

Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL

Group Name: Committee on Education Annual Report (Prepared by: Ashley Todd-Diaz and Rita Johnson)

Year: 2024- 2025

Current Rosters (Include full name, position title, and term end date for each):

Ashley Todd-Diaz, Chair, 2026
Rita Johnston, Vice Chair, 2027
Courtney Bailey, Immediate Past Chair, 2025
Donna Baker, Member, 2027
Chad Kamen, Member, 2027
Amanda Shepp, Member, 2027
Jennifer Ulrich, Member, 2026
Tywanna Whorley, Member, 2025
Scott Keefer, Member, 2025
Sarah Peyer-Nelson, Student Member, 2025
Karen Gracy, GAES rep, 2025
Krista Oldham, DAS rep, 2025

Council Liaison: Jillian Cuellar

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

(Please indicate all projects and activities that your component group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the following fiscal year.)

Completed:

- Updated feedback forms
 - Revised class evaluation and audit forms to better capture information that will allow us to assess and enhance current class offerings.

Ongoing:

- Implementing the Management Track courses
 - This project was approved by Council and is ongoing as per the support and available resources from SAA Education.
- Updating Archival Continuing Education (ACE) Guidelines
 - Created a revised draft of the ACE Guidelines and shared it with the Standards Committee, to go to Council.
- Review of course proposals
 - As course proposals are submitted, the committee reviews them and provides feedback to SAA Education.

- Recruitment of instructors
 - We considered various ways to demystify the process of teaching for SAA, including making the course proposal and development processes more transparent.

New:

- Student needs survey
 - Designed a survey to better understand the knowledge gaps and education opportunities exist among students coming into the archival field. Plan to implement the survey in the coming year.

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN

(Please review the current [Strategic Plan](#) and indicate below how the component group has or plans to contribute to one or more of the four main goals.)

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

- The Committee on Education (CoE) reviews and provides feedback on new course proposals that address the professional development needs of the archival profession. Each member also serves in a liaison capacity to each of the courses to provide support to the instructor, suggest updates/modifications as needed, and assist with integrating participant feedback.
- As noted above, this year the CoE also continued to work with the Standards Committee to revise the ACE Guidelines to better reflect current educational modalities and current needs of the profession.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

- The CoE held a joint annual meeting with the DAS and Graduate Archival Education subcommittees during which we discussed the topic of teaching for SAA and tried to demystify the process to encourage more archivists to consider sharing their expertise with their peers through a course or webinar.

SAA ANNUAL MEETING

Number of attendees: 50

Link to meeting minutes:

https://www.pathlms.com/saa/events/11920/event_sections/17503/video_presentations/365219

Summary of meeting activities and highlights:

The Committee on Education, the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Subcommittee, and Graduate Archival Education Subcommittee (GAES) held a joint discussion of teaching within the archival field.

Acknowledging that all of us possess a unique combination of experiences, skills, and expertise, but might not always realize how much insight we can share with others, we spoke about demystifying the role of being an instructor for SAA, as well as other teaching opportunities such as adjuncting for graduate programs. We also shared recent updates to the DAS program and provided an overview of the three committees' work this year.

We hosted the following speakers to discuss their experiences with teaching:

- Erin Lawrimore, University Archivist at University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and adjunct in the public history program at UNCG and in the MLIS program at San Jose State
- Kathelene McCarty Smith, Head of Special Collections at UNCG and adjunct in the UNCG MLIS program
- Angela O'Neal, Local History & Genealogy Manager, Columbus Metropolitan Library and Adjunct Instructor for the School of Information at Kent State University
- Meghan Courtney, Archivist for Academic Programs, Bentley Historical Library, U. of Michigan and adjunct instructor for Wayne State.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you describe the health or energy of the group, and how engaged are the members?

It was often difficult to garner energy and engagement within the group. We discussed what drew us to join this committee at the beginning of the year in hopes that would help renew people's excitement for the work of the committee, but it was a challenge to get people to sign up for liaison roles or stay accountable to their task group work.

Did the component group's leadership encounter any challenges in achieving its goals for the year?

In some cases, we ran into challenges due to the operations of other groups. For example, fully understanding the Standards Committee's processes so that we could finalize the revisions to the ACE Guidelines, which had been a project initiated in 2024. Additionally, making further progress on some goals (e.g., implementing the Management Track courses) was a challenge due to limited resources at SAA. Understanding these limitations was important to better set expectations, but I think we ultimately lost momentum with a few projects.

What suggestions do you have for the SAA Council and staff that might help address these challenges in the coming term?

Increased transparency is always helpful so that we can clearly set goals for the year. There are many things that we might not be able to change (e.g., budgets), but it was very helpful to get a better sense of how many new courses SAA Education could afford to develop each year.

What questions or concerns do you have for the SAA Council and staff?

