



# ACA News

The Newsletter of the Academy of Certified Archivists

Issue 67 Fall 2009

## President's Message

Mike Bullington, CA  
McDonald's Golden Archives  
Elk Grove, Illinois



During this year's ACA business meeting it finally hit me that shortly I would become the next ACA President. To be honest, I felt some trepidation in bearing the responsibility that the membership placed on me by electing me to this office. The past presidents of the ACA are a distinguished group of archivists (just look at my predecessor Marty Levitt, CA). They have led the ACA with their experience and wisdom. What is Bullington doing here?

I can assure you that my anxiety resolved itself quickly when I scanned the room to look at and think of all the dedicated officers, volunteers, and staff that provide the Academy so much time, energy, and effort. One person cannot do it alone, and it is through these efforts and those of the previous administrations and members that ACA has reached its status within the archival profession.

It was only fitting that when the meeting concluded we took time to celebrate ACA's 20th Anniversary. It is important that we recognized our past achievements. Led by Jane Nokes, CA, and Marty Levitt, the party was funded entirely outside of our budget. The entire anniversary team did an outstanding job. For those of you who were not able to attend, please visit the ACA website to see photos of the event photographed by Tim Hawkins, CA.

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## President's Message

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The spirit of the Academy's first class of members, "The Class of 1989," will be present for years to come through the establishment of the "Class of 1989 Legacy Professional Development Award." The award, funded by the class and others, provides funding to members to obtain recertification credits. Further details about the award and how to apply for it will be provided in a future issue of the newsletter and also be available on our website.

Our anniversary has spurred my thoughts and imagination. It took ACA 20 years to reach a membership of 1,000. I cannot foresee any reason why our 2,000<sup>th</sup> member should not be welcomed within the next decade. Former ACA President David Gracy, CA, shared the same sentiments in his remarks in the Society of American Archivists annual meeting session entitled: "ACA at 20: The Evolution, Challenges, and Future of Certification." If you were not able to attend the session to hear the remarks of three ACA past presidents (Greg Hunter, CA, Lee Miller, CA and David Gracy, CA), a recording of the session can be purchased here: [conventionrecordings.com/catalogs/catalog.asp?prodid=5134940&showprevnext=1](http://conventionrecordings.com/catalogs/catalog.asp?prodid=5134940&showprevnext=1). We anticipate that the audio files will also be made available in the near future on the ACA web site.

I have heard from many of you regarding the challenges that you are facing during this tough economic environment. ACA will continue to work with its members to insure that your membership remains current. For those of us not facing employment challenges I urge you to remit your dues at your earliest possible convenience.

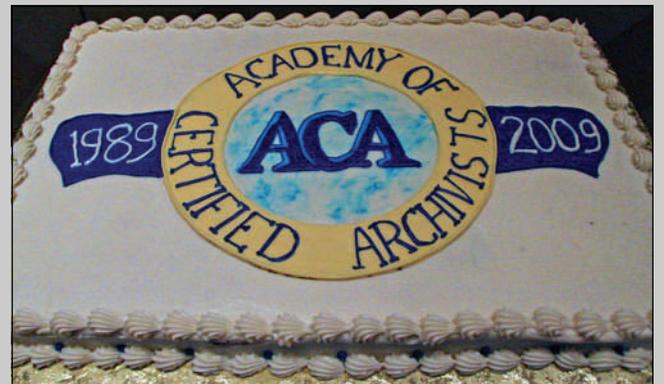
Thanks again for the confidence that you put in me. ACA and its members are making a difference in the profession. I would not want to trade shoes with anyone.

Mike Bullington, CA  
President  
Academy of Certified Archivists



**The Academy celebrates:** (above) Society of American Archivists President Frank Boles (left) presents out-going ACA President Marty Levitt, CA, with an SAA resolution (see page 3 of this newsletter) recognizing ACA on the occasion of its 20th anniversary celebration; (below) the commemorative cake at the anniversary party in Austin, 2009.

