MAC Education Committee Launches Speakers Bureau Project

Prompted by the MAC Education Task Force’s 2010 report recommendations, the Education Committee launched a two-year pilot project in 2013 to explore the possibility of establishing and coordinating a MAC “Speakers Bureau.” The bureau would be made up of MAC members and others from allied professions and organizations with expertise on specific subjects who are available to speak in geographic areas throughout the MAC region. Once it is fully formed, local groups, archival regionals, and others could request individual speakers from the Speakers Bureau directory to present on-site workshops or training events for a low cost.

Over the past year, Education Committee members have evaluated needs and gaps in training throughout the MAC region and are coordinating four workshops over the final year of the pilot. The experience of holding these workshops will enable the committee to provide detailed recommendations to

(Continued on page 3)


After five years, MAC returns to the Bluegrass State! Nestled in the heart of Kentucky’s picturesque Bluegrass Region, Lexington, the Horse Capital of the World, blends history, horse racing, bourbon, and southern charm. As a bonus, 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the University of Kentucky!

MAC 2015, May 6–9, “The Bluegrass Meets the Midwest,” will offer lots of fun! The opening speaker will be the charismatic Joel Pett, a Pulitzer Prize–winning editorial cartoonist for the Lexington Herald-Leader. Pett’s speech, tentatively titled “What’s So Funny about Free Speech?,” will engage us in

(Continued on page 3)
MAC Council concerning the viability of a long-term effort. The first two workshops were great successes and have come in well under budget! Council had committed $4,600 for the two-year project. Both workshops were offered at no cost to participants and received high evaluations.

The first Speakers Bureau offering was held on May 30 in Jefferson City, Missouri, hosted by the Missouri State Archives. Thirty-five archivists attended “Moving Images: An Introduction for Archivists.” The half-day workshop, presented by Paul Eisloeffel of the Nebraska State Historical Society, familiarized attendees with the science, history, identification, preservation needs, and care of moving images on film, videotape, and optical media. The workshop also offered guidelines on assessing a repository’s moving images and how to determine priorities for preservation reformating. By the time they left, a new group of archivists were armed with the basic knowledge they need to face their moving image holdings.

Next, on July 18 in Muncie, Indiana, 19 archivists attended “Strategic Planning for Small Archival Programs” presented by Colleen McFarland of the Mennonite Church USA Archives. Hosted by the Society of Indiana Archivists at Ball State University’s Bracken Library, this half-day workshop introduced participants to the purpose and core elements of a strategic plan. The workshop provided hands-on time for participants to draft preliminary mission and vision statements, begin a “SWOT” analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats), and identify a strategic priority to guide future action in their repositories. Participants departed energized and confident in their ability to apply what they had learned, with examples of strategic plans and a bibliography for further reading to support their planning work in their home repositories.

The Education Committee continues to identify topics and speakers for a resource list of presentations, from which will come speakers for both the Speakers Bureau and MAC’s Annual Meetings. It has tentative plans for future workshops in South Dakota and Kansas. If you have questions, suggestions, or an interest in hosting a workshop, please contact cochairs Tanya Zanish-Belcher (zanisht@wfu.edu) or Ellen Swain (eswain@illinois.edu).

2015 Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

a lively discussion of the connections between content creators and historical context. Pett is well known for his dynamic, witty presentations that include drawing a cartoon “live” while he speaks.

For those unfamiliar with the history of our state, Kentucky derives from an Iroquois name for the hunting ground they used south of the Ohio River. Originally thought to translate as “dark and bloody ground” or “the land of tomorrow,” the meaning of Kentucky is still disputed. It is currently thought to mean “meadowland.”

In 1775, William McConnell and a group of frontier explorers were camped at a natural spring when word came from nearby Fort Boonesborough that the first battle of the American Revolution had been fought in Lexington, Massachusetts. In its honor, the group named their site “Lexington.” By 1820, Lexington, Kentucky, was one of the largest and wealthiest towns west of the Allegheny Mountains. So cultured was its lifestyle, Lexington soon gained the nickname “Athens of the West.”

The opening reception will be held at the Carrick House, located along downtown Lexington’s historic Third Street Corridor. With a glass-domed atrium, 40-foot waterfall, and outdoor patio, the Carrick House will be a perfect venue for relaxing and mingling. We’ll enjoy delectable (Continued on page 4)
Kentucky-inspired food in this beautiful historic home—and make sure you bring your dancing shoes, because we’ll be square-dancing to a live band!

