

# MAC midwest archives conference

## n e w s l e t t e r

*Preserving the Documents of the Past and Making Them Accessible to the Future!*

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### In This Issue...

President's Page .....2

MAC News .....3

News from  
the Midwest..... 11

Archival Resources  
on the Web ..... 14

Mixed Media .....17

Up-and-Comers ..... 19

People and Posts .. 23

MAC Contacts.....26

### MAC Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin “Moving Archives Forward” May 5–7, 2022

Although the weather today is anything but springlike, we are looking forward to warmer temps and the 2022 MAC Annual Meeting coming to Madison, Wisconsin, May 5–7!

Conference planners are doing everything possible to ensure attendees stay safe and healthy while offering plenty of opportunities to enjoy the city. Madison, in fact, has a great deal to offer in the spring, including one of the largest farmer's markets, a variety of festivals, outdoor dining, and ample activities for nature lovers and families. The city of Madison is located on ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial.

We are also pleased to announce that this year's plenary speaker will be Margaret Noodin. Dr. Noodin is a professor of English and American Indian studies at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee where she also serves as the associate dean of the humanities and director of the Electa Quinney Institute for American Indian Education.

The Local Arrangements Committee has been busy lining up tours for Thursday, May 5. These opportunities include visiting the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, the University of Wisconsin Special Collections department, the state-of-the-art Wisconsin State Archive Preservation Facility (SAPF), and a First Nations Cultural Landscape walking tour of the UW–Madison campus. The opening reception at the Wisconsin Historical Society will offer highlights from its renowned North American history collections. Transportation to the tours and reception will be finalized as we draw closer, and we will keep members posted on those plans. Additional sites to see and places to visit outside the formal tours offered by MAC will be detailed on the MAC blog (<https://madisonmac2022.wordpress.com>).

The Program Committee is hard at work curating sessions that address the conference theme “Moving Archives Forward” by exploring professional, environmental, societal, and cultural factors that affect the way we move forward, the way we see trends, and the way we identify challenges and opportunities. Pop-up proposals were due in late January, so by the time you read this, MAC membership will have voted to select three pop-up sessions. Masks will be required during all sessions. And, for the first time, MAC is offering a hybrid option for the annual conference. This will include virtual access to the plenary, members' meeting, and selected sessions.

*(Continued on page 4)*

Dear MAC members,

As I write this column in January, a blanket of snow covers the ground outside the archives, and it is hard to know what will happen next week, much less have exact plans for the spring. However, if the pandemic has taught me anything, it is to be flexible and to celebrate the small victories as well as the larger ones. And so, when this newsletter comes out in April, I know that the daffodils and crocuses will be up, and we will be ready to celebrate 50 years of MAC.

Recently, I have spent time thinking about the value of professional organizations. As we prepare for our spring meeting, we have asked you to consider—what does MAC mean to you? Kasandra Brellenthin, MAC's first fieldwork student, is currently reaching out to members to hear your answers to this question. At the same time, she is digging through the MAC archives at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee to learn more about our history. We look forward to sharing what Kasandra finds both on the MAC website and in Madison during the Annual Meeting.

As a long-time member and president, what does MAC mean to me?

To me, MAC means friendship. I attended my first MAC meeting in May 2000. With my flight to Chicago arriving early that Thursday morning, I wasn't sure what to do at first until I was swept up by other Big Ten archivists and introduced around. Other archivists were just as welcoming, teaching me the ropes and suggesting the best place to find lunch. Over the years, I've called on my MAC friends for advice and feedback, to bounce ideas off of them or request help, and sometimes just to laugh. Inevitably, whether individually or in a group, someone asks, "Do you remember the time we...?"

MAC also means learning. New archivists periodically ask me why they should join MAC or read *Archival Issues* or attend a MAC meeting or Symposium. I always respond that MAC is where you find new ways to handle real, concrete, archival challenges; that we are large enough to have a lot of expertise, but small enough to ask questions and get great answers. Perhaps it's midwestern practicality that pushes us to find solutions that we can take home and try.

And finally, MAC means giving back. An organization doesn't get to its 50th anniversary without a lot of care. Looking back at our newsletters, it is astonishing to see all the different people who were officers, committee chairs, authors, and contributors. Of course, those lists do not include so many others who built MAC into the organization it is today. On behalf of MAC, thank you all so very much!

I look forward to hearing what MAC means to you both at the spring meeting and throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns about MAC or just want to chat, please do not hesitate to reach out (chute.6@osu.edu, 614-292-3271).

See you in Madison!



Tamar Chute

MAC President

## Vice President's Column MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

*By Michelle Sweetser, Bowling Green State University*



I'm writing this column on a foggy Monday morning with the threat of a massive snow and ice storm later this week. By the time you read this, I would like to think that snow will no longer be a concern in our forecasts, but we are in the Midwest, so I suppose snow is a possibility even approaching and into May. Whatever the temperatures, though, I am looking forward to the Annual Meeting in Madison—learning something new from all of the presenters, catching up with colleagues and friends, sneaking in a long run along Lake Mendota, grabbing ice cream at the Memorial Union, savoring the 50th anniversary celebratory dessert at our opening reception, and more. Regardless of how you plan your visit to Madison—or whether you decide to opt for the virtual conference—I have no doubt that this year's meeting will be memorable.

It is hard to believe that nearly two years have gone by since I was elected vice president. At the time I was asked to run for office, we had no idea that COVID was on the horizon, and we had no idea how many twists and turns MAC's meeting planning would take as a consequence of the pandemic. Since then, we have had many firsts: MAC has hosted its first all-virtual Annual Meeting and first all-virtual Symposium, and now MAC is preparing to host its first hybrid Annual Meeting with virtual and in-person components. And I'll be honest: I've spent many, many hours in MAC-related Zoom meetings. I am so very excited to conclude my term with an event where I actually get to see some of you in person!

