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Archeota, Fall 2016

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Archeota

Volume 2, Issue 2, Fall 2016

December 5, 2016

*Official publication of the
San José State University
Society of American Archivists
Student Chapter*

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Welcome to the issue

*By Catherine Folnović
Managing Editor*

It is with a heavy yet joyful heart that I say goodbye to the San José State University iSchool, the SAA Student Chapter, and this publication--graduation day has arrived!

I very recently completed the e-Portfolio process, which was a wonderful gift of careful reflection over my entire Master of Archives and Records Administration (MARA) experience. During this reflective process I realized just how big of a role the SAA Student Chapter has played during my time here. It is through the SAA Student Chapter that I presented at my first professional conference and began engaging with colleagues, professors, and other professionals outside of the course environment.

If I have one piece of advice to pass along, it is to get involved--whether it be in the iSchool community, professional associations or your local community! A downside to distance education is not having as many opportunities to make meaningful connections with your colleagues, professors, and larger archives and RIM community. The iSchool provides students with ample opportunity to fill that divide, such as travel awards for conferences, an internship program, guest lectureships, and student-lead groups.

I got involved in the SAA Student Chapter early on in the MARA program and it was the best decision I could have made. I have honed my leadership skills through participating in this group and formed meaningful friendships and professional connections. When I first nominated myself for an executive position I felt unqualified and a tad nervous, but I went for it anyways, and you should too!

I have been involved in *Archeota* since its inception and I feel very fortunate to be leaving the publication in the very capable and creative hands of Kimberlee Frederick (Managing Editor) and Jennifer Castle (General Editor). I cannot wait to see what fresh new ideas they will bring to the Spring 2017 issue!

Happy Holidays and a huge congratulations to all those who are graduating.

Cheers,
Catherine



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Archivists

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Visit our website <http://sjsusaasc.weebly.com/> or find us on social media!



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Meet the newest additions to the SAASC team

Jody Perl Web Team

Expected graduation date: December 2017

Favorite homework break: Watching shows like *Mr. Robot* or *Westworld*, then disappearing down the Reddit rabbit hole discussing crazy theories with other crazy fans. Or maybe just to go

outside for a quick run.

Favorite class taken at SJSU: INFO 240 Information Technology Tools and Applications with Raymond Dean

Favorite archives related website: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives at the USC Libraries. It is the largest repository



of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) materials in the world.

<http://one.usc.edu>

Dream job: After a behind the scenes tour with SJSU, of The Huntington Library in San Marino, CA, I wished one day I'd have the opportunity to work in their archives department. Think I'll eventually have to get an additional MA in art or history to get as

high as I want to go. We'll see!

Why I am excited to be a team member: I always love to connect with students, alums, faculty, and professionals outside of just our classes. I miss in-person interactions in the classroom, and as part of this team it makes me feel more like I belong to a community.



Kimberlee Frederick Managing Editor-in-Training

Expected graduation date: Spring 2019

Favorite homework break: Watching an episode of *Black Mirror* on Netflix.

Favorite class taken at SJSU: I'm in my very first semester and have only taken three classes so far, but I am

loving my research for Info 200, Information Communities.

Favorite archives related website: It's a bit clunky to navigate, but OpenCulture.com has some really fun updates on a lot of famous archives around the world.

Dream job: Manuscripts curator at a university library

Why I am excited to be a team member: I'm thrilled to be pursuing my education in archives, and seeing new perspectives and insights is very exciting to me. I've also been involved in student publications since age 14, so it's an instinct at this point. Creating avenues for communication and discourse is what library science, archives, and student publications are all about.

Jennifer Castle General Editor

Expected graduation date: Fall 2018

Favorite homework break:

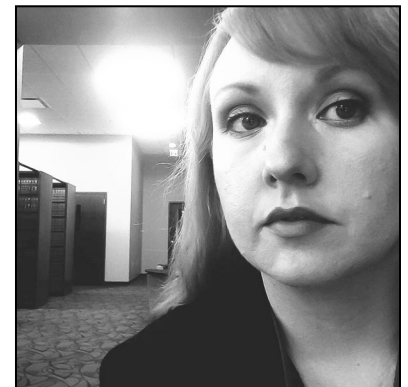
Taking pictures.

Favorite class taken at SJSU:

INFO 284 Managing Photographic Materials.

Favorite archives related website: Being a native Floridian who often misses home, Florida Memory is the digital outreach program of the State Archives and Library, and it's excellent.

