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THE HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE TO HOLD SUMMIT TO DISCUSS IMPROVING THE PRESERVATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

ATLANTA – (September 25, 2007) – The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Library Alliance will hold a Photograph Preservation Summit, October 1 and 2 at the University of Delaware. The summit is part of a 30-month, four-phase initiative to improve the preservation and conservation of significant photographic collections held within Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The initiative is being funded by a \$1.2 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant was awarded earlier this year to the Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware and the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), in partnership with the HBCU Library Alliance and the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA).

"We are delighted to organize and host this summit that will foster a broad exchange of preservation ideas, philosophies, and solutions, as well as strengthen ties between professionals," said Debra Hess Norris, Associate Dean for Social Sciences and History at University of Delaware. "Participants will learn how to better protect and care for their irreplaceable photographic collections."

"These collections document the visual and institutional history and legacy of HBCUs and form a core of primary research material for the study of African American history," said Kate Nevins, Executive Director, SOLINET.

In addition to the educational summit, the project will also include on-site collection assessments, and funding for projects and environmental monitoring at ten HBCUs. Longer-term, the project will promote opportunities for sharing resources and conservation knowledge within the broader HBCU network, and introduce HBCU undergraduates to graduate studies and careers in conservation and preservation as well as other professional opportunities within libraries, archives and museums.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to work in partnership with the HBCUs, assisting them with the conservation of their irreplaceable historic collections," said Ingrid Bogel, Executive Director of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. "After the summit, we look forward to working one-on-one with the staffs at the selected colleges and universities to identify preservation projects."

"Preserving the record of our institutions is a priority. This collaborative project will certainly enable the participating HBCUs to protect and improve access to the unique photographic holdings within our collections. The knowledge gained will then be shared with other schools in the HBCU Library Alliance," said Loretta Parham, Board Chair of the HBCU Library Alliance.

The following institutions and delegates are scheduled to participate in the summit:

- **Fayetteville State University:** Bobby Wynn, Eloise Vowotor, Diana Amerson
- **Fisk University:** Jessie Carney Smith, Beth Howse, Mattie McHollin
- **Hampton University:** Vernon Courtney, Donzella Marpin, Valinda Carroll
- **Kentucky State University:** Shelia Stuckey, Betsy Morelock, Sharon McGee
- **Lincoln University of Missouri:** Elizabeth Wilson, Carmen Beck, Nick Edwards
- **Prairie View A & M:** Rosie Albritton, Phyllis Earles, Helen Yeh
- **The Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center:** Karen Jefferson, Andrea Jackson, Trashinda Wright, Taronda Spencer, Loretta Parham
- **Tennessee State University:** Yildiz Binkley, Sharon Smith, Loretta Divens
- **Tuskegee University:** Juanita Roberts, Dana Chandler, Cynthia Wilson
- **Virginia State University:** Elsie Stephens Weatherington, Lucious Edwards, Patricia Biddell.

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Speakers:

- Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts: Kim Andrews, Barbara Lemmen, Laura Wahl, and Rachel Wetzel
- University of Delaware: Debra Hess Norris, Jae Gutierrez, and Bruno Pouliot
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Nora Kennedy
- SOLINET: Jessica Leming
- Image Permanence Institute/Rochester of Technology: James Reily and Edward Zinn
- National Archives & Records Administration: Steve Puglia
- Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center: Loretta Parham
- United Negro College Fund: Winfield Curry.

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SOLINET

Founded in 1973, SOLINET is a not-for-profit membership organization serving more than 2,700 libraries of all types and sizes in ten Southeastern states and the Caribbean. Primary programs are Member Outreach, OCLC Services, Preservation & Access, Electronic Resources, Library Products, Digital Services, Educational Services, and Consulting. Visit the SOLINET website at www.solinet.net

The Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware

The Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware administers both undergraduate and graduate programs. The department's faculty includes leading scientists and conservators in the treatment and preservation of paintings, works of art on paper, photographic materials, furniture, textiles, decorative, archeological and ethnographic objects, and architectural surfaces. Visit the University of Delaware website at www.artcon.udel.edu

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts is dedicated to the preservation of our nation's artistic and documentary heritage. CCAHA serves libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, historic house museums, and research and educational institutions, as well as individuals and private organizations, offering expertise and leadership in the preservation of our material culture. Its wide array of services, sophisticated treatment facilities, innovative approaches, and highly trained and experienced staff have earned it a prominent and respected place in the conservation field. Visit the CCAHA website at www.ccaha.org.

HBCU Library Alliance

HBCU libraries serve as unique and indispensable gatekeepers of history, culture and the African-American experience. Created by the deans and directors of these libraries in 2002, the HBCU Library Alliance seeks to ensure excellence in HBCU libraries through the development, coordination and promotion of programs and activities to enhance members' collections and services. Visit the HBCU Library Alliance website at www.hbculibraries.org

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is a private foundation that makes grants on a selective basis in the areas of higher education, museums and art conservation, performing arts, and conservation and the environment. Information about the Foundation, including its annual reports, is available on its website, <http://www.mellon.org>.