

**PRATT INSTITUTE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS  
STUDENT CHAPTER  
2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

Prepared by:

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PRATT INSTITUTE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION  
2015-2016 Annual Report

## **Officers**

Megan De Armond, *Chief Coordinating Officer, Spring 2015*

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## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES SUMMARY, Fall 2015-Spring 2016**

Our chapter continued to engage throughout the summer leading into Fall 2015. Chief Coordinator Megan DeArmond attended an event for student leadership held at the Metropolitan Library Council of New York in an effort to meet other student chapter officers and gain leadership insight. We also worked with Pratt Institute's Student Government Association over the summer to secure funds to help two students attend the SAA Annual Meeting in Cleveland, including our Events & Public Relations Coordinator, J.E. Molly Seegers. Molly presented a poster on our chapter's activities and met with other SAA student chapter leaders.

Throughout both the fall and spring, our chapter held monthly student meetings to share opportunities and upcoming events with members, as well as bring in guest speakers from the Archivist Roundtable of Metropolitan New York to discuss their archives mentorship program and ways for graduate students to get involved with the New York City archives

professional community. In the fall, we organized four tours to local archives (or archives-related institutions), hosted a happy-hour event, and offered a scholarship for a student to attend the Association of Moving Image Archivists Annual Conference. In the spring, we organized three additional tours and an archives career panel featuring Pratt Institute alumni now working as professional archivists. Throughout the year, we maintained our student chapter website, Facebook account, and Twitter to promote events and community, as well as building upon a dedicated email list for chapter members to communicate directly and share meeting notes.

More details about our meetings and events by month are included below, as well as a list of 2015-2016 chapter members.

### ***July 2015***

#### ● *Scholarship for Annual Meeting*

We secured scholarship funds to enable two of our student members to attend the SAA Annual Meeting in Cleveland.

### ***August 2015***

#### ● *SAA Annual Meeting Poster Presentation*

Our Events & Public Relations Coordinator, J.E. Molly Seegers, attended the SAA conference in Cleveland and presented a poster on the Pratt SAA chapter's activities .

#### ● *School of Information New Student Orientation*

Along with the other student groups from the Pratt School of Information, our chapter participated in incoming student orientation events, speaking about the chapter, recruiting members, and getting to know new students.

## ***September 2015***

### ● *First Student Meeting*

Our first student meeting of the year was well attended by 14 students, several of whom were incoming students in their first semester. We invited two guest speakers (Janet Bunde and Tamar Zeffren) from the Archivist Round Table of New York, a 650-member professional organization for archives students and professionals in the New York City Area. They spoke to the group about upcoming events, mentoring opportunities, and ways to get involved in the New York City archives community. Additionally, two students who were supported by SAA@Pratt scholarships to attend the SAA Annual Conference in Cleveland talked about their experiences.

### ● *Librarian Libations*

We co-hosted this networking event for information students and professionals with other Pratt School of Information student groups. The event drew a diverse group who attended to meet other information professionals and pursue potential employment opportunities.

## ***October 2015***

### ● *Tour of the Pratt Institute Archives*

Deciding to explore our own institution, a group of seven students attended a tour of the Pratt Institute Archives, led by Archivist, Librarian and Associate Professor Paul Schlotthauer and Graduate Student Assistant Archivist Ian Post. The 1½-hour tour consisted of an introduction to the history of the institution and its founder, an overview of the kinds of collections that exist, and the practical and institutional challenges involved with their management. Our group was able to see some selected material from the collections including records relating to the Pratt Library School dating back to the 1890s.

### ● *Student Meeting*

This meeting was well attended, including some new students who had not been able to attend the first meeting of the semester. We recapped our recent tour, discussed archives-related events and opportunities, and discussed upcoming events and tours being planned by SAA@Pratt.

● *Tour of the New School Archives*

A group of four students attended this behind-the-scenes tour of the New School Archives, led by Associate Archivist Jenny Swadosh. In this two-hour tour we learned about the operations and history of the archives. This included discussions about the history of the New School, archival management systems (collection-level finding aids and item-level digital object description), reading room policies, and decisions about on-site vs. offsite storage.

● *Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Scholarship*

In order to maximize our Pratt Institute student group funds for the benefit of archives students, we decided to offer scholarships to assist students in attending the AMIA annual conference in Portland, OR. The scholarship was announced, requiring a short written submission explaining how the conference would benefit the student. One scholarship was awarded.

***November 2015***

● *Tour of the New York Times Research and Development Labs*

Six students participated in this tour of the NY Times R&D Labs. Prior to the tour, we heard Matt Boogie speak about how archives informed the work they do in the Labs. They shared some crowdsourced projects as well as internal-only projects that visualize data in real time.

