



Society of American Archivists

Chapters & Loose Papers

Volume 2, Issue 2

April 1, 2008

Inside this issue:

Chapter Happenings	2-5
Research Abstracts	6
Conference Report	7



Chapters & Loose Papers is:

- *The student newsletter of the Society of American Archivists*
- *A way to find out what other student chapters are doing*
- *What do you think CLP should be? Let us know by going to our wiki! chapter-sandloosepapers.wetpaint.com*

Editorial: Communities and Outreach

Andrea Medina-Smith & Walter Butler

First, some definitions: by community we are speaking of the neighborhood, city or state in which our archives and programs/Library schools reside; the communities that our collections come from, but more importantly I am speaking of the communities that have not contributed to our collections. These communities without 'record' are full of potential records, and it is our role as budding archivists to reach out to church groups, small non-profits, schools and other such organizations. This serves two purposes. It gives archives students the opportunity to put their skills to work, and it is an exhibition of what archivists do.

One of the things I looked forward to when I returned to school was the opportunity to participate in community and service-learning projects. Yet, within my school I found no opportuni-

ties to use the skills learned in my archives management courses. Now, our student SAA chapter has begun a program of archival outreach and I am one step closer to "bringing the archives out of the basement." Why do we look for these opportunities? Is it just for the resume booster, or is there more? After re-

service oriented opportunities is the knowledge that our work benefits the organizations we volunteer with more than it will benefit our resumes. We know that these records are valuable, and often it is only with our assistance that they will ever become accessible and useable.



By Rob Goodspeed

viewing the submissions for this issue, I know that there is something more.

Part of the "something more" is the legacy of a more open and culturally inclusive curriculum, but another part of this drive for

I also know that this outreach is part of our archival future. Currently, our profession is undergoing amazing, and daunting, changes. How will we respond? With enthusiasm and

dynamic ideas I am sure. We are the archivists who will not only bring our own profession out from the shadows, but hopefully also those organizations, and movements that have not had a voice in the archives in the past.

UW—Madison cooks up a storm!

The end of 2007 was a time for extreme involvement for the UW-Madison SAA Student Chapter. A workshop on Preservation/Conservation and Museum Exhibits was hosted by Tom McKay, former coordinator of the Office of Local History at the Wisconsin Historical Society. This two-day weekend conference covered basic preservation techniques, identification of potential problems and great plans for museum exhibits (with detailed handouts!). It was a great overview of many issues a "lone arranger" may face with a strict budget. Thank you very much to Tom for presenting to us, and especially to student member Anna Cianciara for organizing all of it!

Spring 2008 has started off with some exciting activities

for the SAA-SC. Three weeks after the start of the new semester, we held a Valentine's Day bake sale with many goodies donated by student members. Unfortunately, these tasty recipes aren't in our Archivist's Cookbook. The cookbook was compiled in July of 2006 by student members and we have copies available for purchase at <http://www.cafepress.com/uwsaachapter> and all purchases benefit the UW-Madison Student Chapter. The proceeds from the bake sale will help fund the SAA-SC's next trip: Visits to archival repositories in Chicago.

The Chicago trip is planned for February 28. The efforts put forth by our coordinating members will not go unnoticed. Julia Wong set up two

tours for us; the first one will be at the Playboy Enterprises repository and the second one at the Newberry Library. Meredith Lowe was our transportation coordinator and was able to get permission to use university vans. Thanks to them, we will have a fun day

of visiting two very diverse archives!

Other upcoming events and trip proposals include: A road trip to the MAC (Midwest Archives Conference) Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY, proposed by Greg Kocken, volunteering with the Wisconsin Historical Society for National History Day and answering a call for helping the WHS with a EAD User study. We plan to keep busy this spring!

Submitted by Rachel Pieper



SAA @ UCLA

The SAA Student Chapter at UCLA has been busy planning a campus-wide community service project which will become part of the chapter's permanent role at the University. This project is in collaboration with the University Archives and the Center for Student Programming. The project is entitled the Bruin Archives Project (BAP) and is an effort to begin collecting archival records of the UCLA Student Groups.

