



ACA News

The Newsletter of the Academy of Certified Archivists Issue 86 Fall 2014

President's Message

Daphne O. DeLeon, CA
Nevada State Library & Archives
Carson City, NV 89701



First off let me thank all of you for providing me with the opportunity to serve the Academy as president during its 25th Silver Anniversary Year!

I am honored and hope to make ACA a more visible and recognized participant in the archival profession.

The 2014 August Annual Business Meeting was a great kick-off to the year. The meeting was particularly well-attended and several past-presidents were in attendance. Congratulations to Greg Hunter, CA, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, and Mike Bullington, CA, recipient of the Regent's Award for Special Service. The panel discussion presented attendees with an historical look at the creation of the Academy and a snapshot of its current status. I was privileged to present my goals for this year as a view of the Academy's future. I see an Academy that continues to evolve to better meet the needs of its members and the archival profession, is recognized for the value it brings and whose members continue to impact the profession through their service.

The Regents are working to make the Academy a more efficient and user-friendly institution for all members. Each Regent will provide more detailed descriptions of what they are working on in this and future newsletters.

Now perhaps to the more exciting news – How do we plan to celebrate our 25th Silver Anniversary and how can members participate and benefit.

In this Issue

President's Message	1
From the Regent for Certification Maintenance.....	3
From the Regent for Examination Administration.....	4
Academy Profile.....	5
A Tale of Two Cities: The Current Status of ACA.....	6
Awards.....	7

ACA News is published four times a year by the
Academy of Certified Archivists
1450 Western Avenue, Suite 101
Albany, NY 12203
Phone: (518) 694-8471
Fax: (518) 463-8656
www.certifiedarchivists.org

(continued on following page)

President's Message

(continued from previous page)

International Travel Assistance Award

<http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/members-area/international-travel-assistance-scholarship/>

Launched earlier this year by Margery Sly, CA, Immediate Past-President, the International Travel Assistance Award provides a \$1,000 travel stipend for members that submit and have accepted a paper for an International Council on Archives (ICA) or ICA-sponsored meeting that promotes the merits of certification.

25x25 Initiative

In honor of our 25th Silver Anniversary I am challenging all members to express the impact the Academy has had on their careers in 25 words or less. I have been a member since 1998 and when I thought back to all of the opportunities to create professional networks, get trained and be promoted an avalanche of words came to mind. The hard part will be limiting myself to 25 words!



Online Tools

Don't forget to visit the ACA facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/ACAarchivists>. 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?stPopular=&gid=1799847>

facebook

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

www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/officers.html

ACA Officers

President (2014-15)	Daphne O. DeLeon, CA Nevada State Library & Archives Carson City, Nevada
Vice President/ President-Elect (2014-15)	Mott R. Linn, DA, CA Dedham, Massachusetts
Treasurer (2014-16)	Todd Welch, CA Cline Library Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, Arizona
Secretary (2013-2015)	Wesley Chenault, CA Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond, Virginia
Regent for Examination Administration (2013-2015)	Marcus Robyns, CA Northern Michigan University Marquette, Michigan
Regent for Examination Development (2014-16)	Tomaro I. Taylor, CA FMHI Research Library USF Libraries Tampa, Florida
Regent for Certification Maintenance (2013-15)	Pamela Nye, CA The Westminster Schools Atlanta, Georgia
Regent for Outreach (2014-16)	Elizabeth Scott, CA Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Immediate Past President & Re- gent for Nominations (2014-15)	Margery N. Sly, CA Special Collections Research Center Temple University Libraries Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Chair, Nominating Committee (2014-15)	Christine de Catanzaro, CA Georgia Tech Archives Atlanta, Georgia

From the Regent for Certification Maintenance

Pamela Nye, CA
The Westminster Schools
Atlanta, GA



There will be lots of changes coming your way next year! I look forward to helping make the recertification process less confusing. We asked for your input about the recertification process in a summer survey (June – July 2014), and received 74 responses. We received a great variety of feedback as well as common themes and concerns, which will help inform us moving forward.

SHORT TERM

Some of the changes we will be implementing in the short-term, and some will be long-term. Two of the immediate implementations are to 1) create a list of frequently asked questions regarding credits and activities and 2) redesign the petition application.

FAQ on Credits

I often receive similar questions regarding certain activities and how many credits they are worth. Of all the ways to parlay that information to the widest possible audience, the favorite of the respondents was a simple list of activities and credits. This will appear on the ACA Recertification section.

