Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 6, 2012
San Diego, California

Action Item: Revisions to Awards Descriptions
(Prepared by Scott Cline and Teresa Brinati)

BACKGROUND

SAA's Fellow and Awards program now encompasses 21 recognitions. This year the program drew a record 182 total nominations. The description for each of the recognitions was normalized by a Council subcommittee headed by Danna Bell-Russel in 2003. Since then, the selection committees review their respective award descriptions on an annual basis after each awards cycle and offer recommendations for revision as needed so that this high-profile program can continue to operate efficiently and effectively.

DISCUSSION

Selection committees for three awards recommend that the following revisions be made for clarification and evolutionary purposes.

RECOMMENDATION 1

THAT the eligibility requirements for the Waldo Gifford Leland Award be revised by deleting "North America" and inserting "English" [underline = addition, strikethrough = deletion]:

Eligibility:
The author(s) of a monograph, finding aid, or documentary publication published in ~~North America~~ English during the previous calendar year. Periodicals are not eligible.

Support Statement: Considering that SAA includes international participation and that the archives field has become even more global because of the Internet, broadening the scope of the literature considered for the Leland Award to include books or finding aids published *outside* of North America (in English) also recognizes the international impact on our literature. It appears that at the time the Leland Award was established, no donor stipulations required that the award be confined geographically to North America.[i]

Impact on Strategic Priorities: None.

Fiscal Impact: None.

<mark>**RECOMMENDATION 2**</mark>

THAT the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award description be revised as follows to include new Application Requirements and Selection Criteria sections and to modify the Application Deadline and Nomination Form section [underline = addition, strikethrough = deletion]:

<u>**Application Requirements:**</u>
<u>Applications must include the following documents:</u>
- <u>Completed application form (see link below).</u>
- <u>Photocopy of official transcript or grade report with applicant's current GPA listed.</u>
- <u>At least one letter of recommendation.</u>
- <u>Essay of no more than 500 words, outlining the applicant's goals and benefits of attendance, as well as her/his commitment to the profession.</u>

<u>**Selection Criteria:**</u>
<u>Recipients will be selected based on their submission of a complete application and the strength of their letter of recommendation and personal statement. Personal statements will be evaluated based on:</u>
- <u>Overall clarity;</u>
- <u>Understanding of professional goals;</u>
- <u>Description of benefits of attending the SAA Annual Meeting;</u>
- <u>Explanation of commitment to SAA and the profession; and</u>
- <u>Enthusiasm.</u>

Application Deadline and Nomination Form:
All nominations shall be submitted to the Pinkett Award Committee by February 28 of each year. Download the Pinkett nomination form as a [PDF](#). Supplemental documents <u>must include photocopies of transcripts or grade reports and a 500-word essay, and</u> may <u>also</u> include ~~nominee's~~ <u>applicant's</u> CV or resume~~;~~<u>, and any relevant publications.</u> ~~copies of transcripts or grade reports; any relevant publications; and a 250-word personal statement from the nominee~~. Send completed form and any supplementary documentation to:

Chair, Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award Committee
Society of American Archivists
17 North State Street, Suite 1425
Chicago, IL 60602-3315

Electronic submissions also are acceptable and should be sent to awards[at]archivists.org. Please indicate "Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award" in the email subject line. Use standard file applications such as Word, Excel, or Adobe; attachments should not exceed 5MB.

Support Statement: The proposed language will clarify and systematize applications and provide a solid basis for evaluation. The Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable, which developed this award, supports these revisions.

Impact on Strategic Priorities: None.

Fiscal Impact: None.

<mark>**RECOMMENDATION 3**</mark>

THAT the Diversity Award description be revised as follows to reflect that two awards may be given, one to an individual or group of individuals and one to an institution [underline = addition, strikethrough = deletion]:

Prize
Two awards may be given each year—one to an individual or group of individuals and one to an institution. The prize will include a certificate and complimentary registration for the awardee (one individual or one representative of the group ~~or~~ and one representative of the institution) to the SAA Annual Meeting occurring in the year in which the award is presented.

Support Statement: The Diversity Award selection committee has noted that it is difficult to compare an individual with an organization. As one committee member commented: "I think in the future the committee will have to give two awards: one for institutions and one for individuals. I find it problematic to compare the contributions of an individual to those of an institution. I was involved in the creation of this award and this issue came up but was never adequately addressed."

Impact on Strategic Priorities: Because creation and promotion of a diversity award was included in SAA's Diversity strategic priority, broadening recognition associated with the award may have a positive impact on SAA's diversity goals.

Fiscal Impact: None.

<mark>**RECOMMENDATION 4**</mark>

THAT the eligibility requirements for the Theodore Calvin Pease Award be revised to limit to one the number of entries submitted by a faculty member or instructor per award cycle [underline = addition, strikethrough = deletion]:

Eligibility:
Eligible entries are written by students enrolled in archival studies classes at either the master's or doctoral level. A faculty member or instructor associated with the archival studies program must submit the entry to verify that the student paper was written within the context of an archival studies program between June 1 of the previous year and May 31 of the current year. A faculty member or instructor in an archival studies program may submit ~~more than~~ one entry per award cycle.

Entries should be unpublished manuscripts of 5,000–8,000 words, must include an abstract, and should conform to the stylistic guidelines described in the editorial policy of *The American Archivist*. **Submit only the title with the paper. The name of the**

author, the program, or the faculty member or instructor must not appear on the manuscript.

Support Statement: In 2012, the Pease Award received 18 nominations. One faculty member submitted five nominations (28% of the total). A second person nominated three students. Taken together, these two faculty members nominated almost half of the papers. The Pease Award selection committee (which is chaired by the editor of *The American Archivist*) recommends that, beginning in 2013, each faculty member be limited to recommending just one student paper. Because the submission deadline for this award is May 31 to accommodate academic cycles (a full three months later than the deadline for other SAA awards), the selection committee must review papers and reach a decision quickly. It is reasonable to have the faculty help with this process by submitting only the best paper of the year.

Impact on Strategic Priorities: None.

Fiscal Impact: None.

---

i "News Notes," *The American Archivist* 22 (April 1959): 250–251:

Thornton Mitchell of the Council next presented the recommendations of the Special Committee (Messrs. Holmes, Cappon, Grover, and Radoff), pursuant to the committee's report to the Council in May 1958 concerning the Waldo Gifford Leland Prize:

1. That in the beginning, at least, the conditions of award of the Waldo Gifford Leland Prize be broadly phrased, leaving much latitude to the committee that must be established to choose the winners; and that this committee should later recommend such limitations as, in the light of its experience and future circumstances, it feels are necessary and wise.