

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists (SCOSAA)
2023 Annual Report

2023 Chapter Officers:

Denise Mantey, President

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Dr. Elliott Kuecker, Faculty Advisor

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Mission:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists is dedicated to cultivating an enriching and inclusive community of MLIS students interested in archives. Through collaborative learning, professional development opportunities, and engagement with the broader archival community, we aim to empower our members to become ethical and skilled stewards of information, contributing to the ongoing enrichment of our shared historical and cultural narratives.

2023 Highlights:

- *Chapter Revival*

Due to the widespread impact of the pandemic, SCOSAA has not been an active presence

on UNC-Chapel Hill's campus since 2020. In fall 2022, Denise Mantey worked alongside Kimmi Kresica '22 in reviving UNC's chapter and Denise continued this work after Kimmi's graduation in December. The specific efforts of Denise Mantey to restart the chapter have greatly contributed to inspiring the archives students at SILS to form a strong sense of community. This work involved outreach to both current and incoming SILS students, contacts with UNC SCOSAA alumni, and building a strong executive board. With the help of Dr. Elliott Kuecker and Belle Kozubowski, SCOSAA was able to receive the support it needs to be an established student organization.

- *Town Hall:*

On September 18th, SCOSAA held its first town hall. The purpose of this meeting was to gather together interested archives students at SILS and introduce them to the mission and goals of SCOSAA, brainstorm potential programming ideas, and discuss open election positions. This town hall stood as an opportunity for SCOSAA to engage with students in a public manner, allowing them the opportunity to have a voice in sharing their expectations for the organization.

- *Show & Tell:*

In October 2023, SCOSAA sponsored a "show and tell" event that served as a way to get to know new club members and dive into our interests. During the event, SCOSAA members brought one item that held meaning for them and shared a short description of the item and why they found it meaningful. Keeping in line with the nature of archiving, members were asked to bring an item from a personal collection or group of items. Some items included a community cookbook, local chestnuts, stuffed animals, music ephemera, and other various items. Ultimately, the goal of the show and tell was to build community within the newly reenergized group and get to know fellow future archivists in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science.

- *Archivist Resume & Cover Letter Panel:*

SCOSAA hosted an online panel of professional archivists to discuss what they look for when hiring, tips for writing cover letters and resumes, and their personal experiences finding jobs after finishing graduate school. Panelists were Rebecca Bagnon, Interim Associate Director of Special Collections Librarian at UNC Wilmington; Patrice Green, Curator for African American and African Diasporic Collections at Harvard Radcliffe; Dr. Meredith Evans, Director of the Jimmy Carter Library & Museum/SILS alum/past SAA president; and Nicole Yatsonsky, Special Collections Specialist at UNC Wilmington

& Electronic Resources Chair for SNCA. The panelists also answered questions from SCOSAA members.

- *Peer Resume & Cover Letter Review Workshop:*

SCOSAA members convened to hear tips on writing successful cover letters and resumes from our faculty sponsor Dr. Elliott Kuecker. Attendees then split into groups of 3-4 people to share their resumes with each other and suggest constructive feedback. The primary goal was to enhance the quality and effectiveness of each participant's application materials through a collective exchange of insights and expertise. This event built on the information provided by panelists in the Archivist Resume and Cover Letter Panel.

Student Members:

Alona Norwood

Ari Smith

Belle Kozubowski

Caetlyn Elder

Callie Beattie

Cassilyn Ostrander

Denise Mantey

Grant Stroud

Hannah Helmey

Hannah Whitaker

Jillian Mackinnon

John Sellars

Kennedy-Grace Pierce

Kensington Laube

Lev Rosenberger

Luke Cimarusti

Madeline Conley

Marlee Charlton

Madison Olson

Madison Blewett

Olivia Levin

Saija Wilson

Sarah Kirkgard

Simone Gillespie