

SNAPshots

Volume 1, Issue 1 · Summer 2012



Newsletter of the Students and New Archival Professionals Roundtable, Society of American Archivists

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The views, opinions, positions or strategies expressed by the authors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, positions or strategies of the Society of American Archivists or other affiliated institutions.

Oh SNAP!

By SNAP Chair Rebecca Goldman

At my first Annual meeting in 2010, I met many new archivists who were worried about their futures and felt out of place at SAA. When I got home, I put up [a blog post and comic](#) that synthesized all the concerns I'd heard and my own thoughts about the place of new archivists within the profession. It sparked a conversation about the issues facing new archivists that was both cathartic and constructive. The conversation continued into 2011 when I started [a blog](#) to discuss the possibility of forming a new roundtable within SAA for students and new professionals. That year, outgoing president, Helen Tibbo, gave a speech at the Annual Meeting about the future of the archives profession but made no mention of new and future archivists. Listening to that speech reinforced my commitment to providing a voice within SAA for the newest members of our profession.

This year, I'll be attending my third Annual Meeting as chair of the Students and New Archives Professionals (SNAP) Roundtable and to lead SNAP's inaugural meeting. We've got a great session planned to help you improve your job searching skills, learn more about SAA's other groups, and network with longtime SAA members and fellow new archivists. This meeting represents the culmination of two years of planning and discussion, among a large and diverse group of archivists, to carve out a place within SAA for the new members of the profession. In just over 4 months, our group has grown to over 600 members, and we have a lively stream of conversation on our listserv. In the coming months, I look forward to leading this group as we move from ideas to action.

Whether you're attending in person or in spirit, welcome to SAA, and welcome to SNAP.

Blog and comic:

<http://derangementanddescription.wordpress.com/2010/08/16/post-saa-howl/>

Blog: <http://newarchivistsroundtable.wordpress.com/>

The Editor's Desk

By Sarah Powell

As the new editor of *SNAPshots*, I focused on building a voice for archival students and new professionals. I'm confident this periodical will serve as both a source of information and debate to better prepare SNAP members for professional work and future interactions with our parent organization, the SAA.

SNAPshots will come out quarterly, each issue focusing on a different theme that will address events in both the archival community and student life. There will be regular features outlining different events, the activities of SNAP members, and profiles on students and professional archivists. The featured content will attempt to tackle the fundamental questions facing SNAP members that aren't being addressed anywhere else.

This issue will focus on the SAA conference in San Diego, which many SNAP members are considering attending. Conferences are important ways to learn the latest advancements in the theory and the methodology for subjects, such as digital photography and email. Additionally, conferences are a great opportunity to build and maintain professional and personal relationships, and provide the perfect opportunity for continued education and professional and personal growth.

San Diego will be my first archives conference and professional event, and I'm glad I'll have the information regarding networking contained in this issue. Hearing stories about how other new professionals have networked at conferences and then utilized those contacts to further develop their professional careers are encouraging and I hope to follow their example.

With any luck, I'll see a number of you as SAA12, and SNAP's first conference meeting.

I look forward to hearing from everyone who reads *SNAPshots* issue #1. Please drop an email to let me hear your thoughts on this, and future issues!

Call for Contributors

We're always looking for guest contributors to provide our readers with features on different archival topics and persons of interest.

If you have something you would like to share, or are interested in submitting a short article for our next newsletter or the SNAP blog, please email newarchivistsRT@gmail.com.

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Sarah Powell

Copy Editors

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SNAP Leadership

Chair	Rebecca Goldman
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Web/Social Media Coordinator	Rebecca Weintraub
Student and Student Chapter Coordinator	Helen Schubert
Liaison Coordinator	Sasha Griffin
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Links

SNAP Microsite

<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/students-and-new-archives-professionals-snap-roundtable>

SNAP Twitter

@SNAP_Roundtable
#thatdelightfullist

SNAP Facebook

Coming soon!

Bylaws & Elections

The Bylaws Subcommittee has closed commenting and voting will be announced soon.

Nominations for Steering Committee members closed on June 1. The vote will be hosted by the SAA using its online voting system and the ballot information will be submitted and announced by June 15.

Online ballots will be made accessible to all SAA SNAP Members July 2 and remain open for two weeks, closing on July 13.

Results will be announced at SAA2012 in San Diego and published on the listserv and Twitter.

Ready Reference

SNAP SC Member Rebecca Weintraub was interviewed by NY1 News for a piece on the Titanic disaster collection at Seamen's Church Institute. Watch the piece here:

http://queens.ny1.com/content/top_stories/158422/queens-college-acquires-collection-of-original-documents-from-aftermath-of-titanic-s-sinking



Chair Rebecca Goldman was quoted in the NYT article **A Surge in Learning the Language of the Internet**.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/28/technology/for-an-edge-on-the-internet-computer-code-gains-a-following.html? r=1>



Upping the Game by Arlene Schmuland

The blogger of "Attila the Archivist" explores her experiences as an SAA Mentor and discusses ways to overcome impersonal Mentor-Mentee relationships.