It has been a pleasure to work alongside so many dedicated MAC volunteers. I am amazed at the flexibility, ingenuity, attention, and care that MAC members bring to their roles. Likewise, I am grateful for the dedication, knowledge, and compassion of our AMC colleagues who share their expertise to make MAC a great organization. Getting to know all of these people as individuals as well as

professional colleagues has been a highlight for me. In reflecting on what MAC means to me, I'd have to say that MAC members are front and center.

So many good things are in the works for MAC in the coming year, and I know that our next vice president has some great collaborators in place. In case you've missed the news (or have forgotten in COVID-induced brain fog), locations are all set for our next two meetings:

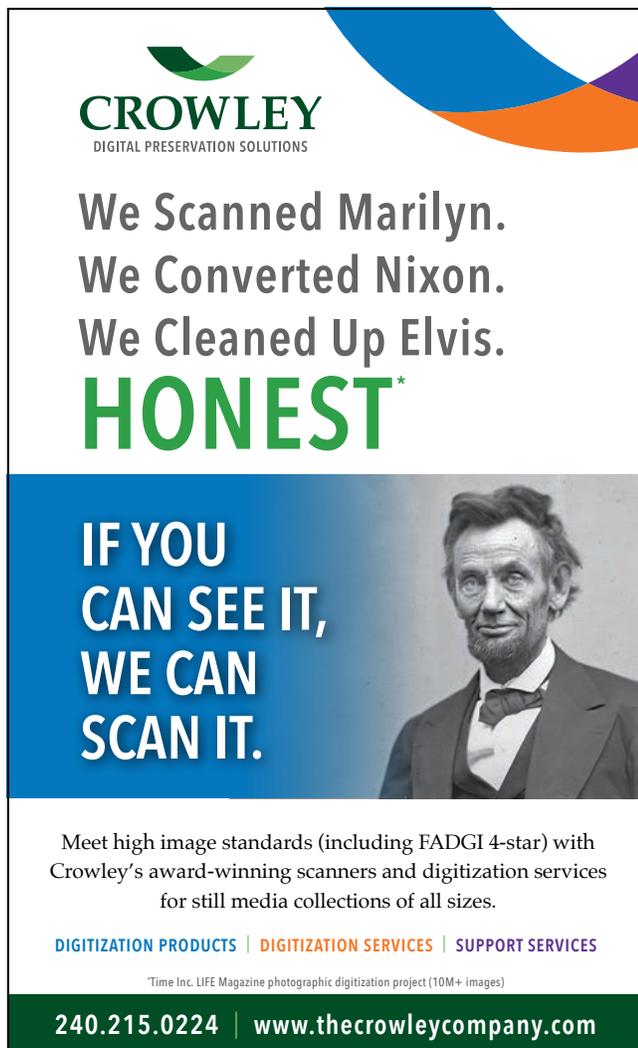
- Jackie Shalberg and Bethany Fiechter are coordinating our Fall Symposium, scheduled for October 14–15, 2022, at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. If you feel like you're grinding your gears, allowing outreach to take a backseat, or revving your motor to find a programming solution at your institution, this Symposium—"Driving Outreach to Victory Lane"—is for you! You'll leave with an outreach tune-up and discover successful methods to engage your audiences.
- Michael Bullington and Pam Hackbart-Dean are cochairing the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2023 Annual Meeting, back in MAC's hometown of Chicago. They are working with AMC to identify a hotel site, and I anticipate that we'll be able to share dates and a location with you at the Annual Meeting. Later this spring, the Program Committee chairs will be putting out a call for members to assist in setting the theme and in establishing the program for our gathering. I hope you'll consider getting involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve! I look forward to seeing you in Madison!

Humbly,  
Michelle

(Continued from page 1)

Be sure to check out the Annual Meeting blog at <https://madisonmac2022.wordpress.com> for information on travel tips, local COVID-19 guidelines, and child care, as well as recommendations for restaurants and things to do while you're in Madison. The blog will also include regular updates about the conference, so be sure to check it often. In the meantime, check out the Destination Madison website at <https://www.visitmadison.com> for more details about visiting Madison. We look forward to seeing you there!



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## Archival Issues Update

By Brandon T. Pieczko, Archival Issues  
Editorial Board Chair, Indiana University

I hope this update finds you all well. The current issue of *Archival Issues* (vol. 41, no. 2) is in progress, and we anticipate that it will be published in early spring. Three full-length articles and seven reviews have been accepted for publication and are currently going through the editing process. As a reminder, this will be the first issue of the journal to be released electronically only as part of MAC's efforts to reduce production costs, become more environmentally sustainable, and increase access to our publications.

I am also excited to announce an upcoming project to contribute entries to Wikidata for all articles that have been published in *Archival Issues* (and its predecessor, *The Midwestern Archivist*). Eric Willey, a dedicated MAC member and special collections and formats cataloger at Illinois State University, has graciously agreed to lead this project to make our journal content even more accessible and discoverable. Stay tuned for updates as this project progresses.

As always, we welcome article submissions on a wide range of topics related to archives and special collections and are always looking for new authors. If you have an idea for an article you would like to discuss, are thinking about reworking a successful conference presentation for publication, or already have a manuscript ready to go, please consider submitting to *Archival Issues*. You can contact me directly at [bpieczko@iu.edu](mailto:bpieczko@iu.edu) or visit our new online submission portal (<https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/archivalissues/submissions>).

