

New appointment reflects importance of NARA's cooperative relationships

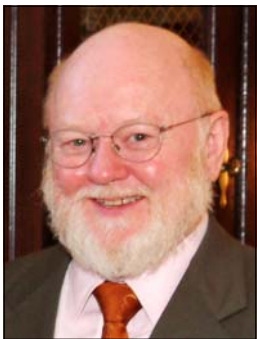
Over the years, the National Archives has partnered with private institutions and other agencies on major projects and programs. We have also carefully nurtured important relationships with our stakeholder and customer communities.

These professional organizations—which include historians, archivists, genealogists, veterans, and records managers, to name only a few—provide us with valuable advice, expert assistance, and grassroots support.

When I became Archivist early this year, I made it clear that it would be a personal priority to open our doors even wider to dialogue and collaboration with many organizations that share interests and relationships with this agency.

To strengthen these ties, I have just created the position of External Affairs Liaison, and after a careful search process, have appointed David McMillen to this post. He comes to us after a long and impressive career on Capitol Hill as a senior staff member of the House and Senate committees that have oversight jurisdiction over this agency.

As a result of his congressional service, Dr. McMillen is very familiar with the Archives' mission and activities. He has advised members of Congress on issues involving this agency and managed the re-authorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in both the House and Senate.



David McMillen

Dr. McMillen is also a widely respected professional whose expertise spans the worlds of information policy and systems, intergovernmental relations, Presidential libraries, electronic government, and regulatory review. For 11 years before his work on Capitol Hill, McMillen, who holds a doctorate in applied social statistics from the University of Illinois, was a demographer and statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau.

Working as a member of our Congressional Affairs and Communications Staff,



Dr. McMillen will plan and help to execute a continuous program of liaison and partnering with allied professional, scientific, and technical organizations. He will help the Archives to strengthen existing relationships

and build new ones with genealogists, veterans, historians, archivists, technologists, information policy experts, and others.

McMillen begins his work at a significant moment in NARA's relationships with our stakeholders in professional organizations.

During the first phase of work this year to write a new 10-year Strategic Plan (2007 – 2017), these external organizations were invited to provide their views on our mission, activities, and goals. They did, and I am grateful for their contributions. These responses included ideas and comments from the important perspective of those who not only use the vast resources of the National Archives but who look to this agency for leadership in managing, preserving, and making records accessible.

The new Strategic Plan now being drafted will be shared with stakeholder and customer communities next spring. Once again, we will ask for their views and recommendations.

Relationships with these and other organizations are part of the Archives' extensive efforts to reach out, linked to a vibrant network of public-private partnerships, collaborations, and joint ventures.

Over the years, these arrangements—some formal, some informal—have been woven into the fabric of the National Archives at all levels. They have been developed by the agency as a whole, by various units within NARA, and by individual staff members who, on their own, have introduced the National Archives to new audiences through professional and personal ties with community organizations, schools, and genealogical groups.

To design and build the Electronic Records Archives, for example, we have partnered with the nation's leading research

institutions, tapping the best minds on information technology issues.

Countless cooperative arrangements throughout the agency have given the National Archives a foothold in the education of young people. Teachers and students benefit from such collaborations as National History Day. University students can tap into resources available in nearby Presidential libraries. Through such efforts, the reach and impact of the National Archives increases dramatically.

Today, NARA is fortunate to have many cooperative relationships throughout the United States and globally. Creating the position of External Affairs Liaison is further evidence of their importance to us.

ALLEN WEINSTEIN
Archivist of the United States

Archivist's visit to university underscores strong partnership



Photo by Darryl Herring

Sporting a baseball cap presented in honor of his visit to the University of Maryland, Archivist Allen Weinstein shakes hands with C.D. Mote, the university's president. At center is Susan Davis, of the College of Information Studies (CLIS). Weinstein visited the College Park, MD, campus on October 14 to participate in a panel discussion hosted by CLIS. He explored topics such as the role of records in emerging democracies and the relevance of archival holdings to the American people. He also expressed satisfaction at finding a dynamic partnership between NARA and the University of Maryland and pledged that the relationship will prosper during his tenure as Archivist.