

Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists at Simmons College

Annual Report for 2014-2015

Current officers:

Co-chairs: Kristen Weischedel and Betts Coup (weisched@simmons.edu and coup@simmons.edu)

Secretary and Archivist: Taylor McNeilly (taylor.mcneilly@simmons.edu)

Treasurer: Ryan Miniot (joseph.miniot@simmons.edu)

Webmaster: Kristin Wright (wrightkc@simmons.edu)

2014-2015 officers:

Co-chairs: Timothy Walsh and Sharon Parrington (timothy.walsh@simmons.edu and parringt@simmons.edu)

Secretary and Archivist: Taylor McNeilly (taylor.mcneilly@simmons.edu)

Treasurer: Ryan Miniot (joseph.miniot@simmons.edu)

Webmaster: Daniel Axmacher (Daniel.axmacher@simmons.edu)

Faculty advisor: Kathy Wisser (wisser@simmons.edu)

Members: Approximately 500 member for 2014-2015

Select active members in 2014/2015:

Lily Troia

Karen Bailor

Nick Ver Steegh

Esme Rabin

Mary Jo Donzella

Erin Butler

Mariko Dailey

Catherine Dixon

Ashley Duguay

Ashley Grey

Eliana Fenyes
Anna Lawrence
Stephanie Schaff
Christopher Siers
Jill Silverberg
Jehan Sinclair
Jesse Young
Irina Rogova
Maxine Brown
Patrick Shea
Katie Mika
Katherine Glasoe
Catherine Gaggioli
Katie Seitz
Adriana Flores
Susan Booth
Caleigh Ross
Brigid Black
Catherine Hammer
Sean Doherty
Rachel Cohen
Jen Hale
Marya Shotkoski
Sara Powell
Alexander Percy
Amanda Sherman
James Damon
John Marden
Adriene Galindo
Andrew Rais
Samantha Quinon
Kate Guelick-Tuers
Emily Graham

SCoSAA Events - 2014-2015

Event title: SCoSAA Open House

Date: September 9, 2014

Attendance: approximately 60

Summary: On September 9th, SCoSAA celebrated the start of the Fall 2014 semester by inviting new and returning SLIS students to meet in the Executive Dining Room in the School of Management building to eat pizza, socialize, and learn about the Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists at Simmons College. SCoSAA officers began the event by introducing several SLIS faculty members-Donna Webber, Jeannette Bastian, and Kathy Wisser-to the assembled students. At the event, SCoSAA officers distributed surveys to find out what types of programming current and prospective archives concentrators were interested in. The students' responses to these surveys were later used by SCoSAA officers to plan professional development and social events for the remainder of the semester.

Evaluation: Given the large number of students who attended and the value of their survey responses, we would recommend that future SCoSAA officers hold open house events at least once a year.

Event title: Phillips Library site visit

Date: September 19, 2014

Attendance: 15

Summary: On September 19th, SCoSAA brought a contingent of SLIS students to the Phillips Library's temporary location in Peabody for site visit and chat with Director Sid Berger. Dr. Berger spoke at length about the Phillips Library's history and operations, as well as the unique challenges and opportunities of operating a manuscript and rare book library attached to a museum. Following the chat, Dr. Berger and his staff took the SCoSAA students out to lunch and continued the conversation in a more informal setting.

Evaluation: This event was a success, and all of the students who attended had very positive reactions to the visit. Arranging transport to and from the location in Peabody proved to be

challenging, however. Future site visits will be easier to plan and execute if locations are easily accessible by public transit.

Event title: *Hocus Pocus* Screening and Halloween Social

Date: October 29, 2014

Attendance: 13

Summary: To celebrate Halloween and give SLIS students an opportunity to take a break from their studies, SCoSAA organized a movie screening and social event. Thirteen students and SCoSAA officers-an appropriately spooky number-gathered to discuss their courses and watch the 1993 film *Hocus Pocus* while enjoying brownies and hot apple cider.

Evaluation: This event proved to be both inexpensive, easy to organize, and enjoyable for all involved. We received positive feedback from students, who appreciated having a chance to socialize and relax. While we would recommend holding similar events going forward, we felt that we would have had better attendance if we had scheduled the event on a night when fewer evening classes were held.

