

KCA Spring Meeting 2002
River Park Center, Owensboro
Friday, April 12, 2002

Glen Taul, chair of KCA and archivist at Georgetown College, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Sister Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, who coordinated local arrangements for this meeting, welcomed the group to Owensboro. Attendees were each given a small bag of pens, pencils, notepads, and other complimentary items.

A panel considered the subject of "What Do I Collect? And Why?" The speakers were James Goode of Lexington Community College, who spoke of his efforts organizing a special collection at Southeast Community College; Martina Kunnecke of the Kentucky African-American Heritage Center in Louisville; and Sue Lynn Stone of Western Kentucky University.

Sue Lynn spoke of her work at other institutions including a NHPRC grant to begin an archives at Cumberland University in Tennessee and as the archivist at Carson-Newman College in eastern Tennessee. She envisions her role at Western as "taking care of Western's history." She has a collections policy at WKU to guide her since the school is offered many items of the same kind (e.g., class rings). She asks alumni to tell her what she should collect to properly document their years at Western.

Martina spoke about her experiences with the center in coming to collect archival material, despite that not being the organization's original plan. She knew little about African American history when she began but has learned much, including issues about preserving the history of a poorly documented population. The center is looking forward to working with Kentucky State University to develop collecting guidelines.

James realized the SE Community College needed a collections policy and focused its efforts on the early twentieth century through the present day. He noted that such archives can't be everything for everybody but must determine what they will and won't be and what they can afford.

Following a break, Jeanne Suchanek of the University of Kentucky presented a session on fundraising and stewardship. She emphasized the following points:

People give to people

Cultivation of current and potential donors

Identification and research of current and potential donors

Development/implementation of solicitation strategies

Stewardship of current donors

Jeanne noted that cultivation is the most important part of fundraising work.

Prior to the annual business meeting, the floor was opened for announcements. KCA welcomed Chuck Hill, the new head of Special Collections at Eastern Kentucky University. Sue Lynn Stone announced that the musical Hilltoppers would be reunited at Western Kentucky University Saturday, May 11. Glen Taul announced a joint project between Georgetown College and the Georgetown/Scott County Museum, an exhibit documenting a college building fire.

Mary Margaret Bell reported on behalf of Richard Belding, coordinator of the State Historical Records Advisory Board, who could not attend. She distributed copies of SHRAB's strategic plan and asked for comments to Barbara Teague at KDLA. To see the plan on the web, go to <http://www.kdla.state.ky.us/pubrec/strecadv.htm>.

Sister Kate Misbauer of the Sisters of Loretto sought advice from anyone who had recently constructed new facilities or renovated an older building for archival purposes. Sister Louise Quinlan, O.P., of St. Catharine Motherhouse sought assistance in finding a print shop that would print from old wood blocks recently uncovered.

Kathie Johnson of the University of Louisville reported on a grant-funded project to digitize materials from the Kentucky Quilt Project survey work. Mike Veach of the Filson Historical Society announced that his colleague Jim Holmberg had completed work on his volume of William Clark letters and the publication is now out.

Glen led the annual business meeting. An amendment to the constitution to create a position of chairperson-elect was proposed. The amendment was adopted by acclamation. The board proposed a slate of candidates to fill the vacancies in its membership. Mike Veach of the Filson was proposed to complete the term of Craig Heuser, who resigned from KCA. Whitney Baker of UK and Bill Kostlevy of Asbury Theological Seminary were nominated for the two positions being vacated by the completion of terms. The slate of candidates was also adopted by acclamation.

Lunch catered by the famous Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn of Owensboro followed. Many door prizes donated by Owensboro businesses were awarded to lucky attendees. The luncheon program was then given by Joseph Ford, Daviess County naturalist and former director of the Owensboro Area Museum. Mr. Ford described anecdotes relating to Owensboro area cultural and natural history.

The afternoon program was a multimedia presentation concerning a disastrous fire and subsequent record recovery effort at the University of Kentucky Administration Building. The program was presented by UK archivists Tom Rosko and Whitney Baker, who played leading roles in the recovery efforts. This disaster was notable in that the top people at the university were directly affected, thus funds and assistance were more readily available. Tom and Whitney described their work with Munters, a disaster response firm, and the painstaking efforts in reconstituting damaged record groups.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the board announced that it had elected Jim Cundy of KDLA as the new KCA chair and that Whitney Baker of UK had been elected to the newly created vice chair/chair elect position.

The meeting was adjourned.