SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS CHAPTER

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

March 4, 2011

Meeting called to order at 3:34 pm by Carin Yavorcik

*In Attendance:*

Carin Yavorcik

Christine George

Helen Kim

Meg Eastwood

Rachel Appel

Ryan Field

Ryder Kouba

Sarah Sokolow

Savannah Gignac

Wendy Hagenmaier

Mark Firmin

Dr. Ciaran Trace

*I. Advocacy update*

Christine thanked everyone for participating in this week’s advocacy campaign (and we all thanked Christine for making it easy for us!). Christine’s general game plan for the future is to gather info and materials about advocacy in order to be prepared for future campaigns. She’ll use a website to track bills in the Texas Legislature (possibly this website: http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Resources/FollowABill.aspx).

Christine also coordinated with the ALA/TLA group about advocacy—she got the name of a contact they met on legislative day, and they’re planning on holding a joint advocacy workshop for all student groups at the beginning of next semester.

*Next steps:*

*If anyone wants to help with advocacy research, contact Christine!*

*Christine will send an e-mail to the chapter list-serve thanking them for participating in the campaign.*

*II. Safety training update*

Helen’s boyfriend Viet video-taped our three safety representatives presenting the safety education slides, but we are still required to schedule one in-person meeting to present the slides to the chapter (we can e-mail the video to people who can’t come to the meeting, but only after we have the meeting). The event will make it easier to collect signatures anyway (we need to turn in a form with the signatures of all the members). To make the meeting more fun for members, we can provide food and also have sign up sheets for committee participation.

Safety education odds and ends: Helen was volunteered to be our risk management officer. We’ll also have to fill out paperwork for the spring repository trip (to provide proof of health insurance), since we’re going more than 25 miles from the 40 Acres. See <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sald/riskmgmt_travel.php> for more information.

*III. Spring* *repository trip update*

Sarah called the NARA archive-—April 8th is a go, and we had the choice of two different times—Friday morning (travel to Fort Worth on Thursday night), Friday afternoon (travel on Friday morning). Since people might have class on Thursday night, we scheduled the tour for 1-3pm. The NARA staff said that they haven’t given many tours like that before, but they were receptive to Sarah’s request to meet staff—they said we can all wing it together.

There will be several travel options for members: they can do a day trip to the NARA archives on Friday, they can stay over Friday night in Fort Worth and do a second repository tour on Saturday, or they can do a Saturday-only day trip. Sarah is attempting to arrange a tour on Saturday of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, in which case we could coordinate with the Artex group, who might be interested in the Saturday day trip option. Dr. Gracy’s contact at the Amon Carter will be retired by April 1st, but Dr. Gracy will talk to him this weekend. If the Amon Carter doesn’t work out, there is also a new science and technology museum we could visit (Helen’s boss at the Bullock Museum recommended it).

*Next Steps:*

*Sarah will work on contacting the Amon Carter and will send chapter members a “save-the-date” which includes both the spring repository trip and the national SAA meeting (and a reminder to pay dues).*

*IV. SAA speakers update*

Both speakers responded to Carin and Sarah’s invitation and would love to have dinner with the chapter. While the workshop might be canceled due to low registration, Kathy will definitely be coming to Austin either way.

*V. Archives Week*

Suggestions for speakers:

* Traveling archivist for the Smithsonian archives for American art (he drives all over the country collecting primary sources related to American artists)
  + <http://blog.aaa.si.edu/archivist-on-the-road/>
* National Archives recovery team (they raid houses to retrieve American artifacts!)
  + <https://www.facebook.com/archivalrecoveryteam>
* Oddball Film and Video (they provided the film footage for Blade Runner, Milk, and also Myth Busters, and Rachel used to work there so we have a good chance of getting the director to speal)

