

10-2017

## MAC News

Midwest Archives Conference

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## **MAC Seeks Nominations for Presidents' Award**

The MAC Presidents' Award was established in 1986 as a means for MAC to recognize significant contributions to the archival profession by individuals, institutions, and organizations not directly involved in archival work but knowledgeable about its purpose and value. A committee comprising the three most recent past presidents of MAC chooses recipients based on nominations submitted by committees in each of the 13 states in the MAC region. Each state committee may put forward only one nomination per year. As many as three awards may be presented each year. Recipients are invited to attend the Members' Meeting held at MAC's Annual Meeting to receive their awards.

To nominate someone, please complete the nomination form on the MAC website and address it to the appropriate state chair no later than January 15, 2018. Full contact information for the state chairs can be found on the MAC website, under "MAC Presidents' Award," [www.midwestarchives.org/presidents-award](http://www.midwestarchives.org/presidents-award), along with a list of the award's past recipients. For additional information about the award and guidelines, please contact Ellen Swain at [eswain@illinois.edu](mailto:eswain@illinois.edu).

## **Call for Emeritus Member Nominations**

Each year, the MAC Membership Committee solicits nominations from the MAC membership for candidates for the status of Emeritus Member. The nominee must be retired from archival work and have been a MAC member for a minimum of 10, not necessarily consecutive, years. More important, nominees must have made significant and substantial contributions to MAC during their archival careers. The Emeritus Membership Award and special membership status of Emeritus Member were created to recognize those who have contributed to the success, growth, and visibility of MAC through committee work, programming, outreach, and governance. The award intends to recognize those who work behind the scenes for MAC, as well as those who have been honored by election to office. To nominate someone, download the application and instructions at [midwestarc.memberclicks.net/assets/documents/emeritus\\_form2.pdf](http://midwestarc.memberclicks.net/assets/documents/emeritus_form2.pdf), and send it to Matthew Gorzalski at [m.gorzalski@gmail.com](mailto:m.gorzalski@gmail.com) by January 31, 2018.

## **Nominate Someone Who Deserves the Distinguished Service Award**

MAC's Distinguished Service Award recognizes the otherwise unsung contributions of our MAC friends and colleagues. Please take a moment to think of all the people you know who have been quietly contributing their time and talents to MAC: the people who offer to serve on committees and are ready to fill in as workshop leaders or session participants at the last minute, or those who will happily work at the registration table when they learn that someone has just canceled, or those who can whip up a quick article for the newsletter when you need to fill that last quarter-page. Now take a few minutes to put into words why MAC should recognize at least one of those people, and submit your description on the MAC Distinguished Service Award nomination form posted on the MAC website, [www.midwestarchives.org/assets/documents/dsaform.pdf](http://www.midwestarchives.org/assets/documents/dsaform.pdf). The Distinguished Service Award was created to recognize individuals who give generously of their time and talent with little or no formal recognition and likely have never served in an elected MAC position. Since its inception, MAC has given this award to a very small group of deserving individuals. Please consider nominating someone for his or her dedication to MAC. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2018. For guidelines, visit [midwestarc.memberclicks.net/distinguished-service-award](http://midwestarc.memberclicks.net/distinguished-service-award). For more information, contact Ellen Swain at [eswain@illinois.edu](mailto:eswain@illinois.edu).

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## 2017 Archie Motley Scholarship Recipients Thank MAC



**Jessica Tai**

I am very grateful and incredibly honored to receive the 2017 Midwest Archives Conference Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Minority Students. As a person who is also of mixed-race descent, it is a special honor to receive this award named after the pioneering and passionate Archie Motley.

It was through my experience as an undergraduate fine arts major that I became interested in the role photography plays in the reinforcement of dominant discourses and the power it holds as a shaper of collective memory. At my first internship working with photographic collections at the Sierra Club Colby Library I realized the potential for photographs to serve as integral documents for social change, which led me to pursue a career as an archivist.