<http://attilaarchivist.blogspot.com/2012/02/upping-game.html>



Jasmine Jones and Amanda Strauss presented papers during a session entitled **In Pursuit of a Moral Imperative: Exploring Social Justice and the Archive Enterprise** at the Society of California Archivists 2012 annual general meeting.

Strauss: **Treading the Ground of Contested Memory: Archivists and the Human Rights Movement in Chile**. Jones: **Counter Narration and Social Justice: On Documenting the Ukrainian Émigré Community in North American**.

Both Strauss and Jones are dual Masters of Archives and History graduate students at Simmons College in Boston.

Meet the Steering Committee

Rebecca Goldman, Chair

BA in Linguistics, MS Library and Information Science from Drexel University. Rebecca is the Media and Digital Services Librarian at La Salle University (Philadelphia). She previously worked at the Drexel University Archives and completed internships at the Drexel University Libraries and the University of Pennsylvania's Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image. Rebecca is the author of the "Derangement and Description" webcomic and a winner of SAA's 2011 haiku contest.

Kate Donovan, Vice-Chair

BA, MA in History, MS in Information from Uni. of MI. Kate is the University Archivist at Emory Uni. and has worked as an archivist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the NYC Police Museum. She is also a steering committee member of the College & University Archives Section and a member of the Awards Committee, Emerging Leader Award Subcommittee.

Lora Davis, Secretary

BA in History, Susquehanna University; MA in the History of Industrialization, University of Delaware Hagley Program; MLIS with Archival Studies Concentration, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Lora has been a Library Analyst in the Manuscripts Unit of the University of Delaware Library's Special Collections Department since 2008. She is currently searching for an entry-level professional position, having recently completed her MLIS in December 2011. Lora was the 2011 winner of SAA's Theodore Calvin Pease Award for student writing and is thrilled to announce that her winning article on archival website accessibility will appear shortly in the Spring/Summer 2012 issue of *American Archivist*.

Sasha Griffin, Liaison Coordinator

BA in History, MLIS from Kent State Uni. Sasha is the Project Cataloging Archivist at Luther College (Decorah, Iowa). In the past, Sasha has worked at Ohio State University (Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program) and has volunteered at the State Archives.

Sarah Powell, Outreach/Newsletter Coordinator

BA in Music; MIS from UT Austin. Sarah worked as an intern at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History and as a student archivist for the Society of Folk Dance Historians. She is currently the Assistant Archivist at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Sarah is currently studying for the Certified Archivist exam in August and pursuing DAS certification.

Helen Schubert, Student and Student Chapter Coordinator

BA in History, University of Pennsylvania; MS in Library Science and an MA in History from Simmons College Graduate School of Library Science. Helen has interned at the Congregational Library archives in Boston, MA, and volunteered at the Methodist Archives and History Center of the United Methodist Church in Madison, NJ and at the Boston Arts Academy/Fenway High School archives in Boston. She is looking forward to interning at US Attorney's Office District of Massachusetts library this summer, and is excited to be moving to Washington, D.C. in the fall.

Rebecca Weintraub, Web/Social Media Coordinator

B.A. in English, University of Maryland, College Park; MLIS from Queens College (December 2012). Rebecca is currently a Reading Room Assistant at the Center for Jewish History and intern at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She was recently a Special Collections and Archives Fellow at Queens College where she processed photographs from the Seamen's Church Institute Archives.

First Time Expectations

By Jarrett Drake

Will this August be your first time attending SAA's Annual Meeting? If so, you're not alone! With *Beyond Borders* in San Diego fast approaching, *SNAPshots* will preview the conference in a way that benefits newbies (and oldies, too) by highlighting what first-time attendees anticipate will be the highs, lows, and in-betweens. This is the first installment of a two-part series, with the second half coming after the meeting has concluded.

I spoke with students of four different library/information schools and, overall, the prime motivator in their decision to attend SAA is the desire to forge new connections. You may be thinking, "Well, that comes as no surprise. Students want jobs. Connections land them." While some interviewees expressed interest in circulating their business cards and making the right first impression, the overwhelming interest in new connections is actually with fellow students.

Such is the case for Allison Bailey, who just completed her first year at the University of Michigan School of Information. Bailey will be traveling to San Diego to present a poster from her digital preservation internship at the Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive (Dearborn, Mich.). She said she is looking forward to "introduce [herself] to other students" and expand her network beyond the Detroit Metro Area.

The same goes for Hilary Swett, who is nearing the end of her second year at San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science. Swett noted that since her program is exclusively online, students must actively maintain a virtual connection with one another. The annual meeting will provide an opportunity to match names with faces.

Kait Dorsky, entering her second year at the University of North Carolina Chapel-Hill School of Information and Library Science, agreed. She is most excited for "networking with SNAP'ers since we're facing the same issues and we'll be spending the most time around each other." The UNC-CH student chapter of

Continued on page 16, Expect

"Can't Miss" Sessions

By Jill Nagy Anderson

One glance at the *Beyond Borders* conference program can be a little overwhelming. If you're a conference first-timer or just getting the lay of the land professionally, there are some events and sessions you won't want to miss.

