

Announcing the retirement of Kathryn Neal

Description

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement of Kathryn (Kathi) Neal, who has served in the capacity of University Archivist from July 2022. From July 2012 to July 2022, she served as de facto Interim University Archivist. In that role, her responsibilities expanded to include faculty papers, UC systemwide records, and relevant aspects of the History of Science and Technology Program. Kathi joined The Bancroft Library in October 2005 as Associate University Archivist, responsible for collecting UC Berkeley institutional records (administrative, academic and campus units, student organizations, etc.) and the materials of selected alumni; she served in that role until July 2012.

In this challenging and evolving role, Kathi has been able to augment records related to University Archives as well as to add significant collections of personal papers of faculty, staff, alumni and affiliated individuals. She has also curated exhibitions, provided invaluable hours of reference and instruction, and made presentations on campus and beyond related to these materials. She has added important university records, including, increasingly, born-digital records. The diversity of the collections of faculty papers documents the work of significant individuals who have contributed to the University's reputation internationally.

Within University Archives, she brought in many collections including the following records: additions to the records of the UC Berkeley Office of the Chancellor, to the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, and to the UC Berkeley Library. Among the new collections are the records of the American Cultures Center and the Dispersed Art Collection. Important organizational papers added to the collection during her tenure include: the Japanese American Women/Alumnae Club records and additions to the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC). One of the most notable additions to the born-digital records acquired by Kathi as University Archivist was the mock commencement at Blockeley University, a virtual model of UC Berkeley created by students in the Minecraft video game as a response to the COVID-era postponement of Berkeley's in-person 2020 graduation ceremony.

She has also brought into the library many collections of papers related to renowned faculty, staff, and other campus-affiliated individuals, including a number of administrators. Included in this group are: Patricia Buffler papers (Public Health), VèVè Amasasa Clark papers (African American Studies), J. California Cooper papers (author), Jewelle Taylor Gibbs papers (Social Welfare), additions to the John W. Gofman papers (Molecular and Cell Biology), Ed Kirwan ASUC photograph archive, Jenne Mowry project files relating to Welcome Week, Todd La Porte papers (Political Science), David Littlejohn papers (Journalism), Halifu Osumare papers (African American Studies), and participants in the Berkeley Women's Studies movement. All of these efforts involve excellent donor relations as well as knowledge across a broad range of subject areas, and flexibility in terms of individual donor needs.

Kathi actively disseminates information about University Archives through exhibitions. She has curated/co-curated a number of informative, enlightening, and sometimes delightful exhibitions in the Rowell Cases, located at the Doe Library corridor/entrance to The Bancroft Library, including the

current exhibition, “A Storied Campus: Cal in Fiction.” Among the others are: “Protecting the New Wonderland: The Origins of The National Park Service,” “Berkeley’s Ivory Tower: The Campanile at 100,” “The Originals: African American Faculty and Senior Administrators at Berkeley,” “Women at Cal, 1910-1915: When California Passed the Woman Suffrage Amendment,” “Founders’ Rock: The Origins of the University of California,” and “Amazing Gate: Rescuing a Campus Icon.”

A long-time member of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and the Society of California Archivists, she has held positions on several SAA committees and groups, often as chair. She edited with Mary A. Caldera an important book addressing diversity, equity and inclusion in archives: *Through the Archival Looking Glass: A Reader on Diversity and Inclusion*. She regularly presented at archival meetings, campus forums, and off-campus venues. In 2022, the Society of American Archivists selected Kathi as one of six new Fellows, the highest honor within the organization.

Her service to the University Library and the University has been outstanding. A few of her committee commitments include membership on the LAUC-B Committee on Appointment, Promotion and Advancement (CAPA), UC Archivists Council Common Knowledge Group, 150 Years of Women at Berkeley History Steering Committee, and Chronicle of the University of California Editorial Board.

Before coming to the Bancroft, Kathi served as Manuscripts and Archives Librarian at San Diego State University, Curator of the Givens Collection of African American Literature at the University of Minnesota, and Assistant Archivist and Director of the African American Women in Iowa Project, at the University of Iowa’s Iowa Women’s Archives.

Edited excerpt of email Theresa Salazar sent to library staff

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