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Timothy Borbely
Wayne State University

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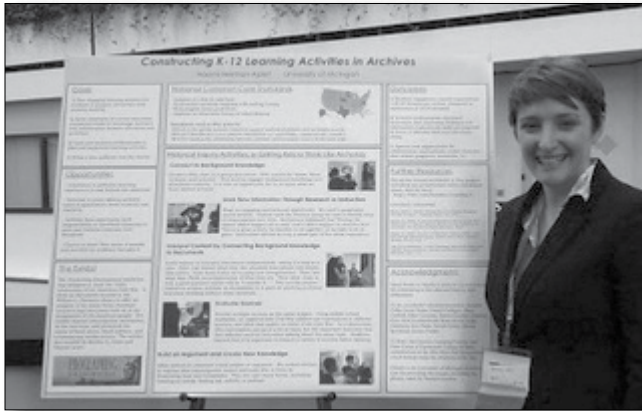
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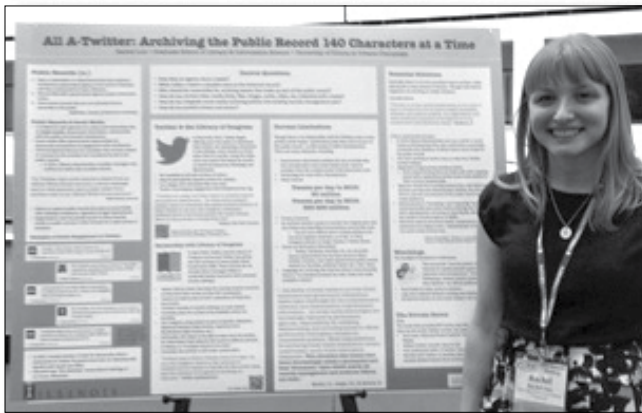
Up-and-Comers: News for Student Archivists—Justin Seidler, Assistant Editor

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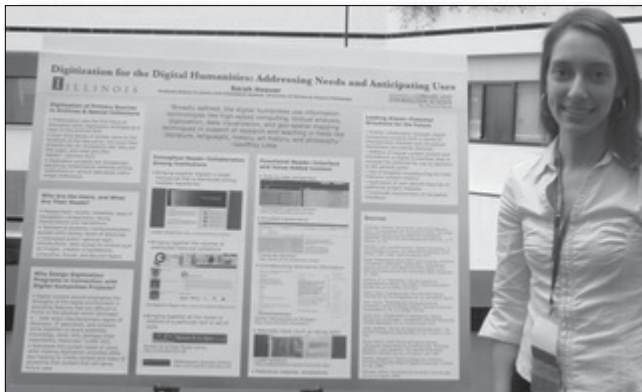
This year, we had 14 great student posters at the Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting. Each poster was judged on poster content (value to the profession), originality of the topic, and how the topic was presented. Congratulations to the 2013 winners of the student poster presentation contest!



1st place—Naomi Herman-Aplet for “Constructing K–12 Learning Activities in Archives.”



2nd place—Rachel Lux for “All A-Twitter: Archiving the Public Record 140 Characters at a Time.”



3rd place—Sarah Hoover for “Digitization for the Digital Humanities: Addressing Needs and Anticipating Uses.”

On the Road with Douglas Pappas: A Graduate Student’s Perspective on Processing a Collection

By Timothy Borbely,
Wayne State University MLIS candidate

Douglas Pappas (1961–2004) was a traveler, a road enthusiast, a lawyer, a collector, and a huge fan of baseball. His archive contains materials dating from 1913 to 2004, with a bulk from 1985 to 2004. It is comprised of 3 boxes relating to the modern Lincoln Highway Association, 34 travel albums/scrapbooks (36 manuscript boxes), 6 postcard boxes (approximately 3,700 postcards), and around 502 books that were separated. Over the course of 16 weeks, I processed the University of Michigan Special Collections Library’s Douglas Pappas Archive of the Transportation History Collection. The collection was chosen for processing due to its content on the Lincoln Highway, which celebrates its centennial in 2013 and will be commemorated by an exhibit at the University of Michigan Hatcher Graduate Library. Pappas’s story, as well my experience processing the materials, is best told by examining three of the four series that make up the Douglas Pappas Archive: Lincoln Highway Association, Travel Albums/Scrapbooks, and Postcards.

Lincoln Highway Association

The Lincoln Highway was one of the first transcontinental highways in the United States, and its construction was funded, as well as planned, by the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA). Led by Carl Fisher, the LHA was headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, and was active from 1911 until the mid-1930s. The highway, original parts of which are still in use today, spans around 3,389 miles (5,454 kilometers) from Times Square in New York City to San Francisco. Records from the original LHA now reside at the University of Michigan Special Collections Library.