[Photographs courtesy of Tim Hawkins, CA]



A reproduction of the Society of American Archivists' Resolution presented to the Academy of Certified Archivists at its 20th Anniversary/1,000th Member Celebration in 2009.

**SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS**  
*Resolution Honoring*  
*The Academy of Certified Archivists*  
*on the occasion of its*  
*20th Anniversary Celebration*

August 13, 2009 • Austin, Texas

*Whereas* The Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) was founded at a business meeting of the Society of American Archivists in 1989 as an independent, non-profit organization for certifying professional archivists; and

*Whereas* ACA exists to ensure that standards of expertise in the practice of archival science are maintained and promoted by demonstrating a mastery of a defined body of knowledge and skills, compiled and regularly revised through the organization's Role Delineation Statement; and

*Whereas* The designation "Certified Archivist" is recognized around the world as a standard for professional knowledge and competence; and

*Whereas* ACA has achieved a milestone in 2009 of 1,000 current members now certified; and

*Whereas* members of ACA are proven leaders throughout the archives profession; and

*Whereas* The ACA's Certification Maintenance program provides the archives profession with an exemplary model for encouraging, recognizing, and rewarding archival continuing education and professional development; and

*Whereas* ACA celebrates its 1,000th member and its 20th anniversary during *Sustainable Archives: AUSTIN 2009*, the Joint Annual Meeting of the Council of State Archivists and the Society of American Archivists in Austin, Texas, on August 13, 2009, with a gathering at the Hilton Austin that is open to all Academy members and friends;

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT***

The Council of the Society of American Archivists hereby recognizes the Academy of Certified Archivists on the occasion of its 20th anniversary celebration.



## 2009 Distinguished Service Awards

Again this year the Academy of Certified Archivists presented two Distinguished Service Awards during its annual business meeting. This year's recipients were Edie Hedlin, CA, and Carla Summers, CA. Remarks based on the award nominations were made by ACA President Marty Levitt, CA, and Elizabeth Adkins, CA, respectively. The remarks are provided below.



Photo: Editor

### Edie Hedlin

Edie Hedlin has long been involved with the Academy of Certified Archivists, making her most recent contribution through chairing a committee in 2002-2003 to review and recommend updates to the

ACA's Role Delineation Statement.

But Edie Hedlin's most significant involvement with archival certification was in the 1980s, before ACA came into existence. In January 1987, the Council and Officers of the Society of American Archivists voted in favor of a certification program. To begin the process William Joyce, then SAA President, appointed five individuals to an Interim Board for Certification: Edmund Berkeley, Jr. (later replaced by Roy H. Tryon, and Tryon replaced by Paul Chestnut), J. Frank Cook, Edie Hedlin, and James B. Rhoads. Carol Huxley, the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education for New York State served as the fifth and public member of the board. At the first meeting on

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### Carla Summers

When Carla became ACA Treasurer, she was alarmed to find that the large pool of money that had come into the organization as a result of initial certifications was quickly disappearing as the Academy went through year

after year of deficit budgets. She and her Treasurer predecessors did all they could to contain expenses, but with income limited to application fees and initial certification and recertification fees, there simply was not enough money coming in to sustain the Academy.

Carla spearheaded an effort to consider the unthinkable: instituting dues. She enlisted the support of Elizabeth Adkins, as Vice President, as well as the support of Regent Claudette John. The three worked together to put a proposal together to overcome the understandable concerns and objections of the Board of Regents. Carla conducted an analysis that made it clear that the organization would go bankrupt in just a few years without dues, and that a minimal

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Photograph courtesy of Carla Summers

## Distinguished Service Award - Edie Hedlin

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September 2, 1987, Edie Hedlin was chosen as the Board Chair.

The charge for this Board was no less than to bring the process of archival certification into being and create an organization to administer it. The Board accomplished these challenging goals in a two-year period. It brought into being the certification by petition process that established a base membership of certified archivists. At the same time, the Board began Role Delineation and the development of certification by examination. Lastly, it developed a structure for the creation of what came to be the Academy of Certified Archivists and set forth a financial program of fees to maintain the new Academy. The Interim Board for Certification had a full plate of responsibilities. Because it carried out its responsibilities very well, the Academy was off to a good beginning.

