

SNCA Mentoring Program

Russell Koonts, President's Message

Mentors. Where would we be without them? Recently, the Education Committee distributed questionnaires asking if you would be interested in participating in a mentoring program. I, personally, can see no better utilization of the vast amount of knowledge and skills possessed by the membership of SNCA. This issue of *The North Carolina Archivist* concentrates on programs within our membership where future archivists can hone their skills for future employment in our great profession. As I reflect upon my education and internship, I feel that one of the most important aspects of my early career was the friendship, guidance, and information sharing provided by two who took an interest in my professional growth.

When I was an undergraduate at NC State, I floundered as to what I wanted to do with my degree. While writing a paper for a history seminar, I ventured into this strange, previously unknown place called an archives. There I met Maurice Toler, University Archivist at NC State. "Wow," I thought to myself, "What a great job to have, and I can actually utilize my history degree! Someday I want to be a university archivist." So, I set my sights on becoming an **archivist**. Since Maurice did not have any money to hire students, he suggested that I go down to the State Archives.



I started working part-time at the State Archives in September, 1988. Eventually I began working full-time as I waited to report to boot camp at Fort Dix (but that is another story). Shortly after I began working at the archives, two individuals took an interest in my work, took time to talk with me, shared stories of their careers in the archives, and passed along information to help me progress in my career.

What meant the most to me, and still does to this day, was that people of this stature, who had reached this level in the profession, took an interest in me and my career. They offered advice on course work, on readings, and on ways to approach work. I learned a great deal and established friendships upon which I have been able to call many times in the past ten years.

As we look around the state and notice the abundance of educational

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The North Carolina Archivist is the newsletter for the Society of North Carolina Archivists. Members are encouraged to contribute by submitting articles, book reviews, and information on recent job changes, professional development, acquisitions, exhibits, workshops, projects, and publications. The newsletter is published quarterly, and this issue was designed using Microsoft Publisher 98.

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Program Profile: Public History Program at NCSU

Jud Browning and Jason Tomberlin

The Public History program at North Carolina State University has been one of progress and change. Initially, the program's courses centered around archival training, and indeed the paper records curriculum is still the strongest part of the program, but over time a greater variety of courses have been instituted into the program. The Public History program continues to expand its course offerings to provide greater flexibility and attractiveness to prospective students. The program currently possesses a strong archival foundation and includes several courses in museology, conservation, and preservation.

In 1966, state archivist H.G. Jones taught the first Archives Administration class at N.C. State. With a course structure similar to the current archives management class, the fall semester consisted of lectures concerning the theory and management of archives and the spring semester involved the practical experience of processing a collection. Jones continued to teach the class until the 1972-1973 academic year when Fred Coker became the course's instructor.

In 1973, Dr. Thornton Mitchell assumed the teaching duties. During the mid-1970s several members of the NCSU History faculty and the Division of Archives and History (DAH) staff sought to expand the History Department to include a greater emphasis on archival training. In 1974, the History Department sent a proposal to the DAH to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. According to Dr. Mitchell, "Dr. Burton Beers [professor of history at NCSU] was the main person behind this." The proposal recommended the creation of more applied history classes. The proposed courses would draw from the experience and expertise already existing in the DAH. The archival management offerings, however, continued to be the strongest area.

The 1980s brought about greater and more signifi-

cant change to the program. The History Department sought to create a new master's degree program in applied history. Betty Wheeler, then head of the History Department, pushed for a new faculty slot to head the new degree program. After a nationwide search, the department chose Dr. John David Smith to lead the Public History program.



Dr. Smith was thirty-two when he joined the NCSU faculty in the fall of 1982. Smith combined a broad range of practical public history experience with a strong academic focus. He had worked for a historical society and a museum, dealt with manuscript collections, taught classes

at the University of South Carolina as an adjunct professor, and published a number of books and articles.

When the program first began, NCSU encountered difficulty getting approval for a master's program in applied history. The University of North Carolina General Administration, believing that NCSU was more of a "technical" school, frowned upon the generic title of "Applied History." The administration and NCSU compromised on an Archival Management master's degree, thereby focusing on the strength of the State Archives. The program became a profound success. Based on this success, as well as the students' demands for a wider range of courses, NCSU finally received permission to expand the Archival Management degree to Public History in 1993.

Dr. Smith, who is currently teaching abroad at the Amerika-Institut in Munich, Germany, on a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship, has seen the program progress rapidly over the years. Smith explains, "We've done a lot with few resources, thanks largely to help from the Division of Cultural Resources" who have always ameliorated any difficulties and implemented course designs with alac-

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Program Profile continued

city. Though the director of the program is pleased with the success of the current curriculum, he still envisions future improvements. Smith cites the hiring of Dr. David Zonderman, a professor of museological studies and labor history, as a "major step forward" in the future goal of the program which is "to establish the quality and quantity of courses in museum studies that will make these offerings as strong as our paper records training program."

