SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS CHAPTER

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

February 25, 2011

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm by Carin Yavorcik

*In Attendance:*

Alison Clemens

Carin Yavorcik

Helen Kim

Meg Eastwood

Rachel Appel

Ryder Kouba

Sarah Sokolow

Savannah Gignac

Wendy Hagenmaier

Dr. David Gracy

Dr. Ciaran Trace

*I. Survey results: spring repository trip, t-shirts*

We had 24 responses to our spring repository trip/t-shirt survey monkey poll—the Fort Worth NARA regional archives (<http://www.archives.gov/southwest/>) was the clear winner with 14 votes. The Clinton Library got five votes, the Galveston Library got four, and NSU got one. In the t-shirt category, the “Archives—Worth Fighting For” shirt got 14 votes, and re-printing the current Texas Archives shirt in burnt orange and/or brown received 12 votes. The vote was so close here that there’s probably a good local market for either design.

The next step will be to establish a date for the repository trip and contact NARA southwest. Dr. Gracy recommends we contact Kent Carter, who is the regional administrator and has worked at the archives for a long time (we can use Dr. Gracy’s name when we call). Ideally, we’d like to have the trip in early April (perhaps the 9th), although we should give Mr. Carter several possible dates from which to choose. We need to have time to plan the trip, and we don’t want to run into Easter (April 24th), or the panicked time at end of the semester (coming sooner than you’d like). Previous spring repository trips have attracted anywhere from 10-25 students, so we should plan on taking or renting several cars.

We discussed arranging an overnight option for people who would like to stay over, since it is around a three-hour drive. Other interesting activities in Fort Worth that we could check out: the stockyards (<http://www.fortworthstockyards.org/>), good BBQ joints, Sundance Square with restaurants (<http://www.sundancesquare.com/>), or the Amon Carter Museum of American Art (<http://www.cartermuseum.org/>). The director of the Amon Carter, Ron Tyler, is a longtime friend of Dr. Gracy’s and a former director of the Texas State Historical Society and might give us a tour of the archives there. The [Amon Carter](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=3501+camp+bowie+boulevard,+fort+worth,+tx&ie=UTF8&om=1) is on the west side of town, while the [NARA regional archives](http://maps.google.com/maps?oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=1400+John+Burgess+Drive+Fort+Worth,+Texas+76140&fb=1&gl=us&hnear=Austin,+TX&cid=0,0,11744935392708632500&ei=oH9oTceqKYOBlAeC2amCAg&sa=X&oi=local_result&ct=image&resnum=1&ved=0CBUQnwIwAA) are to the southeast of Forth Worth, but we could probably fit both in.

\*Carin and Sarah will get in touch with the directors Mr. Carter and Mr. Tyler before the next meeting to ask about arranging tours.

*II. Archives Week 2011*

By general consensus, we adopted “Keep Archives Weird” as our theme for Archives Week 2011. We’d also like to include as much about art and education (the other two themes suggested) within the current theme as possible.

While the phrasing of the theme references an Austin tradition, it was suggested we consider what the theme might mean to someone unfamiliar with Austin. What’s weird about archives, and why do we want to keep it that way? When we talk about a science fiction collection, for example, it’s the content of the archives that are weird, and not the archives themselves. A literal interpretation of the theme that archives are weird might not be a message that we want to send, but we feel that the theme is about showcasing the uniqueness of archives. Archives encompass all aspects of life, including the weird and wonderful. They’re full of fun, quirky things that preserve a person’s character. In addition to collecting things made organically and naturally, archives also collect the works of collectors, who sometime have eclectic tastes.

Most importantly, we feel that the theme will give us a great platform for public outreach—it should catch people’s attention and help people overcome the assumption that archives are dry, dusty and not particularly interesting. When you go on an archives tour, it’s the weird stuff that really captures people’s attention, and we hope to capitalize on that. We could also expand the theme to include the practices used to care for unusual objects.

\*To think about for next week:

* We will need a good sub-line to clarify the theme to non-Austinites.
* Everyone should do some research and come up with a suggestion of a speaker we could invite. A few suggestions mentioned at today’s meeting included the Austin History Center’s South by Southwest collection and the Southwest Austin Museum of Popular Culture. Remember that we will have to raise money to pay the speaker’s travel costs.