The inaugural in-person meeting of SNAP, of course, is a great chance to get to know other students and new professionals, happening Wednesday, August 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. SAA has made a solid effort to help first-timers in recent years, so if the SNAP meeting whets your appetite for networking, join the New Member Orientation on Wednesday evening - bring cash if you want to enjoy the bar and bring your business cards for valuable opportunities to network.

Another great opportunity for meeting students is to peruse the Student Poster Presentations, Thursday, August 9 and Friday, August 10 - come by and introduce yourself while learning what research SAA graduate students are doing.

Students can also check with an advisor or consult the on-site program to see if your archives program will be hosting an alumni mixer - a fun opportunity to network with professionals with whom you already have an alma mater in common. If you're interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, stop by the Networking Café Thursday morning.

The All-Attendee Reception occurs Thursday evening. This fun, unifying professional event is included with your registration fee. But most of all, don't miss "Archives in the Movies" on Friday evening. Discover all the ways that archives and archivists are represented in film, hosted by Leith Johnson.

Choosing which sessions to attend is always a bit of a guessing game and often difficult, since so many of them promise to be thoroughly enlightening. Aside from those that appeal to particular research areas or backgrounds, *Beyond Borders* promises to offer some exceptional sessions on the future of archives.

Check out Session 101 on digital forensics,

Continued on page 17, Sessions

Get to Know a Pro

Melissa G. Gonzales

University and Labor Archivist, Labor and Political Collections, UT Arlington Library

BA, Art History, The University of Texas at Austin
MLS. Archival Concentration, Simmons College, Boston
Certified Archivist



➔ What drew you to archives?

As an undergraduate, I worked for a professor who operated out of both the Art History and Middle Eastern Studies programs. I assisted her with research and obtaining materials through UT's many libraries and special collections. I was interested in archaeology, and after researching in the archives, I learned there was a job that would enable me to combine my love of books and history while still getting dirty digging through materials.

➔ What was your first internship or job?

Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

➔ How long have you been an archivist?

It has been almost three years since I began working as a professional archivist.

➔ What's your archival passion (i.e., special collections, digitization, digital records, etc.)?

Preservation and processing. I really like getting into the meat of collections. Recently I have been more interested in born-digital collections, and as a result, I will be starting the Society of American Archivists' Digital Archives Specialist Certificate Program.

➔ What's the most important thing you've learned in your career?

I would say continuing education and reading professional journals and publications have been very useful. Networking is key in obtaining jobs. I can't stress that enough. It also helps you to create a system of colleagues working in different types of repositories who can help you if you run into problems. I've also learned it helps to not limit yourself—attend meetings or reading journals of other areas of study that may cross over into the archival field. Other disciplines, such as IT, business and marketing, can offer plenty of ideas that work in archives.

➔ Have you had any leadership roles in SAA?

Not yet, but I'm working on it. I currently sit on the Membership Committee for the Society of Southwest Archivists, and I'm on their Executive Board ballot for this year.

➔ Do you have any advice for students or new professionals?

Network. Network. Network. Join regional and national professional organizations and attend annual meetings. I have known more colleagues who found their current jobs because they made it a point to establish connections. It means a world of difference when someone can place a face to a name when they have received your resume and job application. Serve on a committee for a regional or national organization. You may feel as a recent graduate and new professional you have nothing to offer, but it's not true. I would also recommend not pigeonholing yourself to a specific area of study. Having a well-rounded archival education and being familiar with different formats is key.

➔ What's your favorite part of working in this field?

Processing collections is always fun because you never know what you're going to discover, but I would also say I like that this field requires constant education. You never stop learning and it's critical that you continue to stay on top of current issues and advocate for the profession.

SAA Membership

Annual dues

Individual Membership

- \$80 for those earning less than \$20k per year;
- \$101 for those earning \$20k-\$29k per year;
- \$124 for those earning \$30k-\$39k per year;
- \$152 for those earning \$40k-\$49k per year;
- \$180 for those earning \$50k-\$59k per year;
- \$205 for those earning \$60k-\$75k per year;
- \$225 for those earning more than \$75k per year;
- \$67 for retired persons; and
- \$47 for "bridge-rate" membership, a one-time benefit for renewing members who are unemployed.

Individual Student Membership

- \$47 per year

Individual Associate Membership

- \$80 for those residing in the United States; and
- \$95 for those residing outside of the United States.

Read more on the SAA Website: <http://www2.archivists.org/membership>

SNAP Membership

To join SNAP, visit our microsite and click the "Join" link in the "About Us" box.

You do not need to be a part of the SAA to be a member of SNAP and participate in the listserv discussion.

Only SAA members may vote in SAA/SNAP elections and hold elected office.

Microsite: <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/students-and-new-archives-professionals-snap-roundtable>

Upcoming Annual Conferences

July

Joint Meeting of the Council of State Archivists and National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators: July 18-21, 2012; Santa Fe, NM

August

Society of American Archivists: August 6-11, 2012; San Diego, CA

October

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference: October 25-27, 2012; Richmond, VA

November

New England Archivists Fall Meeting: November 2-3, 2012; Simmons College, Boston, MA

Archival Education & Events

By Nancy Coeey

Continuing Education from the SAA

The SAA offers a wide variety of in-person and web-based continuing education opportunities. Many of these opportunities may also be applied towards the Digital Archival Specialist (DAS) and Certified Archivist certifications.

