News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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News from the Midwest

Assistant Editors: Troy Eller English, Wayne State University, and Alison Stankrauff, Indiana University South Bend. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Troy at au2050@wayne.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Alison at astankra@iusb.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

American College of Surgeons
The American College of Surgeons in Chicago has a new, easy-to-navigate, mobile-friendly archives catalog. Patrons can browse by subject, creator, or collection; search by keyword and resource type; and limit their searches to digital objects only. Check it out at www.facs.org/archivescatalog.

Newberry Library
The Newberry will become the new home of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives Collection, widely regarded as the largest public collection of postcards and related materials in the United States. The 2.5 million postcards feature a range of subjects and genres: rural vistas and urban skylines, tourist attractions and emergent industries, domestic scenes and global conflicts. The collection comes to the Newberry from the Lake County Discovery Museum, where it had been housed since 1982. The original acquisition comprised the industrial archives of the Curt Teich Company itself, with over 360,000 images related to more than 10,000 towns and cities in the United States, Canada, and 115 other countries. The collection was expanded with gifts of over 35,000 postcards known as “Oilettes,” postcards printed by Paul Finkenrath of Berlin, and Route 66 postcards. Public access to the materials themselves will be by appointment only until the collection is fully added to the library’s discovery and access systems; however, users will have uninterrupted access to more than 30,000 digitized postcard views available through the Illinois Digital Archives at www.idaillinois.org.

INDIANA

Calumet Regional Archives at Indiana University Northwest
The Calumet Regional Archives at Indiana University Northwest has uploaded a variety of databases of interest to historians and genealogists to the IU ScholarWorks digital repository. Focusing on Lake County, Indiana, business and government information, the collection contains databases of physicians’, nurses’, and dentists’ licenses/certificates; teachers’ records; old-age assistance certificates; criminal cards; and other local government information. In addition, the collection contains small business partnership certificates, as well as runs of larger companies’ employee personnel cards, such as the Gary Screw and Bolt Company Records. One of the more voluminous holdings comes from the Pullman-Standard Palace Car Company, detailing information on workers at many P-S factories. To locate more information on and to use the databases, please visit scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/19734. The Calumet Regional Archives thanks Scott Sandberg, digital scholarship librarian, and Martha Latko, archives volunteer and genealogist, for creating and uploading these very significant sources of genealogical and historical information and making them accessible worldwide.

Indiana University Bloomington
The team of Alyssa Moskwa and Rick Brewer is currently undertaking a major digitization project at the Student Sports and Recreation Center (SRSC) at Indiana University Bloomington. Specifically, the project consists of digitizing a massive collection of reversal film slides and photographic prints. A wide variety of activities is featured within this pool of images, which includes intramural sports, aquatics, and general fitness. The earliest photos within this collection date back to the late 1970s, early 1980s. The goal is to create a digital library to give employees of the SRSC access to these materials and, perhaps most important, to preserve the memory of this facility, a centerpiece of the campus.

Indiana University South Bend
Over the past few years, the Indiana University South Bend Archives has worked in partnership with the Civil Rights Heritage Center and the St. Joseph County Public Library to digitize local African American, Latino, and LGBTQ history. This year the LGBTQ content was launched, via the local history site Michiana Memory (michianamemory.sjclpl.org), on October 11, which is National Coming Out Day. Further collaborating with the South Bend LGBTQ Center and the IU South Bend Queer Straight Alliance (QSA), all partners hosted an informal event at the LGBTQ Center to share coming out stories in a safe space. Explore the new digitized collection at the web address above.

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Riley Hospital Historic Preservation Committee
Richard L. Schreiner, MD, chairman of the Riley Hospital Historic Preservation Committee (RHPC), was named a Torch Bearer for the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay.

Schreiner, who carried the torch on October 15 in Marion County, was one of only 34 Marion County residents who received invitations to be Torch Bearers. He noted, “Carrying the torch in 2016 also marks the 100-year anniversary of the passing of James Whitcomb Riley and discussions leading to creation of the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children.” More than 2,200 Hoosiers carried the torch on a 3,200-mile route through every Indiana county.

IOWA

Iowa State University
Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) kicked off American Archives Month in October with a lecture by Liz Garst, granddaughter of famous Iowa farmers and citizen diplomats Roswell and Elizabeth Garst. Garst talked about her grandparents and their relationship with Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, focusing on the visit Khrushchev and his family made to the Garst family farm in 1959. SCUA coordinated with the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Humanities Iowa, Silos and Smokestacks, and the University’s Committee on Lectures (funded by Student Government).

SCUA ended the month participating in ISU Homecoming by putting together a pop-up exhibit in its adjacent classroom. Alumni, students, and university staff dropped by to see the treasures on display. In January 2017, SCUA will host an exhibit created by HIS 481X Public History students on ISU’s first married veterans housing, Pammel Court.

