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MAC News

Midwest Archives Conference

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2017 Awards

Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship

The Archie Motley Scholarship for Minority Students Committee received five complete applications during the 2017 cycle. Committee members were impressed with all five applications and wished that they could make more than two awards. However, they came to a consensus on two top candidates and awarded the scholarships to Chido Muchemwa and Jessica Tai.

Chido Muchemwa is a second semester master of science in information studies student at the University of Texas at Austin. Her archival experience already includes working as a graduate research associate at the Harry Ransom Center, processing a collection at the Stark Center for physical culture and sports, and working on exhibits and outreach at the American Heritage Center while receiving her MFA from the University of Wyoming. She is active in student SAA and AMIA chapters, and has joined SAA, the Society of Southwest Archivists, and the African Studies Association. Her references lauded her as an “outstanding and committed student” with “considerable archival expertise, [an] international perspective, and a grounded cultural competence.”

Muchemwa’s powerful essay described her decision to pursue a career in archives while researching her family history at the National Archives of Zimbabwe for her MFA thesis. It wasn’t what she found in the archives that inspired her, but what she didn’t find; her career goals involve returning to Zimbabwe to work toward decolonizing and democratizing its National Archives.

Jessica Tai is in her second quarter at UCLA’s masters in library and information science program, for which she also received an Asian Pacific American Library Association scholarship and a processing fellowship through UCLA’s Special Collections Library. She has a background in photography and has used it in her archival fieldwork involving glass conservation, maritime research, the Sierra Club, and the Oakland Public Library History Room, and she is planning a community-based photographic preservation workshop with the Los Angeles Archivists Collective. She is active in her student SAA chapter and serves on the Diversity Subcommittee of the Los Angeles Archivists Collective and the Scholarships and Awards Committee of the Asian Pacific American Library Association. She has joined the ALA and the Society of California Archivists.

Tai’s essay tied archives to social justice (via photography), argued for equal access and representation, and expressed a strong commitment to workforce diversity and impact. Her references praised her as a “creative and critical thinker” and noted her “superior skills at planning and implementing original programming” for archival outreach, such as a “craftersnoon” event using archival reproductions from activist groups.

Archival Issues: A Big Thanks and a Hearty Welcome!

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

Since 2011, *Archival Issues*’ readers have benefited from Elizabeth Engel’s stewardship. As publications review editor, Engel ensured the reviews section of our journal flourished, providing analysis of the latest archival books and technologies. Her editorial acumen gave readers insight and helped new and seasoned authors alike hone their voices.

It is fitting that the next person serving as publications review editor was one of these voices. Please join me in welcoming Brandon Pieczko as *Archival Issues*’ new publications review editor. Pieczko’s term runs from June 2017 through May 2019. I look forward to collaborating with him and hope that some of you will join us by sending in submissions.

If you have any questions about article ideas (tip: conference presentations make great articles!), transitioning your presentation or poster into an article, or submissions, please feel free to contact me at alexandra@wayne.edu, *Archival Issues* Editorial Board chair. As a reminder, we encourage contributions from both new and experienced authors.

Emeritus Scholarship for First-Time MAC Attendees



*Hannah Weber,
recipient of the Emeritus
Scholarship for First-
Time MAC Attendees*

The Emeritus Scholarship for First-Time MAC Attendees Committee received four very strong applications. After careful consideration and lots of discussion, the committee decided to award one \$500 scholarship to **Hannah L. Weber**. Weber currently works as an associate librarian in archives and local history at the La Crosse Public Library Archives in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and is completing an online graduate degree in archives management at Simmons College, Boston. She stated that she was “excited to

learn about and engage with the archival community in the Midwest” and wanted to attend “sessions that discuss archives collaboration and new ways to reach out to potential users” so she could learn from her “professional peers and discuss their successes, challenges, and best practices.” Hopefully, with the help of the Emeritus Scholarship her first MAC meeting lived up to her expectations.

Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration



*Treshani Perera,
recipient of the Louisa
Bowen Memorial
Scholarship*

The Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration Committee was very pleased to award the scholarship to a student who has an extremely bright future in the archival profession. **Treshani Perera** was chosen as this year’s recipient of the 2017 Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship. Perera is a current student at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. She plans on graduating in May of 2017 with coordinated master of library and information studies

and master of music in music history degrees. Her career aspiration is to become a music archivist or work as a music special collections librarian in an academic library.

Perera has presented posters at MAC and SAA annual conferences for the past two years. Last year, she was chosen as one of three Archival Fellows at the Rutgers University Institute of Jazz Studies, where she processed her first archival music collection. She has also been a project intern for the SAA 75th Anniversary Oral History Project. Perera also serves as the president of UW–Milwaukee’s Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists and has been instrumental in reinvigorating that group.

