



# ACA News

The Newsletter of the Academy of Certified Archivists Issue 77 Spring 2012

## President's Message

Brenda Gunn, CA

Briscoe Center for American History

The University of Texas at Austin



At its recent meeting, the ACA's board of directors voted to move the Academy's business meeting to a daytime slot rather than schedule it for the evening, as has been the case for several years. Held in conjunction with the Society of American Archivists' annual meeting, the ACA business meeting affords its members the opportunity to hear firsthand reports from the Officers and Regents. In addition to the customary reporting, the traditional announcement of award winners, and great networking with other certified archivists, I want to acknowledge the newest members of the Academy during the meeting. So, for the class of 2011, and those from all previous classes, I hope that you can attend the business meeting/luncheon in San Diego at the Hilton Bayfront (SAA's meeting hotel) on Thursday, August 9 at noon.

Speaking of awards, I want to call your attention to the Academy's Legacy Travel Award, formerly the Class of 1989 Professional Development Award, which provides up to \$500 towards travel to the Academy's annual business meeting (again, held in conjunction with SAA's annual meeting). The deadline for applications is June 1. For details on applying, consult the ACA website.

And now, picking up where I left off in the Winter issue, more on mentoring. I am pleased that I had members asking whether mentoring was an activity for which recertification points can be awarded. And the answer is - - absolutely! When wanting to claim points for mentoring, Kristy Sorensen, our Regent for Recertification, recommends that members use section D.3.c (Professional Service/Contributed Service/Other).

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## President's Message

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If you are not already a mentor, I urge you to give it some consideration. As an incentive, every member who submits an application to a formal mentorship program (such as the SAA mentoring program) through August 1 will be entered into a drawing. Five will receive a dues waiver for 2013! When submitting your mentor application, simply send me a message letting me know you have done so and you will be entered into the drawing. Mentoring is an wonderful way to be an advocate for the profession as a whole and specifically for ACA.

Brenda Gunn, CA

President

## Online Tools

Don't forget to visit the ACA facebook page:

[http://](http://www.facebook.com/ACArchivists)



[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/ACArchivists)

ACArchivists. Add your own pictures of ACA events or connect with colleagues.

Visit the ACA website at:

<http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>

And now you can join ACA on Linked In at: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?>



Contact information for the Officers and Regents is available on the ACA website:

[www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/officers.html](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/officers.html)

## ACA Officers

President (2011-12)	Brenda Gunn, CA University of Texas at Austin , Briscoe Center for American History Austin, Texas
Vice President/ President-Elect (2011-12)	Laura Lyons McLemore, Ph.D., CA Noel Memorial Library Louisiana State University Shreveport, Louisiana
Treasurer (2010-12)	Mott R. Linn, DA, CA Goddard Library Clark University Worcester, Massachusetts
Secretary (2011-2013)	Shaun Boyd, CA Douglas County Libraries Castle Rock, Colorado
Regent for Examination Administration (2011-2013)	Daphne O. DeLeon, CA Nevada State Library & Archives Carson City, Nevada
Regent for Examination Development (2010-12)	Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Ph.D., CA U.S. Air Force Academy Colorado Springs, Colorado
Regent for Certification Maintenance (2011-13)	Kristy Sorensen, CA Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Austin, Texas
Regent for Outreach (2010-12)	Louis E. Jones, Ph.D., CA Wayne State University, Walter P. Reuther Library Detroit, Michigan
Immediate Past President & Regent for Nominations (2011-12)	Pam Hackbart-Dean, CA Southern Illinois University Morris Library Carbondale, Illinois
Chair, Nominating Committee (2011-12)	Tara Zachary Laver, CA Louisiana State University Special Collections Libraries Baton Rouge, LA

## The Rewards of Certification: It's Not Just Another Acronym

Julia Stringfellow, CA

Librarian/Archivist and Assistant Professor  
Albertsons Library | Special Collections  
Boise State University

I took the Certified Archivists' exam in August 2011 for the first time and was extremely relieved to pass. The whole process, from deciding to apply to take the test in January 2011 through studying to sitting down with my number 2 pencils at the exam site, went far beyond reviewing standards and principles I learned a long time ago. It also involved learning new practices I now wonder how I functioned as an archivist without previously knowing. Preparing for the exam allowed me to become stronger in my knowledge of archival skills and to ultimately become a better archivist.

