

## A New Archives Facility For Delray Beach

When the Delray Beach Historical Society (DBHS) lost its lease at the Cornell Museum of Art & History for the space established as an Archives Room in 1991, the Society needed to move its archives collection to a new location. A two-year project began.

### Choosing the Building & Discovering Its History

In late 2006 several older frame dwellings were acquired by Madison of Delray, one of several developers constructing multifamily units in Delray Beach's downtown corridor.

Madison's ownership agreed to donate one of the residences to the DBHS, provided it could be moved in several months. It was then March 2007. The house chosen by the DBHS had most recently been the office of the prominent Bridges, Marsh & Associates architectural firm. Digby Bridges, a longtime supporter of the Society donated professional time to design the "new" facility after it was determined by local historic restoration contractor and Society member Ken Blair that the house could be moved and restored for adaptive use. But before the Delray Beach Historical Society even considered "saving" the yellow bungalow at 124 NE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue from almost certain demolition, countless hours of research had been conducted on its provenance and relevance to local history. As bits of information were assembled and deciphered, it became apparent that much of the fabric of early Delray was woven by families who lived in or near the little bungalow. The dwelling was not just a house, but a lesson about the

beginnings of our city. Research continues. When the Learning Center opens, the whole story will be told "as if these walls could talk".

### Financial Support

The DBHS Board of Governors unanimously approved the project in January 2007 and committed its financial support. The Society moved forward to raise funds through its Annual

Antiques Show & Sales and planned a Capital Campaign. In addition approximately \$500,000 was raised from the Delray Beach CRA, the City of Delray Beach, the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners and State of Florida Division of Historical Resources and the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

### The House & Its First Occupants

Early on, the DBHS decided to name the bungalow "Hunt House," after its probable first permanent occupants, Horace and Rae Hunt and their young daughter. John Alm built the house around 1907, initially renting to the Hunts in 1908 before they could secure a mortgage. The Hunts occupied their home from 1908 to 1915, engaging in farming, commercial fishing, and land investment.

In November 2007 the approximately 1,800 square foot Hunt House was moved next to the DBHS's Cason Cottage, an historic house museum furnished in the period of 1915 to 1935, and the 1926 Bungalow, giving the site

its third building. Hunt House was essentially a farm house in the beginning, a typical Florida bungalow with a high pitched roof and wide porches on the front and one side. It has now been restored to resemble a house of the



**The Hunt House before construction, above, June 17, and after, below, October 3, 2008.**



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**Burt Altman**

## Presidential Address

Happy New Year, everyone.

I hope that you all had a joyous holiday season and a chance to rest and recharge for the new year.

We have much to look forward to this year. First, I'm pleased to announce that the 2009 annual meeting will be held from Monday, April 20 to Wednesday, April 22 in Gainesville. This will be a change from our usual Wednesday-Friday itinerary, which many of you have suggested. The local arrangements committee, consisting of Vice President John Nemmers, Carl Van Ness, and Flo Turcotte have been organizing some excellent sessions which are now being finalized. There will be an appraisal workshop and possibly one on preservation (paper or digital). In addition, there are plans for an outing to the Marjorie Kennan Rawlings home, Cross Creek. Stay tuned to the SFA Listserv and website for more information to come!

As we reported in the fall newsletter, the first of three forums sponsored by the IMLS grant, "Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants," comprised of representatives of museum, libraries, archives, and archaeological collections, was held in Miami last September 6. Attendees, many comprising professionals from museums, libraries, archives, and historic and archaeological collections, learned about the nation's and Florida's Connecting to Collections initiatives, and ways to work with legislators to gather support for collections care work. They identified specific priorities, such as identifying institutions holding collections in Florida, creating an assessment of the condition of those collections, creating regional networks to help secure collections before and after emergencies, and providing training for both professionals and volunteers. The results of this first Forum will be reviewed at a second Forum on Thursday, February 26 in Orlando. This forum will refine the priorities and determine ways to identify and assess collections. A collections care workshop "Managing Archival Collections Without an Archivist on Staff" is planned on the morning of the forum; Carla Summers, SFA's first president, will teach the workshop. A third forum is scheduled for Monday, March 23 in Tallahassee; a "Collections Care 101" workshop is planned to coincide with that forum. Each forum is free, but registration is required, and is followed by a reception for area legislators.

