



Society of American Archivists Student Chapter at Middle Tennessee State University

2016 Annual Report (Spring and Fall Semesters)

Spring 2016 Semester:

Advisor and Officers:

Advisor: Dr. Kelly Kolar (Kelly.Kolar@mtsu.edu)
President: Sarah Calise (sec5n@mtmail.mtsu.edu)
Vice President: Kathryn Slover (kms9h@mtmail.mtsu.edu)
Treasurer: Mona Brittingham (mld4i@mtmail.mtsu.edu)
Secretary: Bradley Harjehausen (bah6u@mtmail.mtsu.edu)

Members:

Mona Brittingham
Sarah Calise
Bradley Harjehausen
Kathryn Slover
Jenny Andrews
Bradley Boshers
Charlie Dahan
Gena Henderson
Julie Moresco
Matthew Norwood

Events, workshops, repository tours, meetings and successful strategies and future suggestions:

On February 5, the chapter held its first organization meeting and only executive committee meeting. Both discussed plans for the upcoming semester. The next organization meeting was held on April 1, which mainly focused on the upcoming SAA conference and election of new officers.

On February 25, the chapter hosted an electronics records management workshop led by Albert Gore Research Center University Archivist Donna Baker. Baker covered multiple forms of electronic storage mediums, including USB flash drives and compact discs.

From March 16-18, multiple chapter members furthered their professional development by attending the conference “Three Part Harmony: Interpretation, Preservation and Inspiration,” a joint meeting of the Society of Tennessee Archivists (STA), Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) and the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT).

On April 25, the membership toured the archival repository and collections of Stones River National Battlefield. The membership was impressed by the small amount of backlogged materials at the site.

Summer 2016:

From August 3-6, MTSU SAA president Bradley Harjehausen presented a graduate student poster regarding the chapter’s activities from 2014-2015 at the Society of American Archivists-Council of State Archivists Joint Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This was the same poster used for the Society of Tennessee Archivists Meeting presentation in October 2015. In addition to the poster content, Harjehausen told interested conference attendees about the chapter’s founding and increase in membership, its emphasis on building relationships with institutors and providing internships for its members, professional development via workshops and repository tours, inviting both graduate and undergraduate members and its representation of the history-training aspect of the profession versus library science training. Approximately 20-30 conference attendees were interested in the poster and Harjehausen spoke with most of them. In addition Harjehausen attended a session that was of particular relevance to the chapter. He discussed events, procedures and ideas with other chapter presidents that MTSU SAA can put into practice in the coming year. Harjehausen also took advantage of networking opportunities with archival professionals.

Fall 2016 Semester:

Advisor and Officers:

Advisor: Dr. Kelly Kolar (Kelly.Kolar@mtsu.edu)
President: Bradley Harjehausen (bah6u@mtmail.mtsu.edu)
Vice President: Gena Henderson (gch2q@mtmail.mtsu.edu)
Treasurer: Bradley Boshers (bfb2u@mtmail.mtsu.edu)
Secretary: Hillary Borders (heb3c@mtmail.mtsu.edu)

Members:

Bradley Boshers
Bradley Harjehausen
Gena Henderson
Elizabeth Rivera
Jenny Andrews

Julie Moresco
Mona Brittingham
Hillary Borders

Events, workshops, repository tours, meetings and successful strategies and future suggestions:

On August 19, MTSU SAA president Bradley Harjehausen promoted membership in the chapter to new M.A. and Ph.D. students in the Public History Program at the New Graduate Student Orientation. He followed remarks by advisor Dr. Kelly Kolar about her archival specialization in the program and brief remarks about her position in the chapter. Harjehausen used the same poster used at the Society of Tennessee Archivists and Society of American Archivists meetings. In addition to the poster content, which could be read after the orientation, Harjehausen made very brief remarks on the chapter's founding and growth in membership, its emphasis on building relationships with institutors and providing internships for its members, professional development via workshops and repository tours, inviting both graduate and undergraduate members and its representation of the history-training aspect of the profession versus library science training. Although none of the new students signed up for membership that day, the program secretary reported that a few students expressed interest. An improvement for next year is to mention the low dues payment (\$5 per semester) required to join the chapter.

The chapter also decided to actively promote membership to undergraduate history students. An e-mail message was distributed to the students via Dr. Yuan-Ling Chao, director of the undergraduate History Program, and History Program administrative assistant Billie Jean Brown. Multiple students expressed interest and one became a member. Membership should be extended to undergraduate students at the start of every Fall semester. An additional opportunity to promote and present membership is an undergraduate History Department symposium held at the start of each semester, which could not be attended this semester due to scheduling conflicts among the officers.

On September 2, the chapter held its first organization meeting and only executive committee meeting. Both discussed plans for the upcoming semester. One executive committee meeting seemed appropriate to plan for the rest of the semester. The following organization meetings were held on October 7 and November 4, both of which mainly discussed chapter activities for the current and future semesters.

On October 20, the chapter co-hosted of the Connecting to Collections Care webinar entitled "Caring for Archives: Fundamentals for Everyone" with the Albert Gore Research Center. The chapter provided candy and a sign-up list for attendees interested in joining the chapter.

On October 29, four members furthered their professional development by attending the Society of Tennessee Archivists meeting entitled "Three Part Harmony: Archives, Genealogy, & You." The projects and resources with a genealogy focus were interesting and relevant to overall archival work.

The chapter's use of various electronic resources was also notable, many of which were changes to previous practices. The logo of the chapter, the same one used at the top of this document, was used on multiple forms of communication, including minutes and official e-mails, which made them appear more official. It is suggested that this practice continue. The chapter also utilized multiple communication channels. As in the Spring 2016 semester, the chapter president and advisor continued to approve messages on the chapter listserv (mtsusaa@lists.mtsu.edu). The listserv included general announcements as well as job and internship opportunities. In addition, the use of social media for communication with the membership increased extensively. The Facebook page and Twitter account (with the handle @MTSUSAA) overall served the same purposes as the listserv. However, a couple members and former members re-shared articles and news stories throughout the semester that referenced the archival profession. Finally, the chapter's e-mail address (mtsuarchivists@gmail.com) received about five messages from archival organizations with job opportunities to share with the chapter's membership. Messages from this account were forwarded to an e-mail account Harjehausen checked regularly, since the messages were few and far between. It is recommended that his successor or another officer continue this practice.