Let me start at the beginning- January 2011. I knew I needed to take the CA. exam sooner or later, my supervisor was certified, other archivists in the area were certified, and I knew this was expected of me. Becoming a certified archivist is treated with much reverence and respect in our field, and I knew I wanted to accomplish this and join that very prestigious group. It was a rite of passage. At the time I decided to take the exam, I was just six months into my new tenure-track position as an Archivist/Librarian and Assistant Professor at Boise State University. I thought it would be a good time to take the exam, before I became too inundated with job responsibilities, research, and publishing. I applied and was accepted, but was in no rush to begin studying. After all, my supervisor had passed on his first try and others I knew had passed on their first try as well. I had been out of graduate school for nearly ten years, and surely I knew everything there was to know as a professional archivist!

The beginning of June arrived, less than three months to prepare. I finally went to the ACA web-

site and began looking over the guidelines for the exam and reading through the exam handbook. Then came the sample questions. I began these with full confidence and finished with passing only four out of the provided eight. I couldn't believe it! That was when reality struck. I had been out of graduate school for a while, I hadn't followed the latest issues and literature of the archives profession like I should, and this test was a serious and difficult deal. And it was less than three months away.

So the studying began. There are many ways taking this exam helped me become a better archivist and provide better service in my position at Boise State University. As I was preparing for this exam last summer, I served on two consecutive archivist search committees. As the committee went through resumes, I paid special attention to applicants who had the C.A., even seeing if they were listed in the ACA directory. To my surprise, several were not. Since both committees contained non-archivists who were unfamiliar with archives standards and terminology, I needed to explain what different phrases meant and why specific experiences were important to have as an archivist. I was able to confidently answer their questions because my knowledge of these areas was clearer as I studied them for the exam.

During the interview process, this new and reviewed knowledge proved helpful as I was able to have good discussions with the candidates



Photograph courtesy of Julia Stringfellow

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# Slate of Candidates

*Candidates for the 2012 election were asked the question “What do you see as the role of ACA now and in the future in the archives profession?”*

## Candidates for Vice President/ President Elect

### **Mott Linn, CA**

The Academy’s mission statement declares that “We achieve our mission by certifying archivists, ensuring professional archival standards, and promoting the employment of Certified Archivists.” These have been, are, and should remain ACA’s main roles because one of our strengths is that the Academy has wisely remained focused on our basic mission.

As President, I will continue to build on our successes fulfilling those three roles. Of these, my primary focus will be on promoting the employment of Certified Archivists. If more employers come to appreciate that ACA provides them with the most objective standard for judging the qualifications of prospective archivists, more of them will ask for CAs in their job advertisements. All ads that seek a CA are also ads for ACA. This is because as more employers want to hire CAs, more archivists will become certified so that they are qualified for those jobs. Conducting outreach to employers, however, is not easy or else we would have already made greater inroads in this area. One thing I will do is to seek ideas about how we can accomplish this and then pursue the most promising of these.

*(Continued on page 5)*



### **Margery N. Sly, CA**

ACA is a leader in defining what it means to be a professional archivist. Professionally committed and trained archivists are crucial in this information-driven age and will be needed even more in the future. Not only does the ACA role delineation document identify the knowledge and skills necessary for archival work, we understand the critical combination of education, work experience, and on-going professional engagement that it takes to form the complete archivist. We need archivists who know not only how to do what we do but why we do it. Credentials and our role in credentialing will change because of new technologies and other as-of-yet unanticipated innovations. What won’t change is ACA’s role in providing standards that are used not only by the profession to certify its best qualified members but can also educate employers and the public about the role of archives and archivists in our society. The ACA will remain flexible and committed to providing leadership in building a responsive and skilled professional workforce for the future. How else can we ensure that records that document our world and inform our decisions are preserved and accessible for current and future generations?

*(Continued on page 5)*



# Slate of Candidates

## Candidates for Vice President/ President Elect *(continued from page 4)*

### *Mott Linn, Continued*

Having more employers hiring CAs will have positive ramifications on ACA's other two roles. As I have already stated, it will lead to more archivists becoming members of the Academy. In addition, when CAs make up a greater proportion of the profession, ACA's influence in the profession will be greater. This will increase ACA's ability to ensure professional archival standards. In this way, all ACA members will together contribute to the improvement of the profession.

Because I am a current member of the board, my familiarity with how ACA presently operates will enable me to "hit the ground running." As ACA's Treasurer for the last four years, I have made systemic improvements to the way our finances are handled and, as President, I will find ways to make the Academy better while focusing on ACA's three main roles.

