

ARCHEOTA

VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 2 | FALL 2018

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San José State University
Society of American Archivists
Student Chapter

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WELCOME

A theme found throughout this issue is leadership. While some have a clear academic and professional trajectory that involves taking on responsibility, many are often thrust into larger roles simply because they've shown an interest in participating. The big question regularly raised by those with little to no leadership experience is: "Am I qualified?" And frequently, the answer is a resounding yes. The even bigger question is: "Why not you?"

In these pages, you'll read personal experiences with leadership, both professional and academic. You'll learn about the trepidation we felt when accepting responsibilities and the satisfaction and benefits we gained from stepping outside our comfort zones. As you continue in your college and work careers, it's important to become involved in projects that are bigger than yourself.

I was fortunate to complete my e-Portfolio before the November deadline. During that reflective process, I saw how integral SAASC and Archeota have been in my development as a student and a professional. Without the experience I had chairing SAASC in the 2017-18 school year and editing this publication, I don't know if I would've been able to find a supervisory position before graduating. Remember to always ask yourself: "Why not me?"

Happy holidays, and sincere congratulations to the Fall 2018 graduates!

Cheers,
Jennifer



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or find us on social media



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SJSU SAASC: 2018-19 Officer Profiles

Sarah Thornton, Chair

Expected graduation date: I'm about half way through the program as of the end of the fall semester.

Favorite homework break: I've really gotten into embroidery in the last year, particularly English crewel embroidery. It's meditative to just take one stitch at a time while I listen to music. I also play/practice a few musical instruments as a way to unwind my brain from stress.

Favorite class taken at SJSU: I don't have a favorite between the two, but so far I've loved Info 240: Info Technology Tools and Applications, and Managing Photographic Collections.

What have you already gained personally and/or professionally as an officer?: My position has helped me to think of myself as an emerging professional, rather than as merely a student, which has given me a little more confidence to reach out and make connections with people. I believe that networking will be my biggest challenge in

my professional life, because I'm such an introvert. However, I've had to reach out to others so many times in this position so far, that the idea of "networking" has become a much less intimidating concept. That's been both a personal and a professional gain, I think.



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SJSU SAASC: 2018-19 Officer Profiles

Courtney Hopkins, Vice Chair

Expected graduation date: December 2020

Favorite homework break: Yoga, walking my dogs

Favorite class taken at SJSU: INFO 220-11 Resources and Information Services in Professions and Disciplines Topic: Film and Media Collections

Dream job: Using visual archives to promote environmental conservation

What have you already gained personally and/or professionally as an officer?: I've expanded my network and improved my event planning skills



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SJSU SAASC: 2018-19 Officer Profiles

Anna Belle Rosen, Secretary

Expected graduation date: Spring 2020

Favorite homework break: Definitely snacking! I just have to remember, crumbs and keyboards don't mix.

Favorite class taken at SJSU: I really loved the Photographic Preservation course I took over the summer, INFO 284. It taught me a ton of skills that I know I will use in my career and made me change the way I think about photographs in general.

Dream job: I would love to work at the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco. I think it's an incredible organization that does such great work. In general though, working at a historical society or community archive is where I see myself ideally!

What have you already gained personally and/or professionally as an officer?: Being an officer has given me some incredible insight into how important it is to get involved. I feel like I've learned so many new things and met some great people as well! I didn't realize how isolating being in an iSchool might be, but it makes a huge difference just to get involved (even in some small way) to feel connected to other people in my chosen field.





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PERSPECTIVE: What I've Learned About Leadership

By Sarah Thornton

I've been thinking a lot lately about the future. When you're unsure about your destination, it's hard to plot your course. I've learned a great deal in this past year, but I've been most challenged by considering what shape my professional life will take. I had a very clear vision for that future when I first started this program, but as I've explored the various dimensions of the information professions over the last year and a half, it's been dawning on me that flexibility will be key.

There is no one job that I'm being trained by this degree to do; even within one career path there are several kinds of professional directions I could take. I'm beginning to understand that the archival profession is not a destination. Rather, it's like sailing off to an archipelago of unknown islands that I've read about in a book. I won't know which island will be my best "home" until I've explored a few. I am not charting a course to a fixed destination; I am preparing to set out on an expedition of discovery. How does one prepare for such a journey? What provisions should one take along?

