

Society of American Archivists, University of Washington Chapter 2020-2021 Annual Report

Mission

It shall be the purpose of this organization to explore and promote archives and archival preservation under the guidelines put forth by the Society of American Archivists.

Summary of Chapter Activities

The Society of American Archivists, University of Washington (SAA-UW) Chapter devoted much of its focus this year to hosting online student-inclusive events and bolstering our virtual engagement due to restricted in-person engagement by the Covid-19 pandemic. The newly elected officers in 2020 started the year with a poll for students in the MLIS program that helped to guide our activities over the course of the year. We also developed a stronger virtual presence on Microsoft Teams, advertising upcoming virtual events, and initiated monthly Happy Hours and Lunch and Learns through Zoom to foster community and learning.

In the Fall quarter, we held an election for three positions that had not been filled in the recent past, the First Year Representatives (one online and one residential) and the Distance Liaison. The officers in these positions helped us to better meet the needs of first year and online students.

Throughout the academic year, we created opportunities for students in the MLIS program at the University of Washington to explore the archival profession. We held a series of panel discussions with archival organizations within and outside of the pacific northwest. The panel discussions included a short presentation followed by Q&A. We were able to host five organizations which included Densho, Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound (MIPoPS), the Labor Archive of Washington, the Digital Transgender Archive, and the Nantucket Historical Association. Lastly, the University of Washington Chapter engaged with professional organizations. Officers presented a lightning talk at the Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting in May 2021. As a student chapter, officers will also present their activities during the 2020-2021 year through a poster at the ARCHIVES * RECORDS 2021 conference in August.

Programming

September 2021 - New Student Orientation Happy Hour

SAA-UW with the University of Washington Chapter of the Special Library Association organized a virtual happy hour to welcome new students to the MLIS program. The event was well attended by incoming MLIS students interested in archives.

November 2020 - Presentation and Panel Discussion with Densho

SAA-UW hosted a presentation and panel Q/A discussion with archivists from Densho on the structure of a post-custodial archive, the construction of the Densho encyclopedia, and the

outreach efforts that Densho has undertaken. Densho is a Seattle-based organization that maintains a digital archive dedicated to preserving the records of the World War II-era incarceration of Japanese Americans.

November 2020 - Panel Discussion with MIPoPS - Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound
SAA-UW facilitated an online chat with archivists from MIPoPS - Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound about preserving and digitizing audiovisual materials in the Pacific Northwest. MIPoPS assists heritage organizations with the conversion of analog video recordings to digital formats according to archival best practices. MIPoPS supports heritage organizations with neither the resources nor expertise to address these at-risk materials.

February 2021 - Archives Learning Event with the Labor Archives of Washington
SAA-UW organized a presentation and Q/A session with the Labor Archives of Washington (LAW). Students learned about the collection of archival materials, common preservation concerns and interventions, and met experts in the field. In addition, students had the opportunity to ask questions to archivists from (LAW) on pursuing archival careers.

March 2021 - Discussion with K.J. Rawson
SAA-UW facilitated an online chat with K.J. Rawson, founder of the Digital Transgender Archive (DTA). During the conversation, K.J. presented on the mission of DTA and highlighted the importance of relationship-building in creating the archive. K.J. answered questions from students as well on the representation of transgender and queer identity in the archive through archival description.

May 2021 - A Conversation with Kelli Yakabu
SAA-UW collaborated with Students of Color in LIS (SoCLIS) at the University of Washington to facilitate a discussion with Kelli Yakabu, Assistant Archivist at Nantucket Historical Association. During the conversation, Kelli shared her experience navigating archives jobs, working within predominantly white institutions, finding career support, and tailoring her non-archives course experience to archives jobs.

Elections

Outgoing officers of 2018-2019:

Co-Chairs: Sarah Meidl and Adylenne Ascencio

Vice President of Finances: Marie Peeples

Secretary: Alexis Mulvaney

Diversity Officer: Karen Wang

Distance Liaison: Stella B. Haynes Kiehn

Publicity Officer: Challen Wright

Social Media Officer: Micah Love

First Year Representatives: Eleanor Schulz and Cali Vance

Incoming officers of 2021-2022

Co-Chairs: Cali Vance and Stella B. Haynes Kiehn

Vice President of Finances: Elysia M Houston

Secretary: Oscar McNary

Diversity Officer: Skyler Corbett-Hecocta

Publicity Officer: Caleb Simonds

Social Media Officer: Eleanor Schulz

Contact Information

Chief officers

Cali Vance, cvance@uw.edu

Stella B. Haynes Kiehn, sbhkiehn@uw.edu

Sarah Meidl, smeidl@uw.edu (outgoing)

Adylenne Ascencio, ascena1@uw.edu (outgoing)

Faculty advisor

Joseph T. Tennis, jtennis@uw.edu

Marika Cifor, mcifor@uw.edu