Redesign of petition

One of the immediate changes will be a new look and/or format to the petition. It will be online only for the 2015 petition period (January – May 2015). We only had a handful of paper applications this past year, which require additional tracking than those that come through the online system. Unfortunately, one of the most requested features is one we don't yet have with this system—the ability to save the work online for later. At this time, we haven't found a better system for the online form, and it does everything else we need it

to do other than that one feature. We will continue to request the feature from the creator as well as investigate other online form systems.

LONG TERM

In the long term, two of the most mentioned concerns were 1) the equitability of distribution of credits, and 2) a way to keep up with credits between certification periods.

Recertification Petition Review Committee: This fall, we will pull together a committee of seasoned archivists to review the distribution of recertification credits. We heard from many of you asking why certain activities were allotted a number of points, and felt it was time for an overall review to ensure that the distribution of credits was equitable. They will meet this fall and report to the Board in February 2015. The petition credits, if approved, would be applicable to the 2016 recertification year.

Tracking of Credits by ACA: 63% of respondents to the summer survey would not want to pay higher dues to change the way we currently record and track recertification credits and in further automating the recertification process. This question came about since ICRM has a system where the member can submit credit requests at the time a workshop or class has been taken. However, tracking at this level by ACA would require a more substantial financial investment. We can certainly, though, provide a spreadsheet and/or word document to help the petitioner keep up with conferences, workshops attended, and so on, so that when the time comes for recertification, it should be a relatively straightforward process.

If, at any time, you have a suggestion, comment, or concern about the recertification process, please let me know at pamelanye@westminster.net. Thank you!



From the Regent for Examination Administration

Marcus Robyns, CA
Northern Michigan
University
Marquette, MI



Marcus Robyns with Sara Kiszka, NMU's new records analyst and future certified archivist

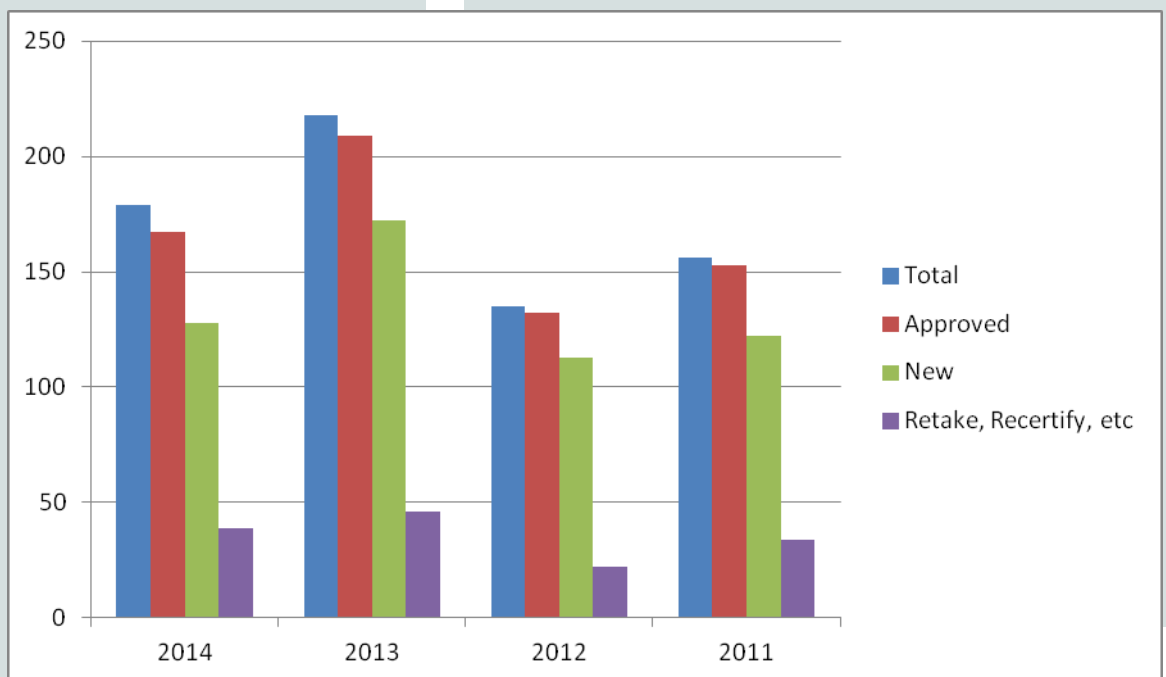
The Academy experienced another successful examination cycle this year! Unfortunately, we suffered an 18% decline in the total number of applications (179) from last year. However, as the chart below indicates, last year appears to have been an anomaly. Between February and August, I responded to 95 email queries about the exam. Most questions requested clarification of the eligibility requirements, particularly supporting documentation. Fortunately, only 4 applicants had difficulty with the Wufoo online application form, and only 5 individuals (3 %) mailed in paper applications. We had 81 applicants take the exam at our pre-determined sites (Washington, D.C., Madison, Phoenix, Tuscaloosa, and Albany, NY) and 85 at the "Pick Your Sites (Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Dayton, Huston, NYC, Philadelphia, Salem (Oregon), San Francisco, and St. Louis).

