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Archival Education in the Southeast: Auburn University

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Audrey Cook, a student from Michigan, attends the Public History program at the University of

West Georgia. Audrey will graduate from UWG in May of 2008 and hopes to

pursue a career in archives.

Photograph by Steven Broome, University of West Georgia, 2007.

Auburn University

The Auburn University Archival Studies Program has been educating archivists since the History Department began offering archival courses in 1973. Auburn University students currently hold professional archival positions at a wide variety of historical repositories, including the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History, The Alabama Department of Archives and History, The U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell Air Force, and the Tuskegee University Archives, for a few examples.

The Archival Studies Program at Auburn University is composed of a concentration of archival courses within the graduate history program. The program allows students to combine the specialized archival courses increasingly required for employment in professional archival positions with traditional historical training. Most students in the Archival Studies Program enroll in the archives concentration while pursuing either an M.A. or a Ph.D. in history. Students that already possess a history graduate degree (or a Masters of Library and Information Science) are able to enroll in archival courses through general graduate school admittance without matriculating toward a further graduate degree.

The Archival Studies Program concentration is a four course sequence. All archival studies students are required to take the introductory course (Fundamentals of Archival Theory and Practice) and an internship. The practicum can be taken at a variety of archival repositories. Auburn University students have recently conducted internships at the Auburn University Archives and at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Auburn archival studies students have access to a wide variety of specialized archival courses from which to select

their two electives classes through our participation in the Southeast Archives Education Collaborative (SAEC). (SAEC is described elsewhere in this issue.) The elective courses include Oral History, History of Archives and Record Keeping, Archival Appraisal and Selection, Electronic Description of Archival Materials, Management of Electronic Records, Public Programming for Historical Organizations and Archives, and Audio/Visual Archives.

Students interested in the studying archival management or learning more about Archival Studies Program at Auburn University should visit:

http://media.cla.auburn.edu/history/gs/archival_program.htm, or contact, Dr. Joseph Turrini (334-844-7638; turrijm@auburn.edu). For more on admission to the graduate program in the History Department at Auburn University, students should visit:

http://media.cla.auburn.edu/history/gs/index.htm . For more on general admittance to the graduate school, students should visit: http://www.grad.auburn.edu/prospective.html . Joseph M. Turrini

East Tennessee State University

Students interested in archival studies can further their education at East Tennessee State University. The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies offers both a full master's degree with a concentration in archival studies and a graduate certificate in archival studies. The degree program consists of a forty-credit cross-disciplinary program of study that is consistent with the recommendations of the Society of American Archivists, while the certificate program consists of an eighteen-credit course of study. Both programs are cross-disciplinary.

In the degree concentration program, students take core courses in both liberal studies and archival studies. Elective courses come from three categories: library science; management; and subject fields. A practicum at a local repository is an elective option. The core archival studies courses consist of archives history and issues; archives theory and practice; conservation; and information and records management. The core liberal studies courses consist of foundations in liberal studies; introduction to interdisciplinary study; seminar in interdisciplinary research; thesis research or project research; and either information networks-resource sharing or managing content on the internet.

The four archival core courses are all offered online, with the exception of one week of sessions (three sessions) for the conservation course. The conservation course is offered during the three-week Summer presession that falls between the end of Spring semester and the beginning of the first Summer term.

The graduate certificate is designed for individuals who need or want archival education, but for whom the full degree program is not necessary. Employees of a historic site, a museum, or business, may benefit from the certificate program, as may those who have responsibility for maintaining family or church records, for instance. Certificate students must take the three archival studies courses, as well as three courses selected from an approved list. Included as course options are management, computer science, information and records management, and history courses. The archival practicum also may be taken as an elective course. The graduate certificate may be pursued as an online program or as a mix of online and on-ground courses. An online student may pursue a practicum at a repository located near the student.