**Employment:** Head of Collections Management; Clark University: 2008-Present. Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections; Clark University: 1998-2008. Manager of Video Archives; National Hockey League: 1993-1997. Archivist; Philadelphia Flyers: 1986-1993.

**Education:** Doctor of Arts in Library Leadership, Simmons College: 2008. Master of Public Administration, Clark University: 2003. Master of Science in Library and Information Science, Drexel University: 1992. Master of Arts in History, University of Wisconsin, Madison: 1985. Bachelor of Arts in History, University of Delaware: 1983.

**Professional Activities: Academy of Certified Archivists:** Member since 1991; Treasurer, 2008-Present. **Society of American Archivists:** Chair of Archives Management Roundtable, 2011-Present; College and University Section Steering Committee: 2002-2005. **Central Massachusetts Regional Library System - Academic and Research Collaborative:** ARC Steering Committee Representative for Special Collections Interest Group: 2000-Present.

### *Margery N. Sly, Continued*

**Employment:** Director, Temple University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center, 2010-present; Deputy Executive Director, 2003-2010, Deputy Director 1999-2003, Manager of Special Collections and Preservation Services, 1997-2003, Presbyterian Historical Society; College Archivist, Smith College, 1987-1997; Archivist, Clemson University Libraries, 1982-1987; Manuscript Specialist, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1981-1982.

**Education:** MS in Library Science and MA in American History, Case Western Reserve University, 1982; BA, History/German Literature, Dickinson College, 1979. Five College Consortium Supervisory Leadership Development Program, 1996-97.

**Professional Activities: ACA:** Charter Member, Class of 1989. Recertified in 1996, 2001, 2007. Treasurer, 1999-2003, chair or member Finance Committee, 2004-2008. **SAA:** member since 1979. Frequent program participant. Manuscript Repositories Section Steering Committee, 1986-1988, Vice Chair/Chair Elect/Newsletter Editor, 1988-1989, Chair, 1989-1990; Task Force on Archival Standards, 1988-1990; member, 2000 Annual Meeting Program Committee; member and chair, Preservation Awards Committee, 2004 - 2006; member, Committee on Education and Professional Development, 2004-07; Member of Council, 2007-2010, with liaison responsibilities to sections, roundtables, the Foundation Fundraising Committee, and the Standards Committee, Council Executive Committee, 2009-2010; Publications Board member, 2010-present.

**Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries,** Executive Committee, 2006-present; Treasurer, 2007-present; **MAC, MARAC, NEA, SGA:** member, program participant, committee service. Named Fellow, Society of Georgia Archivists, 2009.



# Slate of Candidates

## Candidates for Treasurer

### Timothy G. Nutt, CA

Throughout its twenty-three history, the ACA's role has been to strengthen the archival profession with the definition of standards and promotion of professional competency. This has been accomplished through not only a strong advocacy, but perhaps more importantly, by creating a recognized certification program. The Academy remains a leader in keeping our profession strong, viable, and relevant. Libraries across the globe have had to rethink and reshape how information is delivered to patrons. Archives, too, have had to adjust how they deliver archival materials as users' expectations change. The ACA must continue its role as the torchbearer to ensure that our core values are retained, while the electronic landscape quickly evolves around us.

**Employment:** Interim Head of Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, 2012-present. Asst. Head of Special Collections, 2009-2012. Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian, 2005-present. Managing Editor and Staff Historian, *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 2002-2005. Deputy Curator, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, 1997-2005. Arkansiana Librarian, Central Arkansas Library System, 1993-1997.

**Education:** Master of Library and Information Science, University of Oklahoma. Bachelor of



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### Todd Welch, CA

Every recognized profession is composed of individuals engaged in pursuits and activities which adhere to a specific "body of knowledge."

Throughout the twentieth century, archivists have developed guidelines and standards, produced professional literature, and conducted educational training which demonstrates a commitment to the establishment of the archival profession's knowledge base. For me, the current role of the Academy in our professional lives initially may be illustrated through the certification exam and the successful application of that archival knowledge set; however, the real value of the Academy lies in the responsibility outlined in the recertification process. That process obligates us as professionals to reinvest in our profession through seeking out continuing education opportunities, participating in conference sessions, and volunteering as officers in our various associations. The Academy encourages this engagement and dedication to our profession and demands that we remain active and productive members!

