

SAA UIUC Student Chapter: At Home and On the Road

by Paolo Gujilde, Noah Lenstra, Sherri Berger, Kaitlin Costello and Emilia Garvey

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) student chapter at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has had an exciting year. Our SAA provides a way for like-minded students to engage with issues in archives and get involved with professional activities. Reconstituted just two years ago, the chapter is very active in planning workshops and outings for the entire graduate school community, as well as participating in regional and national events.

East St. Louis Community Outreach

Chapter members traveled to East St. Louis to collaborate with the Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts & Humanities as they assess and secure their large archival collection, which consists primarily of records of and about the pioneering African-American dancer, educator and anthropologist's activities during the last forty years of her life. At left, the original state of the collection in a boarded-up building. At right, Heather Zabski and Amanda Binder construct an acid-free box inside the Dunham Dynamic Museum.



Alumni Connections

This past year GSLIS alumni shared their professional experiences and how their education prepared them for their career in archives.

In celebration of American Archives Month 2007, our chapter invited Adam Groves, a founding member of our student chapter to talk about his work as an archivist at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Library at the University of Illinois. Mr. Groves also presented his project, Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths: Digital Image Collection Database (IFLODD), an online memorial of Illinois firefighters.

In December 2007, Erin Vanderberg, gave us a tour of the Circuit Clerk of Champaign County archives. Ms. Vanderberg discussed her responsibilities at the county as well as the challenges of handling non-paper based materials in the archives.



On-campus Outreach and Education

Our groups met regularly and sponsored entertaining, informational, and hands-on meetings for our library school community.

SAA screened a silent film from the University Archives which was created by a Library Administration Class at the University in 1936. Laura Berfield skillfully manned the film projector.

Through that screening, we advertised a hands-on film preservation workshop, taught by Jimi Jones, SAA Alumni and UIUC Audiovisual Self-Assessment Program Coordinator. Attendees learned how to identify formats and damage and had the opportunity to splice film.

We also coordinated a photograph identification and preservation seminar, taught by Jennifer Hain Teper, the University's Conservation Librarian.



Film Exposed:
An Introduction To Basic Film Handling And Inspecting Techniques For The Beginner
A Workshop
with Jimi Jones
Project Coordinator, Audiovisual Self-Assessment Program
Conservation Unit at UIUC

When: **Friday, November 2, 2007**
3:30 - 5:30 pm
Where: **GSLIS Room 131**
Cost: **\$25**

Every participant receives:
**Film Preservation Guide: The Basics for Archives, Libraries, and Museums* (a 130pg book from The National Film Preservation Foundation) and cloth gloves for proper film handling

Contact: Laura Berfield <lberfiel@uiuc.edu>
with "Film Exposed" as subject

Space is Limited! Register Early to Secure a Spot!



Off-Campus Professional Development

Our chapter members attended archival conferences including the 2007 SAA Annual Conference in Chicago and the 2008 Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) in Louisville, Kentucky. At MAC, Noah Lenstra, a chapter member, presented his work with the Katherine Dunham Center for Arts and Humanities in one of the sessions.

We also attended a student conference sponsored by the Indiana University-Bloomington's (IUB) SAA Student Chapter.

The above image of Emilia Garvey (Chapter President), Lenstra, and other attendees was taken at the Lilly Library during the SAA Student Conference held there in February.

Charting the Road Ahead

This year we are broadening our scope and programming to include a range of interests within the stewardship of the historical record, for example special collections, preservation, and electronic records management. Currently, no other student group at UIUC directly addresses these areas. We believe SAA can increasingly attract diverse students to our chapter through this expansion.

We will also expand our scope through the creation of an interdisciplinary reading group focused on the creation of community around archives. This group is being directed towards users of archives, not just towards archivists.