● *"Preserve Your Sanity" Happy Hour*

SAA@Pratt hosted a group happy hour as a chance to connect and socialize outside of the school environment. Students from the New York University Moving Image and Archives Preservation Program were also invited to join us. The event was well attended.

● *Student Meeting*

This last meeting of the semester included recaps of our two recent tours (NY Times and the New School) as well as sharing upcoming archives-related events and opportunities. We also encouraged SAA@Pratt members to consider presenting at the 2016 SAA conference, and shared information about scholarships and travel awards.

## ***December 2015***

### ● *Tour of the Burns Archive*

A group of nine students attended this tour of the privately-owned Burns Archive, led by CEO Stanley B. Burns and Elizabeth Burns. It included an in-depth look at this unique collection of unusual and rare photographs, including discussions about their various formats, history, research and use in museum exhibitions. The staff and archive have been consulted for television shows like *The Knick* and by documentarians like Ken Burns.

## ***January 2016***

### ● *Student Meeting*

Several new students attended the first meeting of the spring semester. We shared our ideas for upcoming tours and events.

## ***February 2016***

### ● *Rockefeller Archive Center Tour*

A group of nine students visited the Rockefeller Archive Center in Tarrytown, NY. This was a day-long trip including the coordination of train and shuttle transport. The group was led on a tour of the facility, operations, and archival collections by Audiovisual Program Archivist Laura Montgomery and Reference Services Archivist Lucas Buresch.

### ● *Citigroup Center for Culture Tour*

A group of four students visited Citigroup's Center for Culture located in Midtown Manhattan. This tour gave us an overview of working in a corporate archives, the size of their collection, the number of unprocessed materials, and the departments within Citigroup that the archives supports. The tour was lead by Kerri Anne Burke, Head of Heritage Services and Elizabeth Fox-Corbett, Processing Archivist for Citigroup from The Winthrop Group. Kerri Anne is also Vice President of Archivists Round Table, an active NYC archives group.

## ***March 2016***

### ● *Student Meeting*

This mid-semester meeting included two guest speakers from the Archivists Roundtable of Metropolitan New York (A.R.T.), Vice President/President Elect Kerri Anne Burke and Director of the Education Committee Rachel Harrison. They shared information about upcoming A.R.T. events, their mentoring program, and how to get involved with organizational committees and activities.

## ***April 2016***

### ● *Event - Archives Career Panel: The Path to Professional Practice*

This event was organized for the benefit of aspiring archives professionals to learn more about job prospects, skills to cultivate for archives work, trends in the profession, and how best to take advantage of Pratt Institute School of Information courses and community. The panel was composed of four Pratt Institute alumni working in a range of archival positions in museums and libraries. The panelists were:

Diana Bowers- Archivist, Brooklyn Public Library

Tara Hart- Archives Manager, Whitney Museum of American Art

Susan Malsbury- Digital Archivist, New York Public Library

Rossy Mendez- Audiovisual Project Archivist, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

The event consisted of a moderated question-and-answer discussion with the four panelists, followed by an open-question period from attendees. The panel was well-attended and received very positive feedback.

### ● *Student Meeting*

In this final meeting of the spring semester, we had a short discussion about the recent Career Panel event, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) which one of our officers had attended, and we shared information about upcoming conferences, events, and opportunities with approaching deadlines. We also announced openings for officer positions for 2016-2017.

## ***May 2016***

### ● *Student Officer Elections*

Officer elections for the 2016-2017 school year were held. Mariaelena Garcia was elected Chief Coordinator, Maggie Drain as Secretary, and John B. Henry was re-elected to continue as Treasurer. The position of Events and Public Relations Coordinator was not filled, and a special election will be held in the early fall for this position.

### ● *Fashion Institute of Technology Archives Tour*

Six students attended our final tour of the FIT archives. The archives were in the process of moving to a new location, and we learned about the transition and plans for the new space, as well as seeing some highlights from the collection and learning about the archival operations.

### ● *Student Scholarships for SAA Annual Meeting*

Funds were secured to support students attending the SAA Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

## **LIST OF MEMBERS**

Of the 46 students on our email list, the following are members of our chapter who identified themselves as SAA members:

Katie Bednark

Megan De Armond

Maggie Drain

Kerry Elkins

Mariaelena Garcia

John B. Henry

Karen Hwang

Katherine Martinez

Kyle Olman

Kate Palm

Diana Rosenthal

J.E. Molly Seegers

Stella Sigal

Hannah Sistrunk