On top of all of that, Perera consistently maintains an excellent grade-point average. All of these facts strongly point toward the Bowen Scholarship being awarded to a student with a bright future in the archives profession who will continue to represent Louisa Bowen’s legacy in a very positive fashion.

2017 Awards

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Emeritus Membership Award

This year, the Membership Committee voted to award emeritus member status to two long-standing members and contributors to the Midwest Archives Conference, Mark Greene and Cheri Thies.

Mark Greene, nominated by Colleen McFarland Rademaker, traveled from Wyoming to accept his award. Greene joined MAC in 1985 when he was the archivist at Carleton College. He served on Council from 1992 to 1995, as president from 1995 to 1997, and as chair of the Editorial Board of *Archival Issues* from 1999 to 2003. He remained a member of MAC even after moving out of the region to serve as the director of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming in 2002. As McFarland Rademaker noted in her nomination letter: “Of course, Mark’s service to MAC extends beyond his work within the organization. I think of Mark as a MAC ambassador who introduced the many gifts of midwestern archivists to the larger archival world. While our geographical region may be ‘flyover country’ to many Americans, American archivists know it as the incubator of MPLP, formidable thinking about archival theory and practice, and the courage to deaccession boxes of useless junk sitting in the corner of the archives. Mark put MAC and the Midwest on the archival map in a most unforgettable way.”

Cheri Thies, nominated by Meagan Kellom, has been an active member of MAC since 1977 when she joined the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. Thies served the organization not only as a program participant, public information officer, and *Newsletter* editor, but as the chair of multiple committees (Education Committee, 1990–1994; Local Arrangements Committee in 1986 and 1993; Presidents’ Award Committee, 2003–2009; and MAC Emeritus Scholarship Committee, 2014–2017); and as a member of Council from 1995 to 1998 and as president from 2001 to 2003. As Kellom noted in her nomination letter: “[Thies] continuously promoted being active in the organization among her colleagues and coworkers, making us feel welcome in the organization even though we were new professionals and had no experience or involvement with conferences or professional organizations.”

It seems fitting that Mark Greene and Cheri Thies were awarded emeritus status at the same meeting, given the work that they did together for MAC, which most notably included redesigning and reinvigorating the *MAC Newsletter* to make it the carrier of more and better content for members. It was a privilege to award emeritus status to both Mark Greene and Cheri Thies at the Members’ Meeting in Omaha in April. They are without question deserving of an honor that was created to recognize those who have contributed to the success, growth, and visibility of MAC through committee work, programming, outreach, and governance.

President's Award

MAC honored the recipients of its Presidents' Award during the Annual Meeting held in Omaha, Nebraska. The chancellors of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul, **Joseph Kueppers** and **Susan Mulheron**, received recognition during the MAC Members' Meeting on Friday, April 7, 2017.

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 selects recipients from nominations submitted by committees in each of the 13 states in the MAC region.

Awardees Susan Mulheron and Joseph Kueppers are both attorneys who serve as chancellors of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul. As their nominator stated, "These two attorneys have repeatedly fought on behalf of the archives at the highest levels of the organization. Although they do not work in the archives directly, they understand the intrinsic value of preserving and making accessible the archdiocese's long and storied history. Because of their outstanding advocacy the archives has made outstanding progress forward despite considerable challenges faced by the institution."

The chancellors of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis have been instrumental in the development of a twenty-first-century archives and records management program.

Susan Mulheron championed the archdiocese's move from paper to electronic records. Because of her executive-level support, the Archives and Records Department was able to design, test, and implement a CRM database to manage clergy and parish records. As a result, all stakeholders now have access to this critical institutional information. Even more exciting, Mulheron advocated for the purchase of electronic records management software, and the Archives and Records Department has started on what will be a 10-year process to digitize 150 years' worth of bishops' and archbishops' correspondence, along with other major collections in its holdings. This will allow the archives to make information far more readily available to genealogists and researchers.

Joseph Kueppers has also gone far above and beyond in his advocacy for the archives. In particular, he fought for the archives as it recently undertook a move across town to a new corporate headquarters. While searching for a new building, Kueppers, who co-led the building selection committee, kept the needs of the archives paramount. He found a location with a secure space for the archives that was large enough to contain its considerable holdings. Kueppers also ensured that the new building was fitted with a dry fire suppression system in the archives area. Additionally, he fought to make sure the archives has an independent HVAC system to regulate temperature and humidity in the stacks. As the archives liaison, he also worked tirelessly to make sure that the movers, the building's current owners, and the construction crew—folks not familiar with archives—understood the value, fragility, and security issues inherent with the materials. Due largely to Kuepper's efforts, the Archives and Records Department is now located in a larger, better-designed, and more secure space than the institution has ever before afforded its archives.