2014 Bowen Scholarship Recipient Gives Her Appreciation

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By Andria Hoy, Kent State University

My path to a career in archives and archival management has not been a straight line, nor did it solidify until recently. I never envisioned that my long-practiced skills of home file organizing and my love of history and accurate facts would combine into a new career.

My interest began in earnest while I was working as an intern for the Cleveland Orchestra Archives. Originally, I was interning in different departments throughout the building, with my main interest being arts management. However, when I started working in the archives, a whole world was opened to me that I had never experienced before. Bringing the past into focus and making it relevant for the current day suddenly became very satisfying. I was surprised and immensely intrigued by a field I knew nothing about. My interest grew not only in preserving cultural heritage but also in finding ways to share that heritage with others. The cultural history of Cleveland is amazing, and many institutions in town have superb archives, all of which hold wonderful treasures about our past. Moving into the future, I see archives and archivists as being an important part of the equation: you must know where you came from to help determine where you want to go.

Cultivating a culture of acceptance and understanding about the profession is important to me. Many people do not know the significance that archives play in their daily lives. Many corporate and cultural institutions utilize archives regularly, and yet it often seems to me it is a hidden profession. Throughout my time in school, I have been driven to enlighten many people about the importance of archival work, and I will continue to do so, as I believe it is important for the profession.

I was extremely honored to be awarded the Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration. I am so excited to be a part of the MAC community as I start the end of my degree. The funds from the award assisted with the last portion of coursework I am taking in the fall and enabled me to attend the 2014 Society of Ohio Archivists conference. I sincerely hope to attend next year’s MAC Annual Meeting and meet fellow archivists in the region. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the MAC family and for furthering my education with your generosity.

Emeritus Scholarship Winner of 2014 Enjoys MAC’s Annual Meeting

By Julie Hatfield, Archives Assistant, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

My first MAC Annual Meeting was a great success! Since graduating from the UW–Milwaukee School of Information Studies in May 2013, I am becoming more involved in the profession, which included attending my first archival conference. The MAC Annual Meeting went above and beyond my expectations. I was able to meet, network with, and find new midwestern archivists to follow on Twitter; meet up with former classmates and other UW–Milwaukee alumni and archivists; and learn how other archives are using social media and digitization for outreach to users. Many of the sessions I attended concerning social media, digital preservation, and digital humanities will help with my current position at the UW–Eau Claire Special Collections and Archives, where I am developing a digital collections portal of the university’s history and promoting it through Facebook and Twitter.

A highlight for me was experiencing a new city with astounding musical and historical attractions. I enjoyed exploring Union Station, the American Jazz and Negro Leagues Museums, the restaurant tour to La Grünauer (where I ate schnitzel for the first time), and touring the Marr Sound Archives and LaBudde Special Collections/Linda Hall Library. I take advantage of touring archival repositories when I can and learning how they run their operations. I was jealous of Chuck Haddix’s staggering jazz record collection and the variety and number of scientific books at the Linda Hall Library.

Thank you again for awarding me the MAC Emeritus Scholarship for first-time meeting attendees. I thought the Midwest was well represented with archivists who take pride in the archival profession. I will definitely be attending the MAC Annual Meeting again in the near future!