

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 11 – 12, 2014
Washington, D.C.**

**2013 Mosaic Scholar Reports
(Prepared by Barrye Brown and Rhonda Jones)**

BACKGROUND

The Mosaic Scholarship was created by the Council to advance SAA's 2010-2014 strategic priority related to Diversity. Two scholarships were awarded in 2013, to Barrye Brown and Rhonda Jones (both at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), each of whom received a scholarship of \$5,000, a one-year complimentary membership in SAA, and a complimentary registration to the 2014 Joint Annual Meeting.

Award recipients are required to submit a 500-word report to the SAA Council upon completion of their second semester. Reports from Brown and Jones appear below in fulfillment of that requirement.

**Name: Barrye Brown
Year of Award: 2013-2014**

As a minority graduate student pursuing a career as an archivist, I am elated and thankful to have been chosen as a recipient for the 2013 SAA Mosaic Scholarship Award. For me, the Mosaic Scholarship represents the ongoing efforts and commitment of the SAA to advancing diversity concerns within the archival profession. The monetary support provided through the Mosaic scholarship greatly eased the financial burdens of completing the MSLS degree program at UNC-Chapel Hill. I received the award during the final year of my MSLS program and the scholarship funds helped me pay for my required master's paper class.

Aside from the monetary assistance, I was so excited that this scholarship award offered other educational and professional development opportunities by covering the SAA membership and conference registration fees. I was able to attend my first SAA conference [2014 in New Orleans] and connect with and learn from other graduate students and archival professionals who are just as concerned with diversifying the archival record and profession as I am.

As a first time SAA conference attendee, I felt a bit nervous. However, upon arriving at the conference, I was received warmly by members of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable (AACR). In particular, Steven Booth, Derek Mosely, and Harrison Inefuku helped me navigate around the conference, talked to me about their personal journeys to the archival

profession, and also offered me advice on becoming more active in SAA. My nervousness quickly subsided because the AACR members made me feel so welcome.

After the conference, I continued to keep in touch with the roundtable members that I met. This led to a wonderful opportunity to become involved with the AACR History Task Force. The purpose of the History Task Force is to gather and document the history of the AACR through archival research and member interviews. This was my first time serving on a task force and, at the time, I was the only student among the task force members. I learned a great deal from this experience and enjoyed being exposed to a variety of archival research methods from different institutional perspectives. Our task force report will be presented during the 2014 AACR meeting at the Joint Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

Without the Mosaic scholarship, I never would have been able to attend the annual conference and make such wonderful connections with other minority archivists and librarians. These personal connections definitely cemented my connection to the profession. Moving forward in my career as a new archivist, I will continue to remain committed to increasing diversity in the field by getting more involved in recruiting efforts of minority students that may be interested in Information and Library Science. I have been so fortunate to have encountered so many wonderful archival and library professionals, whom I would consider as mentors. In the future, I hope to “pay it forward,” so to speak, meaning I hope to give great support and wise counsel to minority students and new professionals in the archival field.

Name: Rhonda Jones

Year of Award: 2013-2014

28 July 2014

Dear Selection Committee:

Thank you again for awarding me the Mosaic scholarship. I am happy to report that the library program at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill has served my intellectual needs. Having earned a Master’s degree in Public History and a doctorate in United States History, I felt that I was an accomplished scholar. My decision to pursue a second advanced degree was to enhance my pedagogical training in digital curation and archival records management through relevant coursework and fieldwork. Immersed in the study of arrangement, description, cataloging, appraisal, metadata, databases, and management, I had also hoped to obtain a certificate in digital humanities. However, after taking an online course in Community Informatics with Professor Michael Gurstein at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, I found my place within the ICT community. Community/social informatics has illustrated the varied ways in which libraries, archives, oral histories, and digital technologies can be used to bridge academic research interests with community outreach.

For example, this spring my graduate Public History students and I assisted a local group with migrating their oral history collection into a digital archive. Recorded as MP3 wave files, the narratives were transcribed and uploaded into *Omeka*, an open source content sharing database system. In May, the organization held its annual celebration. Visitors were able to view the

database, along with scanned images, and GIS maps to learn about the types of programs and initiatives that were available. A summary of this rewarding, collaborative interdisciplinary project was contributed to the Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable's newsletter. What began as an interesting class discussion has evolved into an opportunity for me to present my findings at an international community informatics conference this fall. More importantly, the conference presentation will also serve as my Master's thesis.

This summer I was offered two amazing opportunities – a library internship at a highly influential government agency and the opportunity to spend two months in Malang studying Bahasa Indonesia. Well, which one do you think I chose? If you guessed studying a critical language then you are correct. While in the midst of the program I met a social club of native speakers who have been gathering materials since 1971. While the fourteen scrapbooks are a public historian's dream, they are an archivist's nightmare. Currently stored in an environment that is susceptible to mold, mildew, dust, and poor circulation the pictures are fading, the pages are stuck together, the bindings are broken, not to mention the magnetic pages and scotch tape. While I understand that resources are limited I explained the importance of basic preservation, archival boxes, folders, and acid-free paper. I'm hoping to connect them with the archivist from the public library who can assist with scanning the images onto a disk.

As I am nearing the completion of my studies, as you can see the last three semesters have offered a number of truly rewarding experiences. As I look ahead to where my future might lie, I continue to maintain my interest in teaching and working in the special collections environment at an academic library. As a long-term goal I am considering employment at such government agencies as the Department of Interior, the State Department, or serving as a Program Manager at the Institute of Museum and Library Services.