The application review process was long, complicated, and arduous – not to mention a real eye opener and

quite a learning experience. I would like to thank Laura McLemore (Past President) and Daphne DeLeon (President) for their excellent work on the Applications Review Committee. I would especially like to thank Steve Grandin, ACA Secretariat, for always being there like an anchor and enduring my seemingly endless and silly (often redundant) questions. Steve's a real trooper.

I am planning to accomplish the following goals between now and the mid-year Board meeting in February:

1. Propose minor additions and/or revisions to the Handbook. These are language changes designed clarify some of the application requirements;
2. Revise the online application form. Some parts of the online application were confusing and unnecessary. I am hoping to streamline the application;
3. Create an online tracking form acces-



(continued on page 9)

Academy Profile: David Sharron, C.A.
Archives and Special Collections, Brock University Library
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
By Ruth E. Bryan, C.A.



David Sharron, CA

David Sharron, CA, got hooked on archives from both the research and staff perspectives as an undergraduate co-op student majoring in history at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario. He spent a lot of time in the University of Waterloo Special Collections conducting research

for his fourth year research paper. He also spent two work terms as an assistant for land claim negotiators in the federal government's Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Part of his job included travelling to various record centres, picking up research material for his supervisors. He became friendly with the record centre archivists, and one of them asked what he planned to do with his history degree. David said that he wanted to be a teacher. The archivist replied, "Why would you want to be a teacher when you can be an archivist?"

David took the certification exam early in his career, just one year into his first archival position, which was in Houston, Texas. He cites several reasons for his decision to certify: He could draw on the support of the local archives group, Archivists of the Houston Area (AHA!). He wanted to take the exam while his graduate work was still fresh. And, he thought that, as a Canadian working in the United States, certification would provide some job security. David states, "I know for a fact that my certification with the ACA was a major contributing factor in me getting my current position...."

David has recertified by petition and was surprised

at how much of his professional work could be counted. "I never think of it when I do conferences, volunteer, or write. But, when you put it all together, it adds up." He was also surprised by the comprehensiveness of the exam:

"You have to know or at least understand a little about everything. I think that this is important for what the ACA wishes to achieve and how we as archivists should be ready for anything. You never know who is going to call you up one day with a question or collection that really challenges you. It is good to be well-rounded and resourceful."

As Head of the Archives and Special Collections at Brock University Library, David has varied responsibilities, including collection development; research services; teaching undergraduate and graduate students; staff training, support, and management; advocating for the library and University's strategic goals; and representing Brock University in the community. David finds working in the academic, post-secondary environment to be the best fit for him:

"I love the thrill of academic pursuit like when a student comes in and finds that one item that solidifies an argument or when our records bring people and groups together for a common purpose. It is wonderful to work in an environment where most understand that archives are an important part of research and study whether they use archives or not."

However, balancing all his duties can be a challenge:

(continued on page 8)

A Tale of Two Cities: The Current Status of ACA



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."
Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

As part of our honoring of our 25th anniversary, I made some remarks at the ACA business meeting in August about the current state of ACA. This article includes some of those comments. In some parts of the country ACA is doing quite well, while that is not the case in other areas. So, for those of you who think that ACA is in great shape, it is probably because of where you are in the country. You should keep in mind that there are many archivists in other parts of the country who still need to be convinced of the critical part that ACA plays in our profession.

West of the Mississippi River there are 30 CAs for every 100 SAA members. In some parts of that region we are even stronger. In the region covered by the Society of Southwest Archivists there are 40 CAs for every 100 SAA members. In Missouri there are 57 CAs and 86 SAA members. Furthermore, during the last two years we have even had as many CAs as SAA members in a state: Idaho. Congratulations to those of you in the "Gem State" because you are a gem to ACA.

Conversely, there are only 15 CAs for every 100 SAA members east of the Mississippi. Worse, in New England there are only 8 for every 100. Moreover, there are no CAs in West Virginia.

