

2011-2012 Annual Report

of

The Society of American Archivists—Student Chapter
University of Wisconsin—Madison

1: FRONTMATTER

2011-2012 Officers (elected January 2011)

President: Alex Champion

Vice President: Eric Willey

Secretary: Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus

2012-2013 Officers (elected March, 2012)

President: Laura Farley

Vice President: Jennifer “Jen” Kirmer

Secretary: Audra Hilse

Faculty Advisor

Rick Pifer, Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives

Membership

Alex Champion, Eric Willey, Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus, Laura Farley, Jen Kirmer, Audra Hilse, Dana Elizabeth Gerber, Prairie Hady, Sarah McDole, Nathan “Nate” Sowry, Katherine Stotis, Emma Dowd, Melissa Allen, Nancy Lee Carter, Marissa Hirsch (Fall 2011)

2: OVERVIEW

The Society of American Archivists Student Chapter of the University of Wisconsin—Madison faced a number of challenges that caused it to adapt and innovate its revenue streams, promotion, and outreach activities. The 2010-2011 academic year, in which the 2011-2012 officers entered the program, was a moratorium period for the archives and records administration specialization; during this time the School of Library and Information Studies reevaluated the archives courses’ place within the school’s curriculum. The 2011-2012 year was the introduction of the revamped program that turned seminar-based classes with restricted enrollment into more affordable lecture style classes, which brought first and second year archives students to learn together and cooperate outside the student chapter.

Because of financial complications from the previous year and the University of Wisconsin’s new risk management policy pertaining to food sales, and increasingly vigorous enforcement of

said policy, the student chapter treasury for 2011-2012 was far smaller than previous years and could not rely on revenue generation from the very popular potluck chili cook-offs.

The student chapter continued to engage in its usual activities. Monthly meetings and professional enrichment activities like discussions and workshops were arranged via Doodle polls to accommodate officers and engaged members. The chapter primarily communicated via e-mail and used Google Docs for long term collaborative documents such as activity logs and rideshares. Surveys were conducted with SurveyMonkey.

2.1: Revenue

The primary fundraising activities conducted by the student chapter were rummage sales. These sales provided food, refreshment, and travel monies for chapter members and activities. Previously called "Used Media Sales," these rummage sales were held in the library school's common area and were popular with instructors and newcomers to the program. Chapter members and their families donated cassette tapes, CDs, VHS, DVDs, books, crafts, and comics for sale in addition to chapter-created t-shirts and the Archivist's Cookbook (2nd Ed.). Rummage sales were held on November, 2011, and one combined with a make-your-own-valentine fundraiser dubbed "Valentine's Day Mass-O-Card", netted \$104 and \$73 respectively. Doughnuts and coffee were available for sale but the chapter was cited in the last instance by the University's Risk Management for selling them in a manner that could not preempt unsanitary handling.

The most significant change to fundraising strategy was the emphasis on t-shirt sales and crafts for the Midwest Archives Conference and long term, consistent sales via etsy.com. Chapter members Sarah McDole and Prairie Hady were instrumental in the conception and implementation of the craft projects; these crafts included paper beads created from weeded books and manuscripts, earrings, and decorative prints. Shirts utilized older chapter designs but also new ones designed by Eric Willey. Alex Champion secured a vendor who supplied finished t-shirts almost at cost. Profits at MAC 2012 were nearly 125% despite more than half of the total merchandise remaining unsold. Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus spearheaded the etsy.com initiative until the change of officers in April, 2012.

2.2: Professional Development

The SAA-SC maintained its traditional role of professional development by hosting several events designed to increase the competitiveness and enhance the skills of its members. These included: A CV/resume workshop and mock interview sessions conducted by Rick Pifer and Helmut Knies of the Wisconsin Historical Society in February and March respectively, an Academy of Certified Archivists talk conducted by Mark Thiel of Marquette University in April, and the Midwest Archives Conference held April 19-21. Eric Willey successfully applied for a \$2,500 award from the Susan Brynteson Travel Fund to reimburse all chapter members who attended MAC.

2.3: Promotion

The SAA-SC committed itself further to the world of social media and advocacy. In July 2011 the student chapter created a Facebook profile (Society of American Archivists Student Chapter, Madison) and Twitter account (@UWarchivists). Although chapter members could and did contribute to these profiles by sharing archives pertinent news, articles of interest, blogs, and further remind members of upcoming events or meetings, the accounts were primarily managed by Secretary Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus. The said secretary also designed an informational pamphlet regarding the SAA-SC and the revamped archives program at UW-Madison SLIS; this pamphlet was distributed by chapter members and given to the departmental reception desk.

In October the SAA-SC resumed its celebration of Archives Month by promoting its blogging about archival collections or institutions at "archivesmonth.blogspot.com." These efforts were the subject of a November display case outside the School of Library & Information Studies' library. In addition to already being a subject of a Midwest Archives Conference panel session in 2010 and an SAA professional poster presentation in 2011, the new 2011 effort was described and published in the January, 2012 edition of the MAC Newsletter.

2.4: Individual Accomplishments

The 2011 and 2012 academic year saw significant individual accomplishments from many SAA-SC members. In terms of awards, Eric Willey won the 2011 F. Gerald Hamm Scholarship and Jen Kirmer received the 2012 Louisa Bowen Scholarship from the Midwest Archives Conference, an award Willey won the previous year. Furthermore, Kirmer and Alex Champion won second and third place respectively for their student posters at MAC 2012. Jen Kirmer's poster went on to SAA. Alex Champion served as a graduate school student representative on the UW General Library System's Spring 2012 search and screen committee for Vice Provost for University Libraries (University Librarian).

2.5: Calendar

May (2011)	Graduation
June	Happy hour
July	Facebook profile created Twitter profile created, SAA-SC pamphlet designed, new student orientation, shirt designs
August	finalized/ordered
September	Happy hour, opening semester meeting
October	Archives month, second meeting Rummage sale, field trip to Board of Commissioners for Public Lands archive, decorate
November	SLIS display case, third meeting
December	Craft-making project, fourth meeting
January (2012)	Holiday break
February	Valentine's Day sale, officer nominations, CV workshop, fifth meeting

March	Mock interviews, sixth meeting Midwest Archives Conference, lunch at Madison with UW-Milwaukee students, ACA talk
April	by Mark Thiel

3: Conclusion

The SAA-SC performed its normal organizational duties and responsibilities to the Archives and Records Administration specialist graduate students of the University of Wisconsin—Madison School of Library and Information Studies. With few exceptions, all full time students declaring an interest in archival specialization participated in chapter events or attended meetings on at least several occasions. This high level of interest compensated for challenges brought on by program and university policy changes and also encouraged innovation and individual initiative.

The SAA-SC expanded its social media presence to promote itself and experience the wider world of Web-based communication, continued to professionally develop students through workshops, lectures, and conferences, and was the home professional organization for several high achieving students who earned awards, scholarships, and conference positions, incubating the newest class of archival professionals.