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Vice President’s Column: MAC Meetings Update

Douglas Bicknese, Vice President, Midwest Archives Conference

The 2010 Annual Meeting in Chicago was a great success. The committees found themselves with the pleasant challenge of making last-minute adjustments to handle record attendance that broke even the most optimistic estimates. I’d like to thank the Program Committee, cochaired by Bart Ryckbosch and Janet Carleton, for the outstanding sessions and plenary speakers. The Local Arrangements Committee, cochaired by Janet Olson and Morgen Maclntosh Hodgetts, also did a great job of organizing the hotel activities, the reception, and tours. If you were torn between two sessions taking place at the same time and want to know what you missed, many of the presentations are now available on-line on the MAC Web site at http://www.midwestarchives.org/.

Dayton, Ohio, October 21–23, 2010
The final pieces are being put into place for the 2010 Fall Symposium. In this time of rapid change and shrinking budgets, user studies are an important, but often overlooked, part of a successful archival program. Through presentations, group discussions, and hands-on activities at Wright State University’s Nutter Center, you will develop an understanding of the fundamental methodologies and the practical skills necessary for successful implementation of archival user studies. Be sure to see the cover story on the symposium to learn more about the speakers and topics.

St Paul, Minnesota, April 28–30, 2011
St. Paul is almost ready for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Great meetings depend on great session proposals—be sure to share your session ideas with the Program Committee this summer. The committee, cochaired by Lynn Smith and Alison Stankrauff, will be glad to work with you to put the polishing touches on any ideas you have. Meanwhile, Ann Kenne, Karen Spilman, and the Local Arrangements Committee are busy working on events at the Crown Plaza St. Paul–Riverfront hotel and the Wabasha Street Caves.

Sioux City, Iowa, Fall 2011
The 2011 Fall Symposium will focus on the challenges of preserving and providing access to magnetic tape. Every repository has a collection of audio- and videotapes that contain priceless recordings, yet few have a dedicated staff of specialists who can advise on how to handle them. This symposium gathers archivists and engineers to discuss the basics of magnetic audio and video media. Paul Eisloeffel, Lisa Carter, and David McCartney have begun identifying presenters to cover topics such as history of the media, physical characteristics, preservation issues, format obsolescence, collections management, description, use, and options for reformatting. For those of you unfamiliar with western Iowa, Sioux City is a medium-size city located along the banks of the Missouri River. During breaks in the symposium, be sure to explore its noted prairie school, Romanesque revival, and other styles of architecture as well as the new Sioux City Public Museum.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 19–21, 2012
The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, located off the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids near the brand new Grand Rapids Art Museum. It is also a short walk from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, which will host the reception. Keep your eyes open for additional information on the reception site, tours, and other meeting attractions.

It has been a great two years as vice president. I’ve enjoyed working with all of the MAC members on the Symposium Organizing committees, Local Arrangements committees, and Program committees, and watching all of the meetings fall into place. If you have ideas for future MAC meetings, be sure to share them with Mark Shelstad, who will be guiding all of MAC’s meetings to success during the next two years.

Upcoming MAC Meeting Sites and Dates

Fall Symposium, 2010
Dayton, Ohio
October 22–23, 2010

Annual Meeting, 2011
St. Paul, Minnesota
April 28–30, 2011

Fall Symposium, 2011
Sioux City, IA
Fall 2011

Annual Meeting, 2012
Grand Rapids, Michigan
April 19–21, 2012