When I first started the MLIS program, I did not envision myself taking on any kind of leadership role in a student organization. I presumed these groups were run by people whose leadership qualities are self-evident, and whose "skills" seem to be an extension of their personalities. I am not an extrovert, and I am not naturally gifted at taking charge of other people. I am shy. I like to hang out in the background and blend into the wallpaper. But I enjoyed the opportunities these groups arranged on my behalf: the tours and site visits; the informational webinars that, even if I couldn't attend in real-time, someone recorded and posted online for me to benefit from at my leisure; the social media posts alerting me to potential jobs, internships and opportunities that I wouldn't have known about otherwise. I stepped forward out of a desire to preserve these important functions.

If I'm being honest, it was a distinctly uncomfortable step for me to take. It has also been an investment of time and energy. However, the initial discomfort has faded as I've adapted to a new role, and my investment

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A Tour of the San Diego Zoo Global Library and Archives

By Havilah Steinman

On Nov. 10, a large group of SJSU iSchool students and current members of the SJSU Society of American Archivists student chapter had the incredible opportunity to tour the world-renowned San Diego Zoo Global Library and Archives at the Beckman Center for Conservation Research.

Attendees were welcomed into the beautiful facility by Beth Autin, the associate director of library services at San Diego Zoo Global. We had time to take in the tightly packed stacks of the library while completing a fun scavenger hunt offered by Kathy Elliott, assistant librarian. While browsing I was excited to see not just materials centering on the zoo facilities and housed animals, but also periodicals about the first U.S. zoo, in Philadelphia. I also encountered something called Cat News, which I can only assume dealt with the big cats residing at the zoo and Safari Park.

A brief presentation followed, where we had the opportunity to ask Autin questions while she gave us an overview of the library and archive's modest beginnings. Before the Beckman Center was completed in 2004, the library and archives



iSchool students enjoy taking a tour of history at the San Diego Zoo Global Library and Archives. Photo courtesy of Caroline Sinay Gudiel.

were originally housed at the San Diego Zoo. Today, they enjoy accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums with three staff members managing more than 16,000 physical items.

These items are not limited to their rare book collection. The archives also manage film reels, which have since been transferred to digital data, as well as VHS tapes, which sit quietly in their plastic sheaths just waiting to be rewound. Autin laughed while mentioning they really

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Navigating the 13th Annual L.A. as Subject: Archives Bazaar

By Erin Fussell

At the L.A. as Subject: Archives Bazaar held in Doheny Memorial Library at the University of Southern California, you can discover archives and mingle with enthusiasts all day long. In its 13th year, the massive one-day event brings together most of the archives located in Southern California under one roof for displays, panels, lectures, coffee, and general geeking out with other fellow archivists and historians. As defined on their website, L.A. as Subject “is a research alliance dedicated to preserving and improving access to the archival material of Los Angeles history.”

Getting there can be tricky with traffic and parking, so plan accordingly. The Metro Expo line stops right at USC, which is the best option if you can take the train. I decided to pay the \$12 reserved parking fee ahead of time on the USC website for the McCarthy Way lot next to Doheny Library. This year, there were 75 participating archival collections exhibited so the amount of material was exciting and overwhelming. I had to caffeinate and create an agenda for the day.

I chose three events to attend. I began

learning about audio preservation. Dawn Aveline, head of preservation at the UCLA Library, gave an excellent presentation called, “From Wax to Wires: The Wacky and Wonderful World of A/V Preservation.” She focused on challenges and solutions for preserving different, older audio formats. One common issue, besides the wear and tear of age, is outdated mechanisms for playback. Aveline used images, video, and humor to discuss technical terms. It was fun rather than merely educational, and I feel I learned the lingo of the pros.

Next up, the panel in the main room titled, “Lost L.A.: Archiving the California Dream” comprised the archivists responsible for providing historical material for the exciting show on KCET, “Lost L.A.” If you haven’t seen it yet, catch Season 3 at 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays or previous episodes on the KCET website. Moderator and California State University Northridge history professor Jessica Kim opened the panel by welcoming us all to the “nerdiest thing in L.A.” and introduced the guests: Archivist Jessica Bitter of the Yosemite National Park Archives, Curator and Creative Director Barry Haun of the Surfing Heritage and Culture Center, Director of Archives and Collections Jeff Pirtle of NBCUniversal, Marc Wanamaker of the Bison Archives, and Joe Zarki, a retired Joshua Tree National Park ranger. Kim asked fantastic questions such

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EXPERIENCE: Chairing a Society of California Archivists Subcommittee

By Julieta Garcia

For five years I have attended the Society of California Archivists Annual General Meeting (AGM) for professional development and networking; my job in special collections and archives at California State University Northridge allows me to attend the conference every year. Recently I have wanted to join the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) to help with planning the AGM. I anticipated joining once I completed my master's degree, but I was selected as a member before graduating.