**Do you enjoy reading the MAC Newsletter?  
Would you like to contribute to it creation?  
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Adriana Harmeyer, [aharmey@purdue.edu](mailto:aharmey@purdue.edu),  
if you are interested or want to learn more  
about open positions!**

## Midwest Archives Conference Fall Council Virtual Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2021 (Day One)

### Minutes

1:30 p.m. –3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone)

**Present:** Tamar Chute, Michelle Sweetser, Jerice Barrios, Anne Thomason, Jennifer Ho, Katie Blank, Sammie Morris, Daria Labinsky, Donica Swann, Harrison Inefuku, Lynn Smith

*Chute thanked Council for being responsive to votes and initiatives over the summer.*

### Spring Council Meeting Minutes

**Action item:** Council approved the spring 2021 meeting minutes.

### President's Report

Chute summarized her president's report. Labinsky noted that Brandon Pieczko and Ida Mangum were both reappointed to their roles. Chute will update her report. Chute also highlighted MAC's response condemning the removal of the *Making History: Kansas City and the Rise of Gay Rights* exhibit from the Missouri state capitol rotunda.

### Annual Meeting

Sweetser announced that the Annual Meeting will be both in person and virtual. The plenary speaker has been confirmed.

One of our PC cochairs will be on maternity leave from January through March. Scott Brouwer was nominated as interim cochair from January through March.

**Action item:** Council approved Scott Brouwer as interim cochair from January through March 2022.

The program committee has made decisions regarding the program and distributed the speaker's agreement form. One of the speakers raised concerns about the demographic information collected on the form. Sweetser has talked to the cochairs, Chute, and Harrison Inefuku and recommends the form be revised with the help of Inefuku and the EIC. Sweetser has drafted an apology for the form.

Inefuku said the goal of the demographic data was to ensure diversity was being represented and the question was asked in the speaker's agreement form so that demographic

information would not be taken into consideration during the decision-making process. Originally, Council hoped to use this demographic data to fix imbalances; but the sense is that having the question on the form does not help fix imbalances. Session proposal submitters could be asked to answer a question about how their session will contribute to DEI, which will be considered, although some concern was also expressed that white people might write a statement about diversity to gain points without actually representing the voices of the communities they are talking about. Another idea would be to require a member of an underrepresented community to be a part of any session about that community. Concern was also expressed by several council members that people may not want to reveal personal data to a MAC committee.

Changes to the speaker's agreement form will be made before the spring 2023 call for proposals.

It was noted that MAC does not have a diversity statement on the website and that MAC needs a diversity statement. Chute suggested borrowing from the SAA statement if they give permission. Chute will write SAA and get approval to use some of the language. Thomason and Morris will help with the statement.

### MAC 2023 Annual Meeting, Chicago

**Action item:** Council approved Pam Hackbart-Dean as Program Committee cochair.

### MAC Fall Symposium 2022

The Symposium is planned for Indianapolis in 2022, and Jackie Shalberg and Bethany Fiechter have submitted a detailed proposal. Sweetser will verify the dates for the Symposium, and Council will vote to approve the Fall Symposium over email.

### Vendor Coordinator

Sweetser, Blank, and Barrios will meet to see what else, if anything, needs to be added to the vendor coordinator position description. Barrios discussed the importance of the vendor coordinator communicating with the publications chair.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

### **Future Meeting Locations after Spring 2023**

Council began thinking of where to go for the Annual Meeting after 2023. Where haven't we been? Where do we have volunteers willing to be hosts?

### **Treasurer's Report**

Barrios gave the treasurer's report. Council will vote later over email on the report. Council discussed methods of raising the amount of funds available for scholarships.

### **Secretary's Report**

Thomason gave the secretary's report. Thomason will begin going over Google Drive procedures and making sure the process for adding and removing members is clear.

### **Social Justice Responses**

Council had approved a Social Response Committee in October of 2020 to help craft responses and messages, which would then go to Council for approval. Positions need to be filled for this committee. Ho and Swann wrote our last statement regarding the exhibit in Kansas. The process will go smoother if there is a committee to take on this work; for example, members of the committee can volunteer to draft a statement, and the work will be spread out among members instead of the same person each time. This also allows emotional labor to be spread out. The group will need a chair. Ho will be the liaison for the Social Response Committee. The committee consists of the president, secretary, one member of council, and two MAC members, one of whom is a student member.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Council discussed making the nominating process easier and how to generate more candidates. The volunteer coordinator should help with this process.

**Action item:** *Council approved the Nominating Committee slate:*

### **Vice President**

Jennifer Audsley-Moore, National Archives at Denver, Colorado

Benn Joseph, Northwestern University, Illinois

### **Treasurer**

Jerice Barrios, Archives of the North American Province of the Cenacle, Chicago

Lindy Smith, University of Missouri–Kansas City Missouri

### **Council**

Becky Dampitz, Decatur Free Library, Illinois

Lindsay Hiltunen, Michigan Tech, Michigan

Rebecca Kuske, University of Wisconsin–Stout, Wisconsin

Laurinda Weisse, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Nebraska

### **Nominations**

Mikala Narlock, University of Notre Dame, Indiana

Amber Watts, Fort Hays State University, Kansas

Michael Seminara, University of South Dakota, South Dakota

Austin Justice, University of Southern Mississippi Libraries, Mississippi

### **Strategic Planning**

Donica Swann reported on strategic planning with a recommendation of establishing a mission, vision, and value statement first.

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 (Day 2)

### Minutes

12:00 noon–4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone)

#### Welcome and Introductions (Chute)

**In attendance:** Tamar Chute, Michelle Sweetser, Jerice Barrios, Donica Swann, Jennifer Ho, Katie Blank, Sammie Morris, Daria Labinsky, Anne Thomason, Lynn Smith

#### Membership and Volunteer Coordinator Discussion

Membership Coordinator Greg Bailey joined us to talk about the membership campaign and the volunteer coordinator position. Bailey summarized the membership report and informed Council that the link to the volunteer form is now included on the membership renewal email. Council then discussed the duties of the volunteer coordinator position and how to fill it.

