

**SAA Middle Tennessee State University Student Chapter**  
**2014-2015 Annual Report**

**Introduction**

In spring 2014, students in Middle Tennessee State University's (MTSU) Master's in History (M.A.), Master's in History with Emphasis in Public History, and Ph.D. in Public History program, formed the MTSU Society of American Archivists (SAA) student chapter. In spring 2014 MTSU SAA inducted eight students into the organization. In fall 2014 the organization added another six members. During its existence's first year, MTSU SAA's officers and members placed a heavy emphasis on developing the organization into an active entity providing its members with numerous hands-on and professional development opportunities.

In 2015's first half, MTSU SAA endeavored to continue to accomplish the above goals. However, the organization also worked to broaden its connections beyond MTSU's campus boundaries. Accordingly, at the Society of Tennessee Archivists' (STA) conference October 21-23, 2015, MTSU SAA presented a panel titled "The Development of Tennessee Graduate Student Interest in Archives: The Middle Tennessee State University Society of American Archivist Student Chapter, Origins, Current status, and Future Plans." MTSU SAA also created an organizational poster which it displayed at the conference. As part of its conference presentation, President Dallas Hanbury extended a call for the development of professional relationships and collaboration with Tennessee's two other SAA student chapters: East Tennessee State University (ETSU) and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK). As the list of the organization's programs and workshops included in this report demonstrates, MTSU SAA has accomplished many of its current goals.

## **2015-2016 Officers**

**President:** Dallas Hanbury (Spring 2015)

**Vice-President:** Sarah Calise (Spring 2015)

**Treasurer:** Mona Brittingham(Spring 2015)

**Secretary:** Mona Brittingham (Spring 2015)

Bradley Harjehausen (Fall 2015)

## **2015-2016 Members**

Dallas Hanbury

Mona Brittingham

Melissa Hope

Matt Norwood

Evan Spencer

Charlie Deylon

Katherine M. Slover

Alex Medford

Bradley Boshers

Julie Moresco

Jenny Andrews

Gena Henderson

## **Meetings/Workshops**

- December 12, 2013: Members met to ratify MTSU SAA's constitution, elect interim officers, and complete SAA-required paperwork for the formation of student chapters. Members elected Dallas Hanbury president, Evan Spencer vice-president, Kayla Utendorf treasurer, and Olivia Beaudry secretary.
- January 23, 2014: First meeting of the academic year. Meeting consisted of general discussion regarding activities the organization might pursue during the semester.
- February 26, 2014: Officers again met to discuss potential activities for the semester. Officers suggested a preservation workshop with MTSU University Archivist Donna Baker, as well as a Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) workshop taught by MTSU's Center for Popular Music (CPM) archivist Lucinda Cockrell and cataloger Lindsey Million. Officers also discussed visiting the nearby Rutherford County Tennessee Archives for a tour and workshop. Treasurer Kayla Utendorf also updated the officers on the progress she made setting up the organization's bank account.
- March 27, 2014: Members attended a MARC workshop at MTSU's CPM hosted by CPM archivist Lucinda Cockrell and cataloger Lindsey Million. Cockrell and Million treated

MTSU SAA members to a tour of the CPM's facilities, including its stacks. They then began the workshop with a brief overview of MARC and its use to archivists. The rest of the workshop consisted of MTSU SAA members creating their own MARC record with the help of Cockrell and Million.

- April 4, 2014: Organization conducted elections for 2014-215 officers. Members elected Evan Spencer president, Olivia Beaudry vice president, Savannah Teague secretary, and Dallas Hanbury treasurer.
- April 24, 2014: Members attended a preservation workshop at the Rutherford County Tennessee Archives. John Lodl, Rutherford County Archivist, and Donna Baker, MTSU University Archivist, taught the workshop which had the theme of "Preservation on a Budget." Baker and Lodl presented the students with a number of techniques, that do not require expensive equipment, they can use in their future work to accomplish various types of preservation. For example, Lodl taught the students how to construct a hydration chamber out of plastic dowels, containers, and trays. Baker instructed the students on the use of activated carbon to reduce odors emanating from records undergoing various forms of decay.
- August 14, 2014: Officers met to discuss organizational activities for the upcoming year.
- January 2015: Secretary Savannah Teague switched academic programs. Olivia Beaudry became secretary.
- September 11, 2014: Rutherford County, Tennessee mayor Earnest Burgess declared October 2014 as "Rutherford County Archives Month" to coincide with SAA's declaration of October as "Archives Month." MTSU SAA officers, particularly president Evan Spencer, played an instrumental role in bringing the "Rutherford County Archives Month" declaration idea to the mayor's attention.
- October 17, 2014: Members participated in a preservation workshop at the Rutherford County Tennessee Archives.
- November 21, 2014: Members took part in a workshop at MTSU's Albert Gore Research Center (AGRC) hosted by university archivist Donna Baker, who taught the students how to construct hydration and humidity chambers.
- April 24, 2015: Members took part in an audio recordings preservation and transferring workshop at MTSU's CPM. Martin Fisher, CPM's Curator of Recorded Media Collections taught the workshop. Fisher instructed the members on preserving and transferring sound from different recording mediums, including vinyl, wax cylinders, tapes, compact discs, and more.
- September 9, 2015: MTSU's first organizational meeting during the 2015-2016 academic year. Officers explained the organization's purpose to potential members. The officers

also discussed the poster and presentation they planned to discuss at the annual STA conference.

- September 15, 2015: MTSU SAA sent a letter to MTSU president Sidney McPhee asking he change the name of MTSU's Forrest Hall, named after the Confederate general. MTSU SAA officers drafted and sent the letter after the majority of the organization's members voted to send a letter in support of the on campus movement to change the building's name.
- October 2, 2015: Held second organizational meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year. The officers discussed the upcoming Oaklands Historic House Museum archives tour. The officers also reported to the members the state of negotiations with the Nashville Public Library (NPL) Special Collections Division (SCD) to have SCD staff host an exhibit construction workshop for MTSU SAA members. President Dallas Hanbury also announced he would resign the presidency at the semester's end as he had obtained the position of county archivist for Montgomery County, Alabama. The officers also discussed the SAA 2016 annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Given Atlanta's close proximity to Murfreesboro, MTSU SAA wants strong organizational attendance at the conference.
- October 16, 2015: Attended exhibit building workshop hosted by the NPL SCD staff. The exhibit focused on using archival materials to create exhibits, as well as how to build exhibits with on-hand materials.
- October 21-23, 2015: MTSU SAA president Dallas Hanbury, treasurer and secretary (at the time) Mona Brittingham, and members Bradley Boshers and Bradley Harjehausen attended and presented at the STA conference at Pickwick Landing State Park, located near Savannah, Tennessee.