We have witnessed tremendous change in the scope of our professional activities and practices. This change and the new experiences and theories which accompany it have required that we retool, or rather enlarge, our professional toolbox. Many of the basic or traditional archival principles and guidelines remain sound and essential to success, but I strongly believe the future role of the Academy will be to serve as an independent agent tasked with regularly monitoring new pro



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# Slate of Candidates

## Candidates for Treasurer *(continued from page 6)*

### *Timothy G. Nutt, Continued*

Arts in History, University of Central Arkansas.

**Professional Activities:** ACA: Member since 2005. Society of Southwest Archivists, Member, since 1990; Board member, 2006-2008, 2011-present; Society of American Archivists: Member since 2008. Arkansas Historical Association: Member since 1990; Board Member, 2006-2007; Vice-President, 2008-2012; President, 2012-present. Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission: Board Member 2011-present. American Association for State and Local History: State Awards Chairperson, 2002-2006.

**Honors and Awards:** Distinguished Faculty Awards, Honors College, University of Arkansas, 2011.

## 2012 Election

The Nominations Committee invites you to participate in the 2012 ACA election.

This year, all voting may be completed online.

By now, you will have received an e-mail containing a unique URL linked to your ballot. Please remember to submit your vote soon, all voting will close June 1 at 5:00 Pacific time.

Don't forget to fill in the last page— the nominating committee welcomes your suggestions for the next slate of candidates.

If you wish to vote by paper ballot, please contact Steve Grandin at the ACA office [aca@caphill.com](mailto:aca@caphill.com).



### *Todd Welch, Continued*

Professional developments and, where appropriate, refreshing and updating the compendium of knowledge for practitioners of archives to pursue and master.

**Experience:** Digital Access Archivist, Northern Arizona University, 2003-present; Manuscript Archivist, Oregon Historical Society, 1994-2003; Project Archivist, Oregon State Archives, 1993-1994. Professional consulting activities, organizations include: Oregon Jewish Museum, Portland Community College, Sue Bennett Photography Studio, Utah State University, and the Utah Manuscript Association.

**Education:** MA in History with a concentration in Archives and Records Management, Western Washington University, 1995. MSIRLS, University of Arizona, 2007.

**Professional Activities:** *Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA)*, 2006-present. *Society of American Archivists (SAA)*, Member, 1990-present; Arizona Key Members Contact, 2007-present; Manuscript Repositories Section member, 1990-present; Description Section member, 1990-present; Encoded Archival Description (EAD) Roundtable member, 1998-present; Metadata and Digital Object Roundtable member, 2006-present. *Conference of Intermountain Archivists (CIMA)* member, 2003-present. *Arizona Archives Online (AAO)*, Steering Committee 2007-present; chair, 2010-present. *Northwest Archivists (NWA)* member, 1991-2002; secretary-treasurer, 1995-2001. National and regional conference presentations on a variety of archival topics, including collection processing, moving archives, environmental research in archives and manuscripts, digitizing multimedia materials, designing metadata schemas, Open Archives Initiatives (OAI) protocol, and the preservation of digital collections.

# Slate of Candidates

## Candidates for Regent for Examination Development

### Melinda Curley, CA

The role of ACA is to advocate for the profession and to provide a structure for continual growth and education of its



members. The Academy promotes the profession for the general public to broaden the understanding of what archivists do and why it is important to societies and individuals.

Certification begins with the examination. The exam writing process is an intense study of the domains that form the basis of the archival profession. During my three years as a member of the Exam Development Committee, I was impressed with the process of writing new questions and reviewing previous questions accepted into the item bank. Each question must have a basis in an archival publication citation and then make it through a thorough discussion and critique by the committee. The process ensures that the questions stay current and are reflective of archival theory. Certification accomplishment and maintenance requires commitment to continual professional education that builds on a knowledge base that is broad and current.

The future role of the Academy of Certified Archivists is to continue to provide the professional structure for members to keep up with advancing technology and ideas that strive to improve management of collections, access for patrons and outreach to the public. It would be an honor to serve the ACA members as regent of the EDC in pursuit of furthering the archival profession into the future.

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### Tomaro I. Taylor, CA

Traditionally, the ACA has upheld the standards of the archival profession by recognizing the educational and professional achievements of those who seek accreditation.



Through this evolutionary process, the organization has established a community of individuals with complementary goals, principles and ideologies. The ACA and its members demonstrate a level of commitment that ensures the survival of the profession and advocates for efforts to support, expand and improve its standing within and among the archival field. However, the future of the ACA depends on the evolutionary becoming more *revolutionary*. By increasing collaborative efforts and extending beyond conventional boundaries, the ACA can advocate for and achieve greater recognition of the field while developing a broader network of experts who are internal and external to the organization. Accordingly, this will afford the ACA continuous growth as an organization to better support a profession that is constantly changing and being redefined.

