

2004-2005 Annual Report  
Society of American Archivists Student Chapter  
University of Pittsburgh

**Student Members:**

Cassie Pyle, *Co-President*  
Jill Hershorin, *Co-President, First-term*  
Christine Reed, *Co-President, Second & Third-term*  
Rachel Austin, *Treasurer, First-term*  
Michael C. Oliveira, *Business Manager, Second & Third-term*  
Precious Langhorn-Cox, *Secretary, First-term*  
Jennifer Cole, *Secretary, Second & Third-term*  
Cristela Garcia-Spitz, *Web Coordinator*  
Elizabeth Amrhein  
Jennifer Bator  
Sophie Madej  
Gwen Mayer  
Jonah McAllister-Erickson  
Ian McDermott  
Matthew Novak  
Jamie Peretich  
Halim Rhee  
Charles Stanford  
Chris Weber

**Faculty Advisors:**

Richard J. Cox, Professor, Archival Studies  
Karen Gracy, Assistant Professor, Preservation Management Studies

**Faculty Liaison:**

Kate Colligan, Archivist, Archives Service Center

**Activities:**

June 4, 2004

**Tour of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History**

Museum Archivist, Bernadette Callery guided the student chapter on a behind the scenes tour of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Friday June 4th. Dr. Callery presented several examples of museum recordkeeping systems and arranged for the students to meet with the Botany and Invertebrate Paleontology Collection Managers.

June 17, 2004

**Potluck & Discussion with Corporate Records Manager, Christian Savine**

On June 17th, 2004, the student chapter welcomed Corporate Records Manager, Christian Savine, for an informal discussion and potluck. Savine, a graduate of the Archives Program who is currently serving as the Senior Records Analyst at NOVA Chemicals, provided insight into the real world of corporate records and archives.

[Please note: June 2004 events were organized and attended by 2003-2004 members of SAASC.]

November 7, 2004

**Panel Discussion - Confused & Frightened About Your Future in Archives?**

On Sunday, November 7, 2004, SAASC presented an informal discussion between archives professionals and MLIS students to help answer students' questions about the work of archivists. The panelists covered many issues such as: a typical day in the life of archives professionals, their personal career paths and education experiences, the professional organizations they suggest joining, and the reasons they enjoy their work. Panel members included David Grinnel - Accessions Archivist, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania; Kate Colligan - Archivist, Archives Service Center, University of Pittsburgh; Miriam Meislik - Archivist/Photograph Curator, Archives Service Center, University of Pittsburgh; Martha Berg - Archivist, Rodef Shalom Congregation; Karen Gracy - Professor/Moving Image Archives & Preservation, University of Pittsburgh.

January 14, 2005

**Tour of Iron Mountain**

SAASC utilized the University's relationship and proximity with Iron Mountain to arrange for a tour of its underground vaults at its Boyer, Pennsylvania location. Iron Mountain was established in 1951 as one of the first records management companies. It serves as a full-service provider of management and storage services for business records, healthcare records, film and sound archives, and vital records. The tour included a presentation by Tom Roth on the history of the Iron Mountain from a mining facility to records storage site. Students then viewed selected vaults within the facility, notably the Bettman Collection at Corbis, the BMG-Sony vault, and the Warner Brothers vault, thus viewing different storage and environmental conditions. Additionally, students had the opportunity to speak to professionals who work in the facility, especially those dealing with sound and image manipulation.

March 2005

**Writing of SAASC Constitution**

In order to become an officially recognized student organization at the University of Pittsburgh, members of the SAASC updated its constitution. Members Cassie Pyle and Matt Novak worked on revising the constitution, which the SAASC reviewed and ratified.

April 10, 2005

**Remembering Polio: A Tribute to Pittsburgh's Own "Polio Pioneers"**

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Salk Polio Vaccine, the University of Pittsburgh held a commemorative reception. During the April 10th reception, SAASC members, Jonah McAllister-Erickson, Cassie Pyle, Ian McDermott, and Carly Reed participated as Oral Traditionalists in the videotaping of memories and recollections of the "Polio Pioneers," which include anyone who contracted polio, joined in the early pilot studies and later mass immunization campaigns, or was associated in any way with the development of the Salk polio vaccine. The goal of the organizing committee was to ensure that these interviews were conducted and preserved in a way that maintained their archival integrity for those who would like to study this milestone in the future. SAASC Co-President, Cassie Pyle interviewed Actor and March of Dimes Spokesperson, Mickey Rooney at the event.

April 29, 2005

**Tour of the Andy Warhol Museum & Archives**

On Friday, April 29, 2005, students visited the Andy Warhol Museum, the most comprehensive single-artist museum in the world. The collection consists of more than 4,000 works of art by Warhol including paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture, film, videotapes, and an extensive archive that consists of ephemera, records, source material for works of art, and other documents of the artist's life. Collections Manager, Allison Smith led a tour of the archives, showing the group an example of one of many "time capsules" created by Warhol himself. During the tour, the group discussed issues that arise for the Warhol staff as they attempt to remain faithful to both the artistic community and archival standards for preservation. This situation is especially problematic in dealing with Warhol's time capsules, which are simultaneously seen as works of art and documents of Warhol's life. Smith also showed the group the museum database and discussed description when cataloging time capsule items.

May 5-6, 2005

**Trip to Washington D.C.**

SAASC organized a trip to visit archival repositories in the Washington, D. C. area. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the group of 14 students visited Archives II, the NARA facility in College Park, Maryland, which houses the government's twentieth century archival materials. Employees James W. Martin, Jr. and Donna Melito provided an introduction to the NARA facility and the archival practices and procedures at Archives II. Students toured different departments, such as audio, photographs, prints, maps, as well as research and closed stacks areas. Later that evening, Pitt's student chapter met with SAM, Student Archivists at Maryland, University of Maryland's archival student chapter, for dinner and conversation.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, students went on a special guided tour of the museum section of NARA's Archives I facility, viewing the "Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom," as well as the Public Vaults exhibit, led by a visitor services representative. Finally, the group met with

Deborah Richardson at the Archives Center of the National Museum of American History, which is a part of the Smithsonian Institution. Richardson and her colleagues described the mission and goals of the Archives Center, provided a tour of the facility's workrooms and closed stacks, and described their work with images and databases.

May 26-27, 2005

**Speaker, John Kirk, Sony Pictures Film Specialist**

SAASC along with Infinity, the student preservation organization, sponsored two events with Film Specialist, John Kirk. Before MGM joined Sony Pictures, Kirk was Director of Technical Services at MGM Studios. On May 26th, John Kirk presented the recently restored, extended version of Sergio Leone's *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly* at the Oaks Theater, an independent theater in the Pittsburgh area. The screening was followed by a question and answer session with Kirk. This was the first theatrical screening of the restored version in Pittsburgh. It was a unique opportunity to view the classic film and speak with the person responsible for its restoration. The following day, May 27th, John Kirk gave a lecture on film preservation and restoration on campus. He presented film clips and discussed the process and issues surrounding the restoration of such classic films as *Some Like It Hot*, *The Apartment*, and *Kiss Me Deadly*.

February – August 2005

**Poster Session – Creating Bridges from Breadcrumbs**

Recognizing the benefits of recorded memory and continuity, SAASC began a process of gathering and documenting information about the chapter. The project implemented tools to: examine the additive value of student chapters to the graduate experience, document the history of the chapter by creating physical and virtual archives, reconnect with former University of Pittsburgh SAASC members, and create a guide for future chapters. Students developed a poster for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Poster Session at the 2005 SAA Annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana on August 16-21, 2005.