

SPRING CONFERENCE

Flirting with disasters

By **LORI SCHWARTZ**

South Carolina Political Collections

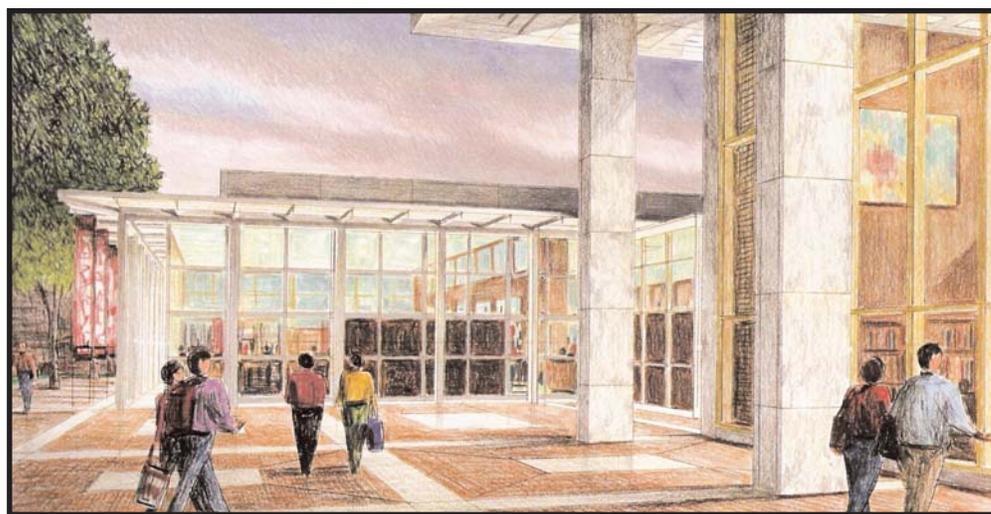
On March 16, archivists from around the state gathered at the South Carolina Archives and History Center for the annual SCAA spring conference. With sessions arranged around a theme, "Flirting With Disasters," the conference included talks on the after-

math of Hurricane Katrina, problem patrons and security, and conservation strategies for troublesome scrapbooks.

In the morning session, Sharon Bennett, Archivist at the Charleston Museum, and Michelle Baker, Chief Registrar at the State Museum, presented slideshows on their efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Sharon

spoke of her experience in New Orleans from Sept. 20-22 as a member of the History Emergency Assistance Recovery Team (HEART) of AASLH, focusing on her team's efforts to assess damage sustained at the Old U.S. Mint, the hardest hit among properties

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An architect's rendering of the new SCPC wing

The evolution of S.C. Political Collections

By **HERBERT J. HARTSOOK**

South Carolina Political Collections

Over the past 15 years, South Carolina Political Collections has gained a national reputation for its collections and programs and is on its way to meeting the vision created for it at its founding in 1991. Modern Political Collections (MPC) was established as a division of the South Caroliniana Library as the

direct result of the decision by U.S. Sen. Ernest F. "Fritz" Hollings to place his personal papers with the University. MPC's mission was to collect and administer manuscript collections documenting government and politics in the post-World War II era. It began with 18 collections transferred from

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Presbyterian College opens new archives

On March 23, Presbyterian College opened a new facility for Archives and Special Collections. Located on the second floor of the new Russell-Arnold addition to the Thomason Library, it includes a large reading room, exhibit spaces, and areas for storing and processing of materials.

One of the highlighted parts of the new facility is the Isabel Arnold Collection, which will be made available to the public for the first time. This collection contains a large group of papers, photographs, books, furniture, and other items related to Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and several other prominent Southern families. The collection had its beginnings in 1867 when Thomas Arnold, nephew of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, began collecting material about his famous uncle. Following Thomas Arnold's death in 1933, his daughter, Isabel Arnold, continued to add materials. She passed the items on to Ernest J. Arnold, who cared for them for more

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News from the S.C. Department of Archives and History

Preservation Officer Hired

Heather South has been hired as SCDAH preservation officer. Heather is a graduate of Winthrop University (B.A. in History/Political Science) and will complete her M.A. in History this summer. After working at the Winthrop University Archives, 1997-1999, Heather joined the York County Culture and Heritage Museums where she was in charge of the search room.

She also has experience in processing exhibits, and archival and genealogical public programming. Heather has been involved in disaster planning. Reach her at (803) 896-6112 or south@scdah.state.sc.us.

