

# Welcome to the Fall–Winter edition of



Chapters and Loose Papers



"Chapters and Loose Papers is the official SAA newsletter for students of archival science. The title, Chapters and Loose Papers, calls upon images of books and documents, but it also suggests an interest in and a focus on both SAA student chapters and those students who are not affiliated with SAA chapters.

*This year's theme, "Light at the End of the Tunnel," focuses on your projects and goals to feature and track throughout the year. In this edition, we examine the initial planning, the work, and the learning experiences you have had; in our second and third issues, we look forward to laying out the final products!*

## University of Texas at Austin

By Laurel Rozema, SAA-UT webmaster

The University of Texas at Austin Student Chapter of the SAA had an exciting year. A new board was elected and announced at the Spring Semester Potluck: Fiona de Young, president; Caitlin Bumford, vice president; Simon Staats, treasurer; Shannon Keith, secretary; Sarah Potvin, events coordinator; and Laurel Rozema, webmaster. Events for the spring semester included social happy hours, meetings, and lectures. Dr. Olga G. Leontieva, Deputy Director of Archival Department of Tver Region Administration in Russia, spoke about the differences between the Soviet Union and Russian Federation in regards to federal archives. John Wheat, Sound Archivist for the Center for American History (CAH), discussed his work in obtaining and preserving Texas music and audio collections, exemplified with posters from the 1960s-1970s Austin music scene as well as recordings of Lead Belly, Janis Joplin, and others.

In early May, ten of the chapter members headed to the Rio Grande River Valley, border of Texas and the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, to tour the Archivo Municipal de Reynosa. The trip's success led to a poster presentation at the San Francisco conference and representation in Archival Outlook (September/October 2008). (*Continued, page 2*)



We welcomed new and returning students with the Fall Semester Potluck and some social happy hours, including a joint meeting with the Archivists of Central Texas. Also held was tour by video archivist Tim Hamblin at the Austin History Center and a discussion with Thom Hyry, Head of the Manuscripts Unit in the Yale University Library and member of the SAA Council.

Our greatest success was the annual archives week, "Archives City Limits: A Celebration of Music Archives," which brought lecturers from out-of-state and involvement from the Austin archival community. Several events rounded out a very full week-and-a-half in late October. A pre-archives week concert with local bands tied to the UT School of Information raised over \$900.



Austin mayor Will Wynn proclaimed Archives Week 2008 at the City Council meeting, and Kevin Shapiro, archivist for the band Phish, gave the first lecture about his work archiving the band's recordings, fan artwork, and legal records. Edward N. Meyer of St. Edward's University and Michael Tarabulski, formerly of the International Jazz Archives at the University of Idaho, discussed jazz archives and their importance in teaching and understanding music history. A panel discussion on documenting music communities in Texas included Dr. Clay Shorkey and Geoff Willard of the Texas Music Museum, Harold McMillan of DiverseArts Production Group, and John Wheat. Archives City Limits ended with the Archives Clinic, which sought to teach members of the public about preserving their family papers and heirlooms, focusing on audio and video recordings.

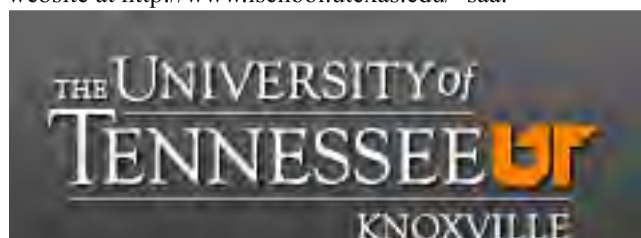
The involvement and support of our students, our faculty, and the local archival community inspires confidence that next year will be just as fulfilling, especially with the upcoming SAA conference here in Austin.

For more about the UT chapter and our activities, please visit our website at <http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~saa>.

## **New Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

The Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists was approved by the Office of Student Affairs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, on July 18, 2008. Official designation was granted to the Student Chapter by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in November 2008.

**Membership:** Presently the new Student Chapter of the SAA at UT has ten graduate student members. Nine members are pursuing the M.S. degree in Information Sciences, and one member is working towards the M.A. degree in History.



Officers: Laura Starratt, a second-year candidate for the M.S. degree in Information Sciences, is the first Student Chapter President.

Other officers include Nancy E. A. Williams, Vice President; Christopher Caldwell, Secretary; and Justin Eastwood, Treasurer. Jennifer Benedetto Beals, Head of Special Collections for University Libraries at the University of Tennessee, serves as faculty advisor for the newly formed chapter.