Event title: “Archives for All: Community and Social Justice Archives in Practice” panel presentation

Speakers: Dr. Joel Blanco-River (SLIS faculty), Giordana Mecagni (the Head of Archives and Special Collections at Northeastern University), and Maggie McNeely (the University Archivist at Brandeis University)

Date: November 19, 2014

Attendance: 30 (26 in person, 4 online via webinar)

Summary: On November 19th, SCoSAA organized a dinner and panel presentation, held in the Main College Building. The theme for the panel was community and social justice archives. We held an informal buffet-style dinner first, starting at 6pm, where the attendees and panelists had a chance to mingle and talk. At 7pm, everyone moved to C103, and the panelists spoke on their respective topics. Giordana Mecagni focused her talk on Northeastern University’s relationship with the local YMCA, and how the Northeastern University Archives documented changes in the community and local physical landscape. Maggie McNeely spoke on how archival collections at

Brandeis and elsewhere document social justice causes, and how archivists can collect and provide access to such records. Joel Blanco-Rivera spoke on how archival collections at the National Security Archive and elsewhere are being used in cases of transitional justice in Latin America. An open question and answer period followed the presentations. This event, including the question and answer period, was also live-streamed and recorded by the SLIS Media Lab so that online students and those who could not attend on the 19th were nonetheless able to participate.

Evaluation: This event also proved to be a success. Given that it was near the end of the semester, everyone appreciated having a nice dinner (we also received several comments to the effect that people were pleasantly surprised that the food was not pizza). The panel presentations were interesting, and students seemed engaged during the Q&A period at the end. We were also happy with our attendance - the crowd was large enough that the lecture hall seemed fairly full, but small enough to remain intimate.

Event title: Academy of Certified Archivists presentation

Speaker: Dr. Mott Linn

Date: February 18, 2015

Attendance: 10

Summary: On February 18th, SCoSAA kicked off the Spring semester with a presentation by Dr. Mott Linn, the president-elect of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Dr. Linn discussed the benefits of obtaining certification and the certification process with students.

Evaluation: While attendance at the event was decent, students suggested that they were not convinced of the value of certification for archivists.

Event title: SCoSAA/NEA REPS A/V Workshop

Speakers: Casey Davis and Rebecca Fraimow

Date: March 3, 2015

Attendance: 29 (25 in person, 4 online via webinar)

Summary: On March 3rd, SCoSAA partnered with NEA REPS to bring archivists from the WGBH digital archives team to campus. Casey Davis and Rebecca Fraimow spoke at length about the challenges and opportunities archivists face when working with audio visual materials, and discussed in detail the specifications and preservation needs of various data-storage formats. Evaluation: This event was a success, and all of the students who attended had very positive reactions to Casey and Rebecca's presentation. Student response to the event was overwhelmingly positive, and we held a second event in May to capitalize on the interest the March 3rd workshop generated.

Event title: SCoSAA Happy Hour at the Squealing Pig

Date: April 14, 2015

Attendance: 15

Summary: To give SLIS students a chance to relax and unwind, SCoSAA organized a happy hour. Students and SCoSAA officers met at the the Squealing Pig to enjoy pizza and socialize.

Evaluation: This event proved to be easy to organize and enjoyable for all involved. The Squealing Pig was very accommodating of our group, and we received positive feedback from students, who appreciated having a chance to socialize and relax. We would recommend that SCoSAA officers call venues ahead of time if they wish to host an event off-campus.

Event title: SCoSAA/NEA REPS A/V Workshop 2

Speakers: Casey Davis and Rebecca Fraimow

Date: May 7, 2015

Attendance: 16

Summary: On May 7th, SCoSAA organized a follow-up to our earlier A/V workshop. Based on student surveys taken at the March 3rd event, Casey Davis and Rebecca Fraimow discussed the challenges and needs of born-digital and discussed aspects of copyright law that every archivist should know.

Evaluation: This event also proved to be a success. Given that it was near the end of the semester, we had decent attendance and the students who came were very engaged.

In the future, however, we would recommend hosting events before the end of the semester as many students were preparing to graduate and/or return home in May.