

2008-2009 Annual Report

Society of American Archivists Student Chapter
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Coordinators

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Membership

Greg Kocken, Katie Scanlan, Lisa Muccigrosso, Simone Munson, Christina Johnson, Sarah Mueller, Casey Coleman, Heather Heckman, Rachel Pieper, Becky Julson, Tyler Kennedy, Meredith Lowe, Julia Wong, Pete Shrake, Duane Rodel, Emily Johnson, Emil Hoelter, Sloan McBride, Sara White, Emily Christopherson, Erin Dix, Tara Genske, Kara Blue, Carla Alvarez, Nichole Chisholm, Erin Hoag, Sam Boss

Overview

The 2008-2009 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 educational functions for the benefit of its members. In addition to these activities, the chapter also created a new website and wiki to post news and events stories. At the conclusion of the 2008-2009 academic year the chapter restructured, passing new amendments to revise and update the chapter constitution. Critical among these amendments was the establishment of three officer positions: President, Vice President and Secretary. These new positions eliminated the ambiguity surrounding the former positions of coordinator, co-coordinator and co-coordinator.

The chapter's chief fund-raising engine, the sale of t-shirts and cookbooks at regional and national archival conferences, needed updating. The old t-shirt, "Archivists: Keepin' History Fresh," had been sold at both the SAA conference and MAC conferences in the past. In order to successfully continue selling t-shirts at conferences a product development committee was created during the fall semester in order to design a new t-shirt. The new t-shirt, "Tap into Archives – They Get Better with Age," was unveiled during the Spring semester and sold at the 2009 MAC meeting.

Meeting minutes and other, possibly dated, chapter information is available on our news and events wiki at <http://uwarchivists.pbworks.com>.

Activities

In addition to the many activities hosted by the student chapter, regular meetings were held every month. These meetings were typically brief and primarily focused on organizing upcoming events. Throughout the course of the year several archivists and other interested parties were

present at our meetings. During our first meeting the student chapter adopted the La Follette High School Archives and History Museum as a long-term community service project. Through the course of the academic year chapter member Sarah Mueller regularly volunteered at La Follette High School.

August 28, 2008

Several chapter members welcomed the incoming class of library and archives students during the SLIS Orientation. Chapter members met with new students interested in archives over lunch. Following lunch the new students were given a tour of the Wisconsin Historical Society by archivist David Benjamin. 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.

September 4, 2008

Archives Happy Hour! Several student chapter members met at the Terrace to share a couple pitchers of beer, discuss their summer activities, and welcome some of the new students interested in archives. Approximately seven student chapter members attended this event.

September 19, 2008

Chapter members were given a tour of the Harley-Davidson Museum's archives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The tour was given by Kimberly Thomas, a Harley-Davidson Museum archivist and SLIS archives program grad. During the tour, chapter members explored Harley-Davidson's document room (w/ compact shelving), their preservation/conservation room, a walk in freezer for glass plate negatives, and the bike room! Following the tour, chapter members were given an opportunity to view the entire museum. Approximately eleven student chapter members attended this event.

October 2008

The student chapter, along with students in Professor Ciaran Trace's user services course, was responsible for creating and promoting an archives themed blog. The idea for the blog was born during the summer of 2008 when chapter members met and discussed the idea of celebrating Wisconsin's rich archival resources during archives month. The end product was the blog, "Archives Month 2008: Celebrating Wisconsin's Archives," which is available at <http://archivesmonth.blogspot.com>.

Every weekday during October an entry was created describing and highlighting the collections of a different Wisconsin repository. The blog was promoted through listservs and from links on the SAA and Wisconsin Historical Society websites. Also, a small exhibit was prepared in the SLIS hallway which promoted this blog as well. The blog was very successful and provided students with an excellent learning experience.

The UW-Madison SAA Student Chapter also plans to showcase the blog during a poster session at the 2009 SAA Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

October 10, 2008

On Friday, October 10, 2008 the student chapter sponsored a job hunting pot luck. The pot luck was hosted at the home of Professor Ciaran Trace. Professors Rick Pifer and Ciaran Trace

discussed the current archival job market and offered job hunting tips (a multi-page packet was handed out to all attendees). The event was open to all chapter members, and approximately 20 people were in attendance.

November 4, 2008

Our second annual chili cook-off, co-sponsored by the Jail Library Group, was held in the SLIS commons. Several people cooked chili, and many people sampled the chili during the lunch hour. In honor of Election Day, participants voted for the best overall, hottest, and most original chili in the competition. The event was successful and raised nearly one hundred dollars to support student chapter activities.

December 2, 2008

The student chapter hosted its fall semester bake sale in the SLIS commons. Chapter members baked (or bought) treats which were sold to the SLIS community. This was one of our most successful bake sales ever, raising nearly two hundred dollars.

December 5, 2008

The final event of the fall semester was a resume and curriculum vitae writing workshop. The workshop was led by Rick Pifer, a SLIS professor and also director of public services at the Wisconsin Historical Society. This workshop was held in the cataloging lab adjacent to the SLIS library and free pizza and beverages were offered to all who attended. Rick discussed what employers look for in resumes and provided tips on how to write a strong resume/cv. Approximately twenty chapter members took advantage of this workshop.

February 13, 2009

The spring semester kicked off with an interview workshop sponsored by the student chapter. Professors Ciaran Trace and Rick Pifer led the workshop which was hosted in the SLIS Commons. A mock interview session, with one poor interview and one good interview, took place. Each of the interviewees was critiqued, and chapter members learned the dos and don'ts of interviewing. Free pizza and beverages were provided to all of the approximately eighteen attendees.

March 25, 2009

Our spring semester bake sale followed closely after Spring Break. As in the fall chapter members provided the treats and these items were sold to the SLIS community. The bake sale was successful and raised over one hundred dollars to support the student chapter.

March 31, 2009

The student chapter sponsored an SAA web seminar which was hosted in the SLIS computer lab adjacent to the SLIS library. The web seminar, Archival Content Management Systems, reviewed a number of available systems, and discussed the pros and cons of each. Approximately twenty-five people (Wisconsin Historical Society archivists as well as SLIS students) attended.

April 7, 2009

During this regular student chapter meeting the organization's constitution was amended and revised. A current version of the constitution is available at <http://uwarchivists.pbworks.com>.

April 22-25, 2009

Four chapter members attended the Midwest Archives Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. While at the conference chapter members were able to attend a number of great sessions and had the opportunity to network with regional archivists. Student chapter funds helped cover the costs of traveling to the conference and paid registration fees. Our new t-shirt, "Tap into Archives – They Get Better with Age," was sold during the conference. Sales of the t-shirt (and our chapter's cook-book), offset the costs of printing the shirts and helped raise nearly one hundred dollars. The student chapter was left with a healthy inventory of t-shirts which can be sold at events and conferences during the next academic year.

May 5, 2009

Our final meeting of the year was led by the chapter's newly elected 2009-2010 officers. President Kara Blue, Vice-President Tara Genske and Secretary Emily Johnson briefly discussed some of their ideas for the next year.

May 12, 2009

The final social event of the year was another happy hour held at the Terrace. Chapter members were provided with an opportunity to discuss their summer plans over a couple of pitchers of beer.