

LOUISIANA ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS ASSOCIATION

LAMA NEWSLETTER

ARCHIVES NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

FALL/WINTER 2009

CENTRAL LOUISIANA HISTORY ON DISPLAY AT 2009 ANNUAL MEETING



This year's annual meeting will be held Friday October 23rd at the Sai Convention Center in Alexandria, Louisiana. In addition to presentations from members, state senator Robert Adley from Benton will be on hand to discuss public records legislation. LAMA welcomes Senator Adley and hopes to work with him in the future when records issues emerge in the legislature. After the business meeting LAMA members will have a range of options for tours at area historical and cultural institutions, including:

- ◆ Alexandria Museum of Art- www.themuseum.org
- ◆ Louisiana History Museum and Alexandria Genealogical Library- www.louisianahistorymuseum.org
- ◆ T.R.E.E. House Children's Museum- www.kidstreehouse.org
- ◆ Arna Bontemps Museum- www.arnabontempsmuseum.com (pictured above)
- ◆ Kent House- <http://www.kenthouse.org/>

-Michelle Riggs

LAMA 2009 Annual Meeting Program

- 8-9—Registration
- 9-9:15—Welcome from incoming LAMA President Michelle Riggs
- 9:15-9:45—Senator Robert Adley (Benton, 36th Dist.) to discuss public records legislation
- 9:45-10:15—Break
- 10:15-10:45—Archival Training Collaborative presentation, Dr. Elizabeth Dow, LSU School of Library and Information Science
- 10:45-11:15—"From Hobby to Methodology: Understanding Genealogy as a Research Method," Heather Kramer, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research
- 11:15-12:30—Lunch
- 12:30-1:00—"LAMA, SB 278, and Political Advocacy," Brad Wiles, LSU Hill Memorial Library
- 1:00-2:30—Business meeting
- 3:00-4:30—Tours

SENATORS BREAUX AND JOHNSTON HONORED AT HILL RECEPTION

Senators John Breau and J. Bennett Johnston (pictured on the right) were on hand at an October 9, 2009, reception held at Hill Memorial Library in conjunction with a symposium hosted by LSU'sanship School of Mass Communication. The reception featured a slide show of photographs and other materials from Johnston and Breau Congressional papers now on display at Hill (see pg. 6). —Brad Wiles



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- SB 278 Story and Statement (page 2)
- Archival Training Collaborative Workshops (page 4)
- LAMA Institution News (pages 3, 5, 6, 7)

LAMA MEMBERS VOICE CRITICISM OF SB278 AT STATE HOUSE

On May 16, 2009, LAMA members Ann Boltin, Tara Laver, and Brad Wiles appeared before the Louisiana State House of Representatives House and Governmental Affairs Committee to offer testimony on Senate Bill 278. SB 278 is the first public records legislation dealing specifically with the disclosure of records from the governor's office.

The LAMA contingent joined the Baton Rouge *Advocate* and the Baton Rouge League of Women Voters in expressing concern about the bill. Under SB 278 all records created or used in the "deliberative process" of the governor's offices are exempt from public disclosure. SB 278 passed out of committee and was signed into law on July 10, 2009.

The following statement was read to the members of the committee. It was based on a letter forwarded to committee staff from the LAMA executive board and officers, which prompted the committee staff to invite LAMA's testimony at the meeting:

Dear Committee Members,

We are here today on behalf of the officers and executive board of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association to express concern about the recent passage of Senate Bill 278 through the Senate and onto the House and Governmental Affairs Committee for further consideration.

We urge that the bill receive closer scrutiny and that

a more measured approach to public records disclosure from the governor's office is adopted. As the primary organization for archivists and manuscript curators in Louisiana it is LAMA's duty and mission to help ensure the state's documentary heritage should be reasonably protected. Though in spirit SB 278 is aimed at opening previously closed areas of policymaking by doing away with the longstanding blanket exemption on disclosure of the governor's records, in reality it creates a qualified



Governor Bobby Jindal signed SB278 into law earlier this year. (Photo courtesy of blog.nola.com)

tage.

We hold the opinion that certain provisions in SB 278 will not provide greater transparency and accountability in the governor's office and will damage the prospect of maintaining a complete and accurate historical record over time.

We recognize that the questions of access, disclosure and privacy can be very complicated, especially when dealing with sensitive information. For that reason, SB 278 should clearly and fully define the procedure for excluding certain records from the public view and offer a clear justification on what

exemption that allows for continued secrecy.