In addition to these formal tasks, the Interim Board for Certification and its chair faced other challenges. It negotiated the complex financial and governance relationship with the Society of American Archivists. It developed and supported outreach activities essential to informing the profession about the nature and purpose of certification. The Board remained steadfast despite heated criticism of the idea of certification and of the Board's implementation of certification.

As Chair of the Interim Board for Certification, Edie Hedlin was involved in all aspects of the Board's work. It is because of her thorough, consistent, energetic, and conscientious leadership and her teamwork approach with the other Board members that the Board produced the positive

foundation for the Academy of Certified Archivists. Because of her work with the Interim Board for Certification and her continued support for the Academy, we recommend Edie Hedlin for the ACA Distinguished Service Award.



## Distinguished Service Award - Carla Summers

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dues payment from each member would bring the Academy into the black for the first time in its history. Her passion and convincing arguments convinced the Board of Regents to approve dues and avoid failure.

Carla Summers deserves the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her courage, conviction, and determination to make the Academy a sustainable organization.



Elizabeth Adkins, CA, makes the Distinguished Service Award introduction for Carla Summers, CA, at the Academy's annual business meeting in Austin, Texas, this past August.

## Officers and Board News

President (2009-10)	Mike Bullington, CA McDonald's Golden Archives Elk Grove, Illinois
Vice President/ President-Elect (2009-10)	Pam Hackbart-Dean, CA Morris Library Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Illinois
Treasurer (2008-10)	Mott R. Linn, DA, CA Clark University Worcester, Massachusetts
Secretary (2009-11)	Shelly Henley Kelly, CA Neumann Library University of Houston- Clear Lake Clear Lake, Texas
Regent for Examination Administration (2009-11)	Daphne O. DeLeon, CA Nevada State Library & Archives Carson City, Nevada
Regent for Examination Development (2008-10)	Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, PhD, CA U.S. Air Force Academy Colorado Springs, Colorado
Regent for Certification Maintenance (2009-11)	Kristy Sorensen, CA Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Austin, Texas
Regent for Outreach (2008-10)	Todd M. Gilliom, CA National Personnel Records Center, NARA St. Louis, Missouri
Immediate Past President & Regent for Nominations (2009-10)	Martin L. Levitt, PhD, CA American Philosophical Society Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Chair, Nominating Committee (2009-10)	Gerrienne Schaad, CA Dumbarton Oaks Research Library Rockville, Maryland

Contact information for the Officers and Regents is available on the ACA website:  
[www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/officers.html](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/officers.html)

### From the Regent for Outreach

Todd Gilliom, CA

National Personnel Records Center, NARA  
St. Louis, Missouri

### ACA Members Step Up for Outreach

The Academy's members have answered the call to come out and support a number of outreach initiatives. Our outreach volunteers have expanded our capability well beyond the time available to the Regent for Outreach alone by assuming significant responsibility for specific outreach programs. These dedicated members deserve our gratitude and recognition for their hard work and professionalism.

Laura Drake-Davis, CA, has valiantly assumed the role of exhibit coordinator. This position is in charge of scheduling the display of ACA's traveling exhibits at the conferences we attend. Our members should expect to hear from Laura in 2010 as she mobilizes local members to help display the exhibit at one of about seven conferences next year.

Michael Arbagi, CA, has made his presence in the Academy felt all the way from Bosnia. Stationed overseas with the U.S. Navy Reserve, Michael provides indispensable assistance with an outreach campaign involving U.S. graduate students. This student group campaign seeks to put certified archivists in touch with every group of archives students in the United States. The idea for a series of speakers originated with the 2005

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## Regent for Outreach

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Outreach Task Force chaired by Judy Cetina, CA. By putting certified archivists in touch with archives students, we can be sure that certification is part of the professional lore inherited by each successive class of archivists. By encouraging students to seek provisional certification we can give them a leg up in this tough job market. In addition, our valued speakers get to meet a group of up-and-coming archivists from their own locality. This speaker series is a win-win-win for ACA, the students, and the speakers.