There’s much more to Lexington than horses and distilleries, although they are reason enough to visit the heart of the Bluegrass. The vibrant downtown district boasts numerous museums and cultural heritage sites that document Lexington’s diverse and storied past. From the hotel, stroll through the historic campus of Transylvania University (established in 1780) and Gratz Park, where Lexington’s original Carnegie public library resides, to Cheapside, a slave auction and abolitionist speech site near the Old Fayette County Courthouse. Also within walking distance is the childhood home of Mary Todd Lincoln and the Hunt-Morgan House, which offers an extensive collection of Civil War relics and memorabilia. As part of the conference, you’ll have the chance to tour Transylvania University Special Collections and the Monroe Moosnick Medical and Science Museum, touted as one of the nation’s finest collections of nineteenth-century scientific artifacts, anatomical models, and botanical paintings used for instructional purposes.

Hail a pedicab to Ashland, the estate of renowned Kentucky statesman Henry Clay, to tour the beautifully manicured gardens and well-preserved mansion. The peony beds should be nearing their full splendor by early May. Nearby is the legendary Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center, a thriving entertainment centerpiece for Lexington’s African American families since 1948 and current home of the WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour broadcast. Learn more about Lexington’s historic downtown on one of the many themed walking tours or a horse-drawn carriage ride. In fact, one of the Thursday morning tours will focus on African American history in downtown Lexington, led by historian Yvonne Giles of the Isaac Scott Hathaway Museum.

But what about the aforementioned horses and bourbon, you ask. Where to begin?! The Kentucky Horse Park provides a great introduction to our favorite animal. Brush up on your equine history at the International Museum of the Horse and swing by the Horses of the World presentation for a firsthand look at the unique beauty of international showcase breeds. And don’t forget to trot through the Hall of Champions to meet the park’s elite racetrack-winning residents. Take the trolley down the scenic Bluegrass Parkway to Keeneland, Lexington’s acclaimed thoroughbred racing facility. Drop by the library to see one of the world’s largest collections of materials on the thoroughbred. Planning to extend your conference trip a few days? Be sure to schedule a tour of one of the area’s many elegant yet fully functional horse farms.

To fully appreciate the history and culture of the Bluegrass you must visit one of the many bourbon distilleries of central Kentucky. Lexington is home to the Town Branch Distillery, named for the body of water that currently runs under the city, and Woodford Reserve and Buffalo Trace are only a short drive away. A number of craft beer breweries are also located in Lexington, including Kentucky Ale, West Sixth Brewing, and Country Boy Brewing. Still thirsty? It’s only a short drive to the Ale-8-One Bottling Company, home of the region’s favorite ginger-citrus soft drink (it pairs quite well with bourbon).

But don’t stop there! The Bluegrass offers so much more—from hiking the nearby Red River Gorge, to catching a Lexington Legends baseball game, to indulging in the finest contemporary southern cuisine. MAC in Lexington can seamlessly serve as an ideal professional development experience and a fun-packed family vacation to remember! Check out www.visitlex.com for additional suggestions and planning tools. You will be awed by the variety of adventures Lexington has to offer. And, while you are here, get in on the action and #SharetheLEX!

The conference hotel, the Hilton Lexington Downtown, overlooks Triangle Park and Rupp Arena. This landmark hotel is central to scores of exciting restaurants, shopping, museums, and entertainment venues and is connected by
a pedway to the Lexington Convention Center. The hotel has a heated indoor pool and whirlpool, a fitness center, and a 24-hour business center, among other amenities. Guests staying at the hotel will receive free wi-fi in their rooms, and self-parking for overnight guests is complimentary. Meeting rooms are all on one floor to help create an intimate and easily navigable conference experience.

Getting here is easy! Centrally located at the intersection of Interstates 75 and 64, Lexington is within a day’s drive of two-thirds of the nation’s population. For attendees flying in, Blue Grass Airport (LEX) offers nonstop service to 15 destinations and service by seven of the nation’s top airlines, including American Eagle, Delta, United, and US Air. The Hilton provides shuttle service to and from the airport. There is also Greyhound Bus service to Lexington from multiple destinations. The bus station is located about three miles north of the hotel.