David Olson, North Carolina's State Archivist since Dr. Thornton Mitchell's retirement in 1981, sees the inherent advantage that comes from merging archival training into the history program. Olson states, "I've always been an advocate that archives should be taught in a history focus, and not a library one. This has been one of the overall strengths of N.C. State's program." Olson is also quick to point out that having members of the DAH, especially the State Archives, involved in the instructional process is dually beneficial. "Teaching here makes DAH better administrators back at work, and does a better job of keeping us up in the field," professes Olson, who should know, as he has taught the Archival Theory and Management class for the last 17 years. "It [the

program] provides a good symbiosis both ways."

Both Smith and Olson are comfortable with the progress of the program that has grown substantially since the early 1980s. Olson states that he would "stack our placement rate against any other program in the country." Smith takes pride in the number of graduates who have gained employment in many challenging positions requiring a great deal of responsibility. One such graduate is Paul Kiel, Interim Head of Special Collections at the NCSU Libraries, and also Treasurer of the Society of North Carolina Archivists. Kiel, a 1994 graduate of the program, characterizes the effectiveness of the program when he states, "One of the strengths of the program is its practical focus, combining teaching faculty with adjunct faculty who are working in the field. This effectively combines theoretical approaches with reality." Doubtless many other graduates who have found their graduate training to be useful to their careers would agree with this assessment of the program.

The authors wish to thank Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Smith, and Mr. Olson for their assistance with this article.



President's Message continued

programs that offer some sort of degree in archival management, we should ask ourselves what we can do to assist the students. As we hire students for our internships, we should establish lasting relationships that provide mutual benefit for both parties long after they complete their 150 hours/project. Furthermore, we should not limit our mentoring program to currently enrolled students. What about the new graduates who no longer have the professor to rely upon? How about the employees that are new to the state? Would they not benefit from the assistance of a professional already established in the state?

If you have received your questionnaire and not had a chance to return it to the Education Commit-

tee, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and inputs. It will be greatly appreciated. If you have not received a questionnaire, contact Jan Blodgett and she can make sure that one is mailed to you.

As we begin to establish the SNCA mentoring program, take a moment to reflect back on your career. Was there someone there who helped you along the way? Well, this is a way to repay them, to say thanks. I know I will wholeheartedly participate. Maybe someday, someone can look back and say, "I made it to where I am today because of Russell Koots." That will be the way that I say my thank yous to Thornton W. Mitchell and C. Edward Morris.

Internships Offer Opportunities

The word intern often brings to mind images of poorly paid students performing menial duties that regular staff members usually avoid.

Despite these unpleasant ideas, internships can provide students with valuable work experience and a chance to practice the theories learned in classrooms. Students also can form contacts in the profession.

Many graduate programs require students to utilize internships as part of their degree requirements. With this list of benefits, students should be happy to note the wonderful opportunities available here in NC.



The benefits of internships also extend to the host institution. Speaking of the Duke University Archives' experience with interns, Tom Harkins commented that interns have been valuable for his institution. They made the staff look more closely at some procedures. In consequence, they started writing a processing handbook, and they standardized more practices. In addition, having to choose collections for the interns to work on made the staff evaluate their processing priorities.

As part of the *North Carolina Archivist* focus on graduate archival programs around the state, two internships offered by SNCA member institutions are worth highlighting. The *North Carolina Archivist* and the SNCA web page provide useful vehicles for advertising internships. So, don't hesitate to utilize SNCA resources to promote your programs and find quality interns.

Archives Internship
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Department of History (Montreat)
Montreat, NC

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Department of History (Montreat) is a regional archives, library, and museum. The Department's headquarters is located in Philadelphia, PA. The Montreat office collects and makes accessible records pertaining to

Presbyterianism in the South, and it serves as the official repository for the archives of the former Presbyterian Church in the United States.

The Archives Internship is a four month position supervised by the Processing Archivist under the direction of the Deputy Director. Responsibilities focus primarily on the processing and rehousing of manuscript and archival collections. Some conservation work may be undertaken as time permits.

To be considered for the internship, a candidate must have a B.A. in History. Master's level training in archival theory and practice is preferred. Experience in archival processing also is preferred.

For more information on this internship program, contact Michelle A. Francis, Deputy Director, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Department of History (Montreat), P.O. Box 849, Montreat, NC 28757.

Drill Internship
Duke University Archives
Duke University
Durham, NC

Although the Duke University Archives had used money from the Isobel Craven Drill Endowment for the Archives to hire Duke students prior to 1997, the formal internship really began in 1996 when the archives staff decided to broaden their search. They sought to set up the position for a person who was in a graduate archives program or who had had some significant processing experience. Hoping that the local graduate programs at NCSU, NC Central and UNC-CH would provide a pool of qualified candidates, the staff thought the internship would give students valuable work experience in an institutional archives.