The Academy owes appreciation to many members who have expressed a willingness to speak on our behalf to local student groups. So far the following members have agreed to represent us, though in many cases final confirmation is pending: Grant Gerlich, CA,



Anne Diffendal, CA, (left) and Gypsy Legge, CA, (center) volunteer their time to explain the benefits of certification at the Academy's information booth during the 2009 Society of American Archivists annual meeting in Austin, Texas.

Kathleen Cruikshank, CA, David Horn, CA, Mott Linn, CA, Christina Zamon, CA, John Newman, CA, Amy Fischer, CA, Mimi Dionne, CA, Ray Cunningham, CA, D. Waheedah Bilal, CA, Mark Sorensen, CA, Adriana Cuervo, CA, Kim Efird, CA, Eric Fair, CA, Janet Kerschner, CA, Mike Miller, CA, John Powell, CA, Diane Vogt-O'Connor, CA, Gerriane Schaad, CA, Doris Martinson, CA, Shawn San Roman, CA, and Louis Jones, CA.

David McCartney, CA, has undertaken the role of web content editor. David helps keep our web content fresh and the news up-to-date. Subscribe to the website's RSS feed for regular updates of ACA news and announcements, authored primarily by David and consumed gratefully by all of us.

Thanks also go to the Academy members who kept the traveling exhibit moving last year by agreeing to set it up and staff the table during conferences: Laura Drake-Davis, Jennifer Andreola, CA, Christina Wolf, CA, and Laura McLemore, CA. In addition, we owe our appreciation to the numerous other members who attended the display and spoke about certification with their colleagues during the conferences.

The nationwide expanse of our outreach program is only possible with this kind of support from our membership. Anyone who wants to be involved with these types of outreach activities, please contact the Regent for Outreach, Todd Gilliom, CA: [Todd.Gilliom@nara.gov](mailto:Todd.Gilliom@nara.gov). There is plenty left to do!

### Upcoming locations for the annual meeting of the Academy of Certified Archivists

August 11th - 12th, 2010 — Washington, DC

August 24th - 25th, 2011 — Chicago, Illinois

## Report of the Secretary

Shelly Henley Kelly, CA

University Archivist

University of Houston-Clear Lake

The Board of Regents of the Academy of Certified Archivists held a meeting in Austin, Texas, on August 12, 2009. President Marty Levitt, CA, informed the Board that the 2009 Distinguished Service Award would be presented to Carla Summers, CA, and Edie Hedlin, CA. He invited members to attend ACA's session at SAA titled "ACA at 20: The Evolution, Challenges, and Future of Certification" with papers presented by Gregory Hunter, CA, Leon Miller, CA, and David Gracy, CA.

ACA collaborated on two specific items with the Society of American Archivists (SAA) this year: creating an outline of preferred qualities for the Archivist of the United States for the Obama transition team and endorsing a letter in support of archival education at the University of Texas.

Marty provided background on the new Presidential Advisory Council to incoming board members, and encouraged President-Elect Mike Bullington, CA, to create his own. One idea originating from the Presidential Advisory Council was to create the "Class of 1989 Legacy Professional Development Award" to get more people involved in leadership. The idea is that if the Academy provides support for their professional development, recipients will feel a stronger sense of ownership in the Academy and want to become part of its leadership. After discussion, the Board voted in favor of creating this award. Funds have been pledged to sustain the award for three years.

This past year SAA studied program accreditation and concluded that at this time accreditation is a difficult prospect and will not be pursued. This is an opportunity for ACA to seek a collaborative, "converging" educational message with SAA.

Vice President Mike Bullington, reported on his committee work over the past year. In his role as Vice President, he provided archival certification information for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2010-2011 Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Treasurer Mott Linn, CA, reported that ACA is in good financial standing. Incoming funds for the "Class of 1989 Legacy Professional Development Award" will be kept separate from the general budget. The Board discussed Regent line-item budgets and voted by email the following week to adopt the proposed budget.