**Employment:** Archivist & Librarian, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute Research Library (2010-present); Archivist & Librarian, Special & Digital Collections, University of South

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# Slate of Candidates

## Candidates for Regent for Examination Development *(continued from page 8)*

**Professional Experience:** Supervisor, Information and Records at the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) in Austin, TX (current). Employed at LCRA since 2002 and have held positions of Photo Archivist, Corporate Archivist, Supervisor and Manager of both Archives and Records departments. Previous to LCRA: Library Reference Associate at Austin History Center and Archives Aide at the LBJ Library and Museum.

**Education:** MLIS, Archival and Records Enterprise – School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin. Bachelor of Liberal Studies, History - St. Edward's University

**Professional Activities:** Archivists of Central Texas Secretary 2009-2010; Academy of Certified Archivists Exam Development Committee member 2008-2010; Society of American Archivists Annual Conference Host Committee member 2008-2009; Society of Southwest Archivists Professional Development Committee member 2005-2007; Texas Library Association Archives and Local History Roundtable Councilor 2003-2005; ACA certification 2003. Recertification 2009.

Florida Tampa Library (2004 -2010); Dr. Henrietta M. Smith Resident Librarian (2003-2004).

**Education:** M.A., Library & Information Science (2002), B.A., American Studies (2001), B.A., Psychology (1998), University of South Florida.

**Professional Activities:** *Academy of Certified Archivists:* member (2005-present), Petition Review Team member (2011-present), Exam Development Committee member (2009-2012), Item Writing Workshop (2009, 2011); *Society of American Archivists:* Student Program Subcommittee chair (2011-present), Program Committee member (2011-present), Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries and Museums member (2009-2011), Archivists & Archives of Color Roundtable newsletter editor (2007-2010); *Society of Florida Archivists:* Vice President (2010-present), Newsletter editor (2011-present), Director (2008-2009).

**Awards:** ACURILEAN Star for USF Tampa Library Special Collections Staff Engaged in Podcasting (2008).

## Candidates for Regent for Outreach

### Courtney Chartier, CA

Our profession is one of special interest groups. Whether you're a lone arranger or a member of a large team, handling university or corporate records, a metadata wizard or an exhibition specialist, we are unified by a common base of knowledge and a shared set of values. A role of ACA is to solidify that knowledge



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### Michelle Ganz, CA

The ACA has been, and continues to be, an important benchmark for archivists to achieve. The ACA ensures that archivists are working at the highest levels of professional and ethical excellence. In today's hyper-competitive job market the CA designation helps set candidates above the crowd.



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# Slate of Candidates

## Candidates for Regent for Outreach *(continued from page 9)*

and values through a simple tool: the certification exam. By constantly reevaluating and updating the exam as the archival profession grows and changes, ACA serves an important function as a community developed measure for the collected wisdom and ethics of our profession.

**Professional Experience:** Assistant Head, Archives Research Center, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, 2010-present; Processing Archivist, Voter Education Project Organizational Records, Archives Research Center, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, 2009-2011; Processing Archivist, Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, Archives Research Center, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, 2007-2009.

**Education:** MS, Information Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 2006; MA, Southern Studies, University of Mississippi, 2003; BA, American Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 2001.

**Professional Activities:** *Academy of Certified Archivists:* Member, Petition Review Team, 2012, Member, Outreach Committee, 2010-present; *Society of American Archivists:* Member, Annual Meeting Taskforce, 2011-present; Co-Chair, Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable, 2010-present, Member, Awards Committee, 2010-present, Steering Committee, Issues and Advocacy Roundtable, 2009-2010; *Society of Georgia Archivists:* Chair, Outreach Committee, 2010-present, Member, Program Committee, 2011, Chair, Scholarship Committee, 2009, SGA Mentor, 2011-2012.

**Publications:** "Picture Me Rollin': Hip Hop and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection at the Atlanta University Center," *Archival Outlook*, December 2011; "Digitizing the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection," *The Primary Source*, 2010.

Currently, the ACA ensures that archivists are speaking the same language and working under the same best practices. This role will become increasingly important in the future. In a profession that encompasses such a diverse range of subjects, specialties, and people the ACA functions as common ground.