The map shows how ACA compares on a state by state basis with SAA. The orange states are our best states; in these we have the highest ratio of ACA/SAA members. The yellow states are the next best, the white ones are about average, then come the green ones, and the black ones are the
(continued on page 8)

Awards

Two awards were presented at the ACA annual meeting in Washington D.C. in August. Greg Hunter, CA was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by Margery Sly, CA.

Mike Bullington, CA was presented with the Regents Award for Special Service. by Laura Lyons McLemore, Ph.D. C.A.

Distinguished Service Award

This year's winner of the Academy of Certified Archivists' Distinguished Service Award is Gregory S. Hunter. As we enter and celebrate our 25th year, it is only fitting that ACA's first President be honored for his service. There was much more to his presidential term than is typical. When he woke up on October 26, 1989, he did not know that night he would be elected President of ACA and that the next morning he would have to start working to create ACA.

In spite of how much work the Interim Board of Certification had accomplished, so much more needed to be done to make ACA a fully functioning organization. During that first year, in addition to typical presidential duties, such as to liaison with other organizations, Hunter, with the assistance of the Organization and Structure Committee, created ACA's bylaws and concluded a contract with SAA for it to do ACA's office work. Moreover, he and the other officers (who were equally busy) discussed and planned the future of the Academy. He also ensured that the Academy filed for 501(c)(3) status and incorporated ACA.

In succeeding years, Greg has served ACA in so many other ways: on the Exam Development Committee in late 1990s, the Task Force on Archival Education in 1999-2000, and the Task Force that reviewed the Role Delineation Statement in 2003. Greg was also ACA's representative for the A*Census project. He has participated in a number of sessions about ACA. For example, he was

Regents Award for Special Service

When we wanted some control over the use of the CA designation, especially given that the term Citizen Archivist was being used and promoted by David Ferriero, the Archivist for the United States, we thought we'd Get Down with Something Good, but the Closest Thing to Home we could get was a service mark for ACA Where Quality Starts Fresh Every [Year].

Did somebody say McDonald's? You Deserve a Break Today, Mike Bullington. We love to see you smile, so we're giving you the Regents' Award for Special Service, and I'm lovin' it.

The Academy of Certified Archivists was granted a Service Mark by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in March, 2013. It is an important step in protecting our brand, and I don't believe we ever would have gotten it without Mike, who devoted an extraordinary amount of his (and his company's) time to navigating the convoluted bureaucracy of U.S. Patents and Trademarks office. It was definitely service above and beyond the call of duty.

Not only did he doggedly get the trademark done, but there are a lot of other little things he's done for ACA over the years that people don't know about, according to Steve Grandin, the ACA Secretariat. These days, he is ACA's contact for the State of Illinois when they send out our annual incorporation bill (it has to be someone in Illinois

(Awards continued on page 9)

Academy Profile *(continued from page 5)*

"Every day is different and one phone call or e-mail can change things quickly. Our priorities are always shifting. The administrative side of the job takes me away from working with the collections more than I would like. I get jealous when the other archivists are working on some cool documents, and I am stuck writing a report."

Brock University Archives and Special Collections holds both rare books and archival material. Primary collecting areas include the life and history of the Niagara region of Canada, Brock University history/university records, and the history of autism in North America. David notes that Brock is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014, so Archives and Special Collections is "quite busy supporting a number of events and projects for this important year."

The focus on collecting archival records on autism is a new initiative. David explains,

"With the rise of instances of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) globally and the increase of awareness in the media and the research community, we see ASD as a collection focus with great potential. Specifically, what we wish to collect are the day-to-day records of those who live with or work with ASD...Our first donor was Temple Grandin, who gave us some of her early writings on autism and animal science. It was amazing."

Another milestone for Archives and Special Collections came in 2013 when the repository achieved a Department of Canadian Heritage Category "A" designation for textual and archival materials, indicating they meet the highest standards for environmental controls, security, and professional procedures.

"This designation gives us more opportunities

to pursue collections that are considered significant cultural property and important to Canada. Two such collections that we have acquired are the records of the Canadian Niagara Power Company, who established the first hydroelectric generating facility on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, and the records of Donald Ziraldo, who is a pioneer in the growth and development of the Canadian wine industry."

As far as recent changes in the archival profession that have had the strongest effect on Archives and Special Collections, David cites the rise of digital records:

"Particularly with our new autism collection, many records that we are seeing are blogs, e-mails, and digital photos. We are working on establishing the best procedures and infrastructure for preserving these records and providing access. It is a steep learning curve that expands beyond this department. There is always something new to learn."