SAA@UCLA will be responsible to set up communications

with the other UCLA student groups. This will be accomplished through an established website (supplied by the Cen-

seers of their records, as well as provide instruction to the student group leaders, to make certain that the record

The initial survey to be sent out to the student groups across campus will be accessed through Zoomerang, which was set up through the University Library account. We're excited to see what will bloom from this project during the Spring Quarter.



ter of Student Programming, but designed by the chapter), general meetings, one-on-one meetings, and e-mail. The student groups will be responsible for creating the records of their material, while SAA@UCLA will act as over-

accurately reflects the archival material. SAA@UCLA will therefore act as a "collecting agency" for the University Archives, and will go through each record before handing over the archival material to the Archives.

Submitted by Walter Butler

Louisiana State University

Louisiana State University's SAA chapter has stayed busy this spring semester planning a variety of activities that will be taking place throughout the remainder of the year. We have scheduled the events below.

On March 25th, along with LSU's other SLIS student organizations, we will host a workshop on the job application and interview process for persons entering the archival and library fields. Speakers for the event include two directors (representing archives,

academic library, and public library backgrounds) discussing what employers look for in applicants. Another speaker, a relatively recent hire, will discuss being an applicant going through the hiring process.

On April 8th we will partner with the other SLIS organizations for a panel discussion in which locals from different library and archival fields discuss their jobs and professions.

Later this spring semester, we

plan to tour archival repositories and special libraries within the Lafayette, Louisiana region. LSU's SLA student organization will also participate in this tour.

On April 23rd we will co-sponsor a SAA workshop on "Basic Electronic Records" at the Louisiana State Archives. For more information on this event, please visit: <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2352>

On August 27th we intend to

host the Academy of Certified Archivists exam in Baton Rouge. This event will take place at the Louisiana State Archives, and the registration deadline is May 15. For those interested, please visit: <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>

Submitted by Chris Brown

University of Michigan

The SAA student chapter hit the ground running this year, working in a series of sessions on career development before major work loads of the semester set in. It began with a session co-sponsored by Career Services in which students were able to hear their resumes critiqued by a panel of area archivists. That was followed by a tutorial on how to create a portfolio website at our monthly SAA meeting, and a resume peer review session a week later.

After all the talk, we were eager to get back to the actual archives. Last fall, our chapter launched a community service initiative to increase students' opportunities to work with archival materials, and to give local organizations a leg up on inventory and control of

their records. Ten students who made an initial visit to the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre last November continued work there in February, and substantial headway was made in high level appraisal and processing of materials at the Canton Historical Society in Canton, Michigan, our most recent partner. We have been very encouraged by the responses we have gotten from students and organizations alike, and hope to make community service projects a lasting part of the student chapter's contribution to our school and the community.

Next up for us are elections for new SAA officers in mid-March, and we have already begun working to ease the transfer for the incoming board. Many gains were

made in the past year with the community service projects, new locations for tours, and a souped-up website. Much of what we have learned is contained in the pages of the website in the announcements and comments created over the



course of the year, but as anyone who works with archives knows, a lot will never be written and must be handed down through the good old oral tradition.

March will close with the "Questioning Authority" conference (March 28-30 -

<http://questioningauthority.org>), a conference organized by the Special Libraries Association student chapter at the University of Michigan, for which the SAA has organized a panel on authority in Archives. Then it will be a race to the finish line for members of our board and other archivists of the class of

2008 as we begin our transition into the professional field.

Good luck with job applications to all you graduates, and we'll see you at MAC!

Submitted by Jeremy York

University of South Carolina's ASG

The Archival Students Guild (ASG) at the University of South Carolina participated in several activities during the 2007-2008 academic year. In September, the club elected its current officers: Santi Thompson as the Coordinator, Katie Griffin as the Co-Coordinator, and Kyna Herzinger as Information Manager. The group also participated in a service project in with the South Carolina Library. Students assisted with processing photographic materials from a portrait studio

and photographic developing company in Columbia. Fun was had by all (even after coming across unfortunate wedding photographs from the 1980s and the occasional remains of a friendly critter or two). During the Spring semester, the guild invited Georgette Mayo, Archivist at the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African-American History and Culture, to discuss the upcoming meeting of the South Carolina Archival Association. Mayo outlined the benefits of joining the association

and the group brainstormed possible ways for the association and the ASG to collaborate for future meetings and to identify ways for students to involved with the association. The guild will conclude the 2007-2008 academic year with the election of officers for the upcoming school year.

