2018 Archie Motley Scholarship Recipients Thank MAC

Midwest Archives Conference

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MAC NEWS—Continued

As an undergraduate at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I spent a lot of time working at the on-campus college-community radio station, KCSB-FM. I recruited and worked with students and members of the community to help them produce a show that represented their interests and their backgrounds. This experience, as well my time as an archival intern for an independent media organization in New York, taught me how history and society’s views could be skewed easily by recording and sharing only one side of a story.

Currently, I am a graduate student at the University of Michigan’s School of Information and am focusing on archives and libraries. I interned at the university’s Digital Preservation Lab this past summer, where I created workflows for and imaged removable media. During the school year, I also provide reference services in the special collections library. Receiving the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship means I will be able to further explore my interest in the archives field. Thank you to everyone from the Midwest Archives Conference for making this possible.

I first became interested in archives as a kid while spending time at my great-grandparents’ house. My great-grandmother kept magazines and newspapers from decades before I was born, and I always enjoyed looking through her old, fragile papers and organizing everything into folders. Only later did I discover that exploring and organizing old papers and print materials was a career option when, at the end of high school, I learned of our city’s historical society and archives. I became a volunteer in the archives while in college and discovered how a community archives works. As a volunteer in the archives, I became passionate about preserving historical documents and making them accessible for people in the community to use for research.

During my undergraduate career, I studied anthropology with a focus on archaeology at Michigan State University. As an archaeology intern for the university’s Campus Archaeology Program, I began doing archival research to learn the history behind the sites on campus that we had excavated. This was my first time conducting archival research, and I became interested in how the preservation of records at the university’s archives provided me with background knowledge of the changes to the campus over time. I also grew interested in how the Campus Archaeology Program managed and preserved the records we created during excavations.

Now, at the University of Michigan, I am learning the theories and best practices behind these interests, and I am practicing the skills I am learning at several part-time jobs and internships at the University of Michigan History of Art Visual Resources Collection, the University of Michigan Library Papyrology Department, and the Smithsonian Libraries.

After obtaining my master’s degree, my goal is to study Egyptology at the doctoral level and to explore issues within archaeological archives. Thank you to MAC for supporting me on this journey!