Dream job: Photograph archivist



Why I am excited to be a team member:

Joining the *Archeota* team gives me an opportunity to read great work by my fellow students and forging new connections while putting my skills to good use. I can't think of a better way to get involved in grad school!

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SAA resources for students and more!

General information for students:

<http://www2.archivists.org/students>

Students and New Archives Professionals (SNAP) Roundtable:

<https://snaproundtable.wordpress.com/>

SAA Online Career Center, Job Seekers Page:

<http://careers.archivists.org/jobseekers/>

A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology:

<http://www2.archivists.org/glossary>

Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Curriculum and Certificate Program:

<http://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/das>

The American Archivist online:

<http://americanarchivist.org/>

SAA's 2017 Annual Meeting is in Portland, Oregon from July 23 to 29, 2017 (<http://www2.archivists.org/am2017>). The deadline to submit a student paper or poster proposal is February 3, 2017 (<http://www2.archivists.org/am2017/program/call-for-student-proposals>).

Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA):

<http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>

ArchivesGig:

<https://archivesgig.wordpress.com/>

Derangement and Description: A chaotic little archives webcomic:

<https://derangementanddescription.wordpress.com/>

Free Publications:

<http://www2.archivists.org/publications/epubs>

SAASC Needs You!

Did you know that all three of this year's SAASC officers are graduating in the Spring? This means that the future of SAASC depends on you! There are many reasons to get involved: learn about the world of archives, meet archives professionals, make friends with other students with similar interests, gain great experience for your resume!

Contact us by emailing sjsusaasc@gmail.com. Elections will officially commence in April, but we encourage interested parties to get in touch as soon as possible.

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Poll shines light on best archival studies electives

By Melissa Rupp

Picking classes can be challenging. Although the SJSU School of Information has created career pathways to follow depending on student career interests, there are still many electives to choose between and not enough time to take everything of interest. After all required classes have been completed and the key foundation courses are done how do you choose which classes will help with your future career?

The Management, Digitization and Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Records (Archival Studies and Records Management) career pathway is generally the pathway for aspiring archivists in the MLIS program (though MARA has similar class choices and they can take courses in the MLIS program).

In order to say that you have graduated from an SAA approved archival studies program, you must complete at least 18 units of credit in archives and record management courses.

Once the required and the foundation archival classes (Archives and Manuscripts, Preservation Management and internships) have been completed there is still Seminar in Archives and Records Management classes and other recommended courses to choose from.

To explore the answer to this I decided I would create a poll on Facebook in the group ALA Think Tank which is made up of LIS professionals including archivists (not affili-

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cataloging	+33
<input type="checkbox"/>	Datasbase management	+14
<input type="checkbox"/>	Metadata	+13
<input type="checkbox"/>	Digitization	+8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Digital curation	+6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic records	+4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference	+3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information Retrieval	+3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special collections	+2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coding	+2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Information	+1
<input type="checkbox"/>	EAD	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vocabulary design	

ated with the American Library Association).

The group currently has over 22 thousand members. The poll consisted of classes listed as options from the Seminar in Archives and Records Management class choices and classes from the recommended list from the career pathway.

The responders could choose more than one option and add their own suggestions into the poll. I asked in the poll what classes other than foundation/core courses have been most helpful to you in your job?

I blocked out the profile pictures on a few to protect the respondent's privacy whose picture showed up since they are also my Facebook friend.

Cataloging has a strong following with 33 respondents choosing it followed by Database management with 14 and Metadata with 13.

One respondent added Government information as a choice for the poll. No one chose EAD or Vocabulary design. Digitization came up with eight, Digital curation with six, Electronic records with four, Reference and Information retrieval both with three and both Special collections and Coding with two.

That aside, it is important to take the classes that interest you. One respondent reminded me to take some fun classes too because tech classes can be "soul sucking."

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Community voices: Learning about oral history

By Rebecca Leung

As I walked up to the small wooden house in Locke, California last August, I was very nervous. It was my first time conducting an oral history interview, and I hadn't even started my oral history class yet. Thankfully, Nancy MacKay, my future professor for INFO 284: Oral History, furnished me with some tips to help me get started.

Equipped with her advice, my new recorder, and extra batteries, I called out to Mrs. Wong inside the house. No answer. My husband called a greeting in Cantonese, "Lei ho, Mrs. Wong?" There was some movement in the house and 92-year-old Mrs. Wong came to the door.