Submitted by Santi Thompson



Archival Students Guild members (from left to right): Santi Thompson, Lauren Kirkland, Kim Harne, and Katie Griffin

Wright State gets involved

The Wright State Chapter of SAA has been busy. We have two students working on creating a new interpretive and museum plan while beginning to create a system for an archive at the Wapakoneta Historical Society. The President Daniel Schlegel, Jr. was selected to be part of a delegation to represent Wright State University in Le Mans, France for the centennial of Wilbur Wright's flights.

As some of our members are preparing to graduate after Winter and Spring Quarters, many are looking for jobs and are finding them because of the experiences and classes at Wright State. We are very excited to have our members all across the nation to help spread the word about universities with archival programs.

We are preparing to go to Chicago for our spring break

trip and get in behind the scenes at only a few of the many Chicago museums and archives. This should be an exciting time for all of us.

Submitted by Daniel Schlegel, Jr.



Wright State Chapter Members

Simmons College SCoSAA

Last semester was at Simmons was characterized by pizza, field trips and more pizza! This semester we have welcomed new officers, Michael Dello Iaccono as Vice President, Stephanie Call as Secretary, Libby Lipin as Treasurer, and Marie-Helen Bugnion as ARMA Representative.

Our members are taking part in numerous internships at locations as diverse as the JFK Presidential Museum and Library to the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts. Each meeting we share notes and experiences from our exciting and sometimes eccentric sites.

Events planned for this semester include outreach work with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO), field trips to *The Herald* and *Christian Science Monitor* newspaper archives, and a possible workshop on paper conservation.

At this summer's SAA meeting in San Francisco we will present a poster on our activities with the BYSO.

Submitted by Andrea Medina-Smith



Chapter Notes from San Jose State University's SAASC

This year the San José State University SAA Student Chapter welcomes a couple new officers filling in as Northern California Events Coordinator and Southern California Events Coordinator, and an honorable mention to a new webmistress who joined us last year and has done a wonderful job revamping our website (<http://slisgroups.sjsu.edu/saac/index.html>).

In the Fall, we planned some wonderful tours: of special note were the tours that took place during Archives Month. In Northern California, Archivist Jean Deken and Associate Archivist Laura O'Hara at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center's Archives and History Office (SLAC) hosted one such event. SLAC is well known for their contributions to preserving electronic records. Our group was given a tour of the

archives facilities and enjoyed a presentation about SLAC's history and activities.

Another tour was at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives (PFA). Nancy Goldman, head of PFA Library gave our group a tour as well as a demonstration of their online resource, CineFiles (a powerful film document image database that holds various ephemeral items).

In November, toured the Holocaust Center of Northern California Archives (HCNC) in San Francisco with Archivist Judy Janec. After our tour Ms. Janec shared samples of the archives collection with the group that included letters written by family members in Europe to other family members in the United States or England.

Of course, we cannot forget

our fellow classmates and members in Southern California. Some officers and members took full advantage of Archives Month by attending the 2nd Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar on September 29th at the Huntington Library.

Also, in November we were given the opportunity to tour the Getty Research Institute Library hosted by the Head of Collection Development, Marcia Reed. Students had the opportunity to speak with professionals at the Research Institute after the tour.

Already this semester we have had a tour at the Internet Archive in San Francisco, where we were given a glimpse into their book scanning and data center project.

In April, we are planning a tour at the Margaret Herrick

Library in Beverly Hills. The Margaret Herrick Library not only has an important and extensive oral history program, but the library also collects a wide range of materials documenting film as art and industry.

Also in April, SAASC and LIS-STEN are hosting a joint tour at the San Diego Museum of Art's Library. The research collection includes auction catalogs, clipping files, photographs, scrapbooks, rare art periodicals with original lithographs.

This year, SAASC is looking forward to another annual get together at both the Society of California Archivists in Monterey in May, and at the Society of American Archivists conference coming to San Francisco this August.

Submitted by Rebekka Bernotat

UNC Chapel Hill SCOSAA

The Student Chapter of the Society of American Archives at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill just elected new officers for 2008. They are: Amy Roberson, President; Caitlin Shanley, Vice President; Sarah Jorda, Treasurer; Jenny McElroy, Secretary; and Joyce Chapman, Webmistress. We recently had our first general meeting and are busy planning events for the spring semester.

SCOSAA looks forward to working with Art & Museum Library & Information Student Society at UNC on a talk with the makers of *A View to Hugh*, a blog documenting the processing of the Hugh Morton Photographs and Films at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The blog was

recently named "Best Use of Web 2.0 Technologies" in the first annual Best Archives on the Web awards sponsored by ArchivesNext. Photo Archivist Stephen Fletcher and Elizabeth Hull will speak to us on the topic.