I'd also like to remind everyone about the SFA Award of Excellence. This distinguished award honors an individual, institution, or exemplary program in Florida that has made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Florida's documentary heritage. The recipient need not be an SFA member; any person, institution, or program that has provided exemplary leadership in the field, promoted excellence through outstanding achievements, or contributed significantly to the betterment of the profession may be considered for the award. Information about this prestigious award can be found at <http://www.florida-archivists.org/award.htm>

Sometime in February or early March you will receive a copy of the revised SFA Bylaws. Your Executive Board has diligently worked on this document over the past year to facilitate our operations. Please review the changes that have been made so that you will be able to vote on it at the annual meeting.

With all of these activities ahead of us, I hope that all of you have a productive year!

Sincerely,

Burt Altman, SFA President

## Connecting to Collections

The 2005 *Heritage Health Index Report* found that American collections are at risk of damage because of improper environmental conditions and storage and are vulnerable to catastrophic loss. In Florida, professionals from museums, libraries, archives, and historic and archaeological collections are planning a statewide assessment of Florida's collections and developing strategies to educate legislators and public officials about their responsibility to preserve and conserve Florida's collections – including material related to the state and the world.



This is your opportunity to help plan the assessment, and to make recommendations on statewide policies to secure Florida's collections. Come help shape this important initiative! A first Forum was held in Miami in September 2008. Participants identified the following priorities: identifying institutions holding collections in Florida, creating an assessment of the state of those collections, creating regional networks to help secure collections before and after emergencies, and the need for training for both professionals and volunteers. What needs to be added to the priorities? How can we ensure these priorities are addressed?

The second Forum will take place in the Orlando area at deBary Hall on February 26, and the third Forum will take place at Goodwood Museum & Gardens in Tallahassee on March 23. Each Forum will be followed by a reception for area legislators. The Forums are scheduled in different cities to allow professionals from around the state to participate. For more information and registration: [www.flamuseums.org/programming/c2c/](http://www.flamuseums.org/programming/c2c/).

*This is a collaborative project of the Florida Association of Museums, Florida Art Museum Directors Association, Florida Library Association, Florida Public Archaeology Network, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, Department of State, and Society of Florida Archivists.*

Further information at [www.flamuseums.org](http://www.flamuseums.org), e-mail Myriam Springuel, Florida Association of Museums Program Manager, [Myriam@SpringuelConsulting.com](mailto:Myriam@SpringuelConsulting.com).

## SFA Listserv Q&A

SFA member Joan Denman posted a question on the SFA Listserv in August and within 24 hours, answers were submitted. The SFA Listserv is an excellent resource for help from your colleagues. Below is the question she asked and the answer she received. Thanks Joan!

*Subject: [SFA] Help pls re Storing Rolled 82" long letter*

Dear Colleagues:

We have recently received a rolled letter of 82" long by 6" wide. Our largest box for storage is 60". We don't want to leave it rolled or roll it onto a acid-free tube--it's fragile and needs to be flat. In the past, we encapsulated shorter letters (some on toilet paper of nearly 60") but have since learned that this is not the best method because of the acidity of the paper. So, should we put all our long letters in folders, maybe with a polyester cover, and obtain a 84" long box? Any comments or suggestions are greatly appreciated.

