

UW–Madison’s SAA Student Chapter Archives Blog Makes an Impact in the Community

By Alex R. Champion, UW–Madison School of Library & Information Studies

For four years, the UW–Madison SAA-SC has conducted a blog for Archives Month. Through this blog, the group explored the Wisconsin Archives Month theme, “Born in Wisconsin.” For 2011, students wrote numerous posts and submitted 43 photos in October. The blog’s content was promoted through the social media sites, Facebook and Twitter, with specially-created accounts by the Chapter Secretary Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus. Her efforts and the self-promotion of every contributor netted 1,281 page views in October alone. Contributors to the concerted effort included Alex Champion, Katherine Stotis, Audra Hulse, Amy Unger, Laura Farley, Eric Willey, and Pete Shrake. Included in the blog were such topics as the first electric power plant in the world, and the exciting life of Army Nursing Corps enlistee Helen Bulovsky, as she

followed the famous 32nd “Red Arrow” Division in the American Expeditionary Force.

After becoming aware of the blog, a researcher in California consulted SAA-SC President Alex Champion about donating his collection of nineteenth-century class photos from the Whitewater Normal School, now the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater. The chapter collaborated with Ron Nortier of the Clinton (Wisconsin) Community Historical Society to coordinate their Archives Month activity with the housewarming of the Historical Society’s new permanent headquarters, located in an 1843 historic house. Clinton residents donated manuscripts and historic objects during the event, and the SAA-SC contributed oral histories and documented the event: <http://www.archivesmonth.blogspot.com>.

MAC Member Graduate Programs Represented at SAA Archives 360°

MAC-member graduate programs were well-represented during Archives 360°, the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists held in Chicago on August 22–27, 2011.

Kaitlin Dunn, a May 2011 graduate of the UW–Madison School of Library and Information Studies, presented the poster, “Documenting the Ironworkers: The Creation and Preservation of Folklore Fieldwork.” Dunn’s poster presented the work of UW-Madison students in a Fall 2010 public folklore and presentation course, for which they gathered oral histories from modern-day ironworkers, developed a small oral history archives, and produced a

short film. Virginia Corvid of UW–Madison presented her poster entitled, “Integrated, High-Impact, Low-Input Strategies to Serve Casual and In-Depth Users.” Another UW-Madison student, Danielle Taylor, presented the poster, “Local Collections, Global Community: UW-Madison Archives Month Blog 2010.” Finally, Indiana University’s SAA student chapter presented a poster entitled “Rounding Out the Academic Experience,” based on the chapter’s graduate archives conference.

The highlight of the conference for MAC schools was the presentation to Lora J. Davis, a student at the UWM School of Information Studies, of the Theodore Calvin Pease Award by the distinguished retiring editor of the *American Archivist* Mary Jo Pugh. Also recognized at the ceremony was Eric Willey (in absentia), a student in the UW–Madison School of Library and Information Studies, who received the F. Gerald Ham Scholarship.



Kaitlin Dunn of University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, with her poster at the SAA Graduate Student Poster Presentations.



Mary Jo Pugh presenting Lora J. Davis with the Theodore Calvin Pease Award.