**Conferences:** Two members attended the SAA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, held on August 26-30. In November, two SAA chapter members represented UT at the Society of Tennessee Archivists Conference entitled Extending Our Reach: Renovating and Innovating, held at Mont Eagle, Tennessee. They attended presentations on the Country Music Hall of Fame oral history project and met Dr. Trudy Peterson, former Archivist of the United States.

**Activities:** Local activities during the 2008 fall semester included a tour of the East Tennessee Historical Society in downtown Knoxville and a preservation workshop. The Student Chapter also showcased UT football memorabilia at the Carolyn P. Brown Memorial University Center the day of the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa game. A tour of the new Howard Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy facility is on the agenda after the holidays.

**Plans:** In collaboration with the UT School of Information Sciences, chapter members will assist with preparations for the next annual Alumni and Friends Day in the spring. The focus of this event will be on archives and records management.

**Educational Opportunities:** Chapter members have been lobbying the director of the School of Information Sciences, Dr. Edwin Cortez, for additional course offerings in archives and preservation. As a result, Introduction to Archives will be available online in the spring semester. Kris Bronstad of the Wisconsin Historical Society will be the instructor. Plans are being made to offer a preservation course during the 2009 summer session. Also, a list of local practicum and independent study opportunities at area repositories has been created and is being maintained for graduate students enrolled in the Information Sciences program.

For additional information, please contact Laura Starratt at [lstarratt@utk.edu](mailto:lstarratt@utk.edu).

## **From Flumes and Forbes to Friendship: My Light at the end of a NARA Internship**

By Robyn Gleasner

Mike Cendejas and I arrived at the National Archives in Laguna Niguel, CA as complete strangers. We were the summer student archives technicians with the common goal of learning more about archival studies within the government.

Upon taking an oath to defend the constitution against all enemies both foreign and domestic, we knew that our project was serious. The Riverside Forest Laboratory (RFL), a division of the US Forest Service, gave the NARA at Laguna Niguel their records and photographs of the San Dimas Experimental Forest taken from the 1930's to the 1980's. Of course, the records are not in the same format and were not accessible. Our job was to:

1. Sleeve all photos and negatives in order to protect them for future use and assign an "RFL" number to each descriptive envelope
2. Enter the information from the envelope into a database for easy retrieval
3. Separate photographs, negatives, and descriptive envelopes to create three series.



Photo courtesy of USSA Forest Service



US Forest Service Photo by E. L. Hamilton

Mike and I had two months to catalog thousands of photographs of the San Dimas Experimental Forest. Together we attacked our project with a hungry eagerness to learn all we could in our short appointment. The task may have driven any normal person insane, but as two LIS students interested in information retrieval we developed an unusual curiosity about the terms we came across. Our days were filled with pictures and descriptions of lysimeters, flumes, and forbes. We quickly learned that lysimeters measure brush growth, flumes are similar to a channel in a dam, and forbes are a broad leafed grass. Because these terms are not common vocabulary outside of the forest service, we attempted the beginnings of a controlled vocabulary that should aid in finding the images in the future.

Our goal was to make the collection accessible to the public while preserving it so that it will be accessible to future generations as well. These goals provided us with a light at the end of the tunnel, something that shaped our project and gave it purpose. Cataloging chaos into order that will be used by researches in the future provided us with motivation to continue. Out of that motivation and dedication grew friendship between Mike and me.

When monotony threatened to pull the tears out of our eyes, we were there to make each other laugh and to remind each other of the goals we were determined to accomplish. This is a great example to remind us all how important networking is in the information science field. Getting to know each other well enough to share our knowledge and our experiences with one another is essential to our professional growth.



**“Student Chapter News from UCLA, Fall 2008”**

Student chapter website:

<http://polaris.gseis.ucla.edu/saa/>

Did you know that there are over 800 student groups at UCLA? The Bruin Archives Project has made contact with several of these groups through collaborating with the Center for Student Programming, whose staff will help introduce BAP to new groups as they register this fall. During this first full year of our Bruin Archives Project, we are working to make sure that our “processors” and student group leaders create thorough collections from their assembled materials. We held our second-ever BAP training session on October 17, where Ms. Sugimoto and the IS students selected groups to work with this year in creating their archive. Students will enable access to these new collections by writing finding aids, and contributing MARC records for inclusion in the UCLA Library catalog. This is very practical experience for students interested in library and archival work! Archives students are currently meeting with student group leaders and informing them of the steps involved in processing an archival collection. Student group leaders are also contacting past members and advisors so that their collection may represent the full history of their group at UCLA. You can read more about BAP at our website, <http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/bap/>. This project will hopefully continue to grow as more student groups on our large campus become aware of the BAP, and submit their materials with an IS student for archival processing. We also hope BAP will gain a presence within the larger archival community – myself and my fellow officers would love to speak with archives students or staff involved in similar efforts at other universities.