A Sampling of Online Images from the Archives Holdings

A new online exhibit features a sampling of documents from the Archives' holdings: <http://www.palmettohistory.org/exhibits/curiousintro.htm>

Civil War Letters Case

The latest developments regarding the ongoing attempt by the SCDAH to recover Civil War era Governors' correspondence are available at: <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/court.htm>

Disaster Planning & Recovery Initiatives

Work is underway to upgrade the SCDAH disaster preparedness and response capabilities and support. This includes ensuring enough supplies and equipment are on hand and accessible for rapid response, creating a Web page on disaster planning and recovery (<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/disaster.htm>), and conducting a full-day track of sessions on disaster planning and recovery at the April 25 records management conference. There will be more to report on this subject over the next few months.

Online Catalog Project

As reported in the last issue of *SCAAzette*, the SCDAH has received \$158,650 in IMLS funding from the S.C. State Library to convert its DOS-based catalog to a Windows environment (for the press release, see: <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/1stagrant.htm>). The SCDAH has contracted with Re:discovery Software Inc., Charlottesville, Va. (www.rediscoverysoftware.com). The conversion should be completed by fall 2006. For further information, contact Sharon Mackintosh (Sharon@scdah.state.sc.us).

Newsletter Available

The latest issue of the S.C. Department of Archives and History's *On the Record, Online*, is available at: <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/OTRv4n2.pdf>.

News from the S.C. State Historical Records Advisory Board

NHPRC Funding in Danger, Again: Your Help Is Needed!

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the funding branch of the National Archives, has again been zeroed out of the President's budget proposal. Archivists, genealogists, historians, and others rallied last year in a magnificent show of concern for the good work of the NHPRC, ultimately restoring it in the federal budget process. This year, a national effort is underway not only to restore NHPRC but also to increase its appropriation to \$20 million. If this succeeds, \$10 million of the total is designated in formula-based grants to the states for regranting, referred to as the Partnership for the American Historical Record. For details on the plight of NHPRC and the funding campaign, see:

www.savearchives.pbwiki.com.

Your help is needed in contacting members of the S.C. Congressional delegation to support NHPRC (see: <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/shrab/calltoAction.htm>). Instructions on what to include in your communication are available on the save archives Web site, and details about the impact of the NHPRC grants program in South Carolina that would be useful to mention are available at:

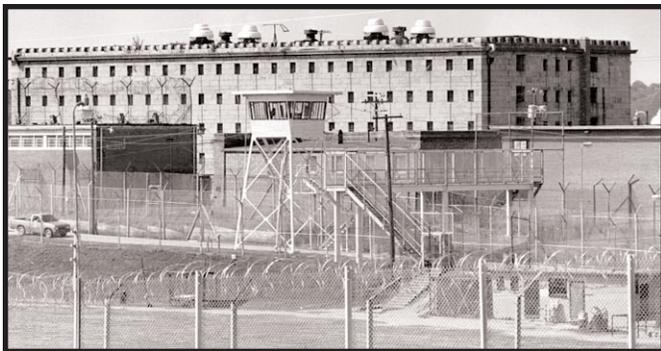
<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/shrab/Grants.htm>

SC SHRAB Awards

The S.C. SHRAB's 2006 awards were made at the annual meeting of the South Caroliniana Society on April 29 in Columbia to the following individuals:

- *Governor's Archives Award*: Alexia Jones Helsley, for outstanding service in promoting the wider use of South Carolina's documentary heritage
- *Award of Merit*: Nancy Phelps, for exemplary contributions to the preservation of and access to the archives of the City of Charleston
- *Award of Merit*: Michael Hughey, for

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Samples from the Archives' online holdings: top left, the former S.C. Department of Corrections, cell block 1; and, bottom left, a \$1 note from the Bank of the State of South Carolina.

Join the SCAA listserv!

Learn about SCAA news and events first!

Connect with your colleagues around the state and region!

We are waiting for **YOU** to sign

up!

There are currently 17 members registered. We're depending on you to help us create a useful and efficient method of communication.

Registration is easy and free of charge. Simply send a blank e-mail to: SCArchivists-subscribe@yahoo.com.

If you have any questions or problems subscribing, contact Brian Fahey at bfahey@catholic-doc.org.

CONFERENCE

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of the Louisiana State Museum. Michelle went to New Orleans in November with a team from Historic Charleston. They visited neighborhoods with extensive damage and helped homeowners decide what items should be discarded and what items could be kept.

