

2009-2010 Annual Report
Society of American Archivists Student Chapter
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2009-2010 Officers

Kara Blue, President - kemiller5@wisc.edu
Tara Genske, Vice President - genske@wisc.edu
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2010-2011 Officers (Elected December 2009)

Samuel Rudin, President - smrudin@wisc.edu
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Danielle Taylor, Secretary - dtaylor3@wisc.edu

Faculty Advisors

Ciaran Trace (Fall 2009) - trace@wisc.edu
Rick Pifer (Spring 2010) - rick.pifer@wisconsinhistory.org

Membership

Carla Alvarez, Kara Blue, Spencer Brayton, Nichole Chisholm, Emily Christopherson, Christina Cieslewicz, Virginia Corvid, Erin Dix, Elizabeth (Beth) Fox-Corbett, Tara Genske, Autumn Hall-Tun, Marisa Hirsch, Emil Hoelter, Emily Johnson, Leah Kolb, Sloan Komissarov (McBride), Mai Youa Lee, Meredith Lowe, Duane Rodel, Samuel Rudin, Peter Shrake, Danielle Taylor, Sara White, Jiekun Yang

Overview

The 2009-2010 academic year was very successful for the UW-Madison Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists. The chapter hosted a variety of social and career development events, including a career potluck and CV writing workshop in the fall semester, and a mock interview session, and an ACA (Academy of Certified Archivists) presentation promoting the certified archivist exam during the spring semester. Food was served at most events, and all events were well attended.

Chapter members continued the tradition of fundraising through bake sales, a chili cook-off, and t-shirt and cookbook sales. We revamped last year's t-shirt, "Tap into Archives – They Get Better with Age". This year's design was "I believe in original order." We also developed a new edition of the chapter's "Archivists' Cookbook 2nd Edition" of recipes. Both projects were completed in time to sell the merchandise at the April 2010 Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) annual meeting in Chicago.

In addition to selling t-shirts and cookbooks, the chapter tried two new fundraisers this year: a Make-Your-Own-Valentine's-Day-card craft table, and a donut sale. Although neither fundraiser was as financially successful as the t-shirt and cookbook sales at MAC, the chapter made a small profit on both. All 2009-2010 fundraising efforts were focused on raising money for members who will travel to Washington D.C. in August 2010 to present at the SAA annual meeting.

Fifteen student members attended the MAC annual meeting held in Chicago. In addition, one member, participated in the Friday morning panel, “Accessing the Cultural Crossroads: Discovering Underrepresented Histories through Processing and Digitization”; three students, presented a poster on behalf of the chapter; and two students blogged for MAC Deep Dish (<http://macsessionreviews.wordpress.com>) during the conference.

Officers continued to update the chapter wiki (<http://uwarchivists.pbworks.com>) and website (<http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~SAA>) whenever possible. However, technology focused on a new initiative, called Fintan, led by President-elect Samuel Rudin. Fintan is a collaborative project aimed at: understanding computer hardware technology; learning how to talk tech and bridge the communication gap between archivists and IT professionals; learning about the different versions of Linux and how to install, configure and use them; exploring free, open source software solutions to archival problems; learning about network technology and internet security; and gaining an understanding of web 2.0 technologies and how to implement them to best serve the needs of archivists and their institutions. Ultimately, the chapter will manage its electronic records using the hardware and software its members select and build.

Dr. Ciaran Trace departed UW-Madison in December 2009. Dr. Rick Pifer, an adjunct professor for the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), assumed responsibility for advising the chapter in January 2010. To better train first year students for officer positions, the chapter elected new officers in December 2009. They shadowed current officers and contributed greatly to coordination of events throughout the spring 2010 semester.

Activities

Regular chapter meetings were held every month. These meetings were brief and primarily focused on organizing upcoming events. Fintan meetings were held every 2 weeks in February and March 2010 and once in April 2010. Chapter meetings and Fintan meetings will continue to be held over the summer months of 2010. All major events hosted, cosponsored, or attended by the student chapter are described below.

August 2009

Student member Rebecca Julson presented the 2008 Archives Month blog poster at the SAA annual conference in Austin. The chapter paid her registration fee to attend. Becky reported back to the chapter that many attendees were impressed by the blog project and thought it was a relatively easy and inexpensive way to do outreach.

September 2009

On September 1st, several chapter members welcomed the incoming class of library and archives students during the SLIS orientation. The chapter coordinated a tour of the Wisconsin Historical Society for new students interested in archives and records management. In the afternoon these new students were given an opportunity to learn more about UW-Madison’s SAA student chapter during the student organizations fair.

On September 15th, the chapter cosponsored the SLIS event, “Advice from Early-Career LIS Professionals,” a panel and discussion about working in academic libraries, archives, digital collections, public libraries, school libraries, special libraries, and youth services.

On September 18th, the chapter held a job hunting potluck. The potluck was hosted at the home of Professor Rick Pifer. Professor Pifer and Professor Trace discussed the current archival job market and offered resume writing and interviewing tips. A multi-page packet was handed out to all attendees. The event was open to all chapter members, and approximately 20 people attended.