In addition, the annual Spring Job Workshop is quickly approaching and our chapter plans to work with the Society of North Carolina Archivists to create a program for area students interested in archival careers. Students from North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill generally attend.

Last semester SCOSAA started working with Covenant House, a low-income, elderly community. Each person par-

ticipating was paired up with a Senior Partner and helped that person organize his or her photographs and papers. Also, some participants conducted oral histories. It is a simple yet extremely rewarding way to give back to our community.

When we are not planning events or service projects, our chapter enjoys periodic movie nights. Previous screenings include *The Librarian*, *The Librarian II*, and *Indiana Jones Trilogy*. These are great opportunities to socialize outside of school and work. Any movie suggestions?

Submitted by Amy Robinson



SCOSAA Chapter Members

Reaching out from tribal archives

By Monique Lloyd

While the focus of information sharing and communication is shifting to a social bookmarking, web.2, technological, Internet, and digital viewpoint, the human-to-human, face-to-face, storytelling, oral ways of connecting families and communities remain powerful and compelling. Both constructivism (constructing our individual knowledge of the world by experiences and then considering the meaning and value of these experi-

ences), and sense-making, (a continual process of making sense of a body of knowledge when there is a gap by gathering information and looking for patterns and connections), are influenced by cultural constructs. Both of these theories can be utilized as effective tools to make tribal archival repositories meaningful to Native American students by effectively connecting thought with emotion.

Tribal archives are like elders

who protect and share our stories; they honor our ancestors, bridge generations, and share knowledge, thus preserving the history of our people. Recognizing Native American learning styles, including the use of storytelling as a teaching technique as well as language which is picture and emotion based, are techniques which can be utilized to help Native American students begin the process of recognizing that tribal archives places where we can

connect with each other through time and space, providing us with a vibrant view of our history through records, letters, treaties, oral recordings, and photographs.

Monique Lloyd received a scholarship from the Institute for American Indian Research (IFAIR) She will attend the Native American Graduate Students Research Conference, Planting the Seeds of Our Research at the University of New Mexico and present this paper.

University of Illinois students create bridge to East St. Louis

By Noah Lenstra

For nearly a year students from the University of Illinois (UIUC) have been travelling between Champaign-Urbana and East St. Louis to work on the portion of the Katherine Dunham papers. In this project, two communities were bridged as the UIUC students learned about the history of Dunham and the city of East St. Louis and the East St. Louis community learned about preservation and the difficult logistical, legal, organizational and financial steps needed to start a working archive.

Katherine Dunham, born in Joliet, Illinois in 1909, during her 96-year life brought African-diasporic dance, rhythm and music to the forefront of the global dance community. Renowned for her activism, the last half of her life were largely dedicated to education and activism in East St. Louis as she brought in some of the biggest names in dance to educate and inspire a community disillusioned by white flight, industrial-sector deterioration and rampant environmental and social pollution. The website of the Centers for Arts and Humanities that exist to continue her work can be

found at <http://www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/kdunham/>.

Because of the deep commitment Dunham had to East St. Louis her memory is revered and respected by that community. As students at UIUC we approached this situation as outsiders, offering the skills acquired through our LIS program but lacking the contextual and cultural knowledge of the community that Dunham so profoundly affected. As such, our project to work on the Dunham papers was envisioned as a bi-directional exchange, in which both parties benefit. Utilizing the meth-

odology of service learning, volunteers were asked not simply to do a task, but to reflect on the social issues behind their work constructing archives and other memory institutions. Our hope is that students who take part in this experience will approach their future jobs as professional with a more profound appreciation of issues of funding, community engagement and cultural sensitivity, especially in relation to marginalized communities that lack the financial and institutional support upon which archiving efforts in more affluent communities can draw.

The Pittsburgh Project and the Rise of Digital Archaeology

By Erin A. Mackin

A group of eleven students at the University of Pittsburgh are involved in a project to recover/recreate the website for the Pittsburgh Project, a set of electronic record-keeping guidelines developed in the 1990s by a number of prominent archivists. Ironically, the project was lost when, without warning, servers at the University were switched. The

project is heavily cited both for its content and as an example of the pitfalls of preserving born-digital material.