As I build a foundation of archival theory at the University of California, Los Angeles, I am finding ways to incorporate my perspective as a practicing artist, my experience within photographic archives, and my commitment to social justice to develop a practice that supports community empowerment and aids in the documentation of underrepresented communities. As the holders of collections that seek to reflect our shared histories, I see archives as integral agents in furthering the pursuit of social justice, and I strongly believe in the necessity of a diverse workforce to guide our institutions toward a more just and socially equitable future.

In my pursuit of a career as an archivist, my goal is to learn the skills I need to help advance diversity within the profession and to ensure the documentation and preservation of stories from historically misrepresented communities. As a mixed-race, first-generation American, I aim to draw upon my different way of understanding and occupying the world to continually develop a practice that questions, enriches, and forges new paths for the use of archival materials as tools for empowerment. The Archie Motley Scholarship has been an incredible stepping-stone toward reaching those goals. I sincerely thank MAC for its generous support!



**Chido Muchemwa**

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to the Midwest Archive Conference for awarding me the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Minority Students.

I was born and raised in Zimbabwe. I came to America to pursue a bachelor of arts in English and

French at the University of North Texas. I then went on to pursue a master of fine arts in creative writing at the University of Wyoming. It was during my MFA program that my interest in archives began. For my MFA thesis, I had to do some research in the National Archives of Zimbabwe. I was surprised by how very British the archives still are, and I began to wonder what it might mean to decolonize an archives. Before it became the National Archives of Zimbabwe, it was the National Archives of Rhodesia, and the process of decolonizing the institution has barely begun. The archives are inaccessible to most Zimbabweans, and even if the people went looking for their histories there, they would only find the colonizer's version of our history. Sitting in the archives, I wondered if I could be a part of that decolonizing process and if there was anything I could do to help preserve a more complete history of Zimbabwe.

When I returned to Wyoming after that research trip, I began an internship at the American Heritage Center, and my time there convinced me that I wanted to be in the archival field and has led me to where I am now. I am currently at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing my master of science in information studies. My specializations are archives and digital libraries. I am an intern at the Harry Ransom Center where I split my time between reference and research services, and digital collections services.

After I receive my master's degree, I plan to pursue a PhD in information. The plan is to continue my research on postcolonial archives. I am also concentrating on issues of access, particularly digital access. I am interested in researching archives as sites of power. I am also focused on looking into the idea of archives as weapons for authoritarian governments and how archives shape national narratives.

I am very grateful to have received the Archie Motley award. I will be using the award to cover the costs of applying to PhD programs. I am still relatively new to the archival field and receiving this award feels like a vote of confidence in my promise. Thank you so much.

## 2017 Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship Recipient Thanks MAC



### Treshani Perera

I remember my first MAC Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, back in 2015. I was a newbie archival studies graduate student and was excited and nervous to attend my first archives conference and present a poster. As an aspiring music archivist, I expected to feel

out of place and intimidated by the presence of archivists and leaders in the archives profession, but I ended up finding myself quite at home.

After attending the Annual Meeting in my hometown of Milwaukee in 2016, I made my way to MAC's 2017 Annual Meeting in Omaha. Attending this year's Annual Meeting was important, as it marked the end of a chapter in my professional career: it was my last Annual Meeting as a student. I am grateful to have learned from thoughtful archivists in the region both in formal educational settings and through workshops and archives conferences. Their commitment to social justice and preserving community stories continues to inspire me. What drew me to a career

as an archivist is simply a moral obligation to preserve the past and present for posterity. Today, as I near the completion of my graduate studies, I am still committed to this career path and to preserve human voices and experiences. I continue to be inspired by my "archival heroes" who continue to make noise and break ground with their daily work, from creating awareness of open government data and records in the digital age to community archiving and preservation of collections highlighting public protest and dissent.

I am extremely grateful to have received the Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship to wrap up the "last lap" of my MLIS degree with a concentration in archival studies. MAC's professional community has given me a place of belonging as a graduate student, a woman of color, and a nervous soon-to-be-graduate transitioning from student to professional status. Thank you to old and new professional connections for being part of my archival journey as a graduate student. I look forward to many more MAC meetings and to the ability to finally give back to this professional community through leadership and service opportunities. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Chicago next year!