Gradually, the realization dawned on me that my first oral history interview would be conducted in Cantonese. Fortunately, though I am not fluent, my husband served as a translator. This was my first lesson; oral history can offer many surprises.

I became involved with Locke by lucky coincidence. My husband and I visited the small town on a day excursion earlier in the summer. During a conversation with the docents in the Boarding House Museum, I revealed that I was studying archives and oral history at the iSchool.

I was surprised by the amount of enthusiasm that my confession evoked. One of the docents led us on an impromptu tour of Locke, including his

own historic house and the community gardens.

As we walked, he wove the tale of this historic Chinese town, founded by Chinese people for Chinese people on the Sacramento River Delta in 1915.

After spending the day in Locke's well-preserved museums, I was eager to learn more about the history and inhabitants of this town. I already knew that I would dedicate my fall semester of oral history studies to the story of Locke.

My attempt to interview Mrs. Wong was premature. I was aware of my many mistakes. Aside from the language barrier, there was a lot of cross-talk in the room and my questions were simple. I did not know how to deepen the interview.

Nonetheless, I craved the experience, and I wanted to contribute to the Locke community. After only a month of learning about oral history with Professor MacKay, I was still a beginner, but felt significantly more prepared for my second interview.

This time I interviewed Mr. Lau, a man who was the third generation of his family to live in Locke. As I sat with

him in the Boarding House Museum, he told me stories of his life in Locke, his family, and what it was like to own a market that served the Delta area.

This was my first lesson; oral history can offer many surprises.

Through my interviews with Mrs. Wong and Mr. Lau, I felt connected to the community in a way that extended beyond my academic goals. I grew increas-

ingly aware of the importance of the personal narrative as a way preserve community history. Thanks to my Oral History class, I also learned how crucial it is that these narratives find a home in a repository that will provide adequate access.

Thank you to the people of Locke and Professor MacKay for providing me with the opportunity to learn about oral history. If you would like to learn more, I recommend INFO 284: Oral History. This class will teach you how to plan and implement a project, do related research, conduct an interview, catalog, provide access, and preserve oral history. If you are interested in knowing more about Locke, visit: www.locke-foundation.org.

*Please note that the narrators' names have been changed for the sake of anonymity.

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Community archives forum grapples with the digital record

By Kimberlee Frederick

The complexities, effectiveness, and future of community archives became the center of conversation at the Oct. 21, 2016 forum, "Definition, Commonalities and Divergences: What Are Community Archives?" This was the first event in a four-part series that will examine the digital historical record and highlight the need for the representation of diverse communities.

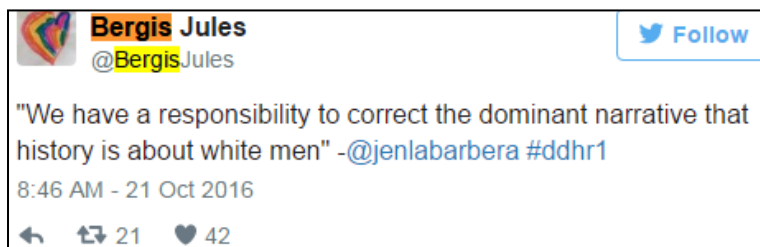
Titled "Diversifying the Digital Historical Record: Integrating Community Archives in National Strategies for Access to Digital Cultural Heritage," the program was assembled by a team of organizations dedicated to collaborative discussion about community archives. Amistad Research Center at Tulane University, the Shorefront Legacy Center, the South Asian American Digital Archive, Mukurtu, and the University of California-Riverside's Inland Empire Memories project combined efforts to bring the forum to UCLA.

Bergis Jules, a project coordinator for "Diversifying the Digital Historical Record" and the university archivist at UC Riverside, said that a primary goal of the program is to "spark conversations nationally" about the ways communities define themselves through archives.

Jules said that he felt the event went very smoothly.

"For the amount of time and money that went into it, we did a good job of presenting the information. It was a good overview of what types of archives are out there," he said.

For those unable to attend the first of the forums, a livestream of the event was made available, showcasing the keynote presentations and roundtable panels that took place throughout the day.



Presenters included representatives from Princeton University, Lambda Archives in San Diego, the Sherman Indian Museum, and a number of other institutions representing a vast and diverse array of socially conscious archives.

The concept of community archives is just beginning to take root in the consciousness of the archival world, and this forum made a strong and inspiring case for community archives becoming more entwined with national projects and prominent digital collections.