The co-chair provided details about the six subcommittees within the LAC. I originally wanted to join the Registration subcommittee because I thought it would be a great opportunity to network and meet members I'd only interacted with online. I was grateful when I was added to the roster. However, about a month later I was contacted by another co-chair about the possibility of joining the Publicity and Outreach subcommittee as none of those positions had been filled.

This happened at the start of my last semester at SJSU, when I would be taking my final class, INFO 289, and writing the

e-portfolio that would be due at the end of November. After considering my academic schedule for the semester – I had anticipated my duties for Local Arrangements would begin in 2019 – and investigating the subcommittee's social media accounts, I accepted a position with Publicity and Outreach.

It was the end of August when I agreed to be on Publicity and Outreach. I looked back through the subcommittee's Twitter feed and Facebook page to see when they started posting in the previous academic year: it was around December or January. That was perfect I thought because I wouldn't need to do anything until then and by that time I would be finished with my e-portfolio.

I was mistaken, but more on that shortly.

About a week later we were given our charges, and as the only person in Publicity and Outreach, I was the lead of the subcommittee. Now in charge of this subcommittee for the first time, I was self-conscious about my writing and worried I would be embarrassed by my social media posts, since my colleagues and leaders in the field

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has been repaid with dividends. I've learned a few things about leadership that I could not have learned in a class.

Leadership is not a "natural" skill for anyone. It is something you learn by doing, and, although some people might begin with greater aptitudes for leadership, everyone has to start somewhere. Our professional lives will most likely require increasing levels of leadership as we travel from novice to expert. We have to learn along the way how to take ideas – call them dreams, visions, missions or even projects – and make them happen. Even "lone arrangers" do not do this alone, but have to work in conjunction with others. "Leadership" is the ability to drive an idea to fruition by organizing the cooperation and collaboration of the people around you. There are specific skills you can learn in a classroom that can help you achieve these ends, but I have found that only experience makes these skills seem "natural."

People make the world go around, and to get anything done you have to learn how to make friends. Perhaps we are introduced to this concept in kindergarten, but it seems much more complex in a professional context, the way the shadow of something small and benign can appear large and menacing when you apply the light from the wrong angle. As grownups, we call this "networking," and, if I'm being honest, the very word used to send shiv-

ers of anxiety up my spine. (Did I already mention that I am not an extrovert?)

However, most people are not difficult to like, especially when you have so much obvious common ground. The more archival professionals I encounter, the more I have come to realize that we are all part of the same team. In general, we share a common vision and a common set of values. In this context, leadership does not require the extra effort of persuading people to join the cause.

Leadership is about helping others find their place on the team. It might seem that, because we are all being trained by the same iSchool, that are all receiving the same education. This is not the case. Not only do we each plot a unique course through our respective programs, choosing different sets of classes in a different order, sometimes with different instructors, but we all enter the program with unique backgrounds and experiences. There is so much potential reward in learning from fellow students, as much as we learn from our instructors and professors, because their unique experiences could be the key to unlocking important insights and revelations.

I would like to leave you with the thought that your student associations are organized efforts to help iSchool students find their place on the team. Even if you have no desire to serve as an officer of an organization, there are other ways for you to be a part. Also, student organizations provide

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as: “What’s the dark side of the California Dream? Who’s left out of this dream?” We learned about a riot in Yosemite in the ’70s that was caught on video and how the archive materials drive the direction of the television show episodes.

By the end of a packed morning, I was starving and ran into a couple fellow SJSU MLIS students I recognized from a previous SAASC tour the month prior at Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s Balch Art Research Library. We got lunch nearby and had the opportunity to swap stories and information about our courses. Since we’re all studying online, I jumped at the chance for in-person interaction to remind me I’m not alone in this mad schedule that I’m keeping as I work full-time and earn my degree.

After lunch, we attended a panel together called, “Curating California Digitally for an Engaged Public” with another stellar group of distinguished professionals in the field. They discussed the lofty topic of examining what documents make it into the California State Archives. Jason Sexton from Boom California and California State University moderated the panel with guests Lynell George from KCET-Artbound and Angel City Press, Giao Luong Baker from USC’s Digital Library, Anthea Hartig from the California Historical Society, and Julie Makinen, editor of The Desert Sun newspaper in Palm Springs. George, who



The UCLA punk archive display table at the L.A. as Subject: Archives Bazaar in October. Photo courtesy of Erin Fussell.

grew up in L.A. and was a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times, had some great stories about the city that is always in flux. She described the act of archiving itself as creating a sense of place. Panelists discussed current challenges in what history was chosen to be preserved in the past versus today’s initiative to bring in stories from diverse populations of people who live in the state whose stories have not been told.