The goal of the project is to learn how to apply methods of digital archaeology, as this is a growing concern given the volatility of digital records. Issues the group is dealing with include locating the information, learning about what copyrights the information

falls under, developing a standard vocabulary, and deciding whether the end result is an exact replica of the original site or an updated version, possibly containing a list of citations to the project and links to publications concerning it.

One concern that we



Pennsylvania State Archives by Esteban Cavriço

are handling is the documentation of our choices. A full recounting of the project's successes and failures will seek publication when the project is completed.

A Modest Success Story: The Indiana University SAA Student Chapter's Graduate Student Conference in Archives, Rare Books, and Special Collections.

By Lisa Hooper

The Indiana University student chapter of the Society of American Archivists hosted their Graduate Student Conference in Archives, Rare Books, and Special Collections on February 9. Beginning with a pre-conference workshop on EAD on Friday the 8th, the conference concluded on Saturday with a workshop on caring for photographs in an archival setting. For a first-time experience in organizing and hosting a conference, the day proved a success.

The pre-conference workshop on EAD opened the conference on Friday morning. The workshop, led by Ryan Lee, assistant archivist at the Office of University Archives and Records Management, introduced participants to the development of EAD and many of the most common tags. Using real examples of finding aids and an EAD template from the IU Archives, Ryan demonstrated the practical steps of encoding. By holding the workshop in one of the Student Technology Center classrooms at the Herman B Wells Library, each participant was able to get hands-on experience encoding. While clearly an introductory workshop, participants left feeling much more confident in understanding the principles, reasons for, and methods of encoding in EAD.



The conference proper began bright and early Saturday morning in the Slocum Puzzle Room of the Lilly Library. The comfortable group of 24 student attendees lent the conference a relaxed and open atmosphere that was generally appreciated by all. The first paper session, which focused on the broad topic of archives, included presentations by Sarah Boxhorn (University of Wisconsin, Madison) with her paper "My Experience as Special Collections Guest Exhibit Curator," and Carrie Schwier (Indiana University), presenting her paper "The Columbus, Indiana Architectural Archives: A Historical and Current Case Study." After an informative round of question and answer, the paper sessions broke for an in-depth tour of the Lilly Library led by Becky Cape. The second paper session, focusing on preservation, saw Michael Morris's (Indiana University) paper "Used Bookstores and Preservation: What are 'Finds' Worth?" and Diana Wakimoto's (Simmons College) paper "The Digitization Conundrum: Preservation, Access, or Both?" The final paper session focused on rare books with Patricia Lee Boulie's (University of Alabama) paper "Beyond Books: Collection Development for Library Museums" and Jennifer Chisnell (Long Island University – C.W. Post) with her paper "Women's Work and the Artist's Book." All the papers were well-received and, despite running short on time, led to insightful question and answer sessions.

Want more information? Go to
chaptersandloosepapers.wetpaint.com

This final paper session concluded our time at the Lilly Library, and from here we made the short trip over to the Office of University Archives and Records Management in its new home in the Herman B Wells Library. Replete with slide show and physical examples from the Archives' photograph collection, the presentation by IU photo curator Brad Cook was packed with information. His two-hour workshop introduced attendees to different types of photographs and their preservation needs, basic equipment and materials needed for storage and handling of photographs, and the administrative details of accessioning, identifying, and describing photographs.

In all this conference was a success. Follow-up survey response overwhelming favors attending similar student conferences, and participants often remark on the open atmosphere and freedom to ask questions. Ryan Lee's workshop is a pre-cursor to his summer-term course on EAD for many of the IU students who attended, and Brad Cook's two-hour photographs workshop has led to discussions about a longer, more detailed workshop on photographs in the near future. The success of our conference and the distances travelled by some attendees (we had students from Boston, New York City, Denver, Alabama, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana) clearly speak of a need for similar conferences throughout the archival graduate student community. While we are happy to make our first step in filling the need, we also hope that this endeavor of ours will inspire other student chapters to host conferences in their region as well.

The success of this conference would not have been possible without the support of many people. Responsible in part for our conference is the Society of Indiana Archivists, who provided financial sponsorship for the EAD workshop; Indiana University School of Library and Information Science with particular thanks to Rhonda Spencer and Sarah Burton, for providing additional financial and moral support; Becky Cape and the Lilly Library staff for being a wonderful host and keeping their doors open late on a Saturday for us; Ryan Lee and Brad Cook; and all of the Indiana University SAA-SC members who helped plan and organize the event.