So mark your calendars and start making plans! The Lexington LAC looks forward to showing you around this charming and vibrant town. You’ll have opportunities for professional development through workshops and sessions, and the chance to explore the history and culture of our unique city. And remember to bring your dancing shoes!

Do You Love MAC?

Why not share your love of MAC and the Annual Meeting with a new meeting attendee and/or new member? The MAC PALS program is in need of MAC members to serve as guides to new meeting attendees. Meet them at a prereception event to talk shop, speed-mentor, and share your must-dos for the Annual Meeting.

Interested in becoming a PAL? Not sure if you qualify, but might be interested? Please contact MAC Pals Coordinator Natalie Morath at macpalsprogram@gmail.com.
MAC NEWS—Continued
Daria Labinsky, Assistant Editor

MAC 2014 Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Minority Students
Recipients Say Thanks to MAC

Truth be told, I am still new to the field of archiving. I only recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in cinema studies and Spanish. While I do not (yet) have the three to five years of experience at a professional and/or nonprofit organization, I have worked on several projects and volunteered at many organizations and festivals.

As an undergraduate, I wrote an honors thesis on Paraguayan cinema and sound theory. Right now I am studying for my master’s degree in moving image archiving and preservation at New York University. This program focuses on the theory and practice of the archiving and preservation not only of film, but also of video, digital, and other formats that artists and researchers consider “moving images.”

The majority of my work and research has been, and will continue to be, focused on the preservation of film and video archives in Latin America. To complement my work and research on Latin America archives, I applied to MIAP’s (NYU’s Moving Image Archiving and Preservation program) audiovisual preservation exchange (APEX) program, and I was one of the few students selected to go to Montevideo, Uruguay. I am now interning at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The differences in cultures, workflows, and languages have been both challenging and inspiring.

My culture and identity are Latina. In the United States, I am considered a minority; but the possibilities and potential of the archives in South America reflect the possibilities and potential I possess. My every endeavor focuses on completing my ultimate goal: forming an archives in Paraguay and preserving Paraguayan cinema and television. Until I can establish this, these experiences and exchanges with other archives in libraries, museums, and cinematecas are only possible because of programs like MIAP that encourage research, and organizations like MAC that provide scholarships to make these moments achievable.

By Lorena Ramírez-López
Moving Image Archiving and Preservation,
New York University

My interest in archives began in an undergraduate art history course. I was tasked to interpret a series of paintings by a prominent African American artist who inspired me and with whom I could draw a personal connection. The artist I chose was Archibald Motley, the father of the award’s namesake, Archie Motley. I was always intrigued by how Motley’s sophisticated visual depictions of African Americans in 1930s Chicago confronted and remedied oppressor-imposed, one-dimensional, and degenerative representations of African American culture. Archibald Motley’s work resonated with me, a native of Chicago’s West Side, because I have experienced the negative consequences of continued misrepresentation. Engaging with this work reaffirmed my belief that artistic expression is a true form of meaningful information in itself with the power to rectify and broaden our perceptions. Archie Motley continued the spirit of his father’s work by documenting the historical contributions of those who lived on the fringe of American society and by giving underrepresented populations a voice in the archive. My class exercise greatly influenced my desire to pursue graduate studies, to develop the skills and learn of the resources needed to provide access to artistic documentation.

As I prepare to complete final coursework for the MSLIS at the University of Illinois, I am eager to engage with modes of professional development so that I am prepared to be an effective steward of a collection. The two benefits of receiving the Archie Motley Scholarship Award, which were attending the Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting and completing Special Collections coursework, supported that effort. The MAC Annual Meeting exposed me to the great work that both seasoned and future archivists are doing to help position the profession to remain relevant in the digital age and beyond the boundaries of their repositories. I was excited to attend panel sessions that discussed using social media to promote collections, documenting the musical subcultures of local communities, and supporting Common Core Standards through the use of archival materials. Attending these sessions influenced the work I completed for a special collections

(Continued on page 8)
Thanks to Our AI Volunteers—And We Need More!

By John Fleckner, National Museum of American History

You can’t say “thanks” too often, especially to the volunteers who are doing much—or in the case of our journal, Archival Issues, virtually all—of the work. So, “thank you” authors who submit and often revise (and revise again) and board members who review, revise, edit, and advise. With the help of these many volunteers, we will have published two issues of AI by the end of 2014 and moved well along on the next.

