Up-and-Comers: News for Student Archivists

Midwest Archives Conference
Innovative UW-Madison Students Fashion New Tribal Libraries Class

Four students who instituted a groundbreaking tribal libraries, archives, and museums (TLAM) class at the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s (UW-Madison) School of Library and Information Studies gave a presentation on the origin and results of the class at a national conference in October in Portland, Oregon.

Catherine Phan, a 2009 graduate of UW-Madison’s program, and master’s students Omar Polder, Christina Johnson, and Christina Cieslewicz presented “Relationship Building with Library and Information Studies” at the Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (TALM) conference. The initial TLAM class and the idea to present at the conference grew out of a project with the Red Cliff Tribal Library in northern Wisconsin in 2008. At that time, three students conducted a community-needs study regarding the library and its viability.

From that project sprang the idea of a class on tribal libraries, archives, and museums in the state. Ten students enrolled in the class in spring 2009, collaboratively creating the class syllabus and enlisting speakers from the campus and the community, as well as visiting tribal archives, libraries, and museums around the state. The class also produced a Web site and a blog, which continue to be used. Not only did the TALM conference provide the UW-Madison students a chance to share their experience, it also served as an opportunity for the TLAM class to have a permanent place in tribal library literature. Phan, Polder, and Johnson were asked to contribute a chapter chronicling the class history to Loriene Roy’s upcoming book, Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums: Preserving Our Language, Memory, and Lifeways.

The TLAM class continues this spring at UW-Madison with 15 students. Further work to maintain relationships with the Red Cliff Library and other tribal librarians, archivists, historians, and museum workers around the state continues. For more about the TLAM class and project, visit http://tlam999.wordpress.com/, and look for the TLAM page on Facebook.

Christina Cieslewicz is a master’s student on the archives track in the School of Library and Information Studies at the UW-Madison. She expects to graduate in 2011 and can be reached at cieslewicz@wisc.edu.

Indiana University SAA Chapter Eyes Professional Development

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) Student Chapter at Indiana University, Bloomington, is currently involved in several projects to help provide professional development activities for archives and special collections students. Academic Chair Valerie Higgins, with the assistance of the Academic Committee, organized a March conference for students and beginning professionals at the Lilly Library.

Additionally, with the help of Outreach Chair Sara Szakaly and sponsor Dina Kellams, we are currently partnering with the Indiana University Archives to provide archives students with opportunities to solicit, collect, and process the records of student organizations on the IU campus. Several of the participants have already met with student organizations and are currently processing their records. Our outreach chair also organizes our yearly participation as judges in National History Day in Indiana. We enjoy encouraging students in grades 4 through 12 in their research projects and like seeing how students are using archives, museums, and historical centers for this event.

Events Chair Amy Jankowski is continuing our tours of archives, history centers, and special collections repositories, which allow our members to become familiar with different organizations and methods, as well as the types of opportunities available at these repositories. Fund-raising Chair and Vice President Bethany Burkhardt-Fiechter has developed and implemented a number of fund-raising events to support our activities, and has created an ongoing plan for future officers.

As president, I cannot say enough about how much I have appreciated all of our officers, their hard work and talent, as well as the valuable contributions of our members! For more information about Indiana University’s SAA student chapter, please visit http://www.indiana.edu/~saarchiv/index.html.

Jessica Moad is president of Indiana University’s Society of American Archivists Student Chapter. She plans to graduate in May and can be reached at jemoad@umail.iu.edu.

No Rest for the Weary at Wright State

Wright State University’s SAA Student Chapter (WSU SAA) has been busy. Most recently, we organized a trip for seven students to attend the MAC annual meeting
in Chicago, but 2009 also was a busy year. WSU SAA helped sponsor a meet-and-greet event with Smithsonian Air and Space curator and Wright brothers’ biographer Tom Crouch. Although not an archivist, Crouch provided insight into what it is like to work at a world-class museum and other topics related to public history. WSU SAA also cosponsored a welcome-back event for students. This provided several students a venue in which they were able to present posters about their summer internships. Finally, three members assisted WSU archivists in acquiring Dayton’s Woodland Cemetery collection. The cemetery is one of the nation’s oldest rural cemeteries and the final resting place of Orville and Wilbur Wright. The collection is currently being processed.

Speaking of the Wright brothers, WSU SAA President Jeremy Feador recently assisted in packing up a collection of Dayton Engineers Club records. Prominent Daytonians, including “first-in-flight” Orville Wright, formed the club. Currently, several members are processing collections in a course called “Advanced Archival Problems.” Under the watchful eye of two WSU archivists, each student is paired up with a collection and has the entire quarter to arrange and describe the collection. This class is not only a great way to learn how to process, but it also adds to the more than 400 processed collections already housed in WSU’s archives.

Jeremy Feador is president of WSU SAA. He plans to graduate in June and can be reached at feador.2@wright.edu.

Embarrassment of Riches at Indiana University
This semester the Office of University Archives and Records Management at Indiana University, Bloomington, has been fortunate enough to secure five archival interns from the School of Library and Information Science. Interns have spent the semester processing collections, creating a series of podcasts for the archives, updating Web sites, collaborating on library exhibits for Women’s History Month, and assisting archives staff with reference queries. They have documented their experiences on Blogging Hoosier History, http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageId=8930.

Revamped SAA Chapter Ramps Up
The SAA Student Chapter at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee has recently regrouped after a period of inactivity. Its members have revamped their Web site, http://www.sois.uwm.edu/saa/, and are looking forward to sending some students to the MAC annual meeting this spring. Lucy Waldrop completed an internship at the Harley-Davidson archives and museum in Milwaukee, and Sara Breitenfeldt completed an internship at the Irish Film Archive in Dublin, where she processed old Irish-language newsreels that were salvaged from a fire.

New Blog Gives New Archivists’ Perspective
For all of you readers who are graduating this spring and will soon be searching for a job, or for those of you who have already graduated and are in the throes of job seeking, check out this blog, http://newarchivist.com. It offers interesting insights from a group of regular and guest contributors who might be suffering through their own job search or realizing the value of volunteering or waking up to the realities of the working world. Whatever the posting might be, you’ll have fun reading it and might actually learn something. What’s not to love about that?

Trolling for News
I tell ya, I get goose bumps every time I read this column. There is not just one or even two but six—six!—items, and all of them packed with news. Shall we go for seven next time? Whatever the number might be, I always love presenting interesting and helpful information from student chapters and archival programs around the region—won’t you help me do that? Please send news to Kevlin Haire at kevlinhl@yahoo.com.