In the future the ACA will take an increasingly important role in the development of archivists. By continually updating the item bank the ACA ensures that the exam remains relevant as the field changes and grows. More and more positions are requiring ACA certification in addition to the standard qualifications. Hiring managers are confident that an applicant is competent when they see the CA designation. Students in library science/archival programs are aware of, and planning for, the certification exam as an important part of their education.

Recertification is an equally important part of the ACA because it ensures that archivists continue to educate themselves on new and emerging theories and practices. It ensures that archivists do not become complacent in their positions. The ACA is an organization that rewards dedication to the field by giving archivists the opportunity to prove that they are knowledgeable and that their skill-set remains current. And in turn the ACA ensures that the archival field is continually refreshed with new research, new theories and new best practices.

**Professional Experience:** Archivist and special collections librarian at the Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum and the Lincoln Memorial University Archives, 2007-present.

**Education:** MILS, University of Arizona; BA in humanities, Ohio State University.

**Professional Activities:**

ACA—member of the Outreach Committee 2010-2012; item writing workshop 2010

SAA -- Lone arranger roundtable: vice chair/chair elect 2010-2015; Accessibility working group member 2009-present

# Slate of Candidates

## Candidates for Nominating Committee Member

### Rosemary Pleva Flynn, CA

There will always be a role for ACA and the certified archivists who are the Academy's

members. Each of us is unique in our paths to becoming certified archivists. But, the one thing that ties us together was a desire to become certified in our chosen profession. Our individual reasons for pursuing certification or recertification are many – we may have been trying to get a job, to advance in a job, or to just prove we could do it. Regardless of the reason, as a result we have become today's and tomorrow's leaders and role models. The future bodes well for the archival profession.

**Professional Experience:** Librarian and Manager, Library and Information Services, Energy &

Environmental Research Center (EERC), University of North Dakota (UND), 2003–present.

Librarian, EERC, UND, 2002–2003. Electronic Records Project Archivist, Electronic Records Project, Phase II, Indiana University, 2000–2002.

**Education:** M.L.S. from Indiana University, 2000. M.A. in Social Sciences and B.S. in History with a minor in American Studies, Ball State University, 1995, 1993. AIIM Certifications – EMMp, 2011; IOAs, 2010; ECMp, 2009; IOAp, 2008.

**Professional Activities:** Academy of Certified Archivists, Member, 2006 – present. Archives



### Helen Wong Smith, CA

ACA's current role is to function as the principal authority to establish the standards for the fundamental competencies with the

archival profession. Its complementary role in defining and advancing theories and issues in matriculate and continuing education is a critical facet I believe should be increased through collaboration and outreach. Collaborate actions include increased guidance to SAA Continued Educational offerings and input to their Guidelines for Graduate Program in Archival Studies. An effective outreach action is to be recognized by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. Recognition by the Institute would strengthen our efforts in education employers and the public of the rigors certification requires and which would be demanded of our profession.

**Professional Experience:** Archivist, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, 2010-Present; Librarian Hawaiian Collection & Archivist, University of Hawai'i Hilo, 2007-2010; Historical/Cultural Specialist, Land Assets Division, Kamehameha Schools, 2004-2007; Librarian, Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i, 2001-2004; Assistant Librarian, Gemini North Observatory, 1999-2001; Archivist, Hawai'i Medical Library, 1996-2000; Archives Consultant: Bank of Hawai'i, Kamehameha Schools; Pacific Tsunami Museum; Lyman Memorial House Museum.

**Education:** MLIS with emphasis in Archival Management, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 1991; BA, Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 1986.



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# Slate of Candidates

## Candidates for Nominating Committee Member *(continued from page 11)*

Leadership Institute, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2008. Society of American Archivists (SAA), Member, 1999 – present (District 8 Representative, Membership Committee, 2012–2015; Standard Committee, 2011–2014; Key Contact, 2008–2012; Taskforce on Sections and Roundtables, 2006; Steering Committee, Electronic Records Section, SAA, 2004 – present; Chair, Electronic Records Section, SAA, 2003 – 2004; Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Electronic Records Section, SAA, 2002 – 2003; Moderator, ERECS-L Listserv, 2002–2010.), and the Midwest Archives Conference, 2001 – present (Member, Program Committee, 2010; Co-Chair, Fall Symposium, 2010). Also a member of AIIM, American Library Association, ARMA International (Project Leader, Web Site Records Management Working Group, 2008–2009; Member, ARMA Glossary Revision Taskforce, 2004 – 2007), Special Libraries Association, North Dakota Library Association, and Mountain Plains Library Association. Ms. Flynn has presented papers and moderated programs at several conferences and is a SAA continuing education workshop instructor.