Archives Happy Hour! On September 24th, several student chapter members met at the Terrace to share a couple pitchers of beer, discuss their classes, and welcome some of the new students interested in archives. Eight to ten student chapter members attended this event.

October 2009

October was one of our chapter’s busiest months. At the monthly chapter meeting on October 8th we welcomed back La Follette High School’s Archives and History Museum coordinator. She offered students a practicum opportunity for anyone interested in school archives and discussed the potential for some paid experience at the archives as well.

For Archives Month, the student chapter supported the creation and promotion of the 2nd annual Archives Month themed blog, assigned to second year students in Dr. Ciaran Trace’s User Services and Outreach course. The 2009 theme was “Scrapbook Wisconsin.” Every weekday during October a student described and shared images of a scrapbook collection from a Wisconsin repository. Students promoted the blog through listservs, web pages, newspapers, other blogs, fliers, and by word-of-mouth. The chapter won SAA’s Make an Impact Contest for Best Successfully Implemented Campaign. The blog can be viewed at <http://archivesmonth.blogspot.com>.

Also in celebration of Archives Month, six chapter members created a display-case exhibit outside of the SLIS library to mimic a scrapbook project. Vice-president elect, Beth Fox-Corbett, published an article about the display, called “Constructing Memory and Community,” in the MAC Fall Newsletter. The display ran from October 17th-31st.

On October 22nd, several archives students attended a meet-and-greet to socialize and network with attendees at the MAC Fall Symposium held on UW-Madison’s campus. Several students also assisted with registration at the symposium throughout the weekend.

November 2009

The chapter held its first Bake Sale fundraiser for 2009-2010 on November 12th. Eight students volunteered to set-up, clean-up, and run the fundraiser. Many more chapter members baked or purchased items to sell. The sale was a huge success, grossing over \$200.

December 2009

The final event of the fall 2009 semester was a resume and curriculum vitae writing workshop held on December 10th. The workshop was led by Rick Pifer. Attendees reviewed several examples of CVs, including a before/after sample volunteered by a chapter member. Approximately twenty chapter members took advantage of the workshop.

Also in December the chapter nominated and voted for the 2010-2011 chapter officers. Four students were nominated and three students were elected. All voting occurred via Survey Monkey.

January 2010

Chapter members submitted poster abstracts to MAC and SAA to present the 2009 Archives Month blog project.

February 2010

The chapter cosponsored two SLIS events in February. The first was career advice from directors and experienced professionals from archives and academic, public, school, and special libraries, held February 2nd at SLIS. Individual discussion groups followed the panel. University Archivist David Null led the archives panel for students. Then on February 18th, the chapter cosponsored “Starting From Scratch: The Development and Implementation of a Statewide Preservation Program for Massachusetts’ Libraries and Archives,” a presentation by SLIS alum Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, the Preservation Specialist for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Approximately ten students attended these February events.

On February 11th the chapter ran its first Make-Your-Own-Valentine’s-Day-Card fundraiser. Members purchased colored paper, pens, crayons, glue, doilies, and other materials for the SLIS community to create their own Valentines. The fundraiser profited roughly \$35.

March 2010

Our third annual chili cook-off combined with another bake sale was held in the SLIS commons on March 1st. Several members cooked chili and made or purchased baked goods. Participants voted for the best vegetarian, best meat, and spiciest chilis in the competition. The event was successful and raised over \$200 to support student chapter activities.

Later in March Professor Rick Pifer and his Wisconsin Historical Society colleague, Helmut Knies, led a mock interview workshop. One poor interviewee and one good interviewee answered questions from the mock panel made up of Rick, Helmut, and a student member. Each of the interviewees was critiqued, and chapter members learned the dos and don’ts of interviewing. Approximately six students gathered for dinner before the event. A total of twelve students attended the mock interview session.

April 2010

The chapter cosponsored an event with SLIS and the Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums (TLAM) graduate class to bring David George-Shongo, Jr. to SLIS for a presentation on his involvement in developing the Protocols for Native-American Archival Materials and his work as the Seneca Nation Archivist / Tribal Archives Director. Approximately fifteen chapter members attended and helped organized the April 7th event.

On April 12th the chapter held a donut sale for the SLIS community. This was the first attempt to sell purchased baked goods because of a new rule passed by the University prohibiting the sale of homemade food. Three dozen donuts sold out in less than two hours, resulting in a profit of \$45.

Between April 22nd -24th, fifteen chapter members attended MAC in Chicago. While at the conference chapter members were able to attend a number of great sessions and had the opportunity to network with regional archivists and student peers. Student chapter funds covered the cost of printing the student chapter poster submission. Our new t-shirt, "I believe in original order" was sold during the conference alongside the revised edition cookbook. Sales covered all costs to print the shirts and cookbooks, plus raised \$130 toward chapter activities.

May 2010

The final chapter meeting of the year was held on May 3rd. We heard UW-Madison SLIS alum and CUNA (Credit Union National Association) archivist, Shawn San Roman, discuss his experience with taking the CA (certified archivist) exam a couple of years ago. We also discussed the MAC sessions we attended, scheduled the next Fintan meeting, solicited volunteers to help prepare an Associated Students of Madison (ASM) travel grant application for SAA DC 2010, and agreed to meet over the summer.