

Transcript for Meet Keith Gorman

<http://iminervapodcast.blogspot.com/2010/07/meet-keith-gorman.html>

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IM: Hi, I'm Irma Minerva at the University Libraries at UNCG, and this is your podcast of the week.

JM: We're here with Keith Gorman, the assistant head of Martha Blakney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives.

BK: How long have you been here at UNCG and what do you do here?

KG: I've been at the libraries for about two and a half months and my responsibilities are to oversee both special collections and university archives. So I work with the entire department in terms of issues of outreach, access. And what we're really focusing on now is moving the collections from the second floor to the third floor, which is going to take about a year to do.

JM: So can you tell us a little bit about where you were before you came to UNCG and what kind of work you did?

KG: The last job that I had before I came to UNCG was at the North Carolina Museum of History. I was working with them on some grant applications. Prior to that, I was up on Martha's Vineyard, off the coast of Massachusetts, working as their executive director of their museum, and prior to that was actually working their special collections library. I was there for four years. They have a wonderful collection up there dealing primarily with maritime history. Before that I was at the Smithsonian working as a reference archivist and working in their photo collections. And then prior to getting an MLS I was actually an academic, I was a historian teaching modern European history at Simmons College in Boston.

BK: Wow.

JM: Is there anything you didn't do?

BK: So what is your favorite aspect of your job here?

KG: I think, obviously working with the collections is something I enjoy doing, but I think for this department we're looking at how we can enhance our outreach to the university community through digital projects, which I think are making a great deal of sense in terms of where teaching is going as a profession. But I think there's also another aspect to digital projects which is outreach to the larger Greensboro and Triad community which I think is a priority for both the university and the library. But I think people are now starting to see the value of special collections.

JM: So what do you see as the future of academic archives and special collections?

KG: Well I think it's a very promising future. Technology is driving the field; digital projects are really being supported actively by academic research libraries. Researchers and students are clearly asking for

and expecting digital material to be available to them. I think as we go forward in this decade, special collections, just the uniqueness of the collections is going to be seen as having great research value, not just to the traditional researcher, but also to students and the instructors. If you look at where the field of pedagogy is going in terms of teaching, it's all going towards evidence-based teaching.

BK: So what do you do outside of work?

KG: With North Carolina and its weather, I spend a lot of time outside. So, my wife and I do a lot of hiking on weekends, we do a lot of weekend gardening. We have a huge garden so I'm out there a great deal weeding and harvesting produce

BK: Are you going to bring us any?

JM: Yeah?

KG: Actually yes.

JM: Free tomatoes!

BK: Good news for us. Thanks a lot Keith, alright thanks.