

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
November 5-7, 2017  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Annual Report: Awards Committee  
(Prepared by 2016-2017 Chair Gerald Chaudron)**

**PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Completed:** The Brenda S. Banks Travel Award was established and will be offered for the 2017-2018 cycle. The award recognizes and acknowledges individuals of color employed in archives, such as those of African, Asian, Latinx, Native American, Alaska Native, or Pacific Islander descent, who manifest an interest in becoming active members of the Society of American Archivists. The recipient receives full complimentary registration and related expenses for hotel and travel to attend the SAA Annual Meeting during the year in which the award is received. In addition, the recipient receives a complimentary one-year membership in SAA. The presentation of awards was integrated into the two plenary sessions at the Portland meeting in an effort to raise attendance for the awards. This effort was successful and will probably be repeated at subsequent annual meetings.

**Ongoing:** The criteria and eligibility for the Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award has been reviewed and submitted to the SAA Foundation for approval.

**New:** Several clarifications have been proposed for the following awards:

1. Emerging Leader Award: Under Purpose and Criteria for Selection, the second paragraph, second sentence, to be amended to "Nominees must be SAA individual members and must meet as many of the following criteria as possible...." Also, the résumé requirement will be added to the downloadable application.
2. Mosaic Scholarship: Clarify that the number of scholarships to be offered per year is one.
3. Donald Peterson Student Travel Award: Increase the prize amount from "up to \$1,000" to "up to \$1,500" to better cover actual costs of accommodation, flights, and registration. Scott Schwartz, who established the award, is in agreement with this change.
4. Scholarships: For applications to multiple scholarships from a single individual, add text stating that only one official transcript is needed and can be shared across applications.
5. A template for the congratulatory letter to award winners will be drafted.

## **SAA STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists:** The Awards Committee seeks to promote the value of archives and archivists through soliciting nominations for SAA awards across various media, and offering those awards to recipients who best represent the goals and achievements of the broader archival community.

**Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth:** Through promoting awards, the Awards Committee offers scholarships to assist students to complete their archival studies and travel awards which give students and practicing archivists the opportunity to attend the SAA Annual Meeting.

**Goal 3: Advancing the Field:** The Awards Committee recognizes archivists, individually and as members of institutions, for their research and writing and implementation of best practices and innovative projects.

**Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs:** Through offering awards which recognize the diversity of the membership of SAA, or seek to enhance that diversity, and to give opportunities for members to participate in the Annual Meeting through financial assistance, the Awards Committee is enhancing communication among the membership.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Number of Attendees:** 18.

**Summary of Meeting Activities:** Senior Co-Chair Gerald Chaudron reviewed the year and invited discussion of the procedures. Suggestions were made regarding notification of awards and the need for a winner's letter template. There was also some discussion regarding the fact that, while the number of nominations increased by 23%, four awards received no nominations. SAA staff liaison Teresa Brinati introduced a number of amendments to awards criteria in order to clarify them or simplify the application procedure. Only one Mosaic Scholarship will be offered in future and the published criteria will reflect that after some confusion this year when two winners were selected which necessitated SAA Foundation finding extra money. A discussion about increasing the Peterson Award prize also took place. The chair of the Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award subcommittee then presented changes to the award criteria in order to clarify and broaden the appeal of the award. Brinati agreed to present these changes to the SAA Foundation Board for consideration.

**Questions for the Council?** None at this time.