Laura Sullivan, collections archivist, and Becky Jordan, reference specialist, talk to students about treasures on display. Photo by Rachel Seale, outreach archivist.

KANSAS

Kansas State University
Marlin Fitzwater, press secretary to both Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, graduated from Kansas State University in 1965. Fitzwater donated his personal papers to the Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections. The Marlin Fitzwater Papers include press briefings, personal correspondence, news clippings, photo albums, and memorabilia from his professional trips to all 50 states and more than 65 foreign countries. An exhibit featuring highlights from the collection opens in fall of 2016. The Marlin Fitzwater Papers will be a fascinating resource for students and researchers interested in public service journalism or 1980s and 1990s political history, especially the Gulf War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. To learn more about Fitzwater’s journey and the collection, visit www.lib.k-state.edu/magazine or contact libsc@k-state.edu.

KENTUCKY

Northern Kentucky University
Special Collections and University Archives at Northern Kentucky University recently hosted the exhibit When Covington, Kentucky, Executed an Innocent Man: The Legal Lynching of John Montjoy. Created by graduate student Katie Bramell, the exhibit explores injustices surrounding the 1937 execution of John Montjoy, an African American, for the rape of a white woman. Bramell discussed her research process for the exhibit at Steely Library’s fall Graduate Student Symposium. The department is also pleased to announce the open-
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Troy Eller English and Alison Stankrauff, Assistant Editors

Continuing two collections focusing on area artists: the Patricia A. Renick Stegowagenvolkssaurus Collection and the Charles J. McLaughlin Family Collection.

MICHIGAN

Capital Area District Libraries
Capital Area District Libraries’ (CADL) head of Community Outreach, James MacLean, received this year’s State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in the Books: Private Printing category for his in-depth look at the life and productivity of a Lansing-based architect. Darius B. Moon: The History of a Michigan Architect, 1880–1910 draws heavily from the rich real estate, biographical, and other collections contained in CADL’s Local History Department. MacLean examined each year of Moon’s documented work, including a profile and vintage or recent photographs of every property he was known to have designed or contracted.

Michigan Technological University
The Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections received a 2016 Historical Society of Michigan State History Award in the Special Programs/Events category for its Black Voices project. University archivist Lindsay Hiltunen, project researcher Martin Hobmeier, and graphic designer Mike Stockwell of Cranking Graphics were presented with the award at the society’s annual State History Conference in Alpena. The Black Voices project illustrated the African American experience in Michigan’s northwestern Upper Peninsula through historical source analysis, community involvement, and exhibits. The Michigan Tech Archives also received a $5,000 Community Dialogues grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, allowing archives staff, the university’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and local student organizations to continue recording oral histories from African American students and alumni for the Black Voices project until April 2017. In addition, the department recently received a new collection of hockey photographs and original, game-worn hockey sweaters from Valerie Zimdars, niece of regional hockey legend Joseph Savini. He won the MacNaughton Cup twice in the 1920s as a star member of the Calumet Hawks and briefly coached the Michigan Tech Huskies from 1935 to 1938.

Valerie Zimdars holds up her uncle Joseph Savini’s hockey sweater from 1910.

Wayne State University
In October, the Walter P. Reuther Library and Archives formally unveiled a newly restored WPA-era mural by renowned Detroit artist Walter Speck. Known by some as Ford Riot, the officially untitled 9-foot-by-20-foot mural was commissioned in 1937 by United Auto Workers (UAW) West Side Local 174 to commemorate pivotal moments in the UAW’s young history. In 2015, Local 174 donated the mural to Wayne State University with the hope that it would be preserved and made available to the public for generations to come. With the generous support of members and retirees from UAW West Side Local 174, the Michigan Labor History Society, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and private individuals, extensive restoration work repaired decades of nicotine stains, wear, and damage, including returning the mural to its original size. The mural is available for public viewing in the Reuther Library’s Reading Room. Visit the Reuther Library website for further information on the mural and the project, as well as a time-lapse video of the three-day installation process at reuther.wayne.edu/node/13600.

The WPA-era Walter Speck untitled mural was commissioned in 1937 for UAW Local 174 and depicts scenes from the union’s history.

MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota Libraries
Archives and Special Collections, University of Minnesota Libraries was
honored for its exhibit, *People on the Move*, with the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The exhibit explored ideas of immigration and race and ethnicity, while celebrating the 50th anniversary of the libraries’ Immigration History Research Center Archives and its partner, Immigration History Research Center, through sharing its own story of creating and developing the archives to support a wide variety of research. The Award of Merit is one of the AASLH Leadership in History Awards and, now in its 71st year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

**University of Minnesota—Social Welfare History Archives and Kautz Family YMCA Archives**

The Social Welfare History Archives and Kautz Family YMCA Archives at the University of Minnesota are hosting three research fellows with assistance from the Clarke Chambers Fellowship. Established in honor of Clarke Chambers, professor emeritus of history and the founder of the Social Welfare History Archives, the fellowships fund travel to the archives for dissertation writers and early career scholars. The first fellowship was awarded in 1992 and, to date, 123 fellows have visited the archives. Research fellowships were awarded this year to Mark Hauser, doctoral candidate, Carnegie Mellon University; Margaret Boren Neu, doctoral candidate, Southern Methodist University; American Indian Child Welfare, Activism and Sovereignty, 1945–1978; and Angelica Stoddard, doctoral candidate, University of Southern California, Defining Worthiness: California Mental Health, from Uneven Investment to Deinstitutionalization, 1941–1981.