In fact, funding for "Diversifying the Digital Historical Record" came from the Institute of Museum and Library Services National Forum Grants pro-

gram.

The grant allows for a four-part series that will continue into 2017, hitting Chicago for the second forum ("Technology: Benefits and Barriers for Community Archives for Providing Wider Access to Digital Content"), New Orleans for the third ("Collaboration and Networks: Benefits for Community Archives & Libraries, Archives, Museums"), and New York City for the final event ("Integration: Why and how to address integration with national digital collections initiatives?"). To join the conversation during the next forum, use #DDHR2 on Twitter.

Jules had some words about the importance of programs like "Diversifying the Digital Historical Record," particularly for those new to the field.

"If you're a young archivist or someone just getting into the profession, it's important to pay attention to these issues of inclusion," he said. "As archivists we are mandated to protect and care for people. We have an activist bone, and we need to claim that."

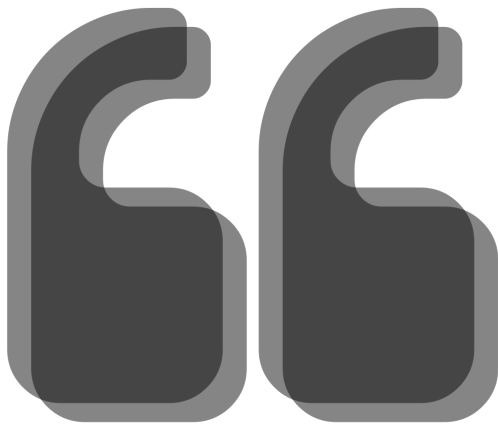
For more information about the work the Diversifying the Digital Historical Record project is doing, visit www.diversifyingthedigital.org. To view the first session of the Oct. 21 forum, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7fHvu8SQso&t=953s>.



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"Dad, I need \$500."

"How can you need money? You have four divorce settlements!"

"Yeah, sorry I'm not some sad, lonely exorcist."

"Archivist. I'm an archivist."

—Characters Phil and Clair are in the hospital when they overhear this bantering conversation in the neighboring bed. *Modern Family*, Season 4, Episode 19.

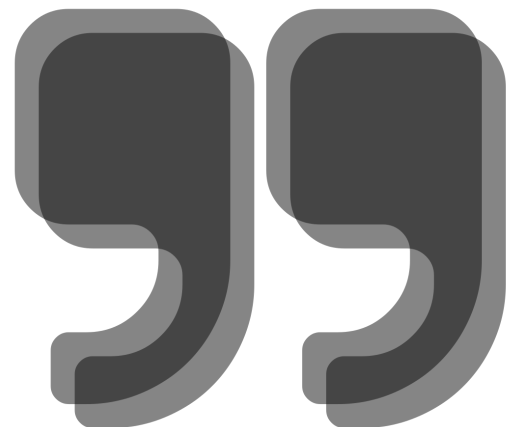
"My library is an archive of longings."

—Susan Sontag, *As Consciousness is Harnessed to Flesh: Journals and Notebooks, 1964-1980*

Quote Corner

"...let us save what remains; not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident."

—Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Mr. Hazard (Feb. 18, 1791), published in *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson (1853)*, Vol. 2, edited by Henry Augustine Washington, p. 211





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SAASC events

Upcoming

March 10, 2017 (10:30 am to Noon PST): *Tour of the Huntington Library* in San Marino, CA. Form with information and to RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2fAzGfd>.

TBD: *Benefits of SAA Membership and Preparation for the ACA Exam*

TBD: *Tour of the Sutro Library* in San Francisco, CA

TBD: *Tour of the California State Archives* in Sacramento, CA

Past

August 31, 2016: *Annual Members Meeting*

September 14, 2016: *iSchool Student Association Showcase Panel* with ALASC, ASIS&T, iSchool Connex, SLASC, SAASC, and VCARA

October 5, 2016: *#AskAnArchivist Day* hosted by SAA (<http://www2.archivists.org/initiatives/askanarchivist-day>)

October 18, 2016: *Discussion on Diversity and Cultural Competency in the Archives* with Helen Wong Smith (Executive Director of the Kua'i Historical Society) and Rebecca Hankins (Associate Professor, Librarian/Curator and Affiliate Faculty in Africana Studies at Texas A&M University)

October 19, 2016: *Tour of the San José State University Department of Special Collections and Archives*

Link to event recordings:

<http://bit.ly/2gacaWs>

Link to participate in 2016-2017 events:

<http://bit.ly/2eniUwU>