Labinsky reminded Chute to begin recording the meeting, and the secretary is incredibly grateful for this.

Council discussed having realistic expectations of what the volunteer coordinator can accomplish. Part of the process means making sure committees are aware they can contact the volunteer coordinator to help find people interested in serving on their committees. The volunteer coordinator was confirmed to be a three-year term. Council hopes to have someone in place by spring so there can be transition time prior to the Annual Meeting.

Bailey and Chute will meet to outline the position in more depth before putting the call out.

Council acknowledged that some of the manuals on the website may need to be updated. Thomason will begin this process and make sure the manuals on the website are the latest versions.

#### Publications Report

Labinsky summarized the publications report, reminding Council that MAC's publications are only online moving forward; there will be no more print editions after the next issue of *Archival Issues*.

Labinsky brought forth a proposal to digitize the newsletters, including the years 1973–1986 and 2006–2010. This would be an excellent project for MAC's 50th anniversary. The cost would be about \$7,000. Treasurer Barrios said that we have enough to take out of our strategic fund.

**Action item:** Council participated in a nonbinding vote confirming interest in pursuing the digitization of the MAC Newsletter.

Treasurer Barrios will present an amended budget that Council will vote on via email.

#### Spring 2022 Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, Report and Discussion

Council was joined by PC Cochairs Sarah Dorpinghaus and Kahlee Leingang; Deb Nolan and Celeste Isacco from AMC; and Hathaway Hester from the Education Committee. LAC Cochairs Katie Nash and Cynthia Bachhuber joined during the middle of the discussion.

Council discussed the speaker's agreement, and Dorpinghaus confirmed that the speaker's agreement asked if the presenter accepted being recorded or being part of a livestream. Only two sessions did not assent to recording. The conference will be hybrid, and if at least 50 people register, the virtual portion of the conference will pay for itself. The plan is to know in advance which sessions will be available for the virtual conference.

Council then turned to COVID protocols during the conference. The planning committees recommended not requiring masks as PC committee members are uncomfortable asking people to put on masks and many public spaces cannot be controlled. The committee recommended encouraging masks and for shepherds to remind attendees before the start of each session of the importance of hand washing and wearing masks.

Thomason expressed concern about not having a mask mandate, as the public health risk of a large event in potentially cramped session rooms outweighs the discomfort of asking someone to put on a mask. Council discussed requiring masks in the program sessions. Thomason suggested we should have a vaccine requirement as well, acknowledging such a requirement would be challenging to implement. The committees were thanked for their careful consideration of protocols in the COVID era. After discussion, Council decided to vote on a masking requirement for the session spaces only.

**Action item:** Council voted to adopt a masking requirement in session spaces during the MAC Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, May 2022.

Council then discussed the registration rate for the Annual Meeting. Rates are proposed to stay the same as 2020.

(Continued on page 8)

*(Continued from page 7)*

**Rates:**

Member	\$135
Nonmember	\$165
Student	\$ 65
Member—postdeadline	\$155
Nonmember—postdeadline	\$185
Student—postdeadline	\$ 75
Day registrants	\$ 90
Reception guests	\$ 30
Virtual registration	\$ 49
Nonmember virtual registration	\$ 59

**Action item:** *Council approved the registration rates as stated in the report with the addition of the nonmember virtual rate of \$59.*

**Education Committee**

Hathaway Hester summarized the report. Michelle Ganz proposed a workshop on increasing accessibility in archives for employees and visitors that has been accepted. There will not be an SAA workshop this year.

The committee plans on having the Speakers Bureau be virtual in 2022.

Ho asked if at the MAC Annual Meeting speakers could start each session with a reminder about the code of conduct. Council agreed this would be a good idea, and VP Sweetser said the code of conduct will also be available on the registration form.

**Development Coordinator**

Chute announced that Ida Mangum has resigned as development coordinator, and MAC needs to fill the position. Barrios recommended checking with the current Development Committee to see if anyone is interested before sending out a general call for a volunteer. The new development coordinator would finish Mangum’s term.

**Awards Committees**

President Chute recommended sending out an email blast about fully funding the Mark Greene scholarship. She will work on writing that and send it out.

Council then turned to a discussion of the Awards Task Force. There was discussion of whether recommendation letters should be required for all awards. Sammie Morris will work with award committees and call a meeting to start a discussion about the application process for the awards, making sure we are consistent in how we give the money to winners and other awards issues.

Council then discussed the many problems members and officers have faced with MAC Forums. Chute is going to check with Memberclicks to see if there is a better way.

Jennifer Johnson joined the meeting at 2:24 to discuss the Presidents Award report to redesign the committee structure to match how it actually functions.

In its report, the committee recommended three possible options:

1. Maintain the Presidents Award Committee as is with more responsibilities directed to the state committees.
2. Merge the responsibilities of the state committees with the state representatives on the Membership Committee; ideally, eliminating the role of state committees from the Presidents Award Committee and asking state representatives on the Membership Committee to take on the minimal additional role of sending out the call for nominations for the Presidents Award Committee.
3. Create a new committee structure for the Presidents Award Committee, phasing out or eliminating state committees from the Presidents Award Committee. The new committee would be formed of the three immediate past MAC presidents and perhaps the addition of two volunteers to include member participation in the committee.

The committee prefers option 3 and Council concurred, with perhaps only having one volunteer instead of two.

Johnson will touch base with the current state reps to make sure they do not have any problems with the proposed change. She will also check with Greg Bailey from the Membership Committee.

After Johnson’s conversations and any rewording, Johnson will send a revised report and Council will vote on the change.

### 2021 Fall Symposium

Tara Laver and Lindy Smith joined us to summarize the 2021 Fall Symposium report. Final attendance ended up at 102 people; the committee decided to allow the 40 people on the waitlist in.