Regent for Examination Administration Connell Gallagher, CA, reported that there were 157 applications for certification and noted that he had reviewed future examination sites.

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Exam takers line up to confirm their registration before sitting for the certification examination in Austin, Texas, this past August.

## Report of the Secretary

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Regent for Examination Development Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, CA, reported that the Examination Development Committee (EDC) will need two new members. The EDC met in February, revising twelve questions and providing twenty-three new questions. Statistical data generated from the 2009 exam will enable them to judge the revisions. The EDC is also revisiting the ACA Handbook bibliography to incorporate new publications and remove older, out-of-print publications.

Following the Certification Maintenance report submitted by Shelly Croteau, CA, the Board discussed the benefits of making the approved Archival Recertification Credit (ARC) list available on the website. [Ed.: See the Editor's Endpaper for additional details]

Todd Gilliom, CA, Regent for Outreach, spent this year working with an Outreach Task Force chaired by Mike Bullington to develop goals. The task force designed a web survey for those taking the examination to identify reasons why they took the exam. The Board recommended that Todd utilize the A\*Census data and investigate the follow-up articles written by Anne Diffendal, CA, for additional statistics. The also Board discussed the challenge of reaching archivists, educators, and promoting the CA in specific regional areas.

Regent for Nominations Judy Cetina, CA, announced the 2009 election results and thanked her committee. She recommended future Nominating Committees follow up in writing with a candidate who has verbally agreed to run.

The International Council on Archives (ICA)

North American region (NAANICA) is to be revived. The Board discussed whether ACA should be considered an international organization. ACA is recognized in the U.S., Canada, and Hong Kong; however, the exam is given only in English and reflects American archival tradition and practices. According to Trudy Huskamp Peterson, CA, who has represented ACA interests at ICA, other countries look at ACA as a model and desire our advice and guidance.

The Board voted for Cindy Smolovik, CA, and Jane Nokes, CA, to represent ACA in a proposed presentation on Role Delineation for the April 2010 ICA meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Jane Nokes reported that the ACA 20/1000 celebration's \$9000 budget was generously donated by: ScotiaBank Group, McDonald's Corporation, George Blood Audio/SafeSound Archive, Hollinger Metal Edge, Capitol Hill Management, and the American Philosophical Society. After recognizing many individuals for their assistance, she thanked Cindy Smolovik, who served as co-chair for this event. Marty reviewed the enormous undertaking necessary to host this event and praised Jane for her attention to detail. *(continued on next page)*



Cindy Smolovik, CA, and Jane Nokes, CA, enjoy a well-deserved smile as the months of planning come to fruition all around them during the ACA 20th Anniversary Celebration in Austin, Texas.

Photograph courtesy of Tim Hawkins

## Report of the Secretary

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To assist officers and regents in preparing their records for the ACA Archives, Secretary Shelly Henley Kelly prepared specific requirements from the newly adopted Records Retention Schedule for officers/regents to use as guides.

The Board voted to accept the newly revised Role Delineation Statement in its corrected form. A written statement on the new Emeritus Status will be included in the ACA handbook and published on a regular basis in the newsletter.

The Task Force on Outreach presented their 2010 Plan of Action. The Board voted to formulate a standing outreach committee composed of the Regent for Outreach (chair), the newsletter editor, the webmaster, the vice-president/president-elect and any other member in good standing appointed by the Regent or the Board. Each year the committee shall prepare an outreach plan of action to be approved by the Board and implemented by the Regent for Outreach.

The Board also voted to approve the proposed 2009-2010 Outreach Plan of Action in principle as long as it does not exceed the allotted budget of \$4,560. The Board also stipulated that there be no second prize for the exhibit design contest.

Newsletter Editor Anselm Huelsbergen, offered his thanks to various contributors for this year's four issues. ACA Webmaster, Jordon Steele, spent this year renovating the ACA website.