In 1992, the LHA was reconstituted with a desire to conserve the Lincoln Highway and preserve its history. The modern LHA also promotes research, public awareness, and tourism.¹ Currently, there are LHA state chapters in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. Pappas was the director of the New York chapter and was extremely involved with the modern organization. He saved newsletters from almost every state chapter, including copies of *The Lincoln Highway Forum*, the official quarterly journal of the LHA.



Lincoln Highway, De Kalb, Illinois. Courtesy, University of Michigan Special Collections Library.

This project was beneficial because it provided experience with processing traditional business records that document organizational history. The collection includes a variety of materials such as ephemera, manuscripts, correspondence, reports, planning documents, and even printed e-mails and website documents. Rather than saving the born-digital information to some sort of storage medium, Pappas chose to print out the electronic documents.

Travel Albums/Scrapbooks

The Travel Albums/Scrapbooks series is certainly one of the most interesting parts of the collection, but also the most challenging. Pappas created the albums to document his lengthy road trips during which he traveled almost every stretch of the numbered highway system in the United States. He would frequently make transcontinental loops, starting on the East Coast and driving all the way to the West Coast and then back using a different route.

Within these albums, Pappas often illustrated his journeys with maps and itineraries, down to the exact mile he traveled. Pappas's personality comes through in his unique commentary that narrates almost every single page of the albums with an often humorous style. The albums are filled with photographs, postcards, and souvenirs. At times, he would document a single route, such as the Lincoln Highway, Route 66, or the Oregon Trail. Other trips were based on regions of the United States or more specifically, numbered highways. This made describing the albums difficult because a single album often comprised several trips, and the pages were frequently without dates, which required investigative work to discover.

These albums also exhibit Pappas's love for baseball and his involvement with the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), where he served as chairman of the

Business of Baseball Committee starting in 1994. Pappas became a national authority on the business and economics of baseball; he acted as a consultant for ESPN and published many articles on the topic. His travels led him to dozens of baseball stadiums around the United States. Today, SABR presents the annual Doug Pappas Award at its annual convention. The award is given for the best oral research presentation.

The albums themselves posed several preservation issues that required attention. They contained corroded metal and materials assembled on highly acidic sticky magnetic photo sheets. The question was how to deal with these issues while still preserving the original order of the albums. One solution was to scan every page to document Pappas's arrangement of materials and commentary. Due to time and resource constraints, a digitization project of this size was not feasible. Another solution was to buy acid-free materials and replicate the pages of the albums by arranging them identically to the original. This, however, was even more meticulous and time consuming. Ultimately, after consulting with the project supervisor, we decided that the best decision was to remove the album pages from the deteriorating housing and to file the pages within acid-free folders. Each album was given a volume number to make the organization easier for researchers. Future plans include sending the albums to the University of Michigan's conservation department for further preservation and analysis.

Postcards

The Postcards series focuses on US highways numbered from 1 to 101, with an entire box devoted to the Lincoln Highway. They date from around 1917 into the early 1970s, centering on a variety of subjects, including hotels, motels, motor lodges, inns, bridges, tunnels, restaurants/cafes, attractions, monuments, landscapes, and greetings and salutations. These postcards hold great research value as they preserve the visual history of many roadside locations that no longer exist or are presently unrecognizable due to deterioration. The environments that developed along these highways were unique to the time periods in which they evolved. With his avid collecting, Pappas was able to effectively preserve great pieces of American culture that otherwise may have been lost.

Pappas so delicately organized and preserved the six boxes with acid-free products that much of the arranging was already done. As a result, there was no need to alter

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the original order because the series was presentable for research as it was donated.² To enhance the use of the collection, however, it was necessary to further label the highway sections by state. In addition, it was necessary to number the postcards within their respective sections. The item counts were mainly to provide researchers with accurate information regarding the content and order of the series, as well as to establish security measures necessary to maintain the integrity of the collection.

Conclusion

Throughout his 42 years, Pappas's painstaking efforts of collecting and conscious documentation led to the creation of a personal archives that holds a wealth of information that otherwise might never have been saved. The wide variety of materials that comprise the Douglas Pappas Archive exemplifies the necessary tasks undertaken, and issues commonly addressed, when processing archival and manuscript collections. Thus, the project demonstrates

to up-and-coming archivists a professional approach to both the methodology of archival work and the real-life obstacles and constraints presented therein. For additional insight into Pappas's travels and interest in baseball, his personal websites are preserved online through SABR.³

Notes

1. *Lincoln Highway Association*, accessed April 28, 2013, <http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/>.
2. Frank Boles, "Disrespecting Original Order," *American Archivist* 45, no. 1 (1982): 26–32.
3. Douglas Pappas, Roadside Photos, accessed April 28, 2013, <http://roadsidephotos.sabr.org/>.



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