

# 2013 Annual Report

**The Society of American Archivists**

**University of Texas at Austin Student Chapter**

In 2013, the Society of American Archivists student chapter at the University of Texas at Austin celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year. The chapter averaged approximately 44 members in the fall and spring semesters.

Our board consisted of:

- President – Kendra Malinowski (kendra.malinowski [at] gmail.com)
- Vice President – Sydney Gulbranson
- Secretary – Samantha Bruner
- Treasurer – Kate Neptune
- Events Chair – Laura Treat
- Webmaster – Emily Bulger
- Faculty Adviser – Ciaran Trace (cbtrace [at] ischool.utexas.edu)

### **Administrative Updates**

In January, the chapter voted and approved amendments to our constitution and by-laws. A special committee reviewed the constitution, primarily making changes to the board member descriptions to better reflect the responsibilities of each role.

In the spring semester, several chapter members created the SAA-UT digital archives under the advisement of Dr. Patricia Galloway for a class project. The digital archives will serve as a repository for the born-digital and digitized materials that are created by the chapter. Workflows have been established to ensure its continued use by future boards.

Many chapter members attended the SAA Annual Conference in New Orleans this year. Megan Dirickson, a 2012 board member, created and presented our chapter poster at the conference. The poster highlighted the Archives Week events our chapter has hosted over the last 20 years. The board organized a meeting of the board members and leaders of all of the SAA student chapters at the conference. The meeting had great turnout and discussions which helped the student chapters learn about how other chapters are run and what events they typically host. A Facebook group was created to increase communication across chapters.

The board also created Texas archives themed T-shirts and tote bags for fundraising.

In addition to SAA-specific tasks, the board worked with other student groups at the iSchool to host events for new students during Welcome Week, planned happy hours, and created a shared calendar to assist student groups in planning events.

## Chapter Events

### *Archives Week*

Upon the recommendation of the outgoing board, this year's board decided to provide additional programming and professional development for our members rather than focusing much of the board's energy on planning Archives Week. In recent years, the planning of Archives Week consumed most of the time of the board, leaving little time for additional programming. Turn-out at events by the public was often low, which brought the outgoing board to question whether the amount of money being spent on Archives Week was appropriate. Surveys of our chapter members also discovered that members wished for additional professional development activities.

This year's board decided to continue with the Archives Week tradition, but draw on local speakers to ease planning and financial costs. For the week of October 13-19, we hosted a "Technology in the Archives" themed Archives Week. Turn-out was low for many of the events, which we suspect might be due to offering so many events in one week. The events included:

- Micah Erwin, Project Archivist & Medieval Manuscripts Specialist at the Harry Ransom Center presented "Getting Medieval with Crowdsourcing: Utilizing Flickr and Social Media to Describe Medieval Manuscript Fragments."
- In conjunction with the iSchool Research Colloquium, professor Dr. Patricia Galloway presented "Orders and authenticity: Lifetime serializations of digital objects." A demonstration of the iSchool's Digital Archeology Lab by Dr. Galloway and several students followed the colloquium.
- iSchool doctoral candidates Jane Gruning and Jessica Meyerson presented on their current digital archives research.
- Students attended a tour of the digitization lab of the Perry-Casteñeda Library on campus.
- Students and local archivists met to celebrate Archives Week at a happy hour.
- The Texas Archive of the Moving Image and Experimental Response Cinema held Home Movie Day 2013 during the same week as Archives Week, where 8mm, Super 8mm, and 16mm home movie films were screened to celebrate amateur films and filmmaking.

### *Repository Tours*

SAA continued the tradition of planning an annual trip to tour an archival repository outside the Austin area. In April 2013, the chapter toured the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum and the Cushing Memorial Library on the Texas A&M Campus.

The board also organized additional tours of repositories in Austin throughout the year, which included:

- Alexander Architectural Archive (September)
- Digitization Lab at Perry-Casteñeda Library (October, in conjunction with Archives Week)
- Austin History Center (November)

### *Dance in Archives Panel*

In September, SAA hosted a “Dance in Archives” panel with speakers who have worked in archives with materials from dance companies to learn more about working with these records. The panelists included:

- Helen Baer, Curator of Performing Arts at the Harry Ransom Center
- Sydney Gulbranson, current student who participated in the Dance Heritage Coalition archives summer internship
- Marianna Simionedes, Government Information Analyst at TSLAC who completed her capstone last year at Ballet Austin

### *Social Events*

SAA continued to host several happy hours in conjunction with the Archivists of Central Texas to increase networking opportunities. Our faculty advisor, Ciaran Trace, graciously hosted a potluck at the beginning of the spring and fall semesters to welcome new students.