While BAP is certainly a large focus for our student chapter this year, SAA@UCLA is also participating in other activities throughout the year, including most recently our department’s Career Panel held on November 7. David Farneth, institutional archivist for the J. Paul Getty Trust since 2001, spoke to students about his experiences at libraries in New York and Texas, and the differences he sees among libraries, archives and special collections, and museums. Archives, he said, must balance the oft-competing needs of access and security. These demands on archives occur, in part, because certain collections may be the only one of their kind in the entire world. (*Continued next page*)

One of the benefits he has witnessed as an archivist is the ability to see the results of his work “right away” – whether in the form of someone’s published research, or inclusion of the materials in a public event or for an official purpose.

Toward our efforts of involving fellow students in our activities, we led a tour of several UCLA archival facilities on Election Day, and we also held a Bake Sale on Halloween. Members of our chapter attended the 3rd-annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar, “Archives Live!,” on October 25, where approximately 65 local institutions represented their collections through exhibits and on-site research resources.

SAA@UCLA is looking forward to bringing additional events to our students and encouraging archival study and “archives appreciation”!

-Sarah Buchanan

SAA at UCLA co-President, 2008-2009



The Student Chapter at the University of Wisconsin has branched out more this year into the realm of Web 2.0. For American Archives Month, and as a project for the students in the archives users and services class, we created a blog featuring many of the archival repositories in Wisconsin. Each week day of October a new entry on a

Wisconsin repository has been posted. We asked repositories to supply information on some of their most prominent collections and images. This blog would not have been possible without the visionary ideas and coordination from Greg Kocken, Julia Wong, Becky Julson, Lisa Muccigrosso and our peers in the Archives Users and Services class.

Although Archives Month is now over the blog will remain up at [www.archivesmonth.blogspot.com](http://www.archivesmonth.blogspot.com). As well as new traditions, we are continuing others! On November 4, we held our Second Annual Chili Cook-off. Being Election Day, people were voting for more than just the US President in Madison. Seven different chili recipes were featured, and awards were given to the hottest, most original and best overall chili recipes from the Cook-off. Our next fundraiser is a bake sale set for December 2, 2009. The proceeds of these events will help fund our student chapter's activities.

Also, chapter member Becky Julson recently created a new subcommittee within our chapter to focus on creating new products to help us with our fund raising efforts. The Product Development Committee is looking ahead at what our next t-shirt design should be. Some may remember UW-Madison's "Keeping History Fresh" shirts. Ideas are being kicked around for a new design and we hope it is equally as successful!

Lastly, we would like to extend our congratulations to current student Katie Scanlon who was mentioned and her article published in the latest issue of "The Records Manager" for her successes as a coordinator of the Records Management Round Table Mentoring Project.

by Rachel Pieper

<http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~SAA/index.html>



Our first official chapter meeting, following College recognition of the reactivated SAA Chapter at Queens College, combined engaging program and the minimal amount of ‘housekeeping’ needed to continue finding our way as an essentially new organization.

Thirty Seven graduate students (in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies) and our faculty advisor, Dr. Ben Alexander, enjoyed two presentations. Our Treasurer, Heather Ball and colleague Matt Michaels teamed to report on a visit to the NYC home of a Queens alum who, with his wife, were intimately involved in the “Freedom Summer” project in Mississippi during the sometimes violent summer of 1964. (Queens College student Andrew Goodman was one of the three slain civil rights activists later found buried in a quarry. The Chaney-Goodman-Schwerner Clock Tower of our ‘home,’ Rosenthal Library, was dedicated to their memory in 1989.) We were treated to photos of albums, accounts of moving longhand essays by Black grade-schoolers lamenting that they could not walk to school without fearing for their lives, and the prospect that important alumni papers could be attracted to Special Collections at our institution in the future.

Kelli Piotowski reported on her work as a books and papers conservator at the Frick Collection, and drew admiring “ooohs” and “ahhhs!” by showing a dozen before-and-after images of objects that received a range of treatments that returned them to useable, durable and pleasing condition, but she also offered the practical perspective by emphasizing the labor intensive nature of these interventions and the importance of prioritizing as institutional resources get tighter in the coming months.

The balance of the meeting looked ahead to program ideas that would have us visiting NYC area collections, collaborating with archival students at neighboring institutions, holding meetings ‘virtually’ (using free internet video chat software), and participating more fully in SAA activities such as Poster Presentations and the Mentoring Program.

We are collectively glad to be (re-) connected now with SAA and the profession, and we mean to make ourselves known in “the right circles.” We look forward to meeting you virtually and in person!



