

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
November 8-10, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Annual Report: Awards Committee  
(Prepared by Steven D. Booth, Committee Co-Chair)**

**Officers:**

Steven D. Booth (Emeritus Co-Chair, 2013-2016)  
Susan Hamburger (Co-Chair, 2014-2016)  
Gerald Chaudron (Incoming Co-Chair, 2015-2017)

**Report from Annual Meeting:**

- Number of attendees: 21
- Summary of meeting activities: See attached minutes (Appendix)

**Completed Projects/Activities:**

- ✓ Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award: The SAA Council approved the Selection Committee's revisions to the award language for the essay requirement. (November 2014).
- ✓ Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award: Committee Co-Chair Steven Booth submitted editorial revisions to clarify the purpose/criteria for selection and eligibility language. (January 2015)
- ✓ SAA Mosaic Scholarship: The application now includes the suggested addition of eligibility requirements received from the selection committee this summer. (October 2015)
- ✓ Donald Peterson Student Travel Award Scholarship: The eligibility section now includes a hyperlink to the SAA Directory of Archival Education in order to clarify for potential applicants the definition of "archival education program." (October 2015)
- ✓ Ham, Forman, Mosaic Scholarships and Holmes Award: These recognitions now include as part of their prize complimentary registration to the SAA Annual Meeting

in the year in which the scholarship award is received.

**Ongoing Projects/Activities:**

- F. Gerald Ham and Elsie Ham Scholarship: The Selection Committee is currently drafting language to clarify the eligibility requirements, which will then be shared with Mr. and Mrs. Ham for their approval.
- The Awards Committee launched the 2015-2016 awards cycle in October 2015. Subcommittees are publicizing recognitions and soliciting nominations within SAA, the profession, and archival community through listservs, social media, and in print.

**New Projects/Activities:** None.

**Initiatives Associated with the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan:** None.

**Questions/Concerns for Council Attention:** None.

**Society of American Archivists**  
**Awards Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**August 19, 2015, 1:30 pm-2:45 pm**  
**Garfield Room (Renaissance Cleveland Hotel)**  
(Prepared by Steven D. Booth)

**I. Welcome and Introductions** - Steven Booth, Co-Chair

Steven Booth (emeritus co-chair) called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Members of the Awards Committee that were present introduced themselves, including Gerald Chaudron (incoming co-chair) and Teresa Brinati (staff liaison). A total of 21 persons attended the meeting.

**II. Awards Schedule**

Steven and Teresa discussed the schedule, lineup, and presenters for the awards presentations:

- Thursday, August 20, 9:00 am-10:30 am | Plenary I in Grand Ballroom AB, Cleveland Convention Center: SAA Fellows (3 recipients) presented by Committee on the Selection of SAA Fellows; J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award and Distinguished Service Award presented by SAA President Kathleen Roe.
- Friday, August 21, 8:30 am-9:45 am | Plenary II in Grand Ballroom A, Cleveland Convention Center: Council Exemplary Service Award presented by Roe, ARL/SAA Mosaic Program Fellows acknowledged by Roe, SAA Student Awards (Pease, Ham, Forman, Mosaic, Peterson, Pinkett, Holmes) presented by Steven.
- Friday, August 21, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm | Awards Ceremony in Grand Ballroom A, Cleveland Convention Center: Hamer Kegan, Posner, Coker, Preservation Publication, Lane, Spotlight, Diversity, Archival Innovator, Emerging Leader, and Leland presented by Steven, and two Council Exemplary Service Awards presented by Roe.

**III. Awards Cycle**

Steven reported a total of 148 nominations were received for 2015, which is a 24% increase from last year. Every award received at least one nomination.

Steven also mentioned that for the 2015-2016 awards cycle the nomination form will be revised to include a space for nominators to identify where they learned about recognitions so the committee can identify the best places to advertise.

Steven and Teresa discussed coordinating the SAA's student scholarships and travel awards with the ARL/SAA Mosaic Program. The purpose of this collaboration was to ensure that no individual received multiple recognitions in a single awards cycle. For awards that tend to overlap, like scholarships, selection committees should select a recipient and an alternate. In the event a selection committee believes an applicant or

book submission may be more appropriate for a different recognition, they should contact Teresa and the committee co-chairs for guidance.

This awards cycle, several selection committees faced challenges and discussed the need to revise award language in order to clarify eligibility requirements for potential applicants and help the selection committee better adjudicate the nominations. Below is a brief summary of the issues that were addressed.

- The F. Gerald Ham and Elsie Ham Scholarship: What constitutes “going into second year” for some students, as most graduate programs differ (quarter and semester systems) and some students may be part-time. The selection committee agreed to draft revised language, consult with F. Gerald Ham, then submit it to the SAA Council for approval.
- The Emerging Leader Award: What is considered “10 years of experience”? Does it start at receipt of graduate degree or first professional job? This has varied from year to year.
- The Donald Peterson Student Travel Award: What constitutes “recent graduate” and “archival program”? The eligibility requirement does provide a definition for the former. Committee members suggested that the selection committee consider adopting the SAA Mosaic Scholarship criteria for the latter.
- The Spotlight Award Selection Committee: Received a nomination where more than five persons were listed on the form. Award may be given to “an individual or a group up to five archivists.” Although the award says “archivists” not everyone is an “archivist” by title.

Committee members also discussed the need for the SAA Foundation Board to establish an award amount for cash prize recognitions. This awards cycle the co-chairs received inquiries from applicants and selection committees about the amount of cash prizes. Currently these recognitions state “a cash award consisting of the income of the prize fund for that year.” Often the cash prize is insubstantial to fund full attendance to an annual meeting (e.g. Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award). Also, the amount for some cash prizes has been stagnant since the establishment of the recognition (e.g. Theodore Calvin Pease Award). It was suggested that the committee draft a proposal to the SAA Foundation Board and the SAA Council to explore the possibility of adjusting and establishing a set award amount for cash prizes.

#### **IV. Committee Communication**

Steven asked if there were any communication issues and for feedback to improve. He received positive feedback. Many committee members were pleased at the frequency of email messages received as it kept them on task throughout the awards cycle.

#### **V. Revisiting Subcommittee Tasks**

Steven reminded the committee about the importance of using the resources that are available on the awards microsite.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.