

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 12 – 13, 2013
New Orleans, Louisiana**

**2012 Mosaic Scholar Report
(Prepared by Aditi Sharma Worcester)**

BACKGROUND

The Mosaic Scholarship was created by the Council to advance SAA's 2010-2014 strategic priority related to Diversity. One scholarship was awarded in 2012 to Aditi Sharma Worcester (University of Texas at Austin School of Information), who received a scholarship of \$5,000, a one-year complimentary membership in SAA, and a complimentary registration to *Beyond Borders: San Diego 2012*.

Award recipients are required to submit a 500-word report to the SAA Council upon completion of their second semester. Worcester's report is now submitted in fulfillment of that requirement.

**Name: Aditi Sharma Worcester
Year of Award: 2012-2013**

I heard of the Society of American Archivists on the first day of my first class "Introduction to Archival Enterprise" at the School of Information, UT Austin, in 2011. After visiting the website and learning more about it, I remember thinking to myself that it would be quite something to actually become an SAA member one day – perhaps after I graduated and got my first job. Living on a student budget had made me cheap and I wasn't sure about paying the membership dues at the time.

Imagine my surprise then when just a year later I received the most thoughtfully worded letter from Harrison Inefuku (Chair, Mosaic Scholarship Selection Committee) informing me that I was a recipient of the award. Harrison's letter was my first introduction to SAA and the quality of its members – and I promised myself then and there that I would do my best to contribute back to this organization that was so generously and graciously investing in my future.

And so it came about that the Mosaic Scholarship enabled me to become a member of SAA an entire year before I had originally thought myself able to. It provided me with considerable financial assistance. It allowed me attend my first archival conference. But more than anything else, it helped me feel a little more confident of myself. Of my

decision to enter this profession. Of the goals I have set for the future. And of my ability to meet those goals.

Shortly after attending the conference in San Diego, I traveled to New Delhi on a graduate student travel award from the South Asia Institute at UT Austin to conduct research for a paper I had begun writing in my archival management class taught by Dr. Ciaran Trace. In the paper, I explore how independent grassroots community archives and participatory models of content creation in post-colonial developing countries can help foster civic engagement and social development. My paper was accepted to the 43rd conference of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA). A travel grant from IASA allowed me to present my paper at the conference in New Delhi in October 2012. I feel very fortunate to have attended this conference because it allowed me to learn about projects and initiatives in different parts of the world such as England, Germany, Mexico, France, India, Indonesia and other countries.

Upon my return to school in Austin, I decided to include more classes in technology and digital archives in my repertoire. I took a records management class to become familiar with electronic records and their upkeep. I signed up for a class on digital archiving and preservation where we tried to retrieve information off of server backups made to digital data storage tapes in the 1990s. I learned PHP and HTML in my database management class. And last semester, I took a class on mobile interface design where a colleague and I designed a self-guided tour phone app of the Texas State Capitol grounds. When I look back at the classes I have taken during my Master's program, I am always appreciative of the iSchool's emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of the information profession in general and archival science in particular.

I have also had the wonderful opportunity of augmenting classroom learning with professional experience. Since January 2012, I have been working at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. I have processed and created finding aids for archival collections, gained cataloging experience, and currently work in reference and circulation in the library department. I also had the opportunity to help prepare the historic artifacts collection at the agency for conversion to an online database as part of my Capstone project.

The past year has been an eventful one. And it all started with the Mosaic scholarship. I am glad for the opportunity to serve on the SAA Awards Committee for the next few years and am excited to be a part of the process that could help shape the graduate experience of other new entrants to the profession.

July 24, 2013