**Professional Activities:** *Academy of Certified Archivists*, 2001-2016; *Society of American Archivists*, 2000-Present; Committee on Education, 2008-2010; Nominating Committee, 2008-2009; Delegate, U.S. Delegation to China, 2008; *Institute of Museum and Library Services*, Reviewer, Native Hawaiian Library Services Grant, 2010, 2011; Reviewer, American Heritage Preservation Grant, 2008, 2009; *Association of Hawai'i Archivists*, President, 2000-2001, 2007-2008; Director, 1996-1999; Treasurer, 2004-2005; *Hawai'i Library Association*, President, 1997-1998.

**Academic/Professional Honors:** Agnes C. Conrad Award, *Association of Hawai'i Archivists*, 2009; Mary Edward Professional Award, *University of Hawai'i Library Alumnus*, 1994; *Beta Phi Mu*, Chapter, XI, 1991.

**Selected Presentations and Publications:** *Digital Hawaiian Resources: Disseminating Hawai'i-based Primary & Compiled Resources*, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, 2010; *Preserving Hawai'i's Many Cultures through Five Governments*, SAA Austin, 2009; *Identifying & Accessing the lesser known Archival Collections in Hawai'i*, Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Kamuela, 2008; *Outreach to those less served*, SAA, Chicago, 2007; "X Marks the Spot: Archiving GIS Databases", Washington D.C., 2006; *Kamehameha Schools' Land Legacy Database: a new cultural dissemination tool*, World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education, Hamilton, New Zealand, 2005; *Kona in History: a guide to resources*, published by the History & Humanities Program of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in cooperation with the Kona Historical Society, 1994.





## There Are Some Advantages to Aging

By G. Mark Walsh CA, CRM

*G. Mark Walsh, CA, CRM lives in Norfolk, Virginia with his Connecticut Yankee wife, Adele, and their four cats. He has lived and worked in Manitoba, Ontario, Maryland and Virginia working in archival and records management positions. Mark is a recipient of both the Alexander Fraser and James J. Talman Awards from the Archives Association of Ontario and a member of the founding class (1989) of the Academy of Certified Archivists.*



Photograph courtesy of Mark Walsh

There was a time when, back in Canada with a former partner who was a museum curator, it made me nervous when she eyed the bald spot at the back of my head. I had visions of her reaching for a bottle of India Ink and choosing that location for my accession number in her collection.... Suffice it to say that I left her “collection,” married a Connecticut Yankee and moved south. The bald spot is a whole lot larger, and is not limited to the back of my head (I am fond of saying that my forehead is growing) but I also believe that there is a correlation between the amount of knowledge a male brain can maintain and the ability of the scalp above that brain to keep hair follicles healthy.

Enough about being folliclely-challenged. As a member of the founding class (1989) of the Academy of Certified Archivists, I have had nearly twenty-three years to watch my colleagues, to keep track of what goes on in the profession, and to know who has done what. This background on the Academy and its members is something I have a fierce attachment to, for the focus of my career has shifted to records and information management. My first love continues to be archives, and that will remain regardless of the state of my forehead.

It takes a little more effort when you are already

down 20 points a cycle by virtue of employment responsibilities to achieve re-certification by petition. It requires staying active and looking for opportunities to serve our profession that will be reflected in different areas. Three of these areas that allow me to use the background gained in a career spanning more than three decades are being a mentor under the Society of American Archivists, participating on an ACA re-certification team, and ensuring that worthy colleagues are recognized by available awards.

In this last category it was my pleasure to be a co-nominator for Jane Nokes’ Distinguished Service Award in 2010. I could do that because I knew about the environment in Canada under which she had labored as a CA and better than many knew the cost of her devotion to the ACA (not to be confused with the Association of Canadian Archivists – Jane and I have been involved with two ACAs in our careers).

Then there is the business of archives/record management crossovers. It is my lot to constantly preach the message that you are not managing all of your information if you ignore historical records. I am often seen standing on a soap box encouraging organizations to maintain their archives in order to be able to tell their story with their own voice. As one who could have told IT types about Y2K long before it became a concern (seems to me that back in the ‘80s archivists alone used more than two entries in a year field when indexing), I remember well the growth of archives subject heading projects for indexing needs and think a similar approach is needed in records management for email, Sharepoint, and many other electronic records (see “Haunted by Subject Headings: Building Taxonomies Collaboratively with Archivists and Records Managers” *Archival Outlook* [Society of American Archivists], May/June 2011, p. 7.).