Although the amount of historical materials at all the booths felt like an onslaught, the event exceeded my expectations. I left completely satisfied, armed with a tote bag full of swag from the different booths and a back pocket full of business cards from all the people I met. If you want to get a job in archives in Southern California or learn more about the history of the area, don’t miss this event. See you there next year!



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since my colleagues and leaders in the field would see them.

I arranged the subcommittee's first meeting and discovered another person had joined the group; I was glad I would not be alone. I then learned the new member was someone I looked up to in the field, and I realized I might now be even more embarrassed because it was someone who had developed programming and was really well organized. "How could I be in charge of a subcommittee member whose work I admired?" I asked myself. My fears and anxieties were taking hold of me.

I emailed the subcommittee member to introduce myself, express my appreciation for having another member on the team, and say I was excited to work with them because I really liked their work. They replied and said they looked forward to working together.

At this point, I decided to reach out to a work colleague who had served as a member and chair on several committees in different groups in our field. We took a break one afternoon and I asked how a person could lead those whose work they found inspiring. My colleague reassured me that I was not alone; they also felt self-doubt when chairing committees with those whose work inspired them. I was reminded they each started in our position, when some may have also had self-doubt, and that a lot of members are very easy

to talk to. Another piece of advice was to talk about the different things each member of the group is working on; this resonated with me because I was working on my e-portfolio. Letting the subcommittee member know this would only help while we worked together.

Later I received a link to the Google site of the Local Arrangements Committee's 2018 activities and documentation where I could see the Publicity and Outreach subcommittee's charge and timeline. It was then I realized I was incorrect in thinking I would not do any work until December.

I learned one of the first things we had to do was search for images for all of the publicity and outreach materials such as postcards, registration, the program, and other things that would need to be posted. Soon, the subcommittee member and I began looking for images of Long Beach and set a date to have a phone meeting to review what we found.

During our phone meeting I explained that as a student working on my e-portfolio, I would need help with some of the required work as my availability would be limited until the end of November when my culminating project was due. The subcommittee member said they understood and would be willing to help as needed. We looked through some of the images and agreed we wanted better, so we continued our search while on the phone. We decided to look through historical societies, but

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Live demonstration at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Photo courtesy of Caroline Sinay Gudiel.

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needed to get their hands on a VHS player.

As some readers may be aware, the San Diego Zoo Safari Park used to be known as the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The archives also have a collection of souvenir memorabilia from those early days, such as a thermos displaying the original name, and an electric fan that spritzed water on park attendees during hot days. The most interesting physical item I saw was hanging on the wall in the rare book room: an elephant guiding tool called a bullhook.

The rare book room and archives are kept cool and dehumidified in order to protect the more precious parts of the collection. A section of the shelving in the connected rooms were labeled as “Take,” which I had the opportunity to ask Autin about. She explained that in the event of an emergency there are protocols in place for staff to grab these particular items before evacuating. Autin also demonstrated their Archivist Quill for us, an intricate machine that scans books. She mentioned the optical character recognition feature did not always work the way they wanted it to, but overall, they were happy with the device.

In addition to housing an incredible collection, the San Diego Zoo Library and Archives consistently host Level I researchers from around the world who come not only to observe the animal but to access the archives. Both Autin and Elliot offer research support to these patrons.

Library staff have worked tirelessly to maintain helpful online databases of their materials as well. Kate Jirik, library research specialist, specifically builds library fact sheets that correspond to every animal housed in the parks. Following the library and archives tour, Jirik kindly guided attendees through a tour of the Walkabout Australia exhibit inside the Safari Park. She offered insight about the kangaroos and wallabies taking a midday siesta in the tall grass. Jirik mentioned that the fact sheets are not just for researchers and patrons but

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are also utilized by the zoo's marketing department.