Steve Grandin, representing the ACA Secretariat at Capitol Hill Management, informed the Board that ACA should see a net gain of 40 members this year. The renewal rate stands at 78%. Board members will contact non-renewals prior to their removal from the membership database.

Following up on a previous item of business regarding a formal policy to deal with members affected by natural disasters or faced with losing their jobs, Judy Cetina prepared the following statement to be placed on the ACA web site in the members area with a link to the Secretariat:

Uncertain economic times, regional disasters like floods, fire, or serious storms, and other personal setbacks can impact the ability of Academy members to pay their membership dues in a timely fashion. The Academy encourages any CA in need of an extension on dues payment to contact the ACA Secretariat for assistance.

In recognition of travel cut backs at many repositories and institutions, the Board agreed to carefully monitor the costs of attending ACA's mid-year meeting. ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Individual regent reports and complete minutes of the meeting will be available on the ACA web site at the following URL:

[www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/minutes-and-reports.html](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/minutes-and-reports.html)



The Academy's Officers and Regents discuss agenda items during the 2009 annual board meeting at the Hilton Austin in Austin, Texas. Clockwise from bottom left are: Marty Levitt, CA, Connie Gallagher, CA, Gerianne Schaad, CA, Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, CA, Jane Nokes, CA, Mike Bullington, CA, Mott Linn, CA, Steve Grandin, Kristy Sorensen, CA, Judy Cetina, CA, and Shelly Henley Kelly, CA.

## From the Regent for Examination Development

Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, PhD, CA  
Academy Archivist and Chief, Special Collections  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

The Exam Development Committee (EDC) held an Item Writing Workshop during the Society of American Archivists meeting in Austin this past August. This is a workshop to produce test items for the certification exam; the 100 questions on the test are drawn randomly from an item bank of questions developed by archivists who have taken the exam.

Our small group consisted of Elizabeth Engel, CA, Tomaro Taylor, CA, and Heather Wade, CA. Also helping out were EDC members Daphne DeLeon, CA, and Jane Kenamore, CA.

We worked hard to develop about ten more questions for the examination item bank. It is not only work to develop the questions, but also a challenge to make sure that the question will work for many different kinds of archivists. I felt privileged because I got to know (and respect) some great certified archivists!



Clockwise from left: Heather Wade, CA, Tomaro Taylor, CA, Regent for Examination Development Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, CA, Jane Kenamore, CA, and Elizabeth Engel, CA.

## From the Webmaster

Jordon Steele, CA  
Biddle Law Library, University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Greetings from your Webmaster.

The Academy of Certified Archivists web site continues to develop as a destination for important news and announcements related to certification and our profession. We are excited to have David McCartney, CA, on board as our web editor. Since September, David has been issuing periodic “press releases” of interest to our members, and they have been posted to the ACA homepage and our [Facebook](#) page. We hope this effort will improve the visibility of the Academy and help you, our members, keep current.

For more information, please visit our web site ([www.certifiedarchivists.org](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org)), subscribe to our RSS feed, or become a fan of our [Facebook](#) page. Or do all three! ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### Item Writing Workshop — Austin 2009

“Participating in the workshop was one of the highlights of attending SAA this year. I enjoyed the collaborative process of analyzing each proposed item and fine-tuning it for the exam. The

experience was highly beneficial and I came away with a greater understanding and appreciation for the difficulty of framing questions.”

- Liz Engel, CA

“Preparing for the workshop proved to be as interesting a challenge as preparing for the exam itself. Immersing myself in the literature to develop potential questions for the item bank was a great test of my professional knowledge and an even better way to ensure that I was up-to-date on pertinent issues.”

- Tomaro Taylor, CA

## Role Delineation Statement Updated for 2010

By Cindy Smolovik, CA

The Role Delineation Statement (RDS) is one of the cornerstones of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Developed by archivists and archival educators, it defines the knowledge and skills necessary for archival work. Created according to rigorous standards under the direction of test-development professionals, the RDS is the framework for the certification examination. It is essential that this document be reviewed periodically and updated in order to remain current with best practices, new skills, and other changing factors in the archival profession.