Yet I know that the effort required to keep archives and archivists front and center is needed now more than ever. Battles over NHPRC funding still rage. We are in the middle of two very

important anniversaries – the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War – a time that should demonstrate the value of authentic primary source documents more than a group’s Facebook page.

So what then are the advantages of aging, in terms of being a Certified Archivist? It is the sure knowledge that as an Academy and profession we have a tremendous depth of experience, both in our own affairs and those that affect us. It is watching the growth of graduate level education programs across the continent that reflect what we already knew – that archives (and therefore being an archivist) is a significant discipline that requires its own body of knowledge...and that we continue to act for, in the world of Canada’s one-time Dominion Archivist Arthur Doughty, “hands that have vanished and lips that are sealed.” It is knowing that what we do changes lives, protects democracy, and preserves rights and responsibilities...and along the way you get to see some pretty neat stuff. Some of the neatest “stuff” involves new members of the Academy, and returning younger members seeking re-certification who have done wonderful things. That alone is worth the larger forehead.



### Founding Member of ACA Appointed by President Obama to Commission

President Obama has appointed Karen Jefferson, an archivist and records manager at the Atlanta University Center (AUC) [Robert W. Woodruff Library](#), to the [National Historical Publications and Records Commission](#) (NHPRC). Jefferson was nominated last February, and her official membership extends until February 2016. She joins 14 other appointees to the NHPRC.

“Being appointed by President Obama is a special honor. I’m pleased to be recognized as a leader in the archival profession and to assist the Commission with its work in support of archives and preservation,” said Jefferson. “It’s a privilege to represent the expertise found in the staff at the AUC Woodruff Library and the AUC institutions.”

The NHPRC is affiliated with the [National Archives and Records Administration](#) and serves as its grant making

### Rewards of Certification

*(Continued from page 3)*

about projects they had worked on and current archives issues. Everyday questions in my job such as "How should we handle this acetate film?" and "How do we handle the acid transfer that's happened on this item?" were easy to answer without having to look them up. As a result of preparing for the exam, I was more confident in my abilities as an archivist and had a renewed excitement in what I was doing.

Overall, I think my experience in preparing for the C.A. exam was incredibly beneficial and far more rewarding than I ever thought it would be. It gave me the opportunity to go back and review things I learned in graduate school and also learn new things that benefit me every day in my job. Had I not taken the exam, I know I would still be far behind in keeping up with current archival practices and issues. From preparing for the exam, I developed the good habit of reading new journal issues and literature as it comes out and plan to continue this practice. It is nice to now have that C.A. behind my name and proudly share that I passed the exam on my first try with less than three months of study time. However, it's far more rewarding to have a stronger understanding of the archives field and as a result, be of greater service to my job, my colleagues, and the communities I work with.



Photograph courtesy of Morehouse School of Medicine

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# Editor's Endpaper

## *Atlanta Archivist Continued from Page 14*

arm. Established in 1934, NHRPC supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States.

“Karen Jefferson’s appointment to the NHRPC is an outstanding recognition of her professional achievements,” said Loretta Parham, library director and CEO of the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library. “The work of the NHRPC is important to all of us because of its mission of preserving history. I’m pleased Karen has been selected to contribute.”

Jefferson has worked at the AUC Woodruff Library for 13 years of her more than 35 years of experience as an archivist. She previously worked at Howard University, Duke University, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is an active member and Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and a founding member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. She received a B.A. in History from Howard University and an M.S. in Library Science from Clark Atlanta University.

For the White House press announcement of Jefferson’s nomination, see [www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/10/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/10/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts).



## Don't Forget!

**Applications to recertify by exam are due May 15, 2012.**

**Recertification petitions are due June 1, 2012.**

Information on certification maintenance, including links to all the forms and templates is available here: <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/members-area/certification-maintenance.html>

Direct any questions about recertification to Kristy Sorensen, Regent for Certification Maintenance: [ksorensen@austinseminary.edu](mailto:ksorensen@austinseminary.edu).

## Be A Mentor, Win a Year of Dues!

Don't forget to submit an application to a formal mentoring program by August 1<sup>st</sup> to be entered in a drawing to win a dues waiver for a year of ACA membership! Visit the Society of American Archivists website or contact your regional archives group to find out about programs in your area. After you apply, you must e-mail Brenda Gunn at [brenda.gunn@utexas.edu](mailto:brenda.gunn@utexas.edu) to enter the drawing.

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

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