President's Page

Jennifer Johnson
Cargill, jennifer_i_johnson@cargill.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/macnewsletter
Part of the Archival Science Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/macnewsletter/vol45/iss1/3

This President's Page is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in MAC Newsletter by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Dear MAC Members,

Our Annual Meeting this year in Omaha was fabulous and energizing. The sessions were thoughtful and well planned, and our breaks and reception were fun and engaging. Thank you to the Local Arrangements Committee cochairs Mary Ellen Ducey and Amy Schindler, Program Committee cochairs Sasha Griffin and Harrison Inefuku, and their tireless committee members for planning such an excellent meeting.

I would like to thank the members of Council I have worked with during my term as president, David McCartney, Erik Moore, Michael Doylen, Joel Thoreson, Mary Ellen Ducey, Anne Thomason, Jennie Thomas, Michelle Sweetser, Harrison Inefuku, and Anke Voss. MAC is a much richer organization because of your thoughtful insights, and I could not have done my job without you. I would also like to welcome new Council members Alexis Braun Marks and Lisa Sjoberg, who bring years of knowledge from their previous leadership experiences.

Thank you also to our outgoing ex officio Council members and committee chairs: Carol Street (development coordinator), Lisa Sjoberg (Education Committee cochair), Cheri Thies (Emeritus Scholarship chair), Alexis Braun Marks (Membership Committee chair), Paul Eisloeffel (Newsletter editor), Mary Ellen Ducey (Nominating Committee chair), Tanya Zanish-Belcher (President’s Award Committee chair), and Miriam Kahn (vendor coordinator). I greatly appreciate your hard work and commitment to the organization.

And, a big welcome to our new ex officio Council members and committee chairs. We are looking forward to your continuing contributions to MAC: Becca Smith (development coordinator), Amy Bishop (Education Committee cochair), Emily Gainer (Emeritus Scholarship chair), Matthew Gorzalski (Membership Committee chair), Eric Willey (Newsletter editor), Anne Thomason (Nominating Committee chair), Ellen Swain (President’s Award Committee chair), and Katie Blank (vendor coordinator).

And now, I would like to share my “State of MAC” address, given at the Members’ Meeting on April 7, 2017.

(Continued on page 5)
MAC NEWS—Continued
Mary Wallace, Assistant Editor

President’s Page
(Continued from page 2)

State of MAC

These past two years, it has been an honor to serve you, the membership, as MAC president. What I have come to appreciate about MAC is our willingness to tackle change. We repeatedly learn from the previous year and try to improve for the next. There is a willingness to try new things and there is energy around this continuous improvement.

You may recall last year we ran into a problem with our election and membership system, allowing members who had not renewed to vote in MAC elections. Thanks to the work of the Election Review Committee, led by Secretary Michael Doylen, a number of changes were implemented for this year’s election. We made procedural improvements. We established a renewal deadline: if you have not renewed by the end of January, you are not eligible to vote in elections. And, we shortened the election timeframe. After discovering that members vote on the day or day after they receive an e-mail reminder about the election, we implemented a reminder schedule. This proved to be true this year as well and with a shortened election period, about the same number of members voted in this year’s election: 198 individual votes were cast, that’s 31 percent of individual members. Your votes really do influence who the next leaders of MAC will be.

This year, Michael Doylen and Abigail Nye at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM), the home of the MAC archives, formulated a records retention policy for MAC records. This was approved by Council at our meeting yesterday morning. As records keepers, we now have official guidelines for documenting the work of managing MAC. The policy provides a framework for ensuring the preservation and accessibility of core documentation of the work of the organization. And, it communicates to MAC leaders and members how records of enduring value will be collected and maintained by the UWM Archives. Thank you Michael and Abbi for your work on this effort.

As Joel Thoreson noted in his treasurer’s report, not only do we have an expected deficit this year, but he has uttered the dreaded words, “dues increase.” Cost planning is a part of the current strategic plan for a number of reasons, including noted increases in the amount we pay hotels for meetings. AV costs always need a stiff negotiation, and food and beverage costs continue to go up. I would love to ask you to eat less, but I cannot because we have food and beverage minimums to meet, so please, keep eating. For two years in a row we have not met room blocks with our symposia and have had to pay the hotels. And, the realization that while a dues increase may in fact be necessary, we can only ask members to increase the amount they pay to be a member of MAC by only so many dollars, and only so many times. Council will be thinking long-term about how to manage dues increases, meeting registration rates, and fund-raising, but also membership. A large part of our budget depends on membership renewals, and individual memberships have fallen to 637 people, when four years ago we were at an all-time high of 732 individual members. While this year’s budget is not based on the membership numbers of four years ago, the loss of a hundred members does affect the financial stability of the organization. Council will be balancing how to keep MAC cost effective for members while improving our budget.

In addition to budget discussions, which will take place in the fall, Council will be looking at the symposia. MAC has offered Fall Symposia in place of a fall meeting for 10 years. The symposia offer excellent opportunities for smaller groups to come together to learn and investigate topics more thoroughly. Yet, in the area of expenses there has been some scope creep, to the point where, administratively and financially speaking, aspects of the symposia require planning similar to that of our spring meetings. Vice President Erik Moore will be leading a Symposia Task Force to review and evaluate all aspects of MAC symposia to make recommendations about their future organization and structure. To determine how to keep the symposia cost-effective for the organization and members, as well as educationally beneficial, the committee will make recommendations for improving and continuing them.

Last year, our plenary speaker, Dennis Meissner, spoke about “Diversity, Inclusion, Value, and Engagement.” This year, 50 of us were fortunate enough to attend the “Cultural Diversity Competency” workshop instructed by Helen Wong Smith the Wednesday before the Annual Meeting. We were challenged to learn new skills for interacting and engaging people of different backgrounds, assumptions, beliefs, values, and behaviors. MAC will be exploring how to best serve the diverse range of archivists in our region. We can’t continue to rely on the Archie Motley Scholarship to be our most public contribution

(Continued on page 6)
President’s Page (Continued from page 5)

to diversifying the profession. Does our organization reflect the communities that we serve, and if it does not, what can we do to better reflect our communities? How do we improve the pipeline into the profession and into leadership positions? We provide the option to include preferred pronouns on our name badges, now how do we encourage people to use them? We will be looking to you, our members, to guide how best to help our organization better reflect our region and respond to member needs. We need you to engage in discussion about these issues.

To better understand who are our members, we will be conducting a MAC census this spring. Thank you to Daardi Sizemore and Alexis Braun Marks for your hard work on developing the survey. Expect to see announcements in your e-mail about the member census shortly after you return home from Omaha. Questions will focus on demographic information, but also seek to understand professional engagement, barriers members face in seeking employment and professional development, and the member benefits that you value most. Before we begin campaigning for new members, and as we seek to understand how to be a more inclusive organization, we want to better understand who we are. Your assistance in completing the census will be greatly appreciated.

In closing, it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve you these past two years. It has been a learning experience, and I am grateful for the thoughtful conversations I have had in Council and with committee chairs, and, most important, with members. I am continually impressed with the time and energy you voluntarily invest in our organization, and I go away inspired and energized after simply spending time with you. I am proud to have contributed to a small part of MAC’s 45-year history and to MAC’s continued success for the next 45 years.

Thank you,