The main problem - which has been pointed out by some legislators and several media outlets - lies with the exemption of all records resulting from the "deliberative process" within the governor's office. From Section C of the current bill:

"Deliberative process" means the process by which decisions and policies are formulated. Records "relating to the deliberative process of the governor" include all forms of pre-decisional advice, opinions, deliberations, or recommendations made for the purpose of assisting

the governor in the usual course of the duties and business of his office. "Internal staff" of the governor includes the chief of staff, executive counsel, director of policy, legislative director, director of communications, director of boards and commissions, special assistants to the governor, and members of their staffs; but shall not include any employee of any other agency, department, or office.

On the surface these might seem clear enough, but the specific elements of the "deliberative process" could really mean anything and, despite the definition for internal staff, work product from other agencies acting in conjunction with the governor's office could also be exempted from public disclosure. Potentially any pre-decisional actions or considerations on the part of the governor's office could be shielded and only made available after lengthy and expensive litigation.

Most troubling about SB 278 is that it began as a piece of legislation that would have provided real transparency but has been gutted throughout the legislative process to fit the administration's specifications. It seems that Governor Jindal is more interested in giving the appearance of accountability than actually ensuring it through law. It is equally dismaying that the overwhelming majority of

(CONT. NEXT PAGE)

OCHSNER ARCHIVES RECEIVES 2009 LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Ochsner Medical Library and Archives is pleased to receive the 2009 Library Technology Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine South Central Region. This award will allow the Library to digitize a considerable portion of the Archives collection, specifically those items that are frequently used and requested. Items chosen include newspapers, photographs, newsletters, and various documents.

This project will boost the Archives' preservation efforts, and support the continuing efforts in place to create a more searchable collection. The Ochsner Medical Library & Archives is located at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. *-Jessica Delgado*



The Ochsner Archives Collection is housed in a movable shelving unit that includes a display area. (Photo courtesy of Jessica Delgado.)

SB 278 CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE...

state senators evidently agree, based on the lopsided affirmative vote. Those in favor of SB 278 have moved one step closer to sanctioning the governor's right to mask policy deliberations over the public's right to know anything about those deliberations.

When SB 278 comes under consideration in the Louisiana House of Representatives, LAMA asks that these glaring and potentially dangerous deficiencies be addressed. We would like to see further discussion take place without the derision or condescension that has characterized the process so far.

For example, one supporter of SB 278 in its current form equated the public's right to information from the gover-

nor's office to "political voyeurism" (*New Orleans Times-Picayune*, 5/21/09), while another asserted that the bill "protects the public from being confused. If they get exposed to all kinds of presentations, ideas and thoughts, they are going to be confused." (*Baton Rouge Advocate*, 5/7/09). We disagree with the position that, "Public officials should be judged by their decision, not their decision making process." (*Baton Rouge Advocate*, 5/7/09)

We believe that the intentions, motivations, and other components of public policy formation matter greatly. We believe that the people of Louisiana want to and should know why the officials who act on their behalf do what they do. By closing the delib-

erative process from public view SB 278 implicitly discourages informed political participation and endorses the politics-as-usual mentality Governor Jindal campaigned against.

Ultimately the value of public records rests in their ability to reveal the processes and activities that they were created to document. Records have both informational and evidentiary value, and it is from the content of the records themselves and context of their creation that we are able to discern how, why, when, where, and by whom certain decisions were made or actions were taken. However, records that lay bare these processes are completely worthless if nobody is allowed to see them. If ac-

cess is denied then accountability cannot exist.

In closing, LAMA urges a restoration of SB 278 to its original strength. The potential for continued obfuscation in an already secretive government office is too great and deserves far more scrutiny. The citizens of Louisiana are entitled to greater disclosure on policy matters that directly affect them, and, at the very least, a more sufficient explanation as to why the Jindal administration and members of the legislature feel certain records should be exempted from public view. They are also entitled to an accurate and complete historical record, something that will become less of a reality if SB 278 is encoded in law.

-Brad Wiles

ARCHIVAL TRAINING COLLABORATIVE PROVIDES 'TRAIN THE TRAINER' WORKSHOPS



The Archival Training Collaborative will host "Train the Trainer" workshops in February and March 2010. (Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Dow)

The Web holds an abundance of training materials for archival staff and volunteers, but most people find it difficult to sit down alone and work their way through them, regardless of how well done. If brought together with a mentor to guide them, however, staff and volunteers in the small repositories around the country would gladly learn what the sites have to offer.

