

# **SALA \* 2014**

## **Assuring Access in Alabama Archives**

**2014 Society of Alabama Archivists (SALA) Conference**  
**November 14, 2014 \* Carmichael Library**  
**University of Montevallo, Montevallo, Alabama**

**8:45-9:30 Registration and Coffee**

**9:30-9:50 Welcome and Presentation of Whiting Award**

**9:50-10 Break**

**10-11 Concurrent sessions 1 and 2**

### **Session 1**

#### **Showing the Story: Using Archival Materials in Public Outreach**

*Howard Robinson, University Archivist and Adjunct History Professor*

*Timothy Vasser, Associate Archivist*

*Dorothy Walker, Access Services Cultural Heritage Manager*

**Alabama State University**

The archival staff of Alabama State University will share their experience in using archival materials in university exhibitions and in collaboration with the National Center for the Study of Civil rights and African American Culture to solicit collections and funds, to inform programs and to interpret campus historic sites.

### **Session 2**

#### **Renovating Facilities and Moving Special Collections: Lessons Learned at UAB**

*Jennifer L. Beck, Library Assistant, UAB Archives*

*Michael A. Flannery, Professor, Associate Director for Historical Collections*

*Tim L. Pennycuff, Associate Professor and University Archivist, UAB Archives*

*Stefanie Rookis, Associate Professor and Curator, Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences*

**University of Alabama at Birmingham**

How do repositories provide access and continue services to patrons during a major renovation or physical move? What happens when special collections staff are suddenly called upon to become space planners, design layout experts, or moving specialists? This session will explore these and numerous other issues learned during real-life renovation and moving experiences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**11-11:15 Break**

## **11:15-12:15 Concurrent sessions 3 and 4**

### **Session 3**

#### **The Gray Audographs Challenge: Restoring and Preserving Antiquated Sound Recordings**

*Tommy Brown, Assistant Archivist*

*Auburn University*

Brown looks at the challenges of the Auburn University restoration of Gray Audograph disks — a mid-twentieth century technology often used for dictation purposes—into WAVs. He addresses the importance of collaboration between university archives, other university departments, and outside vendors, before addressing the issue of preserving digitized sound recordings and whether or not such efforts are sustainable, practical, or cost-effective over the long run.

#### **Build it and Will They Come? Participatory Digital Archives, Hesitant Users, and the Emerging Archival Commons**

*Dallas Hanbury, PhD Candidate in Public History*

*Middle Tennessee State University*

In the mid-2000s, archivists introduced participatory features into digital archives to make them more accessible to patrons, culminating in the idea of the archival commons, a network-crowd sourcing model. Hanbury explains why users underutilized digital archives' participatory features during the mid-'00s, analyzes the recent upswing in patrons' use of such tools, and presents suggestions on how to increase users' use of digital archives' participatory features.

#### **The Community IS the Archives: Post-Custodial Management of Community History Sources**

*Marty Olliff, Director of the Wiregrass Archives and Associate Professor of History*

*Troy University Dothan*

Olliff proposes a plan of “distributed community archives,” to salve community distrust of archival institutions, expose hidden collections, and open collaboration toward providing access to them. He describes how such a plan might work and what responsibilities both the repository and the distributed participants have toward each other and the overall project.

### **Session 4**

#### **Integrating History: A Search-and-Recovery Effort in Alabama Archives**

*Rebekah Davis, Archivist, Limestone County Archives*

*Veronica Henderson, Archivist, Alabama A&M University*

*Susanna Leberman, Archivist, Huntsville-Madison County Public Library*

Modern archivists in Alabama face the challenge that for generations, documentation of African-American history in the South was ignored or even actively discouraged in many communities. Three Alabama archivists will share the perspectives from a county government, a public library and a historically-black university on their efforts to build relationships, discover and develop collections, and ensure access to black history resources.

## **Books in the Archives: An Approach to Boundary-Blurring Items**

*Greg Schmidt, Librarian, Auburn University Libraries Special Collections and Archives*

Personal Manuscript collections often arrive at the archives with a significant proportion of books and other published materials – sometimes a donor’s entire personal library – among the papers. This presentation draws from the experience at Auburn University to ask: To what degree do published materials belong in the archives? What are the issues at hand in appraising these collections? And how should the cataloging of these items reflect their provenance?

## **12:15-1:15 Lunch and Business Meeting**

## **1:15-2:15 Keynote Address**

### **‘Diamonds in the Rough’: A History of Alabama’s Cahaba Coal Field**

*Jim Day, Professor of History*

*University of Montevallo*

## **2:15-2:30 Break**

## **2:30-3:30 Concurrent sessions 5 and 6**

### **Session 5**

#### **Macon County Cooperation: How Tuskegee University’s Archive, the Macon County Archive, and the Shiloh Foundation Collaborated to Preserve County History**

*Wei Beach, Scan Technician, Tuskegee University Archives*

*Katie Crawford, Shiloh Foundation*

*Glenn Drummond – Archivist, Macon County*

*Cheryl Ferguson, Archival Assistant, Tuskegee University*

*Keri Hallford – Tuskegee and Project Archivist for both grants (see above organizer details)*

*Edith Powell, Shiloh Foundation*

With two grants awarded by the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Tuskegee University Archives was able to collaborate with the Macon County Archives to repair, digitize and house historic books; and the Shiloh Foundation to create an archive for one of the first Rosenwald schools in the area. The parties involved will describe how they worked together to complete these projects and add to the collective knowledge of the county history.

### **Session 6**

#### **The Civil Rights Movement in Northwest Alabama**

*Dr. Carolyn Barske, Chair, Department of Public History*

*Casey Mills, MA candidate*

*Jesse Brock, MA candidate*

*University of North Alabama*

#### **Desegregation of Russellville City Schools**

### *Casey Mills*

Mills examines how Russellville City Schools, the traditional white school system, and Reedtown School, the traditional black school, were integrated. Using newspapers from the time period, scholarly journals, records on the history of Russellville and Reedtown schools, and interviews, Mills delves into the local and state psyche and gather a glimpse into what mental and legal steps had to be made to integrate a school system in the mid-to-late 1960s.

### **“Not For Me, But For US”: Bob Carl Bailey and Civil Rights in the Shoals**

#### *Jesse Brock*

Brock examines how Bob Carl Bailey broke new ground for blacks in the Shoals community in a quiet way, pushing for economic development of the black community through acting as a role model and stressing education. He shares the stories and recollections from those in the community that remember Bailey and the influence he had in advancing civil rights in Northwest Alabama.

### **3:45 Montevallo Campus Ghost Tour**