

**PRATT INSTITUTE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS
STUDENT CHAPTER
2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

Prepared by:

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PRATT INSTITUTE
2014-2015 Annual Report

Officers

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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES, FALL 2014

Before the semester even started, our chapter was active and engaged with the SAA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Following the end of the spring semester, we were able to continue working with Pratt's Student Government over the summer to secure funds to cover registration for four of our student members. All of the officers attended the meeting, including a session for student chapters to share strategies and brainstorm about ideas. We came into the semester invigorated and excited by the SAA community and put together a great semester of events. We built and maintained a dedicated mailing list for our members, to reach them directly rather than communicating through the all-school listserv. Throughout the year, we continued to use social media, especially Twitter, to share news about our chapter, SAA, and the archives community at large. With high attendance at meetings and events, our chapter became ever more established in the school community.

July 2014

- *Scholarship for Annual Meeting*

We continued working into the summer months in order to secure scholarship funds to enable four of our student members to attend the SAA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

August 2014

- *SAA Annual Meeting & Student Chapters Meeting*

All of our officers attended the SAA AM and took part in a roundtable discussion with other student chapter leaders to compare strategies and share ideas.

- *Officer Meeting*

Following the energy generated by the SAA AM, we continued the momentum and shaped our strategy for the semester.

September 2014

- *SILS New Student Orientation*

Along with the other student groups, our chapter took part in Pratt's orientation events, speaking about the chapter and getting to know new students.

- *First Student Meeting*

Our first student meeting was very well-attended and saw a lot of new students joining our group, as well as familiar faces returning. We spoke to our members about the SAA AM and those who had attended shared their experiences. At this meeting and every meeting, we prepared a PowerPoint presentation with information not only about our upcoming events, but also upcoming archives events across the NYC area as well as deadlines for scholarships and so forth to keep our members up to date on the latest in the field.

- *Events & Public Relations Coordinator Election*

We composed an online election survey and J. E. Molly Seegers was elected our Events & Public Relations Coordinator.

October 2014

- *Student Meeting*

Another well-attended meeting saw some great discussion and new ideas for the chapter.

- *Interference Archive Tour*

Based on suggestions at our student meetings, we organized a tour of the Interference Archive in Brooklyn. In addition to receiving an introduction to the archive and viewing the poster collection, we were given a tour of the exhibition *Self-Determination Inside/Out* by one of the curators. The exhibition featured materials produced by incarcerated individuals.

November 2014

● *NYARC Web Archiving Panel*

This panel discussion provided an update on the implementation of the New York Art Resources Consortium (NYARC) web archiving program. Speakers included Sumitra Duncan, NYARC Web Archiving Program Coordinator, and NYARC Web Archiving Interns/Pratt SILS students Caitlin Harrington, Seth Persons, Annalise Welte, Tali Han, Molly Seegers, and Meredith Powers. Topics for discussion included rights/permissions, web archiving technologies, the challenges associated with capturing dynamic web content, quality assurance practices, and creating sustainable and shareable workflows for access and long-term preservation.

● *Tour of the AMNH*

Our Treasurer Bill Levay organized a tour of the Archives and Special Collections department at the American Museum of Natural History. Barbara Mathe, Museum Archivist and Head of Library Special Collections, led a group of 13 students. Topics discussed included recent digitization projects and efforts to link resources across collections. Students were also shown a restricted portion of the archive, including the memorabilia collection.

December 2014

● *Chief Coordinator Election*

We held an election to replace outgoing Chief Coordinator Diana Bowers and Megan De Armond was elected.

● *Happy Hour Social Event*

For our December social event, we held a happy hour. 10 students attended.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES, SPRING 2015

SAA@Pratt had a full semester of activities including three tours, a presentation on becoming a certified archivist and a joint happy hour celebration with SILSSA, the Pratt SILS Student Association. Student meetings were well attended. The tours gave students a

chance to view different types of archives in different areas of city with varied focuses. Interest was shown in exploring digital archives for the fall. We will be looking into finding some new and exciting places for visit for Fall 2015. We are just about to announce scholarships to the student group for the national conference in Cleveland in August. Our Events and Public Relations coordinator, J.E. Molly Seegers, will be attending and possibly a few other students from our group. Molly will be there to present a poster on behalf of SAA@Pratt at the student poster presentation on August 22nd.

January 2015

● *Officer meeting*

Megan was introduced to the other SAA@Pratt officers and we briefly discussed roles and scheduled the first student meeting for the first week of February.

February 2015

● *Pratt SILS New Student Orientation*

Representatives from SAA@Pratt joined representatives from other student clubs at Pratt SILS to meet students and introduce the variety of student groups available to them.