**Response:** THANK YOU to everyone who replied—many good suggestions:

- 1) In one case, [our conservator] encapsulated the long paper and then we kept it loosely rolled in a special box he made for it. The encapsulation protects the paper well enough that the rolling doesn't harm it. Another option would simply be to encapsulate it flat and then hang it. We have some hanging storage on a wall (some hooks, basically). He puts grommets in the encapsulation and we simply keep the items hanging on the wall in the stacks.
- 2) Several people suggested: We do put long things in oversize folders and put them on top of the stacks where there is room to lay them out flat.
- 3) Encapsulating letters isn't so bad, if you can de-acidify them first. De-acidifying toilet paper would be beyond difficult, to say the least. I think your suggestion of putting all of your long letters into folders inside an 84" box is quite a good one. You can get acid free folder stock that's long enough to make your own folders. You may find it space saving to have an "oversized letters" box, and put them all into one... that's a librarian sort of thing to do, not an archivist - you'd be mixing and matching record series. If the box is wide as well as long, you'll want to make an inner folder that fits the letter, and an outer folder that fits the box. The inner folder protects the letter, the outer folder keeps the letter from sliding around inside the big box and getting damaged.
- 4) De-acidify the letter with BookKeeper. Then I would construct an enclosure using archival corrugated board which is light but stable (for something this long I would probably laminate boards 2 or 3 thick). The simplest enclosure would be to construct two 8" x 84" x 3 board thick pieces, place the letter in between, and hold the sandwich together tightly with some velcro straps. If you want to get a little fancier, you could encapsulate the letter onto one of these boards.

*sfa@lists.fsu.edu. <https://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sfa>*

## Communiqué

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/EXHIBITS

The SFA Award of Excellence is now accepting nominations. This distinguished award honors an individual, institution, or exemplary program in Florida that has made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Florida's documentary heritage. The recipient need not be an SFA member; any person, institution, or program that has provided exemplary leadership in the field, promoted excellence through outstanding achievements, or contributed significantly to the betterment of the profession may be considered for the award. Information about this prestigious award can be found at <http://www.florida-archivists.org/award.htm>.

... Burt Altman has been awarded professional development leave for the Fall Semester 2009 by the Florida State University Committee on the Professional Development Program. In collaboration with archivists John Nemmers in the Special Collections Department at the University of Florida and Tomaro Taylor at the University of South Florida's Special Collections, he will be researching and writing a publishable manuscript, to be jointly authored, on the best practices for streamlining the processing of archival collections, and for selectively digitizing collection content to enhance resource discovery.

... Call for Nominations: 2009 Waldo Gifford Leland Award Have you read a great new book about archives? Have you come across an exceptional finding aid for a newly-processed archival or manuscript collection? Have you encountered a documentary publication that is head and shoulders above the rest? Has a web publication really stood out to you? If you have, please consider nominating it for the Waldo Gifford Leland Award. The annual Leland Award – a cash prize and certificate – encourages and rewards “writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, and practice.” Details at <http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-leland.asp>. **Deadline February 28, 2009.**

...After many months of discussion, research and customer feedback, the Marketing Committee and the Board of Trustees of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Inc. are excited to introduce their new logo to community friends and visitors. Designed by S.Mark Graphics and inspired by a vintage Fort Lauderdale postcard, the new image is energetic and summons nostalgia of the bright times throughout Fort Lauderdale's past.

The Historical Society's goal was to maintain its corporate name of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Inc., and continue to fulfill its mission to bring the history of Greater Fort Lauderdale to life and preserve it for the enrichment of present and future generations. But, the organization will now do business as the Fort Lauderdale History Center. It is



important to showcase a “sense of place” that offers historic buildings and a museum, as well as archives and collections, which preserve the history of Greater Fort Lauderdale for present and future generations to enjoy. This branding effort was made possible through a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Broward, and the History Center thanks them for their generous support. Visit the History Center Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m. For more information, please call 954-463-4431 ext. 16.

...The Fort Lauderdale History Center (FLHC), will debut its new exhibit, *Streamline: Frank Lloyd Wright in Fort Lauderdale*, at a special exhibit opening reception on Feb. 5, from 6:30-8:30 pm at the History Center's 1905 New River Inn. The exhibit explores a brief chapter in the illustrious career of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a model of a vacation cottage, dubbed “Streamline” for its innovative circular design, which Wright designed in 1939 for a spot alongside Fort Lauderdale's New River. Although the house was never built, FLHC has acquired a scale model and copies of Wright's drawings thanks to donor Jon E. Krupnick, who led a movement in the 1990s to build the house as a Frank Lloyd Wright museum. Krupnick will speak at the opening.

