Do You Love MAC?

Why not share your love of MAC and the Annual Meeting with a new meeting attendee and/or new member? The MAC PALS program is in need of MAC members to serve as guides to new meeting attendees. Meet them at a prereception event to talk shop, speed-mentor, and share your must-dos for the Annual Meeting.

Interested in becoming a PAL? Not sure if you qualify, but might be interested? Please contact the MAC pals coordinator, Natalie Morath, at macpalsprogram@gmail.com.

2015 Annual Meeting: “MAC in the Bluegrass State”
Lexington, Kentucky, May 6–9, 2015

Come on down and join MAC in the Bluegrass State May 6–9! The Annual Meeting this year will be in Lexington, Kentucky, and between what the Program Committee, Local Arrangements Committee, and Education Committee have distilled down, you will have plenty to see, do, and think about.

The 2015 Fall Symposium: “Hard Skills for Managing Digital Collections in Archives”
Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 18–19, 2015

Did you panic when a donor handed you a hard drive as a part of a recent accession? Are you wondering what to do with the floppy discs that you just uncovered in an existing collection? Want to start collecting digital materials, but simply don’t know where to begin? If you are struggling to bring your collections into the digital age, then the MAC 2015 Fall
The Program and Education Committees wanted to make sure sessions and workshops are diverse and include topics that haven’t appeared much at MAC meetings in the past 10 years. Be sure to check out preconference workshops Wednesday and Thursday mornings on accessioning and ingest of electronic records (offered by SAA as part of the Digital Archives Specialist [DAS] certification); implementing the Archivematica software; best practices for electronic records management; and arranging and describing archival collections.

The Education Committee is also offering brown bag lunch Q&A mini-sessions again this year on archives management and thinking strategically about your career path. These brown bags will take place on Friday at lunchtime.

Session topics Thursday afternoon through Saturday morning run the gamut from electronic records and metadata management to assessment, change management, donor relations, archival literacy and education, and more!

Want to get advice about managing your own shop as a lone arranger? Want to learn more about identifying and digitizing your audiovisual materials? Getting ready to take on new interns, or getting ready to leave school and join the profession full time? Dealing with big data or trying to start a social media program for your institution? Need some advice about tools you can use to batch process digital files your institution is creating or receiving? No matter what your professional duties and personal interests, we think you’ll find something that speaks to you.

The Program Committee especially encouraged a wide variety of session types, and submitters responded with enthusiasm. Don’t expect just the traditional panel sessions—there’ll be lightning rounds, world cafes, speed geeking, mini-workshops during session times, and other exciting ways to interact with and learn from your peers. Students and new professionals also get the chance to present their research during two different poster sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Come out and support the next generation of archivists!

If that isn’t enough, you will definitely want to come to the plenary session Thursday afternoon with keynote speaker Joel Pett. Pett is a four-time Pulitzer finalist for editorial cartoons—and the winner in 2000—and has been at the Lexington Herald-Leader since 1984. His cartoons have appeared in a wide variety of national publications, including the Washington Post, the New York Times, Time, and Newsweek, and he was a longtime contributor to USA Today. Pett’s presentation, “NSA/TMI: Satire for the Too-Much-Information Age,” is sure to make you laugh and think.

Along with making you think, your trip to Lexington will also give you a chance to catch up with colleagues from the MAC region. Prior to the start of the conference, the Local Arrangements Committee has arranged several tours for Thursday morning, including trips to the Buffalo Trace Distillery, Transylvania University, and Berea College. Be sure to sign up quickly, because these tours will fill up fast! Later that day, the opening reception at the Carrick House will introduce you to Kentucky-inspired food and square-dancing fun. Friday brings even more excitement with a MAC Happy Hour, which includes a bourbon tasting and documentary screening. Check out the program for more information about what is available to see and do in Lexington while you are in town.

The teams planning the Annual Meeting this May are excited about what’s to come in Lexington, and we all hope you are too!
Symposium, “Hard Skills for Managing Digital Collections in Archives,” is for you!

This Symposium is specifically designed to help archivists build the digital proficiency they need to successfully work with and preserve born-digital collections. Led by Bertram Lyons, senior consultant at AVPreserve and archivist and digital assets manager at the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, this two-day event will immerse you in practical, detailed, hands-on demonstrations, introducing you to tools of the trade and teaching you essential skills. You will learn options for tools to use, when to use them, and how to document outcomes from their use. Sessions will give advice on metadata management, include practical training on how to use open source or low-cost software to manage data sets, and provide guidance on how to think about setting up a digital preservation program at your own institution.

The Symposium will be held September 18–19, 2015, in the beautiful Depot Renaissance Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Located in the heart of downtown, the Depot Renaissance is connected to Target Field, MSP Airport, and the Mall of America by light rail and is conveniently situated within walking distance of some of Minneapolis’s top attractions: the Guthrie Theater, Nicollet Mall, and Mill City Museum. While you’re in town, be sure to join us on a Friday night restaurant tour to explore the city’s vibrant culinary scene!

More details on the Symposium will be coming this summer, along with registration information. In the meantime, mark your calendars for what is sure to be a useful and informative event!
Speakers Bureau Pilot Project Update

The MAC Speakers Bureau pilot project is pleased to announce two workshop offerings in spring 2015.

On Monday, March 30, the Chicago Area Archivists will host a workshop entitled “Records and Information Management: Making It Work for You” at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus. Led by Joanne Kaczmarek, electronic records archivist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the workshop will introduce you to the commonalities and differences between records managers and archivists and will explore the concept of “the record.” You will learn about common records categories and associated retention requirements; be introduced to the complexities of electronic records in the context of records retention and disposal; and receive tips and practical tools for building a records and information management program that augments and supports your archival program.

A second workshop in late spring at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, Kansas, will focus on conserving archival paper materials. Whitney Baker, conservator at the University of Kansas, is the workshop presenter.

In addition, the Education Committee is working with Digital POWRR (Preserving digital Objects with Restricted Resources) to bring preservation workshops to underserved areas of MAC. (See digitalpowrr.niu.edu.) The Digital POWRR project recently received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Preservation and Access to conduct a minimum of six workshops across the country over the course of 2015–2016 to continue providing “practical, hands-on solutions for information professionals from small and under-funded institutions looking to begin digital preservation practices.” We look forward to this collaboration.

Previous workshops in the Speakers Bureau series were “Moving Images: An Introduction for Archivists,” led by Paul Eisloeffel in collaboration with the Missouri SHRAB in Jefferson City, Missouri (May 30, 2014), and “Strategic Planning for Small Archival Programs,” led by Colleen McFarland in collaboration with the Society of Indiana Archivists in Muncie, Indiana (July 18, 2014). All past and upcoming workshops were/will be held free of charge. MAC provided the funding for each speaker’s honorarium and travel reimbursements.

The Education Committee will present its two-year pilot report to MAC Council at the Lexington Annual Meeting.