With that in mind, The Archival Training Collaborative (ATC) funded by a \$280,000 grant from the Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS), has launched a three-year effort to establish a sustainable program of archival training for staff and volun-

teers in historical repositories in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama using the many well-developed training sites on the Web. To assure an abundance of 'mentors' to continue the program after grant funding has run out, the ATC Steering Committee will offer a 'Train the Trainer' workshop in each of the three states.

Elizabeth H. Dow, archives educator at LSU, will lead the workshops. The workshops will cover the basics of educational design for adult learners, including developing learning objectives, lesson planning, understanding adult learners, and managing a classroom. The training will apply to a wide range of situa-

tions and topics. Each student will receive books and supplies to carry their lessons home with them.

The ATC will cover the expenses of a total of 36 students who will attend a 2.5 day workshop to learn how to serve as a 'mentor' or 'trainer' for web-based programs. In return, the trainees will provide two workshops for their colleagues in their own institutions or for their larger community in the 18 months following their training, on penalty of forfeiture of the expense money. The workshops will occur during February and March 2010. People interested in attending should go to <http://www.archivaltraining.org/>

for an application form.

The ATC Steering Committee consists of Michelle Riggs, Archivist at Louisiana State University at Alexandria and Vice-President/President-Elect of LAMA, Elizabeth H. Dow, Archives Educator in the School of Library and Information Science at LSU and Principal Investigator, and Laura McLemore, Head of Archives and Special Collections at LSU-Shreveport, who represent Louisiana.

Julia Marks Young, Director of the Archives and Records Services Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson, Jennifer W. Ford, Head of Special Collections at the J.D. Williams Library of the University of Mississippi, and Shugana Williams, Manuscript and Digitization Specialist at the Katrina Research Center at the University of Southern Mississippi, represent Mississippi. Tracey Berezensky, Assistant Director for Government Records in the Government Records Division of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Martin Olliff, Director of the Archives of Wiregrass History and Culture and Assistant Professor of History at Troy State University Dothan, and Reagan Grimley, Assistant Prof. in the Department of History at Auburn University, represent Alabama.

For more information, contact Elizabeth H. Dow at LSU: edow1@lsu.edu.

-Elizabeth Dow

FUNDERBURK PAPERS PROCESSING PROJECT NEAR COMPLETE AT NICHOLLS

The Archives & Special Collections at Nicholls State University is nearing completion on processing the papers of former Houma businessman, Madison Louis Funderburk. Shortly after graduating from State Normal College in Alexandria in 1917, Funderburk moved to Terrebonne Parish where he became a public school teacher, and eventually the principal of Bourg High School in Bourg, La.

A few years later, he began working at Bourg State Bank, which later became Citizens National Bank, and then finally First National Bank of Houma. In 1924, he became vice-president, and eventually president and chief executive officer of the bank for the next forty-nine years.

In 1956, Funderburk was elected to the Terrebonne Parish Police Jury and served until 1968. During his service in the late 1950s, Funderburk was instrumental in the construction of the Houma Navigation Canal that connected the city of Houma to the Gulf of Mexico, intended to improve economic prosperity for the area. Soon after retiring as president of the First National Bank of Houma in



Photo courtesy of Nicholls State Archives

1973, Funderburk was appointed by Gov. John McKeithen to the state board for administering student loan funds.

During his lifetime, Funderburk owned and managed several businesses including Terrebonne Construction Co., Terrebonne Lumber & Supply Co., Funderburk Corp., Funderburk Realty, Intracoastal Realty, Burkwall Corp., and Standard Tile and Concrete Co. In 1940, he established and became senior partner of the Funderburk

Agency with his brother, James. He also served as acting consultant and representative to H.M.S. Realty, owned by his three daughters.

Funderburk made numerous charitable donations to local churches and schools, political candidates and parties, and various non-profit organizations including the YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, United Way, Ocshner's, Boy Scouts, 4-H Club, and various cancer and heart associations.

Among his honors, Funder-

burk received the Terrebonne Press Award in 1962 for his contributions to Terrebonne Parish, and the Harvey Peltier Award from Nicholls State University Alumni Federation for his leadership in education and business in south Louisiana.

An interesting aspect of this collection contains an interview with Funderburk in 1987 wherein he recounts his life story. He describes his service in World War I as a Marine, the Great Depression of the 1920s, the history of Houma during the early 20th century, and the failing of local banks during the 1930s.

