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Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

David McCartney

University of Iowa, david-mccartney@uiowa.edu

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Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By David McCartney, University of Iowa

Greetings, fellow MAC members! I'm pleased and honored to serve as your vice president for the next two years, and I look forward to working with you all in the time ahead. I am grateful to my predecessor, Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, for making the transition a smooth one for this newbie, and I also want to thank Amy Cooper Cary and all Council and committee members who have given their time and expertise so freely. They guide and shape MAC's direction, and I am excited and privileged to join such a dynamic group.

I am writing days after our 2014 Annual Meeting in Kansas City. Where to start? The meeting offered a diverse range of session topics appealing to newcomers to our profession as well as to those of us who have been around for a while; a fascinating glimpse of Charlie Parker's life during his formative years in Kansas City; an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones; tours and workshops; a reception at the remarkable American Jazz Museum and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum; and, of course, delicious barbecue with onion rings approaching the size of Frisbees. (I'll remember this the next time I walk through our central campus and see students tossing those plastic objects.)

Meetings are MAC's bread and butter—see, I'm still thinking about food—and we're cooking up some great programs for this fall and beyond.

Fall Symposium, Oral History, Archives, and Innovation, Illini Union Hotel, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, September 12–13, 2014

Recording, preserving, and providing access to oral history interviews in the digital age present a host of emerging challenges. Doug Boyd, PhD, director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky, will lead this two-day symposium at the University of Illinois. Topics to be covered include transcription, collection management strategies, digital preservation, legal and ethical issues, metadata, and utilizing open source digital tools. The symposium will be held at the Illini Union on the University of Illinois campus, which will serve as the conference hotel as well as the symposium

site. Symposium Organizing Committee Cochairs Bethany Anderson and Anke Voss also have a Friday evening reception planned at the Spurlock Museum on campus. Watch the MAC website for registration details soon!

Annual Meeting, Lexington, Kentucky, May 6–9, 2015

Save the date for next year's Annual Meeting in Bluegrass Country! The Program Committee, cochaired by Lisa Sjoberg and Stephanie Bricking, is gearing up to receive your session proposals. The committee is also working with the Education Committee to line up workshops designed to address specific topics in depth. Plans are also under way for tours of the Buffalo Trace Distillery, a local horse farm, and downtown Lexington's historical sites. The Local Arrangements Committee, cochaired by Deirdre Scaggs and Heather Fox, is busy lining up some great Kentucky hospitality, so plan to attend!

Fall Symposium, Hard Skills for Managing Digital Collections in Archives, date and location TBA, 2015

Facing the growing challenge of digital collections in your work, but not sure how to proceed? This symposium, featuring hands-on experience, is just for you. Many of the skills necessary to manage digital files can be learned in personal computing environments. Bertram Lyons, archivist and digital assets manager of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and senior consultant for AVPreserve, will lead this practical two-day symposium. Topics will include basic digital preservation workflows and concepts, spreadsheets for data management, and the use of selected open source tools to help you manage datasets. More details about this useful program will become available; watch the MAC website for details!

Have a topic idea for a Fall Symposium or know of a great place to host MAC for a future Annual Meeting? Please let me know at david-mccartney@uiowa.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.