http://www.oddballfilm.com/

* Grateful Dead archivist
  + <http://www.dead.net/archives>
* Andy Warhol Archivist (Pittsburg)
  + [http://hypebeast.com/blog/skygellatly/2011/01/andy-warhol-archives-unpacking-his-time-capsules/](http://hypebeast.com/blog/skygellatly/2011/01/andy-warhol-archives-unpacking-his-time-capsules/" \t "_blank)
* J.R.R. Tolkien Collection—Marquette University
  + <http://www.marquette.edu/library/archives/tolkien.shtml>
* Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) Collection-- Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois
  + <http://www.ulib.niu.edu/rarebooks/sciencefiction.cfm>
* The Modern Art Iraq Archive—they created a digital archive for advocacy purposes after the archive was raided. Sarah knows a professor who helped establish the digital archives.
  + <http://artiraq.org/maia/>
  + This repository goes with the “keep” part of the theme but absolutely NOT with the weird part…we would have to change the theme in order to invite this speaker.
* Charles Schultz Museum
  + <http://www.schulzmuseum.org/>
* National Postal Museum (although they don’t appear to have an actual archivist)
  + <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/>

Other possible themes: we could go back to the theme of archives and art, since that matches several of the speaker suggestions. Carin also suggested “Raiders of the Lost Archives,” which would work well if we invited the National Archives recovery team, but we still couldn’t use that theme if we wanted to invite a speaker about the Iraqi Archives. If we stick with the “Keep Archives Weird” theme, we’ll have to be very careful with wording, especially when inviting speakers…

Possible Sub-themes for “Keep Archives Weird”:

* Celebrating the unique nature of archival collections
* Documenting and preserving the weird side of American culture
* Preserving character and curiosities
* We’re not just your grandpa’s records…

*Next steps:*

*Everyone pick your favorite subtheme and your top two speaker choices by next week—if you’re going to be out of town, please e-mail your choices to Carin before the meeting.*

*VI. Virtual Archivists Summit*

Wendy’s SAA mentor suggested that he and many other archivists would love to speak to our chapter via Skype—we could arrange all sorts of interesting talks for free!

*VII. Forty Acre Fest*

Our theme will be “Into the Breach,” and we need to decide what to sell. Cold drinks will sell well in April—we’ll probably have to buy drinks and resell them, as it’s unlikely that we’ll be allowed to make our own. There was also talk of selling candy, if we think people will buy candy when it’s hot.

We also need something to promote archives—we can bring the Archives Week poster, and Christine can mock-up a handout if needed. Since a handout is likely to be thrown away, however, it was suggested that we print stickers with fun archival facts to put on the water bottles or candy that we sell. For now, we’re resolved to sell drinks and hand out stickers, and we can decide on an appropriate vehicle for the stickers at a later date.

*VIII. Closing thoughts*

Everyone should remember to collect dues! If members don’t have cash, they can also write a check (to SAA-UT).

Ryan and Ryder are working on making us a Facebook fan page and a Twitter page, but they’re currently stymied by lack of access to the SAA e-mail account. They will either create a new g-mail account for SAA, or they can use a personal e-mail to set up the pages and transfer administrative privileges to the SAA e-mail when they get the password. Until we can get into the SAA e-mail account, we should not display the address on our website, and when we get access (or establish a new account) we should give Ciaran the login and password for safekeeping.

*Next meeting:*

If you’ll be in town next Friday (March 11th), we’ll have a short meeting in the normal spot from 3:30-4:00 pm. Meg will definitely be out of town, so Wendy will take the minutes.

This meeting is adjourned, 4:29 pm.

*Minutes re-caplet:*

Thank you to everyone who participated in this week’s advocacy campaign! Christine is working to gather information to make future advocacy events easier and will present an advocacy workshop next fall in tandem with the other student organizations.

The spring repository trip to the NARA regional archives will take place on Friday, April 8th—save the date! More details will follow.

We’ll also be having an event soon (with free food!) to sign up for membership committees and present an exciting video about safety education.

The full minutes contain a list of possible speakers for Archives Week. We may be re-opening the discussion of the Archives Week themes, as “Keep Archives Weird” may limit our speaker choices—speaker invitations must be made with extreme care with the current theme.