<http://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/course-catalog>

New York Archives Week,

Where: Metropolitan New York City region

When: October 7–13, 2012

Cost: Free

Description: New York Archives Week is an annual celebration aimed at informing the general public of the diverse array of archival materials available in the Metropolitan New York City region. It includes open houses, lectures, workshops, and behind-the-scenes tours of archives throughout the city. (Description from Archivists Round Table of NY)

<http://www.nycarchivists.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1035143>

Conference on the History of Records and Archives

When: Aug. 2–4, 2012

Where: Austin, Texas

Cost: Check the registration page for registration rates.

Description: The sixth International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (I-CHORA 6). The conference theme is “Exploring Shared Heritage in the History of Archives with Libraries, Information Science/Documentation, Preservation/Conservation, and Museums.”

<http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~ichora6/>

MAC’s Fall Symposium 2012: K–16 students and Primary Sources

When: Thur., Oct. 18–20, 2012

Where: Cincinnati, OH

Description: The Midwest Archives Conference fall symposium.

<http://www.midwestarchives.org/mc/community/eventdetails.do?eventId=316807&orgId=midwestarc&recurringId=0>

On Demand

How to Preserve Your Own Digital Materials

The Library of Congress’s guide to preserving you and your family’s digital materials. Includes instructions on scanning objects, selecting storage devices, and methods for preserving a variety of media including videos, photographs, websites, email, and other born-digital items.

<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/>

Other places to find webinars, lessons, and tutorials

- The [University of Michigan School of Information](http://www.umich.edu) offers many of the materials from its courses for free online, including “Digital Libraries and Archives”
- Check out [Webjunction](http://www.webjunction.org) for free webinars produced by OCLC.
- [Library Journal](http://www.libraryjournal.com) creates webcasts on a variety of topics, many related to archives.
- [NCompass Live](http://www.nlc.nebraska.gov) is a free program produced weekly by the Nebraska Library Commission and they occasionally cover topics related to archives.
- [ALA](http://www.ala.org) offers free webcasts from previous Preservation Weeks.

<http://open.umich.edu/education/si/si640/fall2010>

<http://www.webjunction.org/content/webjunction/events/wj.html>

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/category/webcasts/?ref=menu>

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/>

<http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/preswk/cal>

Student Studies

Amanda Richards

University of South Florida

BA, Interdisciplinary Studies: Anthropology, Linguistics, and Judaic Studies, University of Central Florida

➔ What drew you to archives?

I ended up in Archives by accident. I had finally decided that I wanted to obtain my MLIS and thought it would be a good idea to get some experience in an academic library. I got a volunteer position with Laila Miletic-Vejzovic in the Special Collections and University Archives department. Once I was in the door I knew I was hooked!

➔ What's your archival passion?

For me, as I am sure is true for most of us, I love old books and paper. I love the feel of looking through documents, articles, and books that haven't been touched or read in who knows how many years. Having taken many anthropological as well as archaeological courses, I like the idea of preserving our history not only for our future researchers but also for the present generation. We help numerous students and professors write papers, books, dissertations, etc. They depend on us to help them find information and I love being able to be part of that.

➔ Are you involved in a student chapter or professional organization?

I am registered with several, but because of a lack of time currently I don't participate as much as I would like. I am a part of FLA, ALA, SAA, and SFA.

➔ What class have you found particularly useful or inspiring?

So far my most inspiring class has been Archival Management with Jim Schnur. He brought real world experiences to the table and the class discussed the differences between the theory of archives and what happens in real life. He showed us how to balance theory and practice and told us that is ok to ask questions and seek help. I thought that what he taught us was incredibly useful advice.

➔ What class do you wish your program offered that it didn't?

I have been trying to find a way to take some book restoration and repair courses. I learned the basics while working at UCF but would like to further my education in how to preserve and repair items.

➔ Have you found an opportunity to work in an archive?

I just recently left my position at the UCF Archive, but loved every second I worked there.

➔ What's your dream job?

My dream job would be to head the Special Collections and Archives department at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. After having visited I fell in love with the area and the library. One day I will work there.

➔ What do you think of the SAA?

Although I haven't been as involved yet as I would like, I would have to say I like SAA. I like the listservs that I am a member of because I get to read what is going on the archiving community and what questions are being asked. I hope to eventually make it to a conference so I can meet some of the interesting people I have met on these lists.

You Won't Believe What I Found!

The funniest, coolest, and weirdest items found in archival boxes

- “Rat brains. I work with the papers of women in science, and one had a collection of slides with brain samples.” - **Tanya Zanish-Belcher**
- “A coral snake...the ‘red and yellow, kill a fellow’ type. Well, I didn’t really find it in a collection, but it was in the reading room caught in a sticky trap and still alive.” - **Melissa G. Gonzales,**
- “One of the strangest things we uncovered in a collection came from the famous football coach Woody Hayes’ collection. While processing it, we discovered that an ardent fan had made a large piece of plywood (around 5’x3’) into a ‘postcard’ of sorts and sent it to Coach Hayes. The postcard had actual postage on it, and declared the fan’s devotion to Woody. It made me wonder what else Woody had received that never made it to the Archives!” - **Tamar Chute**

Send your crazy items and pictures you have to: newarchivistrt@gmail.com with the subject line “Crazy Stuff”. SNAPshots is not responsible for determining the security status of any submissions. Materials submitted will be assumed cleared for publication.