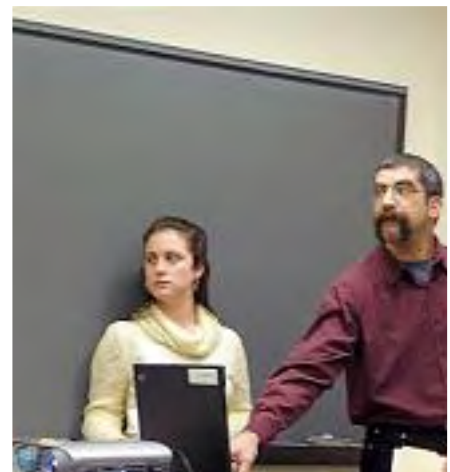
Acting President Brian Mahoney briefs members on steps under way in re-establishing the chapter.



Some of the 38 attending our first ‘official’ meeting upon reorganizing the QC Chapter after a four year Hiatus. Faculty Advisor Benjamin Alexander seen at the joint between blackboards.



Kelli Piotowski presented on her work conserving papers and books in the Frick collection.



Heather Ball and Matthew Michaels present on compelling private collection of mementos from a QC alum who participated in Mississippi Freedom Summer (1964).

# Scholarship and Grants Information



## 2009 Donald Peterson Student Scholarship Award

### \*ATTENTION STUDENTS:

\*Do you need financial assistance to attend SAA's Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, Aug. 11th-16th, 2009? Apply for the 2009 Donald Peterson Student Scholarship Award! The award includes up to \$1,000 in support of registration, travel, and accommodation expenses associated with the SAA conference. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2009.

### \*Purpose and Criteria for Selection:\*

Established in 2005, this award supports students and recent graduates from graduate archival programs within North America to attend SAA's Annual Meeting. The goal of the scholarship is to stimulate greater participation in the activities of the Association by students and recent graduates. This participation must include either a presentation of research during the Annual Meeting or active participation in an SAA-sponsored committee, section, or roundtable.

### \*Eligibility:\*

Awarded to an SAA member in good standing who is currently enrolled in an archival education program or who graduated from an archival education program in the previous calendar year. Applications are evaluated based on the merits of the applicant's essay and letters of recommendation.

### \*Sponsor and Funding:\*

The Society of American Archivists, in honor of Donald Peterson (1908-1999), New York lawyer and philatelist, whose deep appreciation of world history and preservation makes this possible.

### \*Prize:\*

Up to \$1,000 in support of registration, travel, and accommodation expenses associated with the SAA Annual Meeting.

### \*Application Form and Documentation:\*

Submit three copies of the following:

1. A 500-word essay describing the applicant's career goals and potential impact on the profession.
2. Unofficial transcript to verify student status or copy of graduate diploma.
3. Two letters of recommendation from individuals having knowledge of the applicant's qualifications.
4. Application form- <<http://www.archivists.org/recognition/PetersonAwardForm.pdf>>

### \*Application Deadline:\*

All nominations/applications shall be submitted to the Awards Committee by February 28, 2009.

### \*Questions?\*

Please contact Peterson Student Scholarship Selection Subcommittee Chair, Toni Vanden Bos at [toni.vandenbos@wright.edu](mailto:toni.vandenbos@wright.edu) <<mailto:toni.vandenbos@wright.edu>> with any questions.

Please note that this has been edited for space, and full details can be found here-  
<http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-peterson.asp>

## RMRT STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In a continuing emphasis on helping its members develop the skills they need to be the best records managers possible, the steering committee of the SAA Records Management Roundtable approved the establishment of a Student Advisory Committee for the roundtable. Student members of the RMRT were invited to join the advisory committee and almost twenty students responded positively.

The group has decided to put together a bibliography of grant writing resources in order to supplement the education they are getting from their archival education programs. The document will be available on the RMRT website by the next annual meeting.

### SAA Mentoring Program

SAA's Membership Services matches participants based on subject interests or geographic location. When a match is made, Membership Services notifies the mentor and mentee, providing contact information and suggested guidelines. Together, the participating individuals determine their expectations and how to best structure their relationship. SAA encourages participants to stay involved for at least one year. Certainly, participants can extend this relationship as desired.

#### How to Apply

Complete the online application form. Please indicate more than one area of interest to facilitate appropriate pairings of mentors and mentees. SAA will contact you after processing your application. However, please understand that processing may be delayed for applications received between August 1 and September 1 due to preparation for SAA's annual meeting. Still, Membership Services will attempt to identify matches during that time.



Thank you for all your submissions, support and ideas. We look forward to putting out the Spring edition, and seeing what you all have done. Happy holidays-

Robynne and Daniel