### Motley Award

Rebekah McFarland joined us to discuss the Motley award and suggested removing the geographic limitation on the award to encourage more applications and interest in MAC.

*Action item: Council voted to remove the geographical limitation on the Motley award.*

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:49 p.m.**

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*(Continued from page 9)*

## Between Meeting Actions

Council passed the following motion via email on November 30, 2021:

*Council approved the new volunteer coordinator position and description.*

Council passed the following motion via email on December 9, 2021:

*Council approved the minutes of the Fall 2021 Council Meeting.*

Council passed the following motion via email on December 10, 2021:

*Council approved to change the makeup of the Social Response Committee to the following: president, secretary, one member of Council, and two MAC members. The original configuration was president, secretary, one member of Council, one MAC member, and one student member. After several attempts, no student members volunteered for the position, and the turnover in students every year would make it challenging to maintain the position. Council will strive for diversity in selecting the two MAC members of the committee.*

Council passed the following motion via email on January 13, 2022:

*Council approved the Treasurer's Report and Budget for 2022.*

Council passed the following motion via email on January 19, 2022:

*Council approved Kate Dietrick as the volunteer coordinator.*

Council passed the following motion via email on January 25, 2022:

*Council approved Natalia Gutiérrez-Jones as development coordinator.*

Council passed the following motion via email on February 4, 2022:

*Council approved the amended slate for the 2022 election. The slate will be:*

### **Vice President:**

Jennifer Audsley-Moore, National Archives at Denver, Colorado

Benn Joseph, Northwestern University, Illinois

### **Treasurer:**

Jerice Barrios, North American Province of the Cenacle (Cenacle Sisters)

Lindy Smith, University of Missouri–Kansas City, Kansas

### **Council:**

Becky Dampitz, Decatur Free Library, Illinois

Lindsay Hiltunen, Michigan Tech, Michigan

Laurinda Weisse, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Nebraska

### **Nominating Committee:**

Kayla Harris, University of Dayton, Ohio

Joseph Taylor, Knox College, Illinois

Amber Watts, Fort Hays State University, Kansas

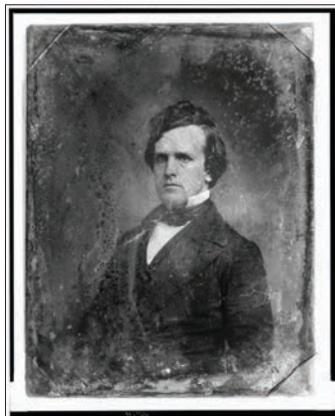
# News from the Midwest

*Assistant Editor: Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items to Lois at hamill1@nku.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!*

## ILLINOIS

### Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The Special Collections Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale has acquired more than 90 letters to and from Richard Yates (1815–1873), Illinois congressman, senator, and Civil War governor. This collection includes Yates's candid descriptions of social and political life in mid-nineteenth-century Washington written to his wife, Catherine, back home in Jacksonville, Illinois. A poignant 1870 letter, written near the end of his Senate term, shows another side of Yates as he begs Catherine to forgive his drunkenness and infidelity. Among his wartime correspondence is a remarkable letter from Governor Samuel Kirkwood of Iowa, a month after Fort Sumter, asking whether Illinois would aid Iowa in case of attack from Missouri. Also revealing is an 1861 letter from Gustav Koerner exploring his options to best lead the Illinois Germans into the war. All told, the collection offers scholars a fresh look at Yates both as a husband and a leader during a pivotal period in US history.



*Richard Yates photographed in Mathew Brady's studio, early 1850s. Daguerreotype, Library of Congress.*

## KENTUCKY

### Northern Kentucky University

The Special Collections and University Archives has continued work to increase and enhance access to its records. Three new finding aids have been produced for university records—Intercollegiate Athletics, Athletics Administration and Boosters, and Sports Programs, <https://dspace.nku.edu/handle/11216/3229>. These finding aids represent years of work processing the records sufficiently to describe them. The Theodore H. H. Harris Local History Research Papers finding aid now links to a number of items in the collection which have been digitized and added to the digital repository at <https://dspace.nku.edu/handle/11216/3681>. Harris's research on local buffalo soldier Sergeant Thomas Shaw will be included in a forthcoming book.

## MICHIGAN

### Madonna University, Felician Sisters of North America

In December 2021, the Felician Sisters of North America finished moving all local archives to the newly constructed Heritage Center and Archive in Livonia, Michigan. Housed in the Madonna Welcome Center, this is in cooperation with Madonna University. Sister Grace Marie Del Priore, provincial archivist, helped plan and organize the project, and waited as numerous delays arose. Their plans bore fruit, though. Between November and December, the archives of seven former provinces were moved to Michigan. There's much work to be done yet, but this is an exciting move for the sisters!



*Sister Grace Marie Del Priore in front of a stained glass window about the sisters in North America*



*Workers admire their handiwork in the stacks.*

*(Continued on page 12)*

(Continued from page 11)

## MINNESOTA

### St. Olaf College, Norwegian-American Historical Association

The Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) recently received an \$86,000 grant to digitize a portion of its Norse-American Centennial papers. The Centennial was the commemoration of a century of organized Norwegian migration. This event provided an opportunity to celebrate their heritage and to demonstrate their American-ness. The celebrations culminated in a major festival held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in June 1925. The celebrations constituted a complex process of identity building and a tricky balancing of old culture and new. The project is financed by funds provided by the State of Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The grant has enabled NAHA to hire a full-time imaging archivist for the duration of the project. NAHA archivist Kristina Warner will oversee the project, which is expected to be completed in early 2023.



