Student Archivists at Maryland 2017-2018 Chapter Report

Officers:

President: Margaret McCready (margaretgmccready@gmail.com)
Webmaster: Eric Hung (msumeric@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Perri Pyle (ppyle@terpmail.umd.edu)
Secretary: Joanna Ruedsueli (jrudi@terpmail.umd.edu)

Newly elected Webmaster: Juli Folk (julifolk@terpmail.umd.edu)
Newly elected Secretary: Adam Grey (adgray987@gmail.com)

Our current Webmaster, Eric, and our current Secretary, Joanna, will both be graduating this May. Juli and Adam were recently elected this May, and will become active officers in the Fall semester.

Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Kenneth Heger (kheger@umd.edu)

Members:

Ballard, Brittni
Bucacink, Ian
Collins, Carmen
Coulbourne, Mark
Drogin, Caroline
Flint, Emily
Froliklong, Will
Hagelin, Karina
Haupt, Tracee
Hobson, Tiffany
Holdzkom, Liz
Kim, Ben
Martin, Emily
McNamara, Helen
Piegols, Jennifer
Plummer, Leigh
Reid, Maya
Siegel, Jennifer
Siretanu, Elena
Vetter, Cecelia
Chapter Activities:

Chapter activities include collaborations with UMD Special Collections and alumni, field trips to repositories in the D.C. metropolitan area and Philadelphia, career panels, social events with nearby MLIS programs, technology workshops, and an annual symposium. This last semester, we toured the Library of Congress Manuscripts and Business and Technology divisions, as well as the Folger Shakespeare Library.

This year’s annual archives symposium, Americana 2018, was “Performance and Cultural Memory: Archiving the Ephemeral.” In this symposium, Student Archivists at Maryland invited three panelists, Katherine Madison (Processing Archivist at the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian, and author of “‘Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story’: The Use and Representation of Records in Hamilton: An American Musical); Greg C. Adams (Assistant Archivist at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in Washington, D.C.); and Dr. Jessica Lu (Postdoctoral associate at the Maryland Institute for the Humanities). The three panelists explored the difficult question of how we can archive “performance.” Performances—including parades, the spoken word, movement, dance, song, and theater—often embody cultural memory, and enact cultural beliefs, values and heritage. This is particularly true of underrepresented and underserved communities, which often do not have the same access to the written record. The panelists offered their views on when it is appropriate to archive a cultural performance or event, the process, and how to involve communities in their own documentation.