The collection also contains news and legal proceedings resulting from the gas explosion in Houma in 1970, which involved one of his buildings.

The collection is approximately 140 linear ft., spanning 1891-1993, and includes correspondence, business ledgers, newspapers, magazines, photographs, blueprints, audio cassette tapes, and maps of south Louisiana.

-Neil Guilbeau

TULANE'S HOWARD-TILTON LIBRARY HOSTING PHOTOGRAPH AND EAD WORKSHOPS

The Society of American Archivists is sponsoring two upcoming workshops at Tulane University's Howard-Tilton Memorial Library. On November 5-6, 2009, Marcy Flynn and Dana Hemmenway will host Under-

standing Photos: Intro to Archival Principles. Then on February 25-26, 2010, Michael J. Fox and Kris Kiesling will be on hand for Encoded Archival Description. SAA has authorized LAMA members to receive a \$25 dis-

count off the nonmember fee on the EAD workshop. Interested registrants should enter LAMLAMAEAD in the code space on the registration form and SAA staff will process the discount manually. Early-bird registration

for the EAD workshop ends January 26, 2010. See the SAA continuing education calendar for more information about onsite and online training opportunities (www.archivists.org).

-Solveig DeSutter

SENATORS JOHNSTON AND BREAUX FEATURED IN EXHIBIT AT HILL



LSU Hill Memorial Library Special Collections is currently hosting an exhibit featuring the Congressional Papers of Senators John B. Breaux and J. Bennett Johnston through January 2010. The exhibit is named "Two Gentlemen from Louisiana," a reference to the manner in which Congressmen address one another on the House and Senate floors. The exhibition opened September 8, 2009 and marks the formal opening of the Breaux papers. Documents and photographs highlighting Breaux and Johnston's political careers and legislative accomplishments during their combined fifty-five years in Congress are displayed. A small sampling of items related to other members of Congress from Louisiana is also included.

Breaux, a Democrat from Crowley, first represented the Seventh District of Louisiana in the U. S. House of Representatives, beginning

in 1972, and held that position until his election to the U.S. Senate in 1986. He left office in January 2005. During his tenure, he came to be known for his abilities to broker compromises across party lines, as well as his work on Social Security, healthcare, and Medicare reform and efforts to restore and save Louisiana's wetlands. Though largely recognized for his focus on fostering bi-partisan cooperation, Breaux also held leadership roles in the Democratic Party, especially among the New Democrats. He was elected Chief Deputy Whip in 1993 and held the post for the remainder of his career and served as chair of both the Democratic Leadership Council (1991-1993) and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (1989-1991). Senator Breaux donated his papers to the LSU Libraries in 2004. Processing of the collection was supported through a Congress-

sionally-directed grant administered by the Department of Education. Project staff included Project Archivist Phyllis Kinison, now archivist at Ouachita Baptist University, and Project Assistant Robert Lay, now at the Dole Institute for Politics. The finding aid is available at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/breaux.html>.

Johnston, a native of Shreveport and also a Democrat, was elected to the Senate in 1972 and served until his retirement in January 1997. Throughout his tenure, Johnston focused on navigation, wetlands protection, flood control, hurricane protection, and other natural resources programs. Many consider Johnston's crowning achievement to be passage of the National

Energy Security Act, the most comprehensive package of energy related measures to be considered in Congress until that time. He chaired the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee during the 93rd Congress and narrowly lost to George Mitchell in the election for Senate Majority Leader. Senator Johnston's papers have been available for research since 2002. For more information about this collection, see the finding aid at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/ppapers.html>.

Additional details about exhibit-related events are available at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/exhibits/index.html>. For more information about the collections contact Tara Laver, (225) 578-6546, tzachar@lsu.edu.

-Tara Laver and Brad Wiles



Above: John Breaux talks to constituents circa 1976. Above left: J. Bennett Johnston after a election win in 1971. Next page: Piccadilly menu. All images courtesy of LSU Special Collections.

PICCADILLY DONATES FLAVORFUL HISTORY TO HILL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Natives of Baton Rouge may remember a trip to the first Piccadilly Restaurant on Third Street – the line of tempting choices from which to create your own “Dilly Meal,” the thrill of waiting for the change to come down the cash register’s exit ramp and the anticipation of one final treat, perhaps a mint patty or pack of gum, to be purchased at the checkout counter.