In March 2008 the ACA Board recognized that the last revision of the RDS was in 2003. Under the direction of President Judy Cetina, CA, and continuing under President Martin Levitt, CA, a Role Delineation Review Task Force was appointed in August 2008 consisting of Cindy

Smolovik (chair), Michael Holland, CA, Daphne DeLeon, CA, Susan Watson, CA, Brenda Gunn, CA, Nancy Melley, CA, and Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, CA.

The Task Force presented the revised RDS to the Academy Board at its meeting in Austin, Texas, on August 12th, 2009. While the original framework consisting of general knowledge statements and seven domains (Selection, Appraisal, and Acquisition; Arrangement and Description; Reference Services and Access; Preservation and Protection; Outreach, Advocacy, and Promotion; Managing Archival Programs; and Professional, Ethical, and Legal Responsibilities) remains intact, the individual related knowledge and task statements have been updated to reflect the impact of changes in technologies, changes in terminology, and nuances in best practices. The Academy Board accepted the revised Role Delineation Statement, which will serve as the basis for the archival certification examination beginning with the test administered in August 2010. The revised RDS will be available on the ACA web site. ♦♦♦♦

### EMERITUS STATUS

Because the knowledge and experience of retired archivists are invaluable to the profession, the Academy of Certified Archivists offers them emeritus status.

Emeritus status:

- honors their career contributions to the archival profession;
- allows them to remain fully active in the life of the profession to the degree they wish;
- reduces the annual dues to \$10.00;
- permits the member to use the designation **CA Emeritus** upon payment of annual dues;
- once approved requires no further action to maintain emeritus membership.

Those certified archivists who wish to join the ranks of the CA Emeriti must apply in writing to ACA and this application (letter and a CV) must be approved by the Regent for Certification Maintenance. Candidates must have been recertified at least once and be fully retired from *daily archival work* to attain this status.

## Mark W. Sorensen President, Illinois State Historical Society Decatur, Illinois

By Mark W. Sorensen, CA

Before embarking on his career in archives, Mark Sorensen, CA, earned degrees in education and history and taught history and English for thirteen years in the Decatur, Illinois public schools. He started work at the Illinois State Archives (ISA) in Springfield in 1982 as Supervisor of the Records Management Section. The job entailed getting over 7000 state and local government agencies in Illinois to follow the regulations for maintaining and legally disposing of government records. With support from NHPRC funding, Mark assisted several times with the hands-on process of going through warehouses and sub-basements in Chicago and Cook County to unearth records previously hidden from public access. Three of the historic finds during that process were: locating the “Birth Certificate” of Chicago (the August 3, 1833 vote to incorporate the town of Chicago); finding the somewhat desiccated document from the Chicago Board of Education announcing that they would meet “under the tree...” on October 11, 1871, due to the loss of buildings in the Great Chicago Fire; and accessioning the voter registration records of 1888-1892 from the Chicago Board of Elections that identified not only thousands of recent immigrants lost in the



Photograph courtesy of Mark Sorensen

Certified Archivist Mark Sorensen, CA, poses with a statue of Abraham Lincoln by Gary Price in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. While working for the State of Illinois, Sorensen was involved with a number of replevin cases concerning Lincoln material.

1890 census, but also the first women allowed to vote in Illinois state elections. After processing these records, they were placed in the Illinois Regional Archives at Northeastern Illinois University.

Prior to taking early retirement from the State of Illinois in 2002, Mark also served as supervisor of reference and outreach programs at the ISA as well as Assistant Director. In these capacities, he created document facsimiles for city centennial celebrations, exhibits for the Capitol, and traveling displays of historic government records. His 1988 “temporary” exhibit showing the history of Illinois’ sixth State Capitol still stands today at the entrance to the governor’s office. Mark was also involved in the

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## Academy Profile

This feature profiles members of the Academy of Certified Archivists. If you would like to suggest someone to be featured, or if you yourself would like to appear in the column, please contact:

Linda Hocking, CA

[archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org)

## Academy Profile - Mark Sorensen

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replevin of a number of Abraham Lincoln documents that had been taken from the state government as early as 1948.

