

**PRATT INSTITUTE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS
STUDENT CHAPTER
2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

Prepared by:

Maggie Drain, SAA@Pratt Secretary, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Mariaelena Garcia, SAA@Pratt Chief Coordinating Officer, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Submitted May 2017

PRATT INSTITUTE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
2016-2017 Annual Report

Officers

Mariaelena Garcia, *Chief Coordinating Officer*

[*mariaelenag44\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com*](mailto:mariaelenag44@gmail.com)

Nataya Culler, *Events & Public Relations Coordinator*

[*nculler\(at\)pratt\(dot\)edu*](mailto:nculler(at)pratt(dot)edu)

Maggie Drain, *Secretary*

[*maggie.d.drain\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com*](mailto:maggie.d.drain(at)gmail(dot)com)

John B. Henry, *Treasurer*

[*jhenry12\(at\)pratt\(dot\)edu*](mailto:jhenry12(at)pratt(dot)edu)

Anthony Cocciolo, *Faculty Advisor*

[*acocciol\(at\)pratt\(dot\)edu*](mailto:acocciol(at)pratt(dot)edu)

Nancy Beaumont, *SAA Liaison*

[*nbeaumont\(at\)archivists\(dot\)org*](mailto:nbeaumont(at)archivists(dot)org)

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES SUMMARY, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

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 three tours to local archives (or archives-related institutions) and co-hosted a happy-hour event with the Queens College SAA graduate student group. In the spring, we organized seven additional tours, co-hosted another happy-hour events with the Queens College SAA graduate student group and organized a panel discussion on the themes of inclusion, diversity and accessibility. Throughout the year, we maintained our student chapter 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 2016-2017 chapter members.

August 2016

- ***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 2016

- ***First Student Meeting***

Our first student meeting of the year was well attended by 18 students, several of whom were incoming students in their first semester. During the meeting, the officers introduced themselves, the chapter and upcoming events. In addition, officers discussed resources for new and returning students.

- ***Tour of the LGBT Community Center Archives***

Nine students visited the LGBT Community Center Archives in Manhattan where archivist Rich Wandel discussed the creation of the center and archives as well as the collection material. He went on to show popular collections and give a talk on the importance of archives dedicated to collecting LGBT material.

October 2016

- ***Tour of the New York Botanical Archives LuEsther T. Mertz Library and Archive***

Five students attended this tour of the New York Botanical Garden Library and Archive in the Bronx, New York, which we travelled to on the Metro North train from Grand Central. During the tour led by Reference Librarian Samantha D'Acunto we were introduced to the library, the Rare Books Room, and the Conservation Lab. We met with the conservation team and with the Humanities Institute Director, Vanessa Sellers, who encouraged anyone

interested to apply to the NYBG Humanities Institute Fellowship. After the tour we viewed the current gallery exhibition, *Redouté to Warhol: Bunny Mellon's Botanical Art*.

- ***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 tours, discussed archives-related events and opportunities, and discussed upcoming events.

November 2016

- ***Tour of the Interference Archive***

Five students participated in this tour of the Interference Archives in Brooklyn, NY. At the Archive we learned about how the collection is maintained as an open-stacks resource run by volunteers and how the competing goals of preservation and access are balanced. The Interference Archive also hosts exhibitions, workshops and talks.

- ***Student Meeting***

This last meeting of the semester included recaps of our recent tours as well as sharing upcoming archives-related events and opportunities. We introduced our newly elected Public Relations and Events Coordinator, Nataya Culler.

December 2016

- ***Happy Hour Event with Queens College SAA graduate student group***

SAA@Pratt partnered with the Queens College SAA graduate student group for the first time to host this happy hour in Brooklyn. This event was a chance to connect and socialize outside of the school environment.

January 2017

- ***Student Meeting***

Several new students attended the first meeting of the spring semester. We introduced the officers and the goals of the SAA@Pratt group and shared ideas for upcoming tours and

events. We also encouraged students to start thinking about running for an officer position later in the semester. We shared archives-related opportunities and events in NYC. Finally we encouraged students to submit proposals to present at the SAA annual meeting student paper and poster sessions and to apply for scholarships to attend the meeting.