**OHIO**

**The Cleveland Museum of Art**

With a startup grant from the VRA Foundation, the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) archives has been digitizing historic images of the museum. Over 10,000 images of the building and its construction, the fine arts garden, exhibitions, events, people, and views of Cleveland, scanned from original glass-plate, nitrate, and acetate negatives, are now available at digitalarchives.clevelandart.org. The site also includes images from manuscript collections including artist John Paul Miller’s views of ghost town Bodie, California; watercolor views of French villages painted by museum benefactor John Bonebrake; and the Mollie Brudno collection of autographed photos of world-renowned musicians, dancers, conductors, and performers who participated in Brudno’s Cleveland Concert Course sponsored by CMA. The site is keyword searchable across or within collections. Images can be downloaded for research and educational use. The site is updated as images are scanned.

**Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board**

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) Achievement Award recognizes significant accomplishments by an Ohio archival institution in preserving and improving access to historical records. OHRAB congratulates the 2016 award winners! The Greene County Records Center and Archives designed state-standard-aligned educational materials and an innovative outreach program which takes primary sources into classrooms to enhance students’ development of research and analysis skills while fostering an appreciation for history at the local level. The project has received high praise from local educators. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archives successfully executed several grant projects for processing and programming, including Scan Days to engage local communities and build and preserve its collections. The NEO Sound collection and programming promotes and fosters the spirit of history preservation to a large and diverse audience and is a positive model for repositories looking to build and promote their collections.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board**

Three state history organizations were recently awarded grants through the South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board (SD SHRAB). The organizations that received funding this year and the amounts of their grants are Deadwood History, Inc., in Deadwood: $1,333.33; Heritage Hall Museum and Archives in Freeman: $1,333.33; and Mitchell Area Historical Society in Mitchell: $1,333.33. The SD SHRAB received a $7,932 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and $4,000 of the funding was set aside for regrant funding. The SD SHRAB advocates for the preservation of historical records, educates the public and records caretakers about the importance of the historical record, and leads the
historical community in preserving and providing access to the state’s documentary heritage. For more information, see history.sd.gov/Archives/SHRAB/shrabactivity.aspx or call the South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives at (605) 773-3804.

Archives and Special Collections at the University of South Dakota

The Archives and Special Collections at the University of South Dakota (USD) is pleased to announce that the Oscar Howe papers are open for research. Oscar Howe was an internationally noted Native American artist who served on the USD faculty for 25 years. He combined Native American traditions with a modernist painting style. He is known for paintings with dynamic color, movement, and abstraction. The Oscar Howe papers contain materials related to the life and artwork of Oscar Howe. The majority of the materials were collected by John Day, who served as University Art Galleries director and dean of Fine Arts. They include reference materials about Howe’s life, art, and legacy such as news clippings, publications, interviews, and other materials from John Day related to the management of the Oscar Howe Art Center and Howe’s artwork at the university. Please contact Archives and Special Collections for more information about this collection or visit libguides.usd.edu/archives.

WISCONSIN

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

The UW–Milwaukee Archives announces the launch of the Shall Not Be Recognized Oral History Project Interviews Digital Collection. The digital collection brings together photographs and oral history recordings from the exhibit Shall Not Be Recognized. The exhibit was created in response to the Wisconsin resolution passed in 2006, which amended the state constitution to make it unconstitutional for the state to recognize or perform same-sex marriages and civil unions. The exhibit was comprised of photographic and verbal portraits of 30 same-sex Milwaukee couples in long-term, committed relationships. The digital collection complements the UWM Libraries LGBT Collection, which documents Milwaukee LGBT history and culture.

University of Wisconsin–River Falls

The University Archives and Area Research Center at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls has a new online genealogy index available (www.uwrf.edu/AreaResearchCenter/Index.cfm). The index covers civil and criminal case files from Burnett (1888–1971) and Pierce (1866–1930) Counties; birth, death, and marriage notices that appeared in the local newspapers (1853–1910); and official birth, death, and marriage records up to 1907. The records are only for Burnett, Pierce, Polk, and Saint Croix Counties in northwestern Wisconsin, plus dribbles from Barron and Washburn Counties. New names are being indexed every week day, so return often if names sought after are not initially found. If a desired name is not found, a copy of the record may be ordered online and paid for with a credit card, or ordered via the US Postal Service using a check.

Great food awaits you at OMAMAC 2017! Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society.