Ruth E. Bryan, C.A., is Director of Archives & University Archivist at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

A Tale of Two Cities *(continued from page 6)*

worst states. Looking at the map in a regional way, ACA is very strong in the South Central and to a lesser extent in the Great Plains and the Mountain states, while being underrepresented in New England and to a lesser extent in the Great Lakes states.

As a result, while ACA has gotten stronger over the years, there is still room for improvement, especially east of the Mississippi. We all need to help ACA become universally seen as what SAA created us to be 25 years ago: the standard for who is qualified to be a professional archivist.

Regent for Exam Administration

(continued from page 4)

sible to the ACA Secretariat and the Application Review Committee. I had a difficult time keeping track of the review process, everyone's comments, and Committee decisions;

4. Develop a Study Guide. A number of applicants requested a study guide, and I believe it's a good idea. I would work with the Regent for Exam Development.

I hope everyone had a nice summer. I did not. The weather in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was terrible – generally cold and rain. Lake Superior experienced 100 % ice cover last winter (which almost never happens), so the water never warmed up enough for swimming. I didn't get to the beach once. Unbelievable! However, I did experience one bright spot: the NMU Archives welcomed Ms. Sara Kiszka, our new records analyst. She comes to us with an MLS from Indiana University (not the University of Indiana, as I am habitually reminded). I am officially no longer a "lone arranger." You can bet that Sara will be taking the ACA exam next year.....



Distinguished Service Award

(continued from page 7)

part of a program to convince archivists to become certified at MAC in 2000 and was part of a session at SAA that discussed ACA's 20th anniversary. And you'll be hearing from him today.

Not only has Greg served ACA in deeply important ways, he also contributes to the profession as well. Clearly he is committed to certification; he also is a Certified Records Manager. He is

a professor at LIU/Post's College of Education, Information, and Technology, encouraging his students to be engaged in the profession. He has served as the editor of the *American Archivist* since 2012, and was named a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 2004.

We are pleased to be joined today by Greg's wife Joanne, as we honor him this year with the Distinguished Service Award.

Regents Award for Special Service

(continued from page 7)

and Mike volunteered).

Former Regent for Outreach, Louis Jones, remembers Mike working on the ACA trademark. "[Mike knew] that the protection of [an organization's] own trademark is key to its existence and growth," Louis recalled, and he acted to insure that for ACA .

And like the generous team-player he is, Mike left something for his successors to do. In his report to this body last year, he explained that the application for the CA trademark designation was abandoned by the Trademark Office. The trademark application process requires an officer of an organization or an attorney file the necessary paperwork. The examiner for the Academy of Certified Archivists mark was willing to work with us to secure the mark when Mike's tenure as president expired during the application process. This was not the case with the CA examiner. Mike offered to assist a future ACA President to secure the trademark.

So, Daphne, on the 25 the anniversary, as we celebrate ACA, real good and still only \$50/year, look for the Golden Arches! and ACA's own "Big Mike" Bullington, recipient of the 2014 Regent's Award for Special Service for securing the Academy of Certified Archivists Service Mark.

Happy Anniversary, ACA!

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the Academy of Certified Archivists, we asked you to share what being a CA means to you in 25 words or less. Here are some of the great responses you posted to our Facebook page:

Trudy Peterson, CA: Being a CA means being credible in incredible places all over the world.

Susan Woodland, CA: Certification means achieving a standard of professionalism recognizable to colleagues and to those outside the profession.

Maria Rita Ferraris, CA: Certification stands for attaining that standard of professionalism in a field of studies so vital in preserving the memories of people and organizations.



We will include more of your comments in upcoming issues. Keep them coming!

Seeking Nominations

The Nominating Committee of ACA is seeking nominations for the following positions for 2015-2016:

- Vice President/President Elect
- Secretary
- Regent for Certification Maintenance
- Regent for Examination Administration
- Nominating Committee Member

Please include the name of the person nominated (self-nominations are welcome), position, current employer, institution and location, and number of years with ACA. Please also include a short statement stating the reasons you believe that this person would be a good candidate.

Please submit your nominations to Nominating Committee Chair, Christine de Catanzaro (decatanzaro@gatech.edu), by December 31, 2014.

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

ACA News
c/o Academy of Certified Archivists
1450 Western Avenue, Suite 101
Albany, NY 12203
aca@caphill.com

or contact the editor directly:

Linda Hocking, CA
Curator of Library & Archives
Litchfield Historical Society
P.O. Box 385
Litchfield, CT 06759
archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org