● *Student meeting*

The first meeting of the semester was held in conjunction with SLA@Pratt chapter. We briefly spoke about overlap in interests and discussed having future meetings together.

● *Joint Happy Hour SAA@Pratt and SILSSA*

In an effort to get more student involvement, SILSSA co-hosted Happy Hours with each of the student chapters through the semester. SAA@Pratt was the first to join with SILSSA on February 6th at the Library, 7Ave A on the LES. We had a turnout of roughly 15 students and some graduates from December as well.

● *ACA Presentation*

We worked with the ACA to organize a presentation and discussion about the process of becoming a certified archivist. Susan Woodland, a certified archivist at the Center for Jewish History and a Pratt SILS alumna, gave the presentation and answered questions about the process.

March 2015

● *Student Meeting*

We briefly discussed pros and cons of ACA certification. We announced the acceptance of

our SAA@Pratt to the SAA Annual Meeting in August--thanks to our Events Coordinator, Molly for submitting on behalf of the chapter. We briefly took a look at ArchiveGrid to show students and to brainstorm ideas of future archives to visit. Our Treasurer, Bill, spoke about the Code4Lib conference in February, he attended and was a speaker at in Portland, OR. We also mentioned new SILSSA calendar to check for SAA@Pratt events for all students.

● *Tour of the Brooklyn Historical Society*

<http://www.brooklynhistory.org>

A group of six students were led on a tour by Robin M. Katz, Head of reference and User Services at the Brooklyn Historical Society. She was a great guide and led a freeform tour that included some Q&A sessions. The tour was from 10:30am-12:30pm. We did a walk through of their collections which was primarily made of genealogy and New York History. Laurin Paradise, a current member of SAA@Pratt and current intern at the Brooklyn Historical Society, led part of the tour and showed us some of the maps in their collection. We also had a half hour introduction and discussion with Julie Lipkins, Oral History Processing Archivist. In addition to the tour of the Othmer Library, we were shown the upstairs storage area. Many of the users of the library come to do research on their recently purchased home or for family history.

April 2015

● *Tour of the Fales Library and Special Collections*

<http://www.nyu.edu/library/bobst/research/fales/>

A group of eight students met with Lisa Darms, Senior Archivist at the Fales Library. Lisa was a fantastic teacher and guide. We had the opportunity to view a copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle as well as materials from the Downtown and Riot Grrrl collections, and some interesting discussions arose about the difference in practice required when processing and caring for artist archives and papers.

● *Student Meeting*

The was the final student meeting for the year. We recapped our tour of the Brooklyn Historical Society and the Fales Library for those who were unable to attend and to get overall reflections from those who did. Our Events and Public Relations officer, J.E. Molly Seegers, spoke about an upcoming regular archives podcast that she will be doing in conjunction with Metro (Metropolitan New York Library Council). We briefly discussed the archives series that was held at the Center for Book Arts in March and the Archives talk at AMNH, Unearthing the Earth's History. We notified students of an opportunity to write a review for Provenance and gave resources and guidelines for how to do. We talked about the SAA Annual Meeting in Cleveland and discussed student scholarships. We announced

two openings for Secretary and Treasurer for the 2015-2016 school year.

● *Tour of LGBTQ Archive* <https://gaycenter.org/archives>

A small group of three students attended this tour. Rich Wandel, director of the archives, gave a lecture about community archives and how they differ from institutional and academic archives. The archive is entirely run by volunteers and interns. Students viewed two of their collections: The Larry Fink Photographs and correspondence and photographs of Liz Eden and John Wojtowicz.

● *Special Student Meeting: Changes to the Pratt Archives Curriculum*

At this special meeting, Professor Cocciolo introduced a proposed curriculum change to the advanced certificate in archives. After making a brief presentation, he solicited feedback from students and hosted a discussion of curriculum needs related to archives.

● *Elections for Secretary and Treasurer*

Hannah Sistrunk was elected Secretary and John B. Henry was elected Treasurer.

May 2015

● *Student Scholarships for SAA Annual Meeting*

In May 2015, we will be advertising and awarding student scholarships to the SAA Annual Meeting. These are funded by the Pratt Student Government Association (SGA).

LIST OF MEMBERS

Of the 53 students on our email list, the following are members of our chapter who identified themselves as SAA members:

Alexandra Provo
Bill Levay
Megan De Armond
J.E. Molly Seegers
John B. Henry
Kyle Olman
Marlee Walters
Diane De Fazio
Liz Connell
Julie Robbins
Kate Palm
Dinah Handel
Hannah Sistrunk
Stella Sigal
Karen Hwang