... The Boca Raton Historical Society Celebrates Palm Beach County's Centennial by writing a new webpage highlighting Boca Raton in 1909. A tiny railroad based farming town, the community boasted about 60 residents in 1909 including the Japanese settlers at the nearby Yamato Colony. Donald Curl, retired FAU history professor and local historian, is preparing the webpage using primary resources available at the BRHS. The highlight will be an annotated transcription of pioneer Frank Chesebro's 1909 farm diary, *ABOVE*, which gives a timely insight into the every day activities of those hardy pioneers. Visit [bocahistory.org](http://bocahistory.org).

... The Orange County Regional History Center ([thehistorycenter.org](http://thehistorycenter.org)) announces the exhibit, “Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration” from January 22 – March 8. The exhibit features a portion of a speech written by Lincoln during his 1858 Senate campaign, a letter he wrote to Ulysses S. Grant regarding his thoughts on the final days of the war, and a letter of condolence written by Frederick Douglas to Mary Todd Lincoln upon his hearing of Lincoln's assassination.

... The House of Representatives today passed the Presidential Records Reform bill revoking the Bush Executive Order 13233 restricting access to presidential records by a vote of 359-58. Symbolically this was the first bill passed by the new House of Representatives as an expression of a new commitment to

transparency. This has been a long 7+ year fight for historians and archivists and hopefully it will be over soon. Thank you for all your support over these many years in this effort. Details at <http://historycoalition.org/2009/01/07/presidential-records-reform-act>.

... The Institute for Museum and Library Services has released the first comprehensive report on public support for American museums, "[Exhibiting Public Value: Government Funding for Museums in the United States](#)." Download it at [imls.gov/pdf/MuseumPublicFinance.pdf](http://imls.gov/pdf/MuseumPublicFinance.pdf)

... At its November meeting hosted by the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, AAM's Accreditation Commission awarded accreditation to 21 museums. Of these select museums, six were granted accredited status for the first time and 15 were granted reaccreditation including the Historical Museum of Southern Florida in Miami and the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science.

#### CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants Workshop, Feb. 26 in Orlando and March 23 in Tallahassee, [www.flamuseums.org/programming/c2c/](http://www.flamuseums.org/programming/c2c/).

... Putting Flesh on the Genealogical Skeleton, Sat, Feb 28, St. James Episcopal Church, 1375 Viscaya Drive, Port Charlotte, 8 am to 3:30 pm at 9:15 a.m. Speaker Baerbel Johnson will discuss ways to enhance our Germanic Genealogy Research. Ms. Johnson will share her strategies for using the Internet to search for those elusive ancestors and make use of the any resources available.

... **The 2009 Society of Florida Archivists Annual Meeting will take place in Gainesville, April 20 - 22.**

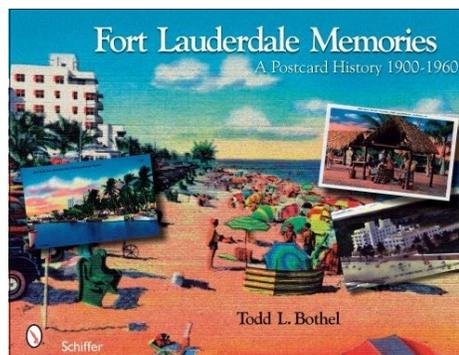
... The Society of American Archivists 73rd Annual Meeting takes place in August in Austin, TX.

... The American Association of Museums 2009 Annual Meeting takes place in Philadelphia, April 30-May 4.

... The 23rd annual Western Archives Institute will be held at U.C. Berkeley in CA, June 14 – 26. The Western Archives Institute is an intensive, two-week program that provides integrated instruction in basic archival practices to individuals with a variety of backgrounds. The application deadline is **Mar 13**. For info, call 916/653-7715 or [ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov](mailto:ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov). The application package is available on the California State Archives web site at [www.sos.ca.gov/archives/level3\\_wai.html](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/level3_wai.html).