In 1989 Mark was certified by petition as a Charter Member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. During his tenure with the state he tried but was unsuccessful in getting Illinois to require new archival employees to be certified archivists. He also spent 15 years pushing the state to hire an electronic records archivist (the first was finally hired this year). While at the Archives, Mark earned an M.S. in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois and created Illinois' first history resource page ([www.historyillinois.org/hist.html](http://www.historyillinois.org/hist.html)).

Since his retirement in 2002 Mark has worked part-time for the Archives, helping to create state regulations for digital records as well as document teaching packets about Lincoln's relationship with Illinois government. He has also created and continues to teach a state and local history class at Millikin University in his hometown of Decatur.

Mark has written numerous articles for *Illinois Libraries*, *Illinois Heritage*, and the *Decatur Limited Magazine*. His certified archivist credential have helped him obtain employment as an archival/historical consultant. His most recent work organizing the history of a Moweaqua (a small town in the center of Illinois) can be found at [www.miningmoreinmoweaqua.com](http://www.miningmoreinmoweaqua.com).

This spring Mark was elected for a two-year term as president of the independent Illinois State Historical Society, the first certified archivist to hold that position. ♦♦♦♦ ♦♦♦♦ ♦♦♦♦

## Upcoming Locations for the Certification Examination

The 2010 Certification Exam will be held August 11<sup>th</sup> at the following locations:

Washington, DC (SAA site)

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Albuquerque, New Mexico

San Diego, California

Tallahassee, Florida

[Additional sites can be requested through the "Pick Your Site" Program]

**Deadline for the 2010 examination application is May 15, 2010**

Applications and additional information will be available on the web site in January 2010: [certifiedarchivists.org/get-certified/application.html](http://certifiedarchivists.org/get-certified/application.html)

## 2009 Travel Assistance Awards

The recipients of the 2009 ACA Travel Assistance Awards were

**Ms. Shannon Wetzel**  
(El Dorado, Arkansas)

and

**Ms. Raegan C. Stearns**  
(Shreveport, Louisiana)

Each winner received up to \$200 for travel expenses and had the \$50 examination fee waived.

# Editor's Endpaper

After initial certification by examination, many Certified Archivists choose to maintain their certification by petition. Regent for Certification Maintenance Kristy Sorensen, CA, and ACA Webmaster Jordon Steele, CA, have made that process just a little bit easier: a list of upcoming archives-related workshops or programs that can earn Archival Recertification Credits (ARCs) are available on the ACA web site at:

[www.certifiedarchivists.org/members-area/archival-recertification-credits.html](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/members-area/archival-recertification-credits.html)

In addition to listings of the upcoming events, one can find the number of credits offered and even the specific section on the petition form where the credits should be applied. Last but not least, the web site will also maintain a list of past ARC-approved institutes or workshops to help in completing the petition form.



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

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## In Remembrance

### Gary Harrington, CA

1948 — 2009

Gary Harrington, CA, member of the ACA class of 1989, died on September 8, 2009, in Oklahoma. He was Visiting Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University (OSU) as a member of the Pickens Archival Team, working on the T. Boone Pickens collection in Special Collections and University Archives in the OSU Libraries.

A graduate of North Syracuse Central High School in New York, Gary attended the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas, graduating with a BA in History in 1971. He served in the Air Force at Plattsburgh Air Force Base in New York and received an MA in History from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh in 1978.

Gary then moved to Oklahoma City in 1980 and began work for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries where he held a number of positions, including Administrator of the Oklahoma State Archives. He had been a member of the Society of Southwest Archivists and the Oklahoma Conservation Congress.

Among his publications is a contribution to *Moving Archives: The Experience of Eleven Archivists* published in 2002 by Scarecrow Press.