Thanks to Our AI Volunteers- And We Need More!

John Fleckner
National Museum of American History, flecknerj@si.edu

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Thanks to Our AI Volunteers—And We Need More!

By John Fleckner, National Museum of American History

You can’t say “thanks” too often, especially to the volunteers who are doing much—or in the case of our journal, Archival Issues, virtually all—of the work. So, “thank you” authors who submit and often revise (and revise again) and board members who review, revise, edit, and advise. With the help of these many volunteers, we will have published two issues of AI by the end of 2014 and moved well along on the next.

And with that “thank-you” comes another heartfelt message: please keep on volunteering! We need a steady stream of authors whose thoughts and experiences will inform and inspire us. We also need two additional Editorial Board members to work with those authors and editors to continue the tradition of AI’s contributions to the profession, which began in 1976. If you have ideas for submissions, or publishing or editing experience, and an interest in the professional literature, please be in touch at flecknerj@si.edu.

And remember—Archival Issues, like this newsletter, is available in electronic form. Going green is easy! All you need to do is let us know that you want the electronic version when you renew your MAC membership. Then visit the AI web page at midwestarchives.com and download the link. And if you have access to JSTOR’s Arts and Sciences II database, you can read past issues from 1976 to 2010.

Nominees Sought for MAC Presidents’ Award

The MAC Presidents’ Award was established in 1986 as a means for MAC to recognize significant contributions to the archival profession by individuals, institutions, and organizations not directly involved in archival work but knowledgeable about its purpose and value. A committee comprising the three most recent past presidents of MAC chooses recipients based on nominations submitted by committees in each of the 13 states in the MAC region. Each state committee may put forward only one nomination per year. As many as three awards may be presented each year. Recipients are invited to attend the Members’ Meeting held at MAC’s Annual Meeting to receive their awards.

To nominate someone, please complete the nomination form on the MAC website and address it to the appropriate state chair no later than January 15, 2015. Full contact information for the state chairs can be found on the MAC website, under “MAC Presidents’ Award,” www.midwestarchives.org/presidents-award, along with a list of the award’s past recipients. For additional information about the award and guidelines, please contact Dennis Meissner at dennis.meissner@mnhs.org.

Archie Motley Scholarships

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certification at Illinois, which was partially supported by funds of the scholarship. I was able to research and evaluate how the Common Core Standards Initiative (CCSI) could not only support the use of primary sources to facilitate learning in school-aged children, but how archives’ support of CCSI could activate the growth of underrepresented voices in collections as well as support community outreach efforts.

Archie Motley helped lay the foundation for diversifying the archive and validating the historical contribution of those who lived on the fringe of American society. My experiences as a woman of color and as a product of an urban neighborhood have always influenced my work as a scholar to capture the voices and histories of marginalized communities. I hope to build upon that foundation by documenting the urban narratives of and scholarship on hip-hop culture. Needless to say, being the recipient of the Archie Motley Scholarship is truly a full-circle moment for me, and there are no words to describe how honored I am that the Midwest Archives Conference chose me to receive such an award.

By Raquel Flores-Clemons,
MSLIS Program, University of Illinois