At lunch, Roy Tryon spoke briefly about the importance of saving National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) funding, in trouble again this year. In conjunction, he announced a new program, Partnership for the American Historical Record (<http://www.archivists.org/news/nhprc-FY2007-Partnership.asp>), meant to address the critical issue of increasing federal support for preserving and providing access to records of long-term value. Suzanne Singleton, president of the SCAA Board, then introduced the newest member of the Board, Laura Koser, formerly of the South Carolina Library and now at the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston. Laura will be taking over as Director,

Mark Your Calendars!

What: Summer Social 2006, September 16
Where: Historic Pendleton & Hagood Mill

What: Fall Conference & Business Meeting, October 10
Where: S.C. Department of Archives & History

planning our conferences and workshops.

Keynote speaker Alexia Helsley, Past President of SCAA, told tales of Beaufort's past and of her own memories growing up in Beaufort, where she moved with her family in 1955. Helsley, author of the recent *Beaufort: A History*, began her talk, "Beaufort: Overcoming Obstacles," with the Yemassee Indians in the seventeenth century and ended in modern day with Hurricane Gracie that struck the town (at low tide, thankfully) in September 1959.

The afternoon concurrent sessions offered conference attendees a choice between scrapbook conservation and problem patrons. Tucky Taylor, Head of Circulation at Thomas Cooper Library at USC, and Corporal Kenneth Adams of the Division of Law Enforcement

and Safety at USC presented a session, "Archives and Security," to teach proper ways for librarians and archivists to approach and talk with problem patrons, resolving potentially dangerous situations safely. Midway through the session, Tucky handed out possible problem patron scenarios and asked attendees to pair up and role-play the scenarios, a valuable activity that elicited many smiles and resulted in numerous learned lessons.

The other concurrent session drew together a small group of archivists led by presenter Tommy Betenbaugh, Conservator at the State Archives, for hands-on learning in a session titled "Scrapbooks: Alternative Conservation Strategies."

Attendees also enjoyed a poster session presented by Drusilla Carter and Gypsy Legge of the University of South Carolina. Drusilla and Gypsy presented their work on the digitization of seminar music and USDA soil surveys of South Carolina in a poster session titled "Beyond Books: Digitization of Ephemeral and Non-Traditional Materials."

SHRAB

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his commitment to the preservation of Clemson University's heritage through the active and effective support of its records management, archives, and museum collection programs

Details about these awards are available at: <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/shrab/2006awardspresent.htm>

Staff Assistant Hired

A new \$45,970 NHPRC grant to the

S.C. SHRAB for planning and administrative support, 2006-2007, provides funding for a part time assistant. Stephanie Stewart, a USC Public History graduate student, began work in early January. In addition to providing support for the Board planning process (<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/shrab/2006plan/2006planpage.htm>), her primary project activity is to revise and update the S.C. SHRAB's online directory of South Carolina historical records repositories (<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/repository/repositories.htm>).

Furman exhibit showcases 'new woman' Evans

By **MARIE A. WATKINS**
and **DEBBIELEE LANDI**

Furman University

Furman University's James B. Duke Library is hosting an exhibit created in honor of Women's History Month, the Year of the Museum and the Year of the Humanities at Furman.

"Cultural Broker in Bonnets: Jane B. Evans, Florence, South Carolina" is a collaborative effort among the Special Collections and Archives Department and the Art Department at Furman University and the Florence Museum of Art, Science, and History.

The exhibit is sponsored by The Year of the Humanities Fund, The Humanities Development Fund, The James B. Duke Library, and the Furman University Art Department.

Following is a description of an exhibition:

The mid-19th century was characterized by dramatic social change, including explosive urbanization, a burgeoning middle class, advancements in science, growing support for women's suffrage, and new educational opportunities. Change dominated the first half of the 20th century as well. The airplane and the automobile, Marie Curie's discovery of radium, Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis, World War I, and the Great Depression altered the way people experienced and interpreted the world around them.

Women, however, still faced opposition from the establishment. In response, some women constructed fresh approaches: founding museums and alternative art institutions, traveling to new places, exploring employment opportunities, and engaging in political activity. A modern notion of femininity emerged, the "New Woman," who was much less traditional in appearance

Jane B. Evans exemplifies the "New Woman." For this reason, we have chosen this exhibit to recognize not only Women's History Month, but also The Year of the Museum, and Furman University's Year of the Humanities.

and attitude.

Jane B. Evans exemplifies the "New Woman." For this reason, we have chosen this exhibition to recognize not only Women's History Month, but also The Year of the Museum, and Furman University's Year of the Humanities. The pottery, paintings, and other artifacts on display in this exhibition are on loan from the Florence Museum of Art, Science, and History.