Group portrait of the Sognalaget, St. Paul, Minnesota. Photo courtesy of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

## MISSOURI

### University of Missouri–Kansas City

A newly fabricated edition of the exhibit *Making History: Kansas City and the Rise of Gay Rights* is making the rounds in St. Louis, appearing at multiple organizations, while the original exhibit is now on display at the Meyer Library at Missouri State University. § The Libraries received a gift of \$30,942 from the Herbert Vincent Jones Jr. Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, to fund a term-limited appointment for a Digital Projects Fellow. This Fellow will directly support the migration of UMKC Digital Special Collections, as well as a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) assessment of these collections. § The Marr Sound Archives completed the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Recordings at Risk grant project, Preserving 1940s Radio Broadcasts on Severely Damaged Lacquer Discs. The project utilized the imaging technology IRENE, located at Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). The Sound Archives also initiated a mass cassette digitization station and hired a preservation intern to work on digitizing audiocassettes.

## NEBRASKA

### University of Nebraska Omaha

The University of Nebraska Omaha Libraries' is pleased to share the opening of the next series from the US Senator Chuck Hagel Archives. Newly available for research is the Legislative Files series, the largest and most content-rich set of materials in the Hagel Archives. Hagel's legislative files cover almost every issue that arose in legislation or was prominent at the national level from 1997 to 2009. Significant events and topics include the Clinton impeachment proceedings in 1998–1999; a contested presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore in 2000; the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; US involvement in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; the economic downturn of 2007–2009; and disaster and drought assistance for Nebraska's rural areas. Learn more about the Hagel Archives at <https://www.unomaha.edu/criss-library/archives-and-special-collections/hagel-archives.php>. The collection's finding aid is available in Nebraska Archives Online at <https://archives.nebraska.edu/repositories/4/resources/508>.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**State Historical Society**

More than 3,765 women’s suffrage items from the John A. and Alice Pickler Papers are now available on the South Dakota Digital Archives at <https://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/digital>. In 1991, 65 boxes of Pickler family records were donated including photographs, political papers, business records, and more than four boxes of suffrage-related correspondence, speech notes, meeting minutes, and booklets. To

commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote, the suffrage portion of the Pickler Papers was digitized and cataloged through a generous donation from the F.L. Clarkson Family Foundation. Major John A. Pickler and his wife, Alice, moved to Faulkton, Dakota Territory, in 1882 and became prominent citizens in the area. John was elected to the territorial legislature in 1884 and introduced suffrage legislation in 1885, which was unsuccessful. In 1889, John was elected to the US House of Representatives, making him part of South Dakota’s very first

congressional delegation. He served in this capacity for eight years and actively advocated for women’s right to vote. Alice was also active in the suffrage movement as a member of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association.



*Courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives.*

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## Archival Resources on the Web

*Assistant Editor: Lauren White, University of Michigan. Contact Lauren at [laurenashleywhite@gmail.com](mailto:laurenashleywhite@gmail.com) if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.*

### **Benedictine College Archives Collaborates with Campus Partners for WWII Veterans' Exhibit**

*By Julia T. Fassero, Benedictine College Archives*

Do you remember your freshman dorm room? Better yet, do you remember for whom your dorm room was named? Many college graduates may not remember their freshman dorm room, or for whom it was named. At Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, that's changing.

As the 70th anniversary of St. Martin's Memorial Hall approached in October 2021, college leadership knew they wanted to create a connection between the past and the present. Dedicated in 1951 to the students of St. Benedict's College (now Benedictine College) who died in military service during World War II, St. Martin's Memorial Hall has a unique—but relatively uncelebrated—history. Each room is named for a soldier, but little information was known about these men until last year. November 11, 2021, presented an opportunity to reveal the legacy of these soldiers while celebrating three important events: the 70th anniversary of the residence hall, Veterans Day, and the feast of St. Martin of Tours (after whom the dorm is named). The Benedictine College Archives was asked to research and write the biographies of the 50 soldiers linked to the college. These biographies were incorporated into the celebration, hung by each room in Memorial Hall, and published online as an exhibit titled *Heroes of St. Martin's*.

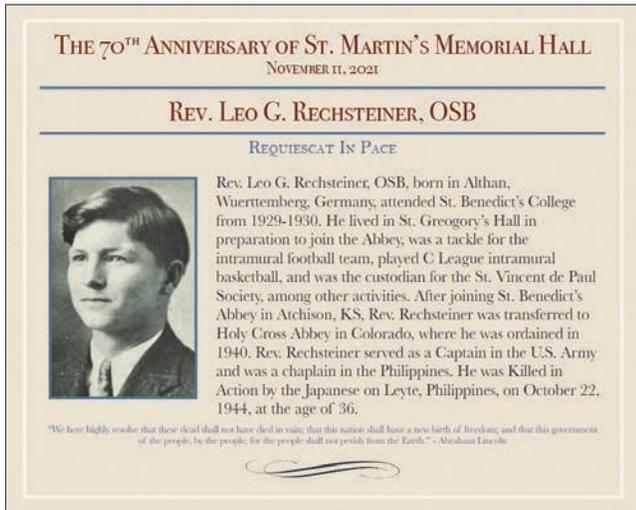
The Benedictine College Archives was formally established in the fall of 2021. While the college dates back to 1858, it was originally two separate schools: St. Benedict's College, a school for boys, and Mount St. Scholastica College, a women's school across town. In 1971, they merged into Benedictine College. While both sponsoring institutions have their own archives (which contain much information related to the early years of St. Benedict's College and Mount St. Scholastica College), Benedictine College did not have an archivist or a formal archives until August 2021.

The online exhibit *Heroes of St. Martin's* was the first major project undertaken by the Benedictine College Archives.

This was an excellent opportunity for the archives to step in and facilitate an encounter between past and present. A biography was hung by each door in the dorm, and an online exhibit was created to make these biographies more accessible for the general public, as well as to make a lasting display honoring these students of Benedictine College.