The internship nominally extends over 200 hours of work, usually 20 hours a week for a ten week period between mid-May and mid-August.

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***Internships* continued**

The successful candidate will either possess significant processing experience, or be enrolled in a graduate history or archival studies program with a minimum of nine credit hours completed. Candidates also must possess familiarity with research in primary sources, strong written communication skills, reliability, attention to detail, ability to lift

boxes and climb ladders, and respect for privacy and confidentiality.

The internship is advertised on the SNCA web site and through announcements to professors in the local graduate history and public history programs. For more information on the internship, contact

Do you have a person, project, or institution you would like featured in a future newsletter? Contact the editor at skoonts@ncsl.dcr.state.nc.us

Student SAA Chapters Active in NC

Sarah Koonts and Jason Tomberlin

The North Carolina State University student chapter of the Society of American Archivists was organized in May 1994. It was one of the first 10 chapters chartered by the SAA. Membership in the chapter is open to all students currently enrolled at NCSU with an interest in archives, public history, museums, or other related fields. Currently, the chapter has 13 members with Dr. John David Smith serving as the faculty advisor. The chapter strives to introduce interested students to the world of archival management. To accomplish this goal the chapter sponsors discussions with professionals in the public history field. In the September meeting, Russell Koonts and Paul Kiel of the NCSU Special Collections Department discussed trends and career opportunities in archives. For the November meeting, a lunch discussion was held with a recent graduate of the Public History program, John Ansley. In addition to these discussions, the student chapter meets at various restaurants for a weekly social hour. This is an important time to form friendships and bonds that will

carry over into professional careers. A field trip to visit a repository of local or national interest also is planned. For more information on the SAA student chapter at NC State please visit our web-site at www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/chass/history/ncsusaa.html.

The School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill also has an active student chapter of the Society of American Archivists. The mission of the chapter is similar to that of the NCSU chapter, to provide a beneficial forum for graduate students interested in the preservation of historical records. The chapter also was created to promote hands-on experiences, such as internships, field trips, and group meetings to enhance members' understanding of the archival profession. This is accomplished through monthly meetings. For more information on this student chapter of the SAA, please visit their web site at <http://ruby.ils.unc.edu/saa>.

The Society of North Carolina Archivists is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a common concern in the preservation and use of archival and manuscript materials. The purpose of the society is to promote cooperation and exchange of information among individuals and institutions interested in the preservation of the archival and manuscript resources in North Carolina; To share information on archival methodology and the availability of research materials; To provide a forum for discussion of matters of common concern as they pertain to the archival profession in North Carolina; and to cooperate with professionals in related disciplines. Dues are \$15.00 per year, students \$7.50.

Book Review

Ed Southern

William E. King. *If Gargoyles Could Talk: Sketches of Duke University*. Durham, NC, Carolina Academic Press, 1997. Pp 192. \$22.50

(The author of this review is a graduate of Duke University and was Assistant University Archivist at Duke University from 1980 to 1986.)

Those who have worked at collegiate or university archives know the difficulty of what is known as “outreach”. Despite intensive and persistent efforts by programs of long standing, the archivist still hears those near-despair-inducing words, even from senior students and older faculty members, “Oh, I didn’t know there was an archives...”. Besides being a substantial contribution to the institution’s history, this volume may be seen as the capstone of the efforts by Duke’s University Archivist to increase the visibility of the program and stamp at least some of the imprint of Duke’s long and variegated history upon the institution, its staff, faculty, students, and alumni. His efforts in fact have occurred in a number of areas besides the original occasion of this volume (articles written for a weekly campus newspaper). I recall his constant watching for opportunity to promote Duke’s historical resources, among them a very rich photographic collection, followed by his prodding and urging of administrators and officials, whenever we heard by rumor or announcement of plans for pamphlets, articles, or publicity of any kind. One must be persistent, and I suspect that the difficulty is increased by the mindset now encouraged by electronic media. (In the 1980s at least, it had become difficult to interest student organizations in the preservation of their own history, and I especially noted, for instance, waning interest in keeping minutes of meetings.) The success of the University Archives under King’s guidance in building an archival presence is now evident, not only in this volume, but also in the frequent appearance of photographs (often in Duke’s alumni publications), as well as in a distinguished series of scholarly histories (including a number of student theses and papers) of Duke and its predecessor institutions, based on the rich manuscript sources in the University Archives.

This book is well written, well indexed, profusely illus-

trated, and produced in a large and handsome format.