Such memories will now be preserved for posterity in the LSU Libraries Special Collections, since Piccadilly Restaurants, LLC, donated its records to the department, where they will be archived and made available to researchers. The official transfer of records took place during a signing ceremony at Piccadilly headquarters on October 1, 2009.

Many of the documents are founder Tandy Hamilton’s original correspondence from the 1930s and 1940s, along with other papers and photographs recently discovered in a storage facility in Baton



Rouge.

Tandy Hamilton, a 21-year veteran of the cafeteria business at the time, had dreamed of managing his own 40 restaurants. While employed as general manager of The Forum, a Midwestern cafeteria chain, he learned of another small cafeteria called Piccadilly that was for sale in Baton Rouge. He and his family bought the business, located

first 50 years in business and the primary role Hamilton played in the company. Hallmarks of Hamilton’s management were quality control, efficiency, consistency and value.

He incorporated standardization and systemization practices, from determining cost per serving for each of the chain’s standard recipes to meat cutting procedures, food display, purchasing and pricing specifications.

Consequently, the training manuals, speeches, correspondence, reports, and photographs that make up the donation not only document the company’s history but also Hamilton’s management style, and provide an excellent case study of the 20th century phenomenon of the development of chain restaurants and their expansion after World War II. For more information on the project, contact Tara Laver tzachar@lsu.edu.

-Tara Laver and Brad Wiles

HILL TO HOST ARCHIVES MONTH SYMPOSIUM WITH LOCAL SCHOLARS

In recognition of 2009 American Archives Month, the staff of the Special Collections Department at Hill Memorial Library will host an afternoon symposium on Thursday October 29, 2009, from 3-5 p.m. *Chords of Memory: Archives at Hill and Beyond*, will feature a panel of community scholars and writers discussing the role of archives and historical records in their

professional and creative pursuits. The panel includes Dr. J. Michael Desmond, Mary Ann Sternberg, Dr. Suzanne Marchand, and Dr. Richard White, followed by a Q&A session and refreshments.

Desmond will describe his use of archival resources at Hill Memorial Library Special Collections for a recently completed architectural survey project of the original

LSU campus, sponsored by the Getty Foundation. Sternberg, the author of *Winding Through Time: The Forgotten History and Present-Day Peril of Bayou Manchac* (2007) and *Along the River Road: Past and Present on Louisiana’s Historic Byway* (2001), will offer a perspective on the non-professional uses of archives in popular historical research. Marchand, author of *German*

Orientalism in the Age of Empire (2009), will offer insights into conducting research at European archives repositories. White, author of books on Huey Long, Theodore Roosevelt, and the forthcoming *Will Rogers, A Political Biography* (2010), will discuss archives and the writing of biography.

For more information contact Brad Wiles at 225-578-7714 or bwiles1@lsu.edu.



Louisiana

Archives & Manuscripts Association

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LAMA MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association promotes the role of archives in the preservation of our national, state, and local heritage by cooperating with Louisiana's public and private archival repositories in their work of collecting, conserving, and making accessible to the public manuscript, printed, graphic arts, and audio materials of historical significance. LAMA has 67 dues paying members in 2009 compared to 72 in 2008. There are 47 individual members including 9 students, 4 seniors, and 1 sustaining member. There were 41 individual members in 2008. There are 5 organization members in 2009 compared to 10 in 2008. These organizations included membership for 15

people while in 2008 21 people had memberships through organizations. 52% of the members are connected with academic institutions. (This includes students.) 15% are from historical societies/museums. 9% are from religious archives and 9% from government archives. Other types of organizations represented by members include public libraries, medical libraries, and commercial companies. 36% of members are from the Baton Rouge area and 33% are from the New Orleans region. Representation from other geographic regions are: Imperial Calcasieu 9%; North and Central 7%; Acadiana 6%; and Lafourche 4%. There are three out-of-state members. -Bruce Turner LAMA Treasurer

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WWW.LOUISIANAARCHIVISTS.ORG



LAMA offers the following membership categories:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$10 for each additional rep) | \$30.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$1000.00 |

Subtotal: _____

Total: _____

Membership in LAMA entitles you receive the *LAMA Newsletter* and invitations to the Association's annual meetings. LAMA members also automatically become members of the Southern Archives Conference (SAC), an umbrella organization of Southeastern state archival organizations, encompassing the state organizations of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. SAC meets every other year in one of the membership states.

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