

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

SAA Student Chapter

2016 Annual Report

SCOSAA activities during the 2015-2016 term have emphasized creativity and work-life balance. After elections, SCOSAA officers Hannah Wang (President), Erin Dickey (Vice-President), Brad San Martin (Treasurer), Valerie Szwaya (Secretary) and Melissa Hyland (Webmaster) strategized a series of events balancing creative networking and relaxed social activities with educational events designed to highlight the multivalent nature of our chosen career.

SCOSAA began the term with a SCOSAA/Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA) career panel organized by our president. Six working professionals from the state of North Carolina provided advice to both SCOSAA members and the general student body about the job application process and interviews. The event was followed by an optional resume review. In March, our officers attended the SNCA conference in Charlotte, NC. In Spring 2015, with exams on the way, SCOSAA officers invited SILS students to decompress at a #ColorOurCollections-inspired coloring event, hosted at a local hangout, the Dead Mule Club. Attendees were able to get to know other students in the group by coloring images selected from archival collections.

Our officers had good attendance at the SAA annual conference in August 2015. In early September, we held another general interest meeting to introduce the new students to SCOSAA and to again gauge the interests of the students. We met with new, archives-oriented SILS students to discuss upcoming archive-related happenings in the Triangle and to get know one another at Linda's Bar & Grill. Another interest survey was sent out on our list-serv. Our first event was a Louis Round Wilson Library Special Collections Backstage Tour. This event was geared towards first year students as a chance to learn more about the special collections and archives housed at UNC and the day-to-day work of Wilson Library staff. Students heard presentations from Jackie Dean, Head of Archival Processing Section; Matthew Turi, Manuscripts Research and Instruction Librarian; and Steve Weiss, Curator of the Southern Folklife Collection.

During Archives Month, we had a few trips for our students. The first was a trip to Duke's Rubenstein Galleries during the extended hours for homecoming weekend. The second was an event to commemorate Dorothea Dix Hospital. Students were able to participate in guided tours of the Dix property, see presentations by photographer John Crispin and UNC History Professor Fitzhugh Brundage, and a documentary about the Lives on the Hill oral history project. An open community dialogue about the current state of mental health in North Carolina followed the event. We also organized a meet-and-greet for SILS students and members of the SNCA at the local venue, B-Side Lounge. Students were able to network with professionals and ask questions in a low-stress environment.

During the month of November- in light of the political climate post-election-SCOSAA (in conjunction with two other student groups SCALA, SLA and ASIS&T) hosted an

Information Advocacy Day spearheaded by our vice-president. During this library and information policy event, students contacted our elected representatives on topics of vital importance to the future of our field including: net neutrality, cultural heritage institution funding, information and media literacy, privacy and technology's effect on information-seeking behaviors. Students gathered for an entire day (9:00am-8:00pm) to brainstorm, make phone calls, draft and send letters to state and national representatives. Students came out of the day with a list of resources and action steps to help amplify and sustain information student leadership and advocacy on relevant policy issues.

Rounding out the year in December, SCOSAA officers reprised a successful 2015 fundraiser, inviting SILS students to the SCOSAA Test Kitchen--a potluck where attendees made their dishes using historic recipes "from the archives." Using old Southern cookbooks found in libraries and archives, students made a dish found in one of those cookbooks and brought it to the event.

We're also proud to leave behind a new, up-to-date website, designed by our president! <http://uncscosaa.web.unc.edu/> We created a cleaner more streamlined design and advertised the blog as a part of this new platform. Interested students wrote blog posts about events, their professional experiences or something related to archives and submitted them to our webmaster.