Conference Favorites

What’s your favorite thing to do at professional conferences?

- “Catching up with friends/colleagues and meeting new ones. It’s also helpful and comforting to hear what problems other archivists are encountering and how they resolve those issues.” - **Melissa G. Gonzales,**
- “Follow what is going in the sessions via Twitter, especially since there are so many I would like to attend, but can’t. I always attend Roundtable meetings and poster sessions, as they are a chance to connect on a more personal level. I also like going to baseball games, and, while I am not a big fan of large receptions, if there are art or museum exhibits for me to look at, I am happy.” - **Tanya Zanish-Belcher**
- “I enjoy talking with other archivists from around the country. When I come home from a conference, the knowledge I have gained over lunch or coffee is usually what sticks with me and helps me make changes in my own work.” - **Tamar Chute**
- “I do like to spend some money hitting restaurants that are unique to the location/region.
- My favorite thing at a conference is the conversations that happen on Twitter. At SAA11, I didn’t know very many people and didn’t have anyone to ‘hang out with.’ But, it made things better when I filled downtime with some Twitter back-and-forth with fellow attendees. I couldn’t go to the Tweet Up, but it was nice to randomly see people’s name tags who wrote their Twitter username and say, ‘Oh, yeah! I was just Tweeting with you!’” - **Anonymous**
- **Rodney Carter:**
 - “Along with sessions, go to as many social events as possible. Best opportunities for networking/making new acquaintances.
 - Do not be afraid to introduce yourself to people—if there is someone you know is attending a conference that you want to meet just go up to them and say hello. Most folks are nice and, unless you catch them at a weird time, they will be happy to chat with you.
 - Google “best restaurants in [insert city here]” & you will find the best local cuisine at all price levels. I found “the best tacos in America” in San Antonio using this method (they were delicious).”

Saving Greenbacks While Traveling “Beyond Borders”

By Jill Nagy Anderson and Erin Dornbusch

It's summertime again - that magical time of the year when archivists from across the nation burst forth from windowless processing rooms to gather together for networking and professional development. However, as students and new archivists, effective budgeting and careful spending is not simply important, but often imperative as the cost of attending an Annual Meeting can be daunting, especially with funding being slashed across the country. That being said, there are still ways to travel to San Diego this year on a reasonable budget. That is good news for all as professional conferences, including the upcoming annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in San Diego, represent an incomparable opportunity for professional development. These conferences have the potential to pose significant challenges to expense management. However, while some conference costs are unavoidable, with proper planning it is possible to minimize the expenses associated with attendance.

Registration

First and foremost, one of the easiest strategies for saving money at SAA revolves around the registration process. For non-student SAA members, early registration (for San Diego, this means by July 6, 2012) can save the registrant over \$100 in fees. Likewise, for students, it is critical to take advantage of the student member discount, which reduces registration costs to only \$139.

Transportation

It's important to know your airline. If you don't need to attend the whole week, traveling on a Tuesday or Wednesday often affords major savings. SAA has negotiated a 5% discount with American Airlines if you use the reference number 8682BN. Keep in mind that major airlines have started to charge for checked baggage and have become very particular about size and weight limits for carry-ons. Check the fine print before you book. Expedia has a handy page to help ([link below](#)).

By making a reservation with the SAA discount code, you can save yourself \$1 off one-way service with SuperShuttle and \$5 off roundtrip service with ExecuCar. For more information, see the 'Concierge' section on the Beyond Borders website's sidebar to make reservations.

In terms of getting around the city, services provided by the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Authority are particularly cost effective. In fact, regional day passes can be purchased from MTS vending machines and bus drivers for only \$5. These passes allow for unlimited rides on most MTS trolleys and busses.

Another interesting option is to rent a bicycle. San Diego has several bicycle rental services, many of which offer free or low-cost delivery to local hotels. Both Stay Classy Bicycle ([stayclassybikes.com](#)) and The Bike Revolution ([thebikerevolution.com](#)) offer bike rental for \$25 a day (and \$10 for each additional day).

Lodging

Often the most anxiety-inducing cost of attendance is staying in the conference hotel. This year's meeting is at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront (\$199 per night with conference discount) and promises to be a beautiful location. Sharing with a roommate is an ideal solution, as it allows attendees to enjoy the luxury and convenience of staying in the conference hotel with much less out-of-pocket expense. This rate is available until June 12th (or until there are no more rooms left). Plan to utilize SAA's Cyber Café

Continued on page 18, Saving

Making the Most at MARAC

By Brigette Kamsler, Project Archivist, Burke Library, Columbia University

Although I've been a professional archivist for years, I have yet to be able to afford a large conference like SAA. Instead, I attend MARAC (Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference) which spans from Virginia to New York. While SNAP is a nationwide roundtable, MARAC is a useful example of a regional experience.