#### BOOKS

*Fort Lauderdale Memories: A Postcard History 1900-1960* has been released (at right) by Schiffer Publishing. Fort Lauderdale Memories is written by local historian and museum professional Todd L. Bothel and features a selection of color and black and white images that tell the early



history of Fort Lauderdale. Orders may be placed with Todd (TLBothel@aol.com) or from the FLHC at 954-463-4431 x10 for gift shop.

... *Legacy of Leadership, Florida Governors and Their Inaugural Speeches* by Patricia Lasche Clements, ISBN 1-889574-22-8, hardcover, 431 pages, \$29, available from Past Perfect Florida History, Inc., 888.828.7822, [ppfh@bellsouth.net](mailto:ppfh@bellsouth.net).

... The University Press of Florida has released several books this fall including: *The Rise & Fall of Dodgertown* by Rody Johnson, ISBN 978-0-8130-3194-

1, \$24.95; *Historic Pensacola* by

John Clune Jr. and Margo Stringfield, ISBN 978-0-8130-

3256-6, \$27; *Tampa On My Mind*, ISBN 978-0-8130-3324-2, \$34.95;

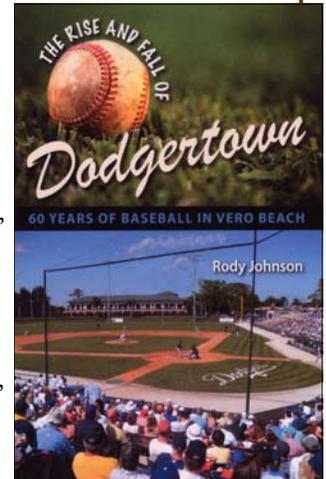
*Tupperware Unsealed* by Bob Kealing, ISBN 978-0-8130-3227-6, \$28;

*Florida's Working Class Past*, ISBN 978-0-8130-3283-2, \$69.95; *The*

*Sunshine Economy* by William Stronge, ISBN 978-0-8130-3201-6,

\$34.95. For all the books above,

contact Stephanie Williams, Publicity Manager, 352-392-1351x. 243 or [sw@upf.com](mailto:sw@upf.com).



#### FUNDING

SAA has established a new scholarship for minority students pursuing graduate education in archival science. The Mosaic Scholarship will provide \$5,000 in financial aid and offer mentoring support to encourage students to pursue a career as an archivist. It will be awarded to two applicants for the first time in 2009. For more details, go to: <http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-mosaic.asp>. **Deadline is February 28.**

... The grant pool for the second cycle of Museums & Community Collaborations Abroad (MCCA) program has increased, enabling AAM to raise the number of grants given as well as the grant amounts. For AAM's flagship museum-to-museum international collaboration program, museums may request up to \$120,000 in MCCA funding. Depending on the grant amounts requested, AAM expects to fund five to six partnerships during this cycle of the program. Instructions can be found at [aam-us.org/mcca](http://aam-us.org/mcca). **Deadline is Jan. 30.**

... The Big Read is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2009 and June 2010.

Organizations selected to participate will receive a grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000, financial support to attend the >>>

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Complete list: [www.florida-archivists.org/  
officers\\_committees.htm](http://www.florida-archivists.org/officers_committees.htm)

>>> orientation meeting, educational and promotional materials for broad distribution. Instructions are available [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org) or call 612-238-8010.

... Applications are available from AAM's Diversity Fellowship Program to help full-time museum employees or full-time students attend the 2009 AAM Annual Meeting. The fellowship will include assistance with travel, lodging and meals. . For more information, e-mail [diversityinfo@aam-us.org](mailto:diversityinfo@aam-us.org).

... AAM's Brooking Paper on Creativity in Museums recognizes innovative accomplishments that produce new ways of thinking and seeing within the museum field. Papers can describe examples of creativity in any aspect of museum operations, from collections, programs and exhibitions to finance, marketing and administration—or anything in between. The first-prize paper will be published in *Museum* magazine, and its author will receive \$1,000 plus \$500 toward travel expenses to the 2009 Annual Meeting. Two honorable mentions will also be awarded. We will publish all three winning papers on the AAM website in May. Museum professionals and volunteers worldwide may enter. Papers should be approximately 2,500 words; previously published pieces will not be accepted. **Deadline is Feb. 2.** E-mail submissions and questions to [brooking@aam-us.org](mailto:brooking@aam-us.org).