Creating the brief biographies required two phases: research and writing. Research required numerous different sources—from searching online for obituaries and service records, to requesting help from local historical societies. Additionally, the Benedictine College Archives—particularly the college yearbooks—provided valuable information pertaining to each student's time at St. Benedict's College, his degree (if graduated), his extracurricular activities, his leadership roles, and his hometown information. Kathy Garrison, class notes coordinator of the college's Office of Advancement, assisted in research and provided connections to the relatives of the soldiers. For example, the nephew of First Lieutenant Norman Bernard Mayse clarified biographical details, enabling his service records to be located. The living descendants of one of the men, First Lieutenant Robert Hogan, were notified and informed of the project.

The writing phase required the development of a uniform format for each biography. While information was available for some soldiers, for others, very little was known. Deciding what essential information was needed for each individual helped optimize the length and style of each biography. While the core elements of each biography remained the same, each was tailored to best fit the individual. Many of the biographies were paired with photos of the men: either as students or in service uniforms. A significant obstacle to this project was the lack of photos for every person. A continued project goal in the coming months is to locate the remaining missing photos. Examples of biographies—one with details, another without—are included here.



The landing page of the Heroes of St. Martin's project. Access the online exhibit at [www.benedictine.edu/StMartinHeroes](http://www.benedictine.edu/StMartinHeroes).

Second Lieutenant Philip James Beisner's biography is highly individualized:

Second Lieutenant Philip James Beisner, born in Salina, KS, attended St. Benedict's College from 1938–1942. He majored in Business Administration, was a member of the Holy Name Society, International Relations Club, an intramural bowling champion, and a member of the amateur drama club during his time at St. Benedict's. 2d Lt. Beisner served in the US Army Air Forces in the 492nd Fighter Squadron, 48th Fighter Group before he was killed in Germany on September 27, 1944, at the age of 23.

Information about his extracurricular activities—including clubs and intramurals—was readily available during the research phase and resulted in a biography that really draws the reader into his life. His military service was available online and provided details about when and where he was killed.

In contrast to 2d Lt. Beisner's personalized biography, very little information was available about some soldiers. Despite continued research attempts, some information was unretrievable. The biography of Sergeant Joseph Panepinto is an example of a basic biography:

Sergeant Joseph Panepinto, born in Indiana, attended St. Benedict's College from 1938–1939. There is very little information about his time at college or his background. Sgt. Panepinto served in the US Army Air Corps before he died in a non-battle incident on September 16, 1943, at the age of 24.

Little information about Sgt. Panepinto could be found. Future goals for this online exhibit include updating impersonal biographies such as Sgt. Panepinto's as more information is found.

While the content creation was completed by the college archivist, the online display was created by the Marketing Department. Steve Johnson, director of marketing and communications, said that he was "interested in creating a notable name and online presence for the Heroes of St. Martin's so these men could be properly remembered for their sacrifice." The college's web administrator, Joseph Rioux, created an excellent online exhibit. The exhibit is set up like a "digital dorm," which allows viewers to go floor by floor to see biographies. Each floor is divided by rooms so that current students or previous residents can find the man after whom their room is named. Working directly with the in-house experts was an excellent choice for designing the web-based portion of the project, as it freed the archivist to focus on other elements.



The landing page of the Heroes of St. Martin's project. Access the online exhibit at [www.benedictine.edu/StMartinHeroes](http://www.benedictine.edu/StMartinHeroes).

While creating an archives exhibit on the web comes with its fair share of complications, three main benefits stand out. First, the accessibility it provides to those around the world is significant. Instead of a limited sphere of people being able to access the biographies of these soldiers, anyone with access to a computer can learn more about Benedictine College's ties to World War II. Second, while physical exhibits require more time, effort, and money to change and adapt, an online exhibit provides the right amount of flexibility. With a web-based exhibit, as new information is gathered, it can easily be added. Third, the semipermanence of the web—though questions of digital preservation arise—offered the Benedictine College Archives the ideal way to commemorate the legacy of these 50 men who died in the service of their nation.

(Continued on page 16)

**ARCHIVAL RESOURCES ON THE WEB—Continued**  
**Lauren White, Assistant Editor**

*(Continued from page 15)*

The response to the Heroes of St. Martin’s project was incredibly positive. The residents of the St. Martin’s Memorial Hall were moved by the sacrifices made by these young men. Barney Mayse, nephew of First Lieutenant Norman Mayse, thanked Benedictine College for the “wonderful memorial for [Norman Mayse] and the others who served and died during the war.” People from across the country have accessed the online exhibit, which will remain online for the foreseeable future. As more information is discovered and more photographs are found, the Benedictine College Archives will continue to update the exhibit. Steve Johnson said, “It is my hope that Benedictine students access the information moving forward, as well as family members of the men remembered, and the general public. Some of the stories are truly amazing.” *Heroes of St. Martin’s* is available online at [www.benedictine.edu/StMartinHeroes](http://www.benedictine.edu/StMartinHeroes).