February 2017

- ***Interference Archive Cataloging Party***

Two students attended this event at the Interference Archive, which we toured during the Fall semester. During this event students participated in the cataloging of the Babylon Falling Collection of underground press and related ephemera. This was a great opportunity for students to gain hands-experience as volunteers in this collaborative archiving initiative.

- ***Happy Hour Event with Queens College SAA graduate student group***

SAA@Pratt partnered with the Queens College SAA graduate student group to host another happy hour in Brooklyn, giving students another chance to connect and socialize with other students and young professionals interested in archives.

- ***Student Meeting***

At this meeting we recapped event at the Interference Archive and discussed upcoming SAA@Pratt events and tours. We shared information about archive events happening in NYC during the coming months.

March 2017

- ***Tour of the NYC National Archives***

Five students attended this tour of the NYC National Archives in downtown NYC. The tour was led by Angela Tudico, who showed us the exhibition area, research room, processing workstations, and stacks. We also looked closely at immigration records, particularly those related to the Chinese Exclusion Act and discussed how federal records document historically marginalized groups.

- ***Tour of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies Library***

Three students visited the Center for Puerto Rican Studies where we heard from senior archivist Mr. Hernández as well as the library manager and several other employees. There was also a demonstration of the online collections.

- ***Archivist Roundtable Board Member Presentation***

This mid-semester meeting included five board members from the Archivists Roundtable of Metropolitan New York (A.R.T.), President Kerri Anne Burke, Director of the Membership Committee Rebecca Chandler, Director of the Outreach Committee Lindsay Anderberg, Director of Programming Alexandra Lederman, and Chair of the Mentorship Committee Melissa Silvestri. They shared information about upcoming A.R.T. events, their mentoring program, and how to get involved with organizational committees and activities.

April 2016

- ***Tour of the Lesbian Herstory Archives***

Three students attended this tour, which was led by archivist Colette Montoya-Sloan. The distinctive tenets and policies of this community were discussed and students had the opportunity to view collection materials of interest, such as papers from the Audre Lorde Collection.

- ***Event - Inclusion, Diversity and Accessibility Panel***

This event was organized to discuss the importance of diversity, inclusion and accessibility in the archive and information field. The panel was composed of three professionals who have a vested interest in diversity or work in an institution devoted to representing marginalized communities. The panelists were:

Anibal Arocho - Library Manager, Center For Puerto Rican Studies

Rich Wandel - Archivist, LGBT Community Center

Miriam Tuliao - Library and Information Studies Professor and former Assistant Director of Selection at BookOps

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 inclusion, diversity and accessibility panel. We shared information about upcoming conferences, events, and opportunities with approaching deadlines. We also announced openings for officer positions for 2017-2018 and encourages students to nominate themselves for officer positions.

May 2016

- ***Student Officer Elections***

Officer elections for the 2017-2018 school year were held. Richard Goldstein was elected Chief Coordinator, Theresa Filo as Secretary, Anna Holbert, Public Relations & Events Coordinator, and Anne Boissonnault as Treasurer. The outgoing officers met with the new officers to transfer the email and social media accounts and provide advice and answers to any questions from the new officers.

- ***Tour of the Museum of Chinese in America Collections and Research Center***

Seven students attended our final tour of the Museum of Chinese in America Collections and REsearch Center led by Collections Director Yue Ma. The tour covered the history of the Museum and the processes through which they accession and deaccession collection materials. After the tour, students visited the nearby Museum to view the current exhibitions and see how archives and museum collection materials were used in the exhibitions.

LIST OF MEMBERS

Of the 35 students on our email list, the following are members of our chapter who identified themselves as SAA members:

Nataya Culler
Maggie Drain
Mariaelena Garcia
John B. Henry
Polly Cancto
Richard Goldstein

Kaaralyn Mark
Armen Petrosyan
Hannah Sistrunk
Daisy Tainton
Alexander Vastola
Saebra Waterstraut