And with that “thank-you” comes another heartfelt message: please keep on volunteering! We need a steady stream of authors whose thoughts and experiences will inform and inspire us. We also need two additional Editorial Board members to work with those authors and editors to continue the tradition of AI’s contributions to the profession, which began in 1976. If you have ideas for submissions, or publishing or editing experience, and an interest in the professional literature, please be in touch at flecknerj@si.edu.

And remember—Archival Issues, like this newsletter, is available in electronic form. Going green is easy! All you need to do is let us know that you want the electronic version when you renew your MAC membership. Then visit the AI web page at midwestarchives.com and download the link. And if you have access to JSTOR’s Arts and Sciences II database, you can read past issues from 1976 to 2010.

Nominees Sought for MAC Presidents’ Award

The MAC Presidents’ Award was established in 1986 as a means for MAC to recognize significant contributions to the archival profession by individuals, institutions, and organizations not directly involved in archival work but knowledgeable about its purpose and value. A committee comprising the three most recent past presidents of MAC chooses recipients based on nominations submitted by committees in each of the 13 states in the MAC region. Each state committee may put forward only one nomination per year. As many as three awards may be presented each year. Recipients are invited to attend the Members’ Meeting held at MAC’s Annual Meeting to receive their awards.

To nominate someone, please complete the nomination form on the MAC website and address it to the appropriate state chair no later than January 15, 2015. Full contact information for the state chairs can be found on the MAC website, under “MAC Presidents’ Award,” www.midwestarchives.org/presidents-award, along with a list of the award’s past recipients. For additional information about the award and guidelines, please contact Dennis Meissner at dennis.meissner@mnhs.org.

Archie Motley Scholarships

(Continued from page 6)

certification at Illinois, which was partially supported by funds of the scholarship. I was able to research and evaluate how the Common Core Standards Initiative (CCSI) could not only support the use of primary sources to facilitate learning in school-aged children, but how archives’ support of CCSI could activate the growth of underrepresented voices in collections as well as support community outreach efforts.

Archie Motley helped lay the foundation for diversifying the archive and validating the historical contribution of those who lived on the fringe of American society. My experiences as a woman of color and as a product of an urban neighborhood have always influenced my work as a scholar to capture the voices and histories of marginalized communities. I hope to build upon that foundation by documenting the urban narratives of and scholarship on hip-hop culture. Needless to say, being the recipient of the Archie Motley Scholarship is truly a full-circle moment for me, and there are no words to describe how honored I am that the Midwest Archives Conference chose me to receive such an award.

By Raquel Flores-Clemons, MSLIS Program, University of Illinois
Nominate Someone Deserving for the Distinguished Service Award

MAC’s Distinguished Service Award recognizes the otherwise unsung contributions of our MAC friends and colleagues. Please take a moment to think of all the people you know who have been quietly contributing their time and talents to MAC: the people who offer to serve on committees and are ready to fill in as workshop leaders or session participants at the last minute, or those who will happily work at the registration table when they learn that someone has just canceled, or those who can whip up a quick article for the newsletter when you need to fill that last quarter-page. Now take a few minutes to put into words why MAC should recognize at least one of those people, and submit your description on the MAC Distinguished Service Award nomination form posted on the MAC website, www.midwestarchives.org/assets/documents/dsaform.pdf.

The Distinguished Service Award was created to recognize individuals who give generously of their time and talent with little or no formal recognition and likely have never served in an elected MAC position. Since its inception, MAC has given these awards to Marion Matters (2000), Mona Wei (2002), and Janet Olson (2010). Matters served on numerous committees, panels, and program sessions, but she is best remembered as the creator and lead performer in the four critically acclaimed versions of *Raiders of the Lost Archives*—marvelously funny, silly, and satirical revues of the archival profession. Wei served on every Chicago Local Arrangements Committee, stuffed registration packets for more than 20 years, helped at registration desks, led restaurant tours, and did anything else asked of her to make the meetings a success. Olson’s contributions are many and include ensuring the success of MAC’s and SAA’s Chicago meetings, revitalizing the Chicago Area Archivists, and mentoring new archivists.

Please consider nominating someone for his or her dedication to MAC. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2015. For guidelines, visit midwestarc.memberclicks.net/distinguished-service-award. For more information, contact Dennis Meissner at dennis.meissner@mnhs.org.

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