Preparation and pragmatism will go a long way in getting the best experience from a conference. Your current position but also future goals should factor into which conferences and sessions (and tours and workshops) you attend, and how you network.

As archivist and research center coordinator at the Historical Society of Frederick County, MD (HSFC), I attended MARAC meetings in spring 2010; fall 2010; and spring 2011. I attended this past spring as the Project Archivist at Columbia University. My participation in conference activities has grown with each event: first only attending Friday sessions; then staying for the entire conference and attending a workshop; and recently attending the conference and presenting a session.

Picking Sessions and Conferences

At HSFC, I not only was in charge of archives, but also the research center; volunteer supervision; and events and committees run by the small historical society. Since my duties were so broad, I felt any session could be applied; this was both a blessing and a curse as I really had to look at the sessions and decide what was practical. This also helped justify attending the conference in general as it was hard to be out of the office. I also wanted to look at my future as a professional archivist.

Past sessions I attended and could immediately applied to my professional work at the HSFC were topics such as building community relationships; collaborative digital projects; implementing cost revenue programs to fund archives; and internal advocacy. With my long term goals in mind, I attended a workshop on EAD; sessions on archivists holding faculty status; and presented a session (something which would not only help other professionals but improve my own resume).

This variety changed when I took my new position at Columbia University, which is now more focused on archival work. I skipped the fall 2011 meeting because I had been at my position for less than three months and the sessions were less applicable. The spring 2012 meeting included sessions on missionary records, the fundamentals of preservation with processing collections, and public displays - all immediately relevant.

While I have been exposed to many topics and ideas from the variety of sessions, there have been some downsides to my conference experiences. Some sessions I attended were supposed to be about one topic and ended up covering something completely different. You have the option to leave and move to another session, but we also have the ability to follow Twitter to see what other sessions are covering. When I was a session speaker, I was careful to make sure I not only followed what was written in the program, but made sure to stick to my allotted time.

The Dark Side

One area I am going to go against the grain is to say that conference networking has yet to really benefit me. I know everyone will tell you to make as many connections as possible and get out there because you never know what could come of those connections.

Don't get me wrong, I talk with those around me at the sessions and especially at the Friday evening receptions, but those connections have stayed in the conference hotels when I left the meeting.

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Student Chapters News

SNAP would like to get in touch with every SAA Student Chapter but we know the list online is out-of-date. Check the copied list below to see if the SAA has information about your organization and send us your contact information!

newarchivistRT@gmail.com
<http://www2.archivists.org/students/chapters>

California State University, Sacramento	Clarion University of Pennsylvania	Dominican University
Drexel University	East Tennessee State University	Indiana University
Kent State University	Louisiana State University	New York University
North Carolina State University	Pratt Institute	Queens College, the City University of New York
San José State University	Simmons College	University of Albany, State University of New York
University of Arizona	University of California at Los Angeles	University of Denver
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	University of Kentucky	University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	University of Oklahoma
University of Pittsburgh	University of South Carolina	University of Tennessee
University of Texas at Austin	University of Washington	University of Wisconsin at Madison
University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee	Wayne State University	Western Washington University
	Wright State University	

San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science (SAASC)

San Jose, California

By Shaula Stephenson

San Jose State University's SAASC held their final online meet-up of the semester on April 30th, where Cory Nimer, SJSU SLIS alumnus and Manuscripts Cataloger/Metadata Specialist, spoke about the Special Collections at Brigham Young University. Additionally, on May 10th, the chapter hosted a tour on the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA. Finally, SAASC held a contest to design a new logo.

Student Chapters News contin.

University of Texas – Austin, School of Information (SAA-UT) Austin, Texas

By Emily Perkins, SAA-UT Marketing Chair

The SAA University of Texas chapter in Austin, Texas is a student-run organization comprised of School of Information students who are passionate about archival enterprise and are eager to foster interest and support for archives in our community. Our major activities include a bi-annual potluck, visits to various archival repositories in Texas, and planning our annual “Archives Week,” which takes place every October on the University campus, and is free and open to the public.

Most recently our organization traveled to Houston, Texas to visit with the archives staff at the Holocaust Museum and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Visiting with these professionals gave us a glimpse of the burden of responsibility that archivists carry at small and medium-scale archives.

The theme of our upcoming Archives Week is “Archiving the Fabric of Our Lives,” and will feature professionals who can speak to the specific issues associated with archives of textiles. We will also host an archives and preservation clinic at the Austin History Center where we, along with AHC staff, will educate the public about preservation and archival issues, as well as provide specific preservation advice for items that community members might bring in. We accept new members every semester, and provide mentorship and guidance to new iSchool students.

Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science (SCoSAA) Boston, MA

By Camille Torres and Amanda Strauss, Co-chairs

On April 21, 2012, SCoSAA, along with SLA (Special Libraries Association), hosted Simmons College’s first Graduate Symposium. The one-day event featured presentations from GSLIS students on their recent research, demonstrating how students plan to contribute to their respective fields once they graduate. Presenters included Kristen Schuster on the concept of provenance; Aliza Leventhal on diaspora manuscripts; Laura Kitchings on item-level description in the MPLP era; Brian Shetler on theft and security; Rebecca Meyer, Phyllis Catsikis, and Shannon Struble on sustainability considerations in cultural heritage sites; Meghan Poepping on the collective memory of “Bloody Sunday,” and Caitlin Christian-Lamb, Taylor Kalloch, and Ana Knezevic on silences and slavery at Boston’s Shirley-Eustis house. Panel reports are available at:

<http://gslis.simmons.edu/blogs/scosaa/files/2012/05/PanelReports2012.pdf>

Did your chapter recently do hold a special archives event? Perhaps a special guest speaker stopped by or an invitation was made to take a “Behind the Scenes” tour of a local, regional, or prominent archive?

Contact “SNAPshots” so we can feature your chapter in the next issue!

Email: newarchivistsRT@gmail.com

Tools for Networking, Lessons from ALA 2011

By Nora Almeida

Things start out well enough: you browse conference offerings on the web-based conference app, you attend a pre-conference ‘first timers’ event, you purchase a new notebook (or charge your tablet computer); you’re excited, well-rested and raring to go.

And then it happens—the first in a series of unanticipated mishaps. Perhaps you miscalculate travel-time or realize two great panel discussions are scheduled at the same time or are on opposite ends of the conference center; maybe you get lost on your way back from lunch or overhear a recap of an interesting workshop that you didn’t know existed.

Navigating a large conference for the first time can be overwhelming and new conference attendees may find their best-laid plans cannot accommodate unforeseen variables. Last year, I had my first foray into the world of professional conferences when I attended the ALA 2011 in New Orleans. At ALA I was absorbed into a network of students and young professionals, that enhanced my conference experience and helped me stay connected post-NOLA. With a little foresight and the use of some basic technological tools, you can easily avoid navigational obstacles and develop a framework for networking.

Even if nothing goes awry, there are steps any conference attendee can take to maximize their experience and make lasting connections. (If you’re reading this newsletter, you’re off to a good start already!)

Plugging in

Professional organizations are increasingly offering support sessions and tools to accommodate conference newcomers and encourage student involvement. Pre-conference orientations and association-sponsored networks like SAA’s Navigator program are great ways to meet others once at the conference. But you don’t have to rely on a professional organization to do all the legwork for you; you can start building your micro-network before you arrive. Joining association roundtables and contributing to listservs are both great first steps. Reach out to people at work or school who are also attending the conference or who can put you in touch with others who are. Sending an email to your school or roundtable listserv to see if other attendees want to connect for lunch or at a meet-up can be a good way to reach out.

You can also connect with peers via social media and begin building virtual micro-networks that can develop into lasting professional connections. The great thing about using social networks is that they are, well, networks. Even if you only know a couple of other conference attendees, it is likely that they know a couple of people attending as well. And, since most people go to conferences to learn and connect, a little outreach effort goes a long way.

Twitter / Tweet Deck / Group Tweet

Whatever your interface of choice, Twitter has gained popularity among young professionals for a reason – it’s a great tool for immediate and simultaneous connection. Twitter’s built in hashtag search functionality can let you reach out to your Twitter followers who are also following conference tweets. A simple, “Any manuscript archivists interested in heading to the session on linked data? #SAA12,” creates a real time connection that bridges virtual and analog networks.

Group Me

This SMS application allows users to message en-masse. The technology works with all major cell

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Expect

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SAA designed a poster for presentation, which Dorsky and others will be representing. Rebecca Frank, a 2012 graduate of the University of Michigan and another poster presenter, stated her interest in the work of younger professionals, lamenting that often times their contributions are not as highly valued as those of more senior practitioners.

Not all of what these first-timers forecast in San Diego will be sunny; they share anxiety, too. In particular, Nick Krabbenhoeft mentioned concern for the possibility of seasoned members' perception of him as "just being a student." Further, when asked whether he had a chance to view the Preliminary Program, Krabbenhoeft, a rising second year student at Michigan, responded, "just a little bit [as] it seems pretty dense." This is a common challenge for other first-timers as well that reflects a fear of information overload and the angst of not maximizing one's time. Navigating the sea of information within the booklet is something Rebecca Potance hopes her mentor can help with. Potance, a 2011 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences, was paired (through SAA's mentoring program!) back in January but the two have yet to meet in person. Potance spoke favorably of the relationship, describing it as "beneficial."

Two final comments warrant extra attention. Frank, who has previously attended a few non-archival conferences, stressed the importance of taking risks and not being confined to what students "should" do at conferences. Frank relayed her experience at the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS) meeting when she unexpectedly entered a private meeting of working group members that she thought was public. "They were very welcoming and didn't kick me out, so I stayed." This afforded Frank the opportunity to form professional relationships she otherwise wouldn't have had she followed the conventional course. Also, Bailey indicated her eagerness to partake in the "behind-the-scenes" tours offered at local repositories in San Diego. She expects this will not only give her a sneak peek into their operations and but also enhance her overall understanding of archival work.