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**Work Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student (school - if applicable)**

**Mail to:**  
**Society of Florida Archivists**  
**P.O. Box 2746**  
**Lakeland, FL 33806-2746**

... "Be nice to the  
Archivist or she will  
erase you from history."

*Anonymous*

We invite you to join the Society of Florida Archivists. Don't miss the continuing education opportunities offered by SFA each year, information about what's happening in archives in Florida in **The Florida Archivist**, and the chance to mix with other archivists at the SFA Annual Meeting.

Specific benefits of Individual Membership are:

- ◆ Reduced registration fees for all of the Society's events.
- ◆ Subscription to *The Florida Archivist*
- ◆ Full voting privileges in elections and at the annual business meeting.
- ◆ Eligibility for leadership positions in the Society.
- ◆ Discount on selected archival publications.

Membership in the **Society of Florida Archivists** helps all of us keep in touch with important archival developments and make a valuable contribution to the profession in the State. We hope you will become a part of this effort!

*Delray continued from Page 1*

1908 period.

### Archives Storage

How would the Society safely store archives in the restored frame house? A pre-cast concrete and steel "bunker" was delivered to form the inner walls of a fire and hurricane-proof archival storage facility (The structure is rated to withstand Category 5 hurricane winds.) The storage room is attached to Hunt House by a rear hallway. The 550 square foot room has been furnished with a dense storage system. Temperature, humidity and light will be controlled and set to museum standards. A permanent generator is to be a part of a back-up disaster plan.



**The Archives Bunker**

room will be a portable computer station for newspaper research. Another room will be a work area for new acquisitions and cataloging. One room is reserved for an archivist/curator's office.

The facility has been named the Ethel Sterling Williams History Learning Center after the Society's founder who arrived in the Linton Settlement in 1896. The Historical Society staff of three along with the fulltime help of DBHS President, Robert Ganger,

is planning for a move within a few weeks. At this time the archives are being carefully packed for the move. When all is complete, you are cordially invited to visit.

*-By Dorothy Patterson, Delray Beach Historical Society Archivist  
with Robert Ganger, President*

### Use

The former living, dining room and porch of the house will be an open space available for a portable classroom, lectures, tours and receptions. One room will be a conference room where information from the archives storage can be wheeled in on a cart for research at the conference table. Also in the conference

Society of Florida Archivists  
P.O. Box 2746  
Lakeland, FL 33806-2746

*The Society of Florida Archivists is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a concern for the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. It is dedicated to the dissemination of information about such records and about sound archival methodology.*



If you don't archive this  
newsletter, please recycle it.

## National Archives Month Recognized in Inverness

To recognize National Archives Month in October 2008, the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum in Inverness offered a 2-hour lunch-time class on, "Preserving Your Family Photographs and Documents" from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in the second floor courtroom.

Realizing that your photographs are the country's photographic memory – photographs collected over the years provide tangible evidence of our past like so many other archival materials, such as your grandmother's diary, your videos and even letters from your relatives. Ideas presented included for example, did you know that you family's archives may include a photograph from the day your grandmother became a U. S. citizen? Well, the National Archives contains your grandmother's government application for naturalization. Your own county clerk's office is the official



record keeper for marriages, wills, probates and land records that occur in our county. Increasingly, photographs have become a memorable means of telling our stories in the digital world of technology; and no one knows this better than the children of today.

During the 2-hour session participants learned how to best organize, preserve and protect these precious memories. The presenter Carla Summers (*above*), a retired archivist for the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida's Special Collection is noted for her work in archives, records management and special collections. She brought a wealth of practical, hands-on experiences to this session. The workshop provided useful answers for better care of participants' important documents and family photographs. - by Kathy Thompson