## 2017 Emeritus Scholarship Winner Gives Thanks



### Hannah Weber

First, I would like to thank MAC and the Emeritus Scholarship Committee for providing me with the opportunity to attend the 2017 MAC Annual Meeting. I had a wonderful time meeting many of you and engaging with the archives community of the

Midwest. During the time of the Annual Meeting, I was right in the middle of my final semester of graduate school at Simmons College studying archives management while also working part time in the Archives Department at the La Crosse Public Library in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I attended Simmons remotely as the school is located in Boston, and, because of that, I mostly engaged with the New England archival community. Living and working in Wisconsin, this experience left me feeling as though I was on an island unaware of the challenges, opportunities, and trends within the midwestern archival community. Attending MAC has enabled me to collaborate and communicate with my regional community and also taught me big-picture skills, ideas, and other information to utilize both in school and at work.

In particular, the session “Cross-Disciplinary Interaction: Course Engagement beyond the History Major” helped to broaden my view on how to expand the use of archival materials in the classroom and creatively engage students in understanding and utilizing primary resources. Most of my school work focused mainly on the basic skills and functionality of the archives profession and really left students to their own devices, once on the job, to get creative about how to promote their collections and broaden their usage. My own experience working with students was mostly limited to National History Day, and I appreciated hearing how each university creatively engaged with departments other than history to stretch

the usability of their collections. I particularly enjoyed learning the different methods everyone had implemented to get students excited about working with archival materials. This session really made me reevaluate how I interact with archival collections and pushed me to think creatively when planning archives programs.

“Telling the Story of 1967–1968 in the North: Documenting Social Protest in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit” was another session that I found particularly beneficial to both my school and professional work. I found this session enlightening in that it provided me with sound examples of how to highlight collections, collaborate with other archival organizations, and engage and involve the community and stakeholders in archives programming and collections. In addition, after the presenters addressed the challenges they faced when creating their programs around social protest, this session made me think about what can be done now to ensure that in the future we have ample materials and records to document the social movements of today.

I have recently left the Midwest and relocated to Colorado Springs as I have joined the Pueblo City-County Library District in Pueblo, Colorado, as its archivist. Starting in my first full-time position as an archivist, I find myself looking back on my experience at the MAC Annual Meeting for guidance when approaching programming and best practices in my new position. I also recall during the Members’ Meeting when I heard someone reflect upon their experience as a long-time MAC member. They mentioned how at one point in their career they moved out of the Midwest and yet were encouraged to, and did, keep their MAC membership, and how that continued membership was beneficial to their career. Experiencing first-hand how valuable and rewarding being a member of MAC is, I also intend to remain a member and continue to engage with the midwestern archival community.

### A Very Archival Issues Word Search

By Alexandra A. A. Orchard, CA, Archival Issues Editorial Board Chair,  
Wayne State University

As conference season comes to a close, I thought we all could use a little fun! Below is a very *Archival Issues* word search. Find all the words listed below. Words may be found horizontally, vertically, and diagonally (words can be forward or backward). You will be left with 17 letters. Use these letters to create an 11-letter word that is what AI's Editorial Board is always accepting—from both new and experienced authors. Send any questions and your [unscrambled word] to AI Editorial Board Chair, Alexandra Orchard (alexandra@wayne.edu).

A	B	F	O	O	R	P	E	Y
R	N	O	E	I	S	N	E	D
T	F	T	R	M	D	I	S	U
I	I	R	E	N	R	S	I	T
C	S	D	O	T	A	S	V	S
L	S	T	E	H	F	U	E	E
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Words to find:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Article | <input type="checkbox"/> Edit    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Author  | <input type="checkbox"/> Endnote |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Case    | <input type="checkbox"/> Issue   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Study   | <input type="checkbox"/> Proof   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cite    | <input type="checkbox"/> Publish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draft   | <input type="checkbox"/> Review  |
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