King is a professional historian (possessing a Duke Ph.D among his three degrees from Duke) and he has brought the historian’s eye and perspective to the University’s history. The book has already proven popular, as attested (perhaps not surprisingly) by sales in the University’s bookstore. Yet this volume has something not only for loyalists. Duke’s history has intersected regional, national, and international history numerous times and King has presented brief narratives about



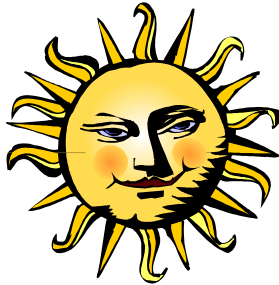
many of these occasions. By example I would note the controversy ignited by Professor John Spencer Bassett and his editorial in an issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly* in 1903 (in an era when race baiting was a routine political tactic in North Carolina), when Bassett’s remarks about Booker T. Washington and Robert E. Lee and his enlightened stance on race relations in general sparked calls for his dismissal. The Trinity College Board of Trustees resisted this campaign and rejected Bassett’s resignation. President Theodore Roosevelt came to speak in Durham in 1904 and, in King’s words, “extoll[ed] Trinity’s courageous stand for academic freedom.” One could easily point to other essays in the volume, such as King’s narrative (one of his best) of the uproar which twice convulsed the Duke campus over the figure of Richard M. Nixon (a Duke Law School graduate of 1937), both in 1954 (when he was, in effect, denied an honorary degree) and in 1981 (when a proposed Nixon presidential library was brought to a halt).

King has provided history both “popular” and “serious”. Is it necessary to point out that such a volume can only come from someone thoroughly grounded both in the historical discipline and in the sources of his own repository? In any case, these essays represent a remarkable achievement for an archivist/historian.

Spring Meeting and Workshop Programs

Tim Pyatt, Chair, Program Committee

The theme for this Spring's meeting of the Society of North Carolina Archivists will be ETHICS AND THE LAW. We will meet at the new Greensboro Public Library on the 16th of April. The morning session will be "Researchers and the Law" with speakers on copyright, public records, and access to private papers. The afternoon session will focus on "Donors and the Law" with experts discussing appraisals and IRS regulations, deeds of gift, collecting ethics, and donor relations.



The Spring workshop will be MANAGING ELECTRONIC RECORDS. William Saffady, Professor at the Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University, will be our workshop leader. He is the author of over 30 books and many articles on information management topics. His latest books include two titles published by ARMA International in 1998, *Cost Analysis Concepts and Methods for Records Management Projects* and *Managing Electronic Records, Second Edition*. A well-known speaker, his professional

development seminars have been attended by more than 10,000 persons since the mid-1970s.

This one-day workshop will address conceptual and operational issues associated with the management of electronic records. It is intended for record managers, archivists, and other information management professionals, who are responsible for the retention, storage, and protection of such records. The discussion will be application-oriented and practical. While the sessions will deal with technical topics, all terms and concepts will be clearly defined. Attendance will be limited to 45 participants, so early registration is recommended (registration forms will be mailed to SNCA members in early March).

The workshop will be held April 15th in the Wilson Library at UNC-CH. We hope you will make plans to attend the workshop in Chapel Hill and

News From Around The State

Employment and Professional Activities:

Robin Brabham, special collections librarian at UNC Charlotte, received a "reassignment of duties" leave for the summer of 1998 in order to research the Protestant Episcopal Church Publishing Association, a Charlotte-based publisher of religious tracts during 1864-1865. He also began work on an article about a broadside used to recruit troops in the Charlotte area for the War of 1812.

Gwen Gosney Erickson was appointed president of the North Carolina Friends Historical Society.

Eileen Heeran was named Assistant Archivist of Biltmore Estate on October 6, 1998.



Donna Kelly attended the annual meeting of the Association for Documentary Editing in St. Louis October 8-10, 1998.

Pat Ryckman, former manager of New Technologies and manager of the Carolina Room at the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Public Library, will join the Special Collections Unit at UNC Charlotte in the newly created position of Reference Archivist on December 1, 1998.

Collection Development and Preservation:

The **UNC-CH Manuscripts Department** recently made available the papers, 1958-1995, of John L. Sanders, former long-time director of UNC-CH's Institute of Government.

We're on the
Web!
[http://www.
RTPnet.org/~snca](http://www.RTPnet.org/~snca)

News continued

The **Special Collections Unit** at **UNC Charlotte** recently acquired the papers of the late Charles McLean, long-time field director of the North Carolina NAACP.

McLean's papers supplement those of Kelly Alexander, Sr., who served as president of the state conference for many years and went on to become chairman of the national NAACP.

The **Olivia Raney Local History Library** in Wake County recently acquired a sixty volume set

of immigration lists, part of the *Germans to America* series. They also acquired four sets of *Family Search*, the LDS sixty CD-ROM series of genealogical records.

Publications:

Gwen Gosney Erickson reviewed *Sojourners No More: The Quakers in the New South, 1865-1920* by Damon Hickey (former Curator of the Friends Historical Collection) in the November, 1998 issue of *Friends Journal*.



Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year



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