As a student at SJSU's iSchool working towards a MLIS, I enjoyed the exposure to my first archival library. The crossover between research and archival work stood out to me, and the event put new color on this area of librarianship. As a San Diego native who grew up spending lots of time at the zoo and Safari Park, this experience made me nostalgic for those young days of discovery and gave me newfound appreciation for the incredible amount of work that goes into building the experience of the parks. The SDZGLA are always looking for volunteers! Send inquiries to library@sandiegozoo.org

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some of the best opportunities for networking (also known as "making friends"). Indeed, you are "networking" with the future leaders of the information professions. Fellow students today will be colleagues tomorrow, and friendships we've cultivated while students could become professional collaborations in the future.

It takes some trial and error to discover what your professional aptitudes really are, and even aptitudes aren't worth much until they've been developed through experience. Student organizations are relatively risk-free environments in which to discover and develop your aptitudes, and to gain leadership and other professional skills.

SAASC NEEDS YOU!

THE SJSU STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS RELEASES ARCHEOTA EACH SEMESTER. THE GOAL OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO REPRESENT THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF ARCHIVAL STUDENTS AND EXPERTS SO WE CAN LEARN AND GROW WITH EACH OTHER WITHIN THE PROFESSION. FOR THAT, WE NEED YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

THE CALL FOR NEWSLETTER CONTENT IS ISSUED AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SEMESTER. IN THE MEANTIME, THINK ABOUT HOW YOUR ARCHIVAL JOB, INTERNSHIP, OR CLASSES COULD INSPIRE AN EXCELLENT CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEXT ISSUE OF ARCHEOTA!

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but that was not a good fit. Then we turned to the Long Beach Public Library where we found hundreds of photographs to examine.

My supervisor has a tendency of sending out agendas a few days before meetings, and I wanted to do just that; unfortunately, since the subcommittee has not been not my primary job, I have yet to succeed. I hope this experience will help me improve my time management and communication skills, as well as lessen my anxiety over people not being happy with my work. So far, our work has exceeded our expectations and we are ahead of schedule.

I decided to take the week before the e-portfolio was due to finish it up, and I received a few emails from other subcommittees asking about Publicity and Outreach. Luckily, they had copied my subcommittee member who explained that I was out for the week and they would be happy to answer the questions. Our earlier conversation about helping when I needed it certainly proved beneficial because they were able to step in while I was away, and I did not have to worry about those emails while I was away.

So far, my experience with the Local Arrangements Committee has been positive. I have learned a lot, especially about myself and how to work with others who are not direct work colleagues. I encourage students to join the Society of

American Archivists and any committees they see themselves succeeding in. While this will add some workload, there will be others who also have full-time jobs or are in school who will understand that you are not available; just be sure to communicate that with your group. I have noticed there are members of our committee who have missed meetings or have not replied to emails quickly, but that is normal. I will add that one member who originally stated that they could assist with three subcommittees has recently resigned from one because it was too much work. Sometimes one does not realize how much work is involved with such groups.

As I stated earlier, I originally wanted to join the Registration subcommittee, then was added as the lead of the Publicity and Outreach subcommittee. What I recently realized was that when I agreed to be on Publicity and Outreach, I mentioned that I would be happy to help with Registration as well, so I was kept on as a Registration subcommittee member. A few days ago, I received an email asking me for input on Registration's subcommittee. I am not sure how the next few months will be, being part of two subcommittees leading up to the AGM. I am sure it will be a challenge, and I am hopeful I will be able to keep up.

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HTML

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Fall SAASC Events

Fall 2018 Student Organizations Panel,
Aug. 29
Recording

SAASC Annual Members Meeting, Sept. 5
Recording

A Visit to Los Angeles County Museum of
Art Library and Archives, Sept. 21

The Archivist as Author: A Conversation
with Lynn Downey, Oct. 3
Recap

A Visit to the San Diego Zoo Library and
Archives, Nov. 10

Get Mentored: How to Take Advantage of
SAA's
Mentoring Program, Nov. 14

Visit

[http://sjsusaasc.weebly.com/
past-events--recordings.html](http://sjsusaasc.weebly.com/past-events--recordings.html)

to watch SAASC's
previous events
throughout the years

Resources for students and professionals

General information for students:

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

Students and New Archives Professionals 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 Curriculum & Certificate Program:

[http://www2.archivists.org/prof-
education/das](http://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/das)

The American Archivist online:

<http://americanarchivist.org/>

Academy of Certified Archivists:

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

ArchivesGig:

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

Derangement and Description: A chaotic little archives webcomic:

[https://derangementanddescription.
wordpress.com/](https://derangementanddescription.wordpress.com/)

Free publications:

[http://www2.archivists.org/publications/
epubs](http://www2.archivists.org/publications/epubs)