

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Specialists in media preservation visit Syracuse University for three-day event**

There are tens of thousands of audio and videotape recordings in storage all over the Syracuse University campus--speeches and lectures, performances, athletic events, WAER and Orange TV programs, original faculty and student research, and archival recordings in the University Archives, SU Libraries' Belfer Audio Archive, and the Special Collections Research Center. Many of these tape recordings are rare or unique, and they document sounds and images of significance to the University and to our greater cultural heritage. Professional media specialists predict that such fragile formats have, on average, only about 15 years of playtime left.

Please join us in a series of events focused on media preservation and scholarship. A Syracuse Symposium™ panel discussion on November 5 from 2–4 p.m. in the Peter Graham Scholarly Commons in Bird Library will center on the challenges and looming crisis of media preservation, with perspectives from **Mike Casey**, **Chris Lacinak**, and **Grace Lile**, three leading experts in the field. A lecture and mini-seminar on November 6 and 7th features **Tim Brooks** G'69 (Newhouse) examining African American artists at the birth of the sound recording industry. His work highlights the impact of media preservation on 21st-century scholarship.

### **SYRACUSE SYMPOSIUM PANEL DISCUSSION**

*[Witnessing Archival Preservation: Perspectives on Preserving Tape-based Media Recordings](#)*

November 5, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Peter Graham Scholarly Commons, Bird Library, First Floor

Reception to follow

*This event is co-sponsored by Syracuse Symposium™ in the SU Humanities Center.*

### **CRITICAL CONNECTIONS LECTURE AND MINI-SEMINAR**

*[African Americans and the Birth of the Recording Industry](#)*

#### **PUBLIC LECTURE**

November 6, 5:00 p.m.

Peter Graham Scholarly Commons, Bird Library, First Floor

#### **MINI-SEMINAR**

November 7, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Lemke Seminar Room, SCRC, Bird Library, Sixth Floor

Both events free and open to the public, however **advance registration is required** for the mini-seminar. Register with Barbara Brooker at [bbbroke@syr.edu](mailto:bbbroke@syr.edu) or 315-443-9763.

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**Tim Brooks** G'69 (Newhouse) is a former television executive and a researcher of early recording artists and phonograph history. His multi award-winning book, *Lost Sounds: Blacks and the Birth of the Recording Industry, 1890-1919*, was the first to document this subject, and the companion CD, *Lost Sounds*, won a 2007 Grammy award for "Best Historical Release."

**Mike Casey** is the Director of Media Preservation Services for Indiana University's Media Preservation Initiative. He has authored or co-authored a number of vital documents outlining best practices for audio preservation. He authored the "Indiana University Media Preservation Survey" report and was principal author of the follow-up report.

**Chris Lacinak** founded AVPreserve in 2006 to enable organizations to maximize the usability of their content. He is a former Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of VidiPax, a moving image and sound preservation reformatting facility. For six years, he taught at NYU's Moving Image Archiving and Preservation graduate program.

**Grace Lile** is an archivist with over 20 years' experience working with film and video collections. Prior to joining WITNESS in 2003, Grace spent nine years at CNN and two years at the Worldwide Television News Archive. Grace is actively engaged in efforts to support human rights archiving and documentation.

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