

Student Archivists at Maryland (SAM) 2016-2017 Annual Report

SAA Student Chapter at the University of Maryland, College Park

Officers and Advisor

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Members

1. Alexander Pirela
2. Cecelia Vetter
3. Kerri Sheehan
4. Kevin Delinger
5. Margot Willis
6. Sarah Hedlund
7. Tiffany Hobson
8. Karina Hagelin
9. Caitlin Rizzo
10. William Froliklong
11. Jacqueline Suzich
12. Heather Johnson
13. Barbara Percival
14. Rosemary Hall
15. Perri Pyle
16. Andrea Vercoe

Chapter Activities

“Americana 2017: Archives and Public Memory in a Post-Truth World”

[Eventbrite page](#)

Student Archivists at Maryland hosted its 14th annual “Americana” on April 5, 2017. “Americana” is an annual symposium held by Student Archivists at Maryland in which we invite professionals to the University of Maryland campus to present and discuss archival issues. We also present an award to a Distinguished Archives Alumnus/a. This year, we invited professionals back to campus for a substantive discussion about the complex relationship between the archives, the public, and the record. We asked our panelists and audience to consider how the concept of “post-truth” affects the archive’s role in public memory. Our panelists spoke about the archival ethics, particularly in relation to fake news. Our annual symposium promoted thoughtful discussions about the truth found in archives. This year we recognized former Student Archivists at Maryland Treasurer Laura (Kopp) Starr as our Distinguished Alumna and presented her with an engraved award. Maryland iSchool Dean Keith Marzullo delivered welcoming remarks, followed by remarks and introductions from President Jennifer Wachtel. Our guest panelists delivered the following presentations, followed by a question and answer session:

- Rebecca Erbelding, Archivist/Historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, “Papers, Please”
- John Kelly, Columnist, The Washington Post, “Vertical Files I Have Loved”
- Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Archivist, National Museum of American History Archives Center, “The Living and the Dead: Archiving Public Memory and the LGBT+ Community”
- Izetta Autumn Mobley, Public Programs and Outreach Lead, Historical Society of Washington, DC, “Racial Feeling, Racial Shame: Confronting Archival Realities Amidst Historic Nostalgia”

Our feedback on the event was overwhelmingly positive, and guests commented on the relevance of the topic. The University of Maryland iSchool generously enabled us to record the audio and the slideshow presentations for viewing after the conclusion of the symposium. President Jen Wachtel coordinated the event by inviting speakers, reserving a space for the symposium, publicizing the event, and acting as point of contact.

Fundraising Activities for “Americana 2017”

We successfully applied for grants for the University of Maryland Graduate Student Government and the University of Maryland iSchool Alumni Chapter to cover the costs of the room reservation, catering, a plaque for the Distinguished Alumna, and modest honoraria for the Distinguished Alumna and all four panelists. The rest of the funding came from the general members’ \$5 annual dues. Treasurer Ian Bucacink wrote our grant applications and managed the budget for “Americana 2017.”

We also ran a t-shirt sale through the University of Maryland’s official vendor. The slogan on the t-shirt reads: “Fear the Turtle, Respect des Fonds,” incorporating both our university’s mascot and archival principles. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen delays from the copyright office, the sale was not live in time to fund this event. We ran the sale online for the entire month of April following “Americana

2017.” We will use the proceeds from our t-shirt sale to fund future symposia and other chapter activities. Secretary Joanna Ruedisueli spearheaded the t-shirt fundraiser.

New Workshop Series (October, November, and February)

Student Archivists at Maryland initiated a new series of workshops this year hosted through the recently opened Digital Curation Innovation Center (DCIC) at Maryland’s iSchool. The DCIC is a lab space for iSchool students where we have access to faculty expertise as well as the opportunity to use emerging information technologies. By popular demand, we hosted workshops on ArchivesSpace, Archivemata, and BitCurator. We intend to continue hosting similar workshops in the coming academic year since these first three were well-attended.

Field Trip (October)

One of our general members, Sarah Hedlund, is also the Montgomery County Archivist as she completes her studies at Maryland’s iSchool. Student Archivists at Maryland toured the Montgomery County Archive and learned about the intricacies of a local archival program firsthand. We discussed how Ms. Hedlund attained her position, her day-to-day activities, and upcoming digitization projects at the Montgomery County Archives.

Social Activities (September and May)

Student Archivists at Maryland is committed to both professional development and forming social connections between members. In the second week of the semester, we hosted a kick-off social hour at a diner located in College Park near campus. At the end of the year, we co-hosted a happy hour with our fellow student chapter SAA@CUA near the Catholic University of America campus in order to celebrate a successful academic year and foster connections between the two chapters.

General Body Meetings (Monthly)

Student Archivists at Maryland holds monthly general body meetings during the academic year (September – May) where officers update members on officers’ activities and invite suggestions. We remind members about upcoming general body meetings in class, through a mailing list, and through our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/studentarchivists/>. General members offered input on “Americana 2017” and requested specific professional development workshops. Attendance at general body meetings tapered off during the spring semester, and we look forward to re-invigorating the incoming cohort of students this fall semester.

Blog

We maintain an official blog available at www.studentarchivists.wordpress.com. This year, we posted an interview with alumnus Jason Speck. We also posted a reflection on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) that took place in November 2016, as well as a reflection and report on “Americana 2017: Archives and Public Memory in a Post-Truth World.” Webmaster Eric Hung maintained the blog with additional posts by Secretary Joanna Ruedisueli and President Jen Wachtel.

Election (April)

We elected a new Treasurer for the 2017-2018 academic year, Perri Pyle.