All told, first-timers will come to SAA from different places and different perspectives. However what remains consistent is the excitement to meet peers and professionals. As we set our sights for San Diego, this enthusiasm promises to make for a wonderful experience for all.

Tools

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service providers and can be scaled to accommodate any group size. A former co-worker added me to a Group-Me network of other library students at ALA 2011, and we used it to socialize and communicate about conference sessions. I had lunch and great conversations with LIS students almost every day and by the end of the week had a network of peers that I'm still in contact with.

Google Docs

Google Docs are a great tool for creating collective resources. Sharing notes on conference sessions via Google Docs means you can pool information with your micro-network and have references to return to after the conference ends. Documents can become launching points for ideas that are later turned into comprehensive resources.

Headed to *Beyond Borders* or another professional conference this summer? So are a lot of other people who are reading this article right now. Connect on Twitter: #SAA12 #SNAP #thatdelightfullist

Sessions

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chaired by Cal Lee of UNC-Chapel Hill and author of last year's *I, Digital*. If American history is more your speed, Session 104 offers a unique opportunity to simultaneously commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and learn how digitization can make archival resources more accessible.

Session 206, with Arlene Schmuland of the "That elusive archives job" blog and SNAP Chair Rebecca Goldman (of the "Derangement and Description" webcomic fame) among its panelists, addresses archival education and employer issues. Session 303 should be valuable to graduate students, addressing the often-avoided concern of dealing with donors.

Those interested in undergraduate education should consider Session 402, and Session 406 that focus on Wikipedia as a new frontier for collaboration. Eira Tansey, Kate Theimer, and the singular Terry Baxter are all involved in unique sessions, so keep an eye out for those.

Even if you're leaving Saturday, make an effort to attend Session 501, chaired by AOTUS David Ferriero, examining the way forward for the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Graduate Student Paper Session. Attendees concerned with diversity and voices in the archives will find pertinent sessions on all three days.

Whatever your interests, take the opportunity to utilize the SNAP listserv and share your thoughts about your "can't-miss" sessions. Session-hopping, like everything at the Annual Meeting, is always more fun with a friend!

MARAC

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None of my jobs were found through those connections. However, I know I could have done more to stay connected with these people such as looking for the people I spoke with on LinkedIn or sent a casual email greeting or thank you note. While networking hasn't worked for me up to this point, I also realize I could have done more to further cement those connections.

Networking works for many people. If you want to establish a connection with a person or organization, go for it. You might have to do the legwork to keep that connection going, but just put yourself out there: you have nothing to lose.

Always Look on the Bright Side (of Life)

When looking at conferences to attend, it is important to be realistic. What can you afford and will it really help you with your current and perhaps future goals? What sessions can you use now, as well as in the future? You should also attend a session or two that is just for fun –it's perfectly acceptable, especially when you think about possibly depressing subject such as job prospects and budget cuts.

Ultimately, you will get out of the conference experience what you put in to it. At the very least you will be invigorated after attending a conference, which is always a good thing.

Saving

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for free internet access. The Hilton Bayfront charges \$14.95 per 24 hrs. for in-room access.

Alternatively, there are also several hostels in relatively close proximity to the conference site. Hostelling International is approximately a 15-minute walk from the Hilton San Diego Bayfront and has beds in dorm rooms or private rooms for rates between \$29 and \$79 a night. Comparably, Lucky D's Hostel is also located within walking distance of the conference and has shared and private options from \$25 to \$72 a night.

SNAP listserv subscribers may already be aware of a resource to facilitate ride sharing and finding roommates; Rebecca Goldman has posted a link to the [SNAP resource-sharing finder](#). DO YOU WANT TO INCLUDE A LINK TO THIS?

Food and Dining

Don't underestimate the savings of availing yourself of the local cuisine instead of the hotel's dining facilities. Living Social, Groupon, and Amazon Local often run great deals on local dining and services - just make sure that a deal you purchase now will be valid August 6-11. As of this writing, four restaurants within a mile of the Hilton Bayfront have Living Social offers.

A comprehensive list of cheap eats in close proximity to the conference site can also be found at Yelp.com. Even so, the most effective way to save money may be to rely on a local grocery store for provisions. The G Street location of Ralph's - a prominent discount grocer downtown is a 5-10 minute walk from the conference site and from the aforementioned hostels.

Be sure to visit the [San Diegan](#) for local coupons. [GoCalifornia](#) has a list of fun free attractions. The [Host Committee blog](#) has begun posting information regarding local attractions and activities available in San Diego. You can either visit the website or subscribe to email updates about new posts. LINKS NEEDED

With some advance planning, you can head off to San Diego comfortably and be ready to spot archival superstars - now to summon some courage to introduce yourself!

Links

Expedia List of Airline Fees: <http://www.expedia.com/p/info-other/airline-fees.htm>

SNAP SAA RideShare: <http://goo.gl/x7KVX>

San Diegan: <http://www.sandiegan.com/san-diego-coupons/>

Go California!: <http://gocalifornia.about.com/cs/sandiego/a/sdfree.htm>

Host Committee: <http://saa2012sd.wordpress.com/>