*III. Resume/CV workshop*

Dr. Trace suggested the idea of a resume/CV workshop to Carin. They worked with Tara to set one up for next Friday at 1:30, Friday, March 4, from 1:30-3:00pm in UTA 1.208. Tara will lead the session and Dr. Trace can advise attendees about the specifics of creating a CV for archives applications.

\*Savannah will create a flyer to advertise the event and post it on the first floor.

*IV. Invitations to SAA speakers and members who ran for board*

Carin and Sarah worked on invitations this week and brought print outs for the rest of the board. Board members suggested that the committees be open to all interested SAA members, not just those who ran for board positions, and that each SAA speaker be sent an individual invitation which mentioned that the other speaker would be invited as well rather than sending one e-mail to both speakers.

The committees will include: Events, Archives, Fundraising, and Liaisons. Carin already e-mailed the board members who will head the committees, so please contact the committee heads (Helen, Savannah, Wendy, Rachel and Christine) for more information.

*V. Association co-op calendar*

As our happy hour conflicted with the CHIPS meeting scheduled for today, Sarah suggested that the iSchool should have a joint student organization calendar to prevent such double-bookings in the future. Sarah also contacted the heads of other student groups, and they liked the idea as well.

We have the option of posting to a google calendar, but everyone would have to have a gmail account, or we could potentially post to the official iSchool calendar. There was some concern that this might over-fill the official calendar, but using the official calendar means that current students only have to reference one calendar, and it allows prospective students to see the sort of student group events we host.

\* Ryder will get in touch with Shane Williams in the IT Lab about the possibility of posting to the official iSchool calendar.

*VI. Trading Card No. 76*

While Dr. Gracy hasn’t been able to talk to Nancy as she is out of the office, Teresa has assured Dr. Gracy that he will be able to proof all the trading cards before they go to the printer. We will therefore have a chance to see the official card layout in time to print our own cards, and we will table this issue until we have seen the official layout.

*VII. 40 Acres Fest*

The official theme for this year will be “Everything’s Bigger at 40 Acres Fest” and all groups are encouraged to plan their booth around that theme. Girl Talk will not be appearing (they appeared last year, and the website was simply out of date). Since this is an undergraduate event, we don’t envision recruiting any new members, but we will be able to fundraise and do general PR for archives. The event will take place on Saturday, April 2nd, and registration forms are due March 11. While specifics have yet to be provided about the fundraising parameters, the event will have a carnival-like atmosphere, and we might sell baked goods or water and lemonade, or charge people to play an archives related game (like guessing the number of documents in a Hollinger box). We will definitely need volunteers from the chapter to help staff the table.

\*For next week, we should all think about fundraising ideas and ways to tie our booth into the general 40 Acres Fest theme.

*VIII. Safety training*

Sarah, Helen and Carin have all completed the training required for authorized safety reps. Helen will be our risk management officer, as it seems to tie in well with her position as events manager. The safety presentation must now be presented to the chapter—we could make our own video, although apparently SALD has as video already, which they are reluctant to provide as they really want people to attend the training in person.

\*The three safety reps will work together to find a good format for presenting the information to the chapter, and everything (including the signatures/e-mail acknowledgements from members) is due April 22nd.

\*\*\*Our next meeting will be on Friday, March 4th, at 3:30 pm. Alison and Dr. Gracy have other commitments and will not be able to attend.

This meeting is adjourned, 4:48 pm.

*Minutes-in-a-nutshell for posting to web:*

The results from the spring-repository trip/t-shirt poll are in! We will be visiting the NARA regional archives in Fort Worth, Texas (a landslide victory), and there is interest in printing both t-shirt designs (the votes were nearly tied). We’re in the process of planning the NARA visit (<http://www.archives.gov/southwest/>), with a possible side trip to the Amon Carter Museum of American Art (<http://www.cartermuseum.org/>). Let us know if there are other sites in Fort Worth you would like to see!

The theme for Archives Week 2011 will be “Keep Archives Weird.” We hope to use the weird and wonderful things found in archives to pique the public’s interest. Let us know if you have any ideas for speakers we could invite! We’re also searching for a good sub-line for the theme to clarify the idea to non-Austinites.

Finally, speaking of themes, we’re hoping to host a table at this year’s 40 Acres Fest, where the general theme will be “Everything’s Bigger at 40 Acres Fest.” The event takes place on Saturday, April 2nd, and we’ll need volunteers to help staff the table. Please let us know if you any ideas for fundraising activities!