relationship by working to making the value of certification more apparent to hirers and employers. Professional organizations should pay close attention to the occupational needs of their members and structure significant amounts of their advocacy efforts to support the creation and retention of fairly compensated employment opportunities.

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From the Regent for Nominations

Mott R. Linn, DA, CA
Clark University
Worcester, Massachusetts



As a member of the Legacy Travel Award Committee, I want to remind our members, especially our newest ones, about the Legacy Travel Award.

ACA established the Legacy Travel Award to foster participation in ACA events by its members; to encourage professional development and thus certification maintenance; and to support the development of potential new Academy leaders from among the membership. The Award, originally named The Class of 1989 Legacy Professional Development Award, honors the spirit of leadership and commitment to professional standards and development that led to the founding of the Academy in 1989.

The Academy grants one (1) award annually of up to \$500 to assist an Academy member in good standing with travel expenses related to attending that year's annual Academy business meeting.

To apply for the Award, a member must submit a letter of application (by email, fax, or mail) by May 1st of the year in which the travel will occur. To find out more about the award, including how to apply, go to <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/members-area/legacy-travel-award/>.

The Legacy Travel Award is funded by our members' donations. Although ACA accepts donations all year, most come in when members pay their annual dues. ACA thanks all of those who donate to this award.



From the Vice President/ President-Elect

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decades of existence, ACA leadership strengthened and expanded the core functions and services provided to the membership. The Academy owes a debt of gratitude to pioneering individuals whose insights, contributions, and dedication not only led to ACA's formal incorporation in 1989, but brought official recognition and increased acceptance of certification within and outside professional circles. Unfortunately, the organization's written record is not complete and lacks the perspectives of members involved in the formative moments and events that influenced the Academy's establishment, organization, and developments. Many of these certified archivists have since retired and no longer play an active role.

In response the Board of Regents recently launched an oral history project with the purpose of recording and preserving the memories and perspectives of past ACA leadership, as well as sharing the history with current and potential members and other interested parties. The project will start by focusing on prominent individuals involved in proposing professional certification, establishing core education and professional development requirements, and outlining and designing pre-ACA processes that began the crucial work of developing a Role Delineation Statement and certification exam. The first interview will be conducted this winter with long-time, and recently retired, ACA Secretariat Steve Grandin. Steve's continual presence and institutional memory has greatly benefited the Board and organization for more than two decades!

Audio files and transcripts of the project interviews will eventually be posted on the ACA website and select portions of interviews and subjects will be

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SAA Presidential Candidate Statements

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Meredith Evans, Ph. D.

digitized records. I would like to discuss cultural competencies, especially when documenting the lives of traditionally marginalized people or when creating participator not community archives. These areas are challenged by practical, technical, and theoretical hurdles that both organizations should discuss. Together we can review current ideas and procedures on these topics finalizing in a literature review and guidelines to help practitioners. I publicly support retention of a strong archival workforce that is compensated and supported. Retention requires affordable additional learning activities and engagement in archival discourse. Something both SAA and ACA do.

The profession will be strengthened through collaboration and joint development of archivists as advocates for the historical record – for its significance, its factual role as evidence, and for its place in describing and revealing cultural heritage.

Terry Baxter, CA

I served as SAA's council liaison to ACA and was always impressed with how the board's consistent dedication to their mission provides a great service to professional archivists. The two organization have a shared past and will continue to have a shared future working together to support and strengthen the archival profession.

From the Vice President/ President-Elect *(Continued from Page 6)*

highlighted in future issues of the ACA Newsletter. Please stay tuned for more details and opportunities to volunteer and/or underwrite this important effort.

SAA Ballot

Since most Certified Archivists are SAA members, we thought that we should let you know who will be on this year's SAA ballot.

Vice President/ President-Elect

- Terry Baxter, CA
- Meredith Evans

Council (Three-year term)

- Steven Booth
- Sharmila Bhatia
- Mike Bullington, CA
- Brenda Gunn, CA
- Tomaro Taylor, CA
- Audra Eagle Yun, CA

Nominating Committee

- Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez
- Aaisha Hayka
- Samantha Norlin
- Margarita Vargas-Betancourt
- Samantha Winn
- Stacie Williams



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Welcome New Members!

Haley Aaron, AL
Christine Alfieri, NY
Juliette Appold, NJ
Michael Barera, TX
Brian Beauvais, WY
Matthew Beland, NJ
Leo Belleville, IL
Richard Bernier, IN
Sarah Bingler Denison, DE
Maurice Blackson, WA
Andrew Blatchford, AZ
Sarah Bost, AR
Danielle Butler, AR
Adrienne Cain, TX
Aileen Caldwell, WI
David Coates, IA
Alston Cobourn, VA
Hannah Cox, NC
Angela Curran, KS
Debra Davendonis-Todd, TX
Joseph Denton, TX
Alicia Detelich, MO
Jessica DiSilvestro, NY
Virginia Ellison, SC
Karen Feeney, NC
Daniel Fleming, MA
Debbie Frick, TX
Nicolita Marie Garces, HI
Jessica Gengler, CO
Megan Good, PA
Mary Goolsby, TX
Blake Graham, CO
Blake Graham, NE
Gwen Granados, CA
Jennifer Ho, IL
Deborah Hollis, CO
Leigh Johnsen, CA
Amy Jones, LA
Tina Kay, OR
Dyron Knick, VA
Cynthia Laframboise, NV
Sin Kwan Lau

Stacy Belcher Lee, Hong Kong
William Levay, CA
Thomas Lubbesmeyer, WA
Onnica Marquez, IL
Charlene Martin, NY
Sean McConnell, TX
Kelly McDaniels, KY
Alexandra McGee, GA
Ana McGrath, FL
Anita Mechler, IL
Lauren Menges, CA
Catherine Miller, GA
Tarienne Mitchell, UT
Rebecca Morgan, NY
Sara Mouch, OH
Amanda Mylin, TX
Gretchen Neidhardt, IL
Sarah Newhouse, PA
Elizabeth Nicholson, MI
Katrina O'Brien, OR
Christina Perris, CA
Pamela Pierce, ND
Andrea Richardson, GA
Alee Robins, WV
Melissa Robohn, CO
Jennifer Sanchez, CO
Nathania Sawyer, AR
Michelle Sayers, UT
Barbara Scheibel, NY
Leslie Schuyler, WA
Mikaela Selley, TX
Erin Smither, MO
Lesley Drayton Struc, CO
Julia Teran, MI
Steven Teske, AR
Helene van Rossum, NJ
Rachel Winston, TX
Meghann Wollitz, LA
Tammy Woodward, TX
Kellyn Younggren, MT
Kelly Zacovic, GA
Joshua Zimmerman, WA

Treasurer's Report 2015-2016 Fiscal Year: Actual as of June 30, 2016

Income:

Membership dues	\$51,680.00
Exam Fees	\$ 7,329.00
Certification Fees	\$10,800.00
Income from reserves	\$ 6,865.42
Unrealized gains or losses from investment reserve	\$ 670.17
Other	<u>\$ 3,203.23</u>
Total	\$80,547.82

Expenses:

General overhead	\$49,500.06
Board expenses	\$16,112.41
Outreach	\$10,492.27
Exam Development	\$ 6,228.10
Exam Administration	\$ 900.82
Certification Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Awards	<u>\$ 1,339.08</u>
Total	\$84,572.34

Net Income (**\$ 4,024.52**)

Submitted by Todd Welch

7/25/2016

Please send any comments, ideas, or suggestions
about *ACA News* to:

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