

Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists at Simmons College
Annual Report for 2016-2017

Officers:

Co-chairs: Anna Speth and Sarah Towne (speth@simmons.edu and
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Secretary and Archivist: (2016) Mariko Dailey, (mariko.dailey@simmons.edu); (2017) Caitlin
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Members: 325 members

Select active members in 2016-2017:

Desiree Alaniz	Marissa Stape	Ashley Thomas
Andrea Hetley	Nancy Loi	Mehrdad Kermani
Andrew Solar	Tara Pealer	Melinda Carr
Brittany Contratto	Madison White	Laurel Wilson
Christine Abram	Arielle Petrovich	Stephanie Kaylor
Natalie Flammia	Gaia Cloutier	Meredith Bradfield
Gayle Schechter	Katie Hall	Robin Moore
Hallie Appel	Ayoola White	Bridgett Pride
Stephanie Krauss	Andrew Pennison	Anna Faherty
Kristin Alexander	Anais Alvarez	
Daniel Laikko	Katharine Green	

Events in 2016-2017:

SCoSAA WELCOME EVENT

This event was held in order to bring SCoSAA members, new and old, together, and start the academic year together. SCoSAA 2016-2017 officers were introduced, student reps spoke about NEA, and future events were outlined.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

The purpose of this event was to promote student/faculty dialogue and to bring attention to Rebecka Sheffield, the new Simmons Archives Faculty member. Rebecka spoke of her research within community archives, specifically those within Gay and Lesbian Archives and the communities within LGBTQ that these archives fail to represent. Students were encouraged to ask questions on her views of how archives and archivist can make a greater connection with these community archives.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

The purpose of this event was to promote student/faculty dialogue amongst archives professors and students in the archives track at Simmons. This was primarily to introduce first year students to professors in the Archives track that they may not have as an instructor as a way to increase interactions and interest in the field early in their academic career. We also focused on creating discussions for ways which students can work with professors to publish works, attend conferences, and begin thinking of careers.

SCoSAA TAKES ON SALEM

This event was held so that SCoSAA students could visit the Peabody-Essex Museum. We had hoped to tour the library but found out later that they were doing renovations and we could only tour the museum. SCoSAA organized a visit to the Peabody Essex on October 23, 2016. Students mostly elected to take public transit on the commuter rail line from North Station, a couple of students met us there. We had a guided tour of the museum and afterwards the group had a lunch reservation followed by an exploration of Salem.

MANUSCRIPT CRAWL

With Panopticon, another student group, we hosted a museum and bar crawl through the ambitious Beyond Worlds illuminated manuscripts exhibitions on display in Boston. We began with Manuscripts for Pleasure & Piety at McMullen Museum (Boston College), walked through Brookline (stopping at Publick House for drinks and snacks), and finished with Italian Renaissance Books at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

FEDERAL JOBS VIRTUAL PANEL

A virtual federal jobs panel with NARA employees who shared all the tips and tricks of navigating the federal job application process. This event was ideal for people graduating and

about to begin the job search process, as well as anyone considering an internship at NARA, Library of Congress, or other federal repositories over the summer. The event involved a panel featuring a presentation and Q&A with speakers from NARA. Questions were taken in person as well as submitted beforehand. The event was live tweeted.

SCoSAA WELCOME BACK EVENT

This event was held in order to bring SCoSAA members, new and old, together, and start the academic semester together. SCoSAA 2016-2017 officers were introduced, students networked and future events were outlined.

ARCHIVES TOWN HALL

An event to facilitate discussion between the students and faculty about the archives track. Similar to LISSA's open house last fall, the goal of this meeting is to open lines of communication to discuss the areas we are doing well in and those that need improvement. This event is intended to help us grow as a community to make positive changes for current and future members of the program. Event features a panel of archives faculty answering and asking questions of any students who attend.

ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED ARCHIVISTS SPEAKER

Mott Linn, immediate past President of the Academy of Certified Archivists and Simmons alum, spoke to Simmons students about the certification program and the benefits it offers. ACA has set the standard for who is qualified to be a professional archivist by determining in a valid, reliable, and objective way whether or not somebody has a working mastery of the knowledge, skills, and abilities that archivists need. In so doing, ACA assists employers find competent archivists who are capable of both properly assisting researchers and ably caring for materials. Consequently, more employers are seeking to hire Certified Archivists.

COVER LETTER EDIT-A-THON

In the spring many students begin to stress about job or summer internship applications. Several groups offer sessions to assist in resume editing, but we felt there was a gap when it came to cover letters. We hosted a casual brown bag lunch where students could sit down with their peers and edit each other's cover letters.

SCoSAA NEA MEET UP

In the spring is the New England Archivist Spring Meeting, their largest event of the year. This year's event was in Hyannis, MA and many Simmons students attended. While there was a NEA new professional event, we thought that a social meet up of Simmons SCoSAA members would be well received especially at the end of the conference when we could talk about the sessions.

COMPREHENSIVE ARCHIVING IN POLITICALLY FRAUGHT TIMES PANEL

We hosted four panelists from various parts of the archives field to discuss various topics that relate to the intersection of politics and archives. Topics included activism and archives, comprehensive collection policies, and creating a sense of trust for donors from all places on the political spectrum, and ultimately creating a comprehensive historical record even in a tense political atmosphere. We also discussed how they personally define and strive for professionalism and activism within archives as it relates to politically charged topics.

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF INTERVIEWING: PERSPECTIVES FROM PROFESSIONALS

This panel involved three professionals from different walks of the archival field including academic archives, corporate archives, and a historical society. They fielded questions from the attendants about interviewing for entry level positions, as well as some questions on the job search process overall.

A HISTORY NERD'S DAY OUT IN BOSTON

For a celebratory final event, we took to the streets of Boston to experience some of its historical attractions. We went to the Green Dragon Tavern, Old North Church, Paul Revere House, Bell in the Hand Tavern, Granary Burying Ground, and Beantown pub.