Jane B. Evans (1866-1950) changed the cultural landscape of her hometown of Florence, S.C. A social activist, Evans assumed a leadership role in the patriotic National League for Women's Services during World War I. One program led to the organization of The Blue Bird Tea Room, a popular canteen for soldiers passing through the railroad hub of Florence. Serendipitously, funds from the Tea Room allowed Evans to establish the Florence Museum, the foundation of which was Southwestern Native American pottery.

In the 1920s, Evans, like many of her fellow women artists, journeyed to the alluring landscapes and peoples of

Special Collections and Archives Exhibition

■ **Where:** James B. Duke Library,
Furman University

■ **When:** Through
June 30, 2006

■ **Online:** [http://
library.furman.edu/
depts/speccoll/exhibition/](http://library.furman.edu/depts/speccoll/exhibition/)



the American Southwest. She seized this opportunity to fulfill a lifelong desire, a museum for her hometown. The Blue Bird Tea Room Committee, reconstituted as the Florence Museum, purchased several of the pieces that are currently on display. Through Evans' determination and persistence, the Florence Museum was chartered several years later (1936) and initially displayed the pottery collection in a corner of the public library.

Evans' contributions to the Florence Museum developed from her artistic interests and her conscience of social service. Serving as the first curator of the Florence Museum, Evans tenaciously promoted fund-raising drives, recruited prominent speakers, and secured exhibitions to transform the Museum into a cultural and educational center. Under Evans' guidance, the Museum acquired Oriental art and material culture, Greco-Roman and ancient Near Eastern artifacts, and additional Southwestern Native American objects. Typical of the time period, the Museum was not only oriented to the fine arts, but also ethnography and archaeology.

Marie A. Watkins is an Assistant Professor of Art. DebbieLee Landi is a Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"...to collect information respecting every portion of our State, to preserve it, and when deemed advisable to publish it."

New archivist in a new town

By **LAURA KOSEK**

South Carolina Historical Society

Being the "new archivist on the block" isn't always easy.

On Jan. 3, 2006, I started work as an archivist at the South Carolina Historical Society. Once the apartment was packed up and the moving van loaded, one of the hardest parts of moving to Charleston was saying good-bye to all the wonderful people I worked with at the South Caroliniana Library and South Carolina Political Collections in Columbia over the past three years.

As I settle in here and find myself pestering my very kind colleagues with fewer and fewer questions and spending less and less time puzzling over a new cataloging system it seems like an excellent time to step back and take stock — How are things going, and what have I learned?

A well-meaning colleague here suggested that I should title this article "Help — I inherited a mess!" Circumstances are hardly that bad. Archives share similar problems although in different forms. There are backlogs, badly processed collections and those mysterious items from who knows where that no one knows how to deal with. These are the problems, the sore spots that drive us further down in the dumps on bad days and lead to grumpy archivists singing the "backlog blues."

As the "new archivist on the block" it is tempting to tackle all the troublesome problems at once. Optimism and enthusiasm make a convincing case that, yes, it can be done. As we all know, other things begin to get in the way: new projects; new problems; and, oh, yes, researchers. These, however,

Perhaps a future archivist will look at what I've done and say, "I've inherited a mess but it's doable."

are the reasons that we are here — and the reasons why those "scary shelves of shame" are probably here to stay.

After the initial burst of optimism fades, it is easy to get overwhelmed — Where will I start and when will I find the time to do it? Some afternoons I find myself looking for the dents made by earlier archivists, hoping to pick up where they left off. Of all the confusing problems I face, this is often the most daunting.

As archivists we organize information, creating finding aids, databases, and other tools to help others access the documentary record. This often time-consuming process of making information available to others often leaves us with little time to organize and document our own work. In many cases the administrative knowledge of archives often ends up stored in minds of archivists and librarians. It goes where they go and leaves when they leave. This can create a difficult situation for new archivists who must do a lot of sleuthing to uncover what was done when and how — information that their predecessors took with them.

When I began my previous position as the Hayes Mizell Papers processing archivist, my predecessor, Craig Keeney, kindly left a letter detailing what he had completed, and even bet-

ter, notes that let me know what he did, when, and approximately how long it took him. More than anything, this expedited the completion of the project and provided a ready reference when minor mysteries arose. Here at SCHS, the previous Archivist, Nic Butler, often placed notes in relevant folders detailing what he actions he had taken.

