

**AFRICAN AMERICAN  
LIBRARY COLLECTIONS**

# **THEN & NOW**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

# TIMELINE

**1969**

**AASP established**

**1971**

**First AASP certificate  
awarded; Black Thursday**

**1970s**

**Collection development begins,  
focused on African American  
literature & Humanities scholarship**

# TIMELINE

**2004**

**Joel Buchanan, African American history liaison, began working in the Special Collections department**

**2006**

**Minor in African American Studies first offered**

# TIMELINE

**2013**

**Bachelors degree in  
African American  
Studies first offered**

**2015**

**First African American  
Studies Bachelor's  
degrees awarded**

**2016**

**African American Studies  
Librarian position created**

# STEPHANIE BIRCH

**African American  
Studies Librarian**

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would be a mighty fine thing, the harried older women thought, if more girls felt as Arvay did. Therefore, on that day of Arvay's renunciation, when the girl had finished off by ~~beautifully~~ asking the prayers of the congregation, ~~for~~ their earnest prayers that she might hold out and never, never turn back, but to go on and on to greater grace, "Amen's" burst out all over the church. The pastor himself had gotten to his feet and paid his young sister-in-law a great tribute.

"This young girl's devotion to the cause of Christ makes me feel ashamed." Reverend Midleton had <sup>said</sup> stated with an apostolic look on his face, "Here she is, much too young to be sent into the field as yet, but ready and willing to go. Ready to go wherever the Spirit might send her. Her stand ought to make me, and all of us grown folks feel ashamed. And if you, my flock ~~xxx~~ feel that you can spare me, I will declare myself ready and willing to go."

Gal 3

The flock had cried some more at the thought of the pastor's offer to sacrifice himself, but it was felt that he could not be spared. To compensate for this denial, the parsonage was re-painted, and five dollars a month was added to his salary, bringing the total to seventy dollars a month even.

Five years had passed since Arvay had turned her back on the world and all its sins and snares. Arvay still played the piano at the Sunday School, and she took an active part in church services. She kept strictly to herself. It was not too difficult for her. The community soon put Arvay Henson down as ~~being~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>of</sup> the "tetched." Nothing like her sister Rains. The woman had never been robust, not to say a trifle. She was pretty in the ways that the run-of-the-mill woman has. Her full head of curly reddish hair was ~~lustrous~~ <sup>lustrous</sup> and full of character.

Fire-damaged paper from the Zora Neale Hurston Collection

# FLORENCE TURCOTTE

**African American Special  
Collections Archivist**

floturc@uflib.ufl.edu

# PARNTERS

## **Suzan Alteri**

Curator, Baldwin Library of  
Historic Children's Literature

## **Lisa Campbell**

Instruction & Outreach Librarian

## **Perry Collins**

Scholarly Communications Librarian

## **Jim Cusick**

Curator, P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History

## **Bess de Farber**

Grants Manager

## **Fletcher Durant**

Conservation & Preservation

## **Jeanne Ewert**

English Librarian

## **Twanna Hodges**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Librarian

## **Melissa Jerome**

US Caribbean and Ethnic Florida Digital  
Newspaper Project Coordinator

## **Jim Liversidge**

Curator of Popular Culture Collections

## **Brittany Kester**

Education Librarian

## **Sarah 'Moxy' Moczygemba**

Libraries' Social Media Manager

## **Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler**

Director of Library Exhibits

## **Margarita Vargas-Betancourt**

Latin American & Caribbean Studies Librarian

# 2018

## **Black Educators: Florida's Secret Social Justice Advocates, 1920 - 1960**

Exhibit Team: Diedre Houchen, Desmon Walker, Florence Turcotte, and Stephanie Birch, with Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler, Liz Bouton, Venetia Ponds, and Delreese Martin

## **Racism, Representations & Resistance in Children's Literature, 1800 - 2015**

Exhibit Team: Suzan Alteri, Stephanie Birch & Helene Huet, with Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler and Liz Bouton.

## **Lincoln High School: A Metaphor for Excellence**

**On view at the A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center**

Exhibit Team: Diedre Houchen, Desmon Walker, Florence Turcotte, and Stephanie Birch, with Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler, Liz Bouton, Venetia Ponds, and Delreese Martin

## **Intersections: Research into Teaching -- Mass Incarceration**

Grant Team: Jodi Schorb, Stephanie Birch, Lauren Pearlman, Heather Vrana, Kathryn Russell-Brown, Elizabeth Dale

## **Intersections: Research into Teaching -- Black and Latinx Global Identities**

Grant Team: Manoucheka Celeste, Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, Jillian Hernandez, Della Mosely, Nick Vargas, Yewande Addie, Paul Ortiz, and Benjamin Hebblethwaite



# 2019

## **Acquisition of the Black Student Union Collection (University Archives)**

Collaborators: Sarah Coates, Carl Van Ness, Florence Turcotte

## **Unveiling of the Joel Buchanan Archive of African American Oral History**

Collaborators: Xiaoli Ma, Stephanie Birch, Ryan Morini, Deborah Hendrix, Laurie Taylor, Indica Mattson, Corrine Futch, Patrick Lee Stanley, Laura Perry

## **Teaching African and African American Experiences: A Teacher Resource Guide**

Project Team: Stephanie Birch, Dan Reboussin, and Brittany Kester, in partnership with the Alachua County African American History Task Force

## **Bo Diddley: An American Original**

Exhibit Team: Jim Liversidge, Florence Turcotte, Alan Asher, Venetia Ponds, Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler, and Liz Bouton

## **Digital Collaborations Workshop on Black History in Florida**

Project Team: Stephanie Birch, Florence Turcotte, Laurie Taylor, and Bess de Farber, in partnership with AFRO Publishing Without Walls (University of Illinois)

# 2020

## **Acquisition of African American Studies Program Collection (University Archives)**

Collaborators: Sarah Coates, Carl Van Ness, Florence Turcotte

## **Fire and Freedom: Food and Enslavement in Early America**

Exhibit Team: Mary Edwards, Hannah Norton, Lauren Atkins, Nina, and Stephanie Birch, in collaboration with the US National Library of Medicine and the UF Honors Program

## **Burning Spear Digitization Project**

Exhibit Team: Will Canova, Chelsie Dinsmore, Fletcher Durant, and Stephanie Birch, in collaboration with the Burning Spear Newspaper

## **Miami Times Digitization Project**

Project Team: Melissa Jerome, in partnership with the National Digital Newspapers Program, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities

## **Children's and Young Adult Collection Diversity Audit Initiative**

Project Team: Rachel Elrod, and Brittany Kester, in partnership with Bates College and the University of Central Florida

# GLANCING AHEAD

**Increasing representation  
of Black scholars and  
authors**

**Enhancing visibility of  
collection materials &  
resources**

**Diversifying Special  
Collections holdings**

**Building strong  
community partnerships**

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THEN, NOW

*& tomorrow*