I've tried to continue and expand these handy habits in my work here. Each day I take two or three minutes to type out a list of one-line descriptions of what I did that day. It's a great way to fill a few extra minutes or to pass the time when I find myself on hold. A sample day looks something like this:

March 10: Worked 12:30 – 4:15 in Library

- Finished description of McMurtry collection
- Investigated decorative patterns from Albert Simons (from shelf in archives room) with intent to catalog and re-house
- Matt asked me to write short article about Map / Plat project for next *Carologue*
- Looked into origin of Charleston Port Society records for researcher

This way I and whoever follows me know the who-what-when-where of my position (as I did it) when they start. Better yet, it fills in gaps in my own memory so I know when I responded to a letter or e-mail or when someone asked me to help on a project. Best of all, it reminds me that while I haven't effected a miracle by making all the problem spots disappear, I do accomplish at least a few small things every day. Perhaps a future archivist will look at what I've done and say, "I've inherited a mess – but it's do-able."

Charleston Library Society receives SHRAB microfilm grant

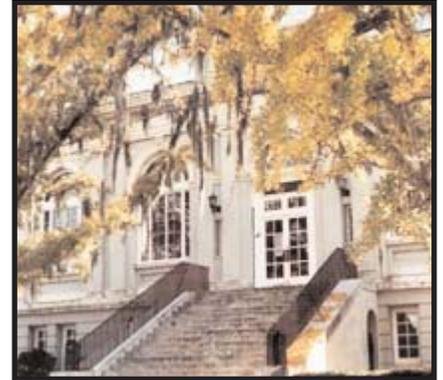
The Charleston Library Society is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant by the South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) to microfilm records from the Library's own manuscript collection of records maintained for the organization since it was founded in 1748.

During this extensive period of time, the Library has compiled a vast assortment of records pertaining to its membership, trustees, collections, and finances. Researchers from around the world have made use of such materials as the Charleston Library Society's minute books, accession records, financial records, and other original materials to aid in significant study of various time periods and topics.

Of note, Dr. James Raven used items from this particular collection of the Charleston Library Society's holdings in his book entitled *London Booksellers and American Customers: Transatlantic Literary Community and the Charleston Library Society, 1748-1811* (University of South Carolina Press, 2002). Raven is currently involved in two major projects, "Mapping the Print Culture of Eighteenth-Century London" at Oxford University and the Cambridge Project for the Book Trust at Cambridge University.

The institutional records of the Charleston Library Society have never before been duplicated, and any need for reference of these volumes has previously required use of the originals. By microfilming these records, the Charleston Library Society can now reduce the use of these delicate volumes and increase the availability of these unique records for many more years to come. Microfilming more than 200 years of records was a daunting task that was made possible thanks to the hard work and support of staff members from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Also, the Charleston Library Society wishes to acknowledge the generosity of Charming Inns for providing excellent accommodations during the project.

As a result of this grant, the early records of the Charleston Library Society are now available on microfilm and can be viewed at any time during the Library's daily hours of operation on Monday through Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We are truly grateful to everyone who helped make this project a success, and we encourage individuals who are interested in using the microfilmed records to take advantage of this new resource at the Charleston Library Society.



Researchers from around the world have made use of such materials as the Charleston Library Society's minute books, accession records, financial books, and other original materials to aid in significant study of various time periods and topics.

PRESBYTERIAN

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than 25 years before donating them to Presbyterian College. The collection contains materials not only on the Jackson and Arnold families, but also the interrelated families of General Joseph Graham, Rev. Robert Hall Morrison, and South Carolina native Gen. Daniel Harvey Hill.

The new archives facility will also provide increased storage space for many of Presbyterian College's existing collections. Among these are two book

collections, the Jones South Carolina Collection and the Smyth Collection, which include many items of South Caroliniana. Also included are the contents of the college's historic pamphlet collection, which contains several hundred rare 19th century pamphlets, many from South Carolina. The special collections area also includes a replica of the library of the college's founder, Rev. William Plumer Jacobs, as well as materials on the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina.

The Presbyterian College Archives, in addition to containing papers, publications, photographs, programs, clip-

pings, and other materials that document the history, organization, and development of the college, also includes materials on Thornwell Orphanage. The collection also includes extensive materials, including sermons and other manuscripts, written by William Plumer Jacobs and his father, Rev. Ferdinand Jacobs. Other items of interest are the Bee-Mail Letters, a series of letters written by more than 500 PC servicemen during World War II, and the Bailey Family collection, which includes information on the Bailey family of Clinton, the Bailey Bank, and Clinton Mills.