St. Martin's Memorial Hall - 1st Floor			
SECOND LIEUTENANT THEODORE BARTLE ROOM 106	ENGIN JAMES BARR ROOM 105	PRIVATE DONALD BORDERS ROOM 105	SERGEANT JEREMIAH BROSNAN ROOM 107
ENGIN ALLEN CANNELL ROOM 108	CAPTAIN JOHN CHAFFERS ROOM 110	STAFF SERGEANT ROGER COLLINS ROOM 112	TECHNICIAN 1TH GRADE EMMETT DALL JR. ROOM 114
CORPORAL ALBERT DEPOH ROOM 116	STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT DENYLY ROOM 118	FIRST LIEUTENANT DANIEL GOODWIN ROOM 111	PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FRANCIS NEUBANK ROOM 103
REV. LEO REICHTENBER, O.S.B. ROOM 101	PRIVATE HAROLD RULANDER ROOM 102	FIRST LIEUTENANT FRANK SUGAR ROOM 104	REV. JOSEPH WUNDERLICH, O.S.B. ROOM 109

St. Martin's Memorial Hall - 2nd Floor			
SECOND LIEUTENANT PHILIP REISER ROOM 201	PRIVATE NORMAN FEE ROOM 201	SECOND LIEUTENANT ROBERT FROELICH ROOM 202	ENGIN WILLIAM FROTHINGHAM ROOM 203
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSEPH GARDEN ROOM 204	SECOND LIEUTENANT GEORGE GRACE ROOM 206	LIEUTENANT JR. GRADE WILLIAM HANSEN ROOM 207	FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT HOGAN ROOM 208
SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN LADON NORTON ROOM 205	PRIVATE JAY HAPPEL ROOM 210	STAFF SERGEANT ROGER KEARNEY ROOM 209	FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT KOSCIOLANK ROOM 212
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MELDON NAGAR ROOM 216	FIRST LIEUTENANT NORMAN NAYKE ROOM 218	STAFF SERGEANT BERNARD MCCOYDEN ROOM 214	FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM MERRILL, JR. ROOM 200

*The biographies are divided by floor, creating a “digital dorm” for viewers to look through.*

<p><b>Room 105</b> Private Donald Lewis Borders</p> <p>Born in Wyanoneta, MO, Borders attended St. Benedict's College in 1943. Growing up, he was an outstanding athlete and quite friendly. PVT Borders served in the U.S. Army in the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division, spending time in England, France and Belgium. He was killed in action on February 3, 1945. He was only 19.</p>	<p>on November 18, 1944. He was only 18.</p> <p><b>Room 202</b> Second Lieutenant Robert Wilfred Froelich</p> <p>Born in Hays, KS, Froelich attended St. Benedict's College from 1934-1935. He was the 1934-35 Outstanding Music Freshman during his time at St. Benedict's College. 2d Lt. Froelich served in the U.S. Army Air Corps before he was thrown from his aircraft and died following a training accident at the Pocatello Army Air Base in Idaho on August 1, 1944. He was 27.</p>	<p>ship near Mindoro, Philippines, on December 21, 1944. He died at the age of 32.</p> <p><b>Room 309</b> Cadet John (Jack) P. Clements</p> <p>Born in Fort Dodge, IA, Clements attended St. Benedict's College from 1938-1942. He was the president of the senior class, a Philosophy major, a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Glee Club, Room yearbook staff, and the A League intramural basketball champion. Cadet Clements served in the U.S. Army Air Forces before he died in an air crash in Illinois on February 12, 1944, at the age of 23.</p>
<p><b>Room 107</b> Sergeant Jeremiah J. Brosnan</p> <p>Brosnan attended St. Benedict's College from 1941-1943. He lived in St. Joseph Hall before being called to military service. SGT Brosnan served in the U.S. Army in the 98<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 282<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment before he was killed in action on March 2, 1945. He is buried in the Mont-Chapele American Cemetery in Lige, Belgium.</p>	<p><b>Room 203</b> Ensign William Francis Frothingham</p> <p>From New York state, Frothingham attended St. Benedict's College from 1941-1942. There</p>	<p><b>Room 301</b> Sergeant Joseph A. Morton, Jr.</p> <p>From OHIO, Morton attended St. Benedict's</p>

*An example of the biographies in the online display*



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## Mixed Media

*Assistant Editor: Carol Street, University of Kentucky. Contact Carol at [carolstreet@uky.edu](mailto:carolstreet@uky.edu) if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.*

### A Mixed Media Reappraisal Project

*by Tricia Gilson, Archivist, Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives, Bartholomew County Public Library*

Architectural models, for architects and designers, are tools of their trade. For archivists, these records prove challenging due to their complex structures, ephemeral materials, and size. The Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives (CIAA), an architecture-focused archives based on the Modernist architecture in Columbus, Indiana, houses numerous architectural models, in addition to architectural drawings, administrative project files, and paper-based materials. When I began working as the CIAA archivist in 2014, I was tasked with “stabilizing the collection” of 74 architectural models, occupying over 350 square feet. I didn’t realize at the time that this daunting project would eventually become a five-year reappraisal project that involved conservators, art handlers, photographic documentation, deaccession, and creative new housing.

I set out to prepare myself for the task by learning as much as I could about models from their uses in architectural practices and in archival repositories, as well as the challenges of caring for them. I also studied CIAA’s collection, its provenance, its strengths, and its weaknesses. For the building project associated with each model, I searched CIAA’s collection for any related materials including photos of the model, drawings, and documents. To organize this information, I expanded an existing Excel spreadsheet to include each model’s provenance, accession and inventory numbers, project name, creator’s name, creation date, dimensions, physical location, and type of housing, as well as if the project was built, and the model’s purpose and its focus. To assign a purpose and a focus to each model, I utilized the rubric outlined in Margo Delidow’s article on architectural model conservation.<sup>1</sup>

The state of the models spanned from pristine to ruin, and many of them were stored in an environment that would only encourage deterioration. Small models were stored in the architectural archives located in the public library, which maintained a stable temperature and humidity. The larger models were stored in a former industrial building that lacked air filtration, cooling, and humidity control. Many models were still housed in shipping crates built for an exhibit in 1986. Some were stored in cardboard boxes; others had no housing at all. Lacking the expertise myself to evaluate their condition, we engaged a conservator experienced in treating architectural models to conduct



*The entire model in a plan view*

a cursory condition assessment of the models. We hired a team of art handlers to open the crates for inspection, and the conservator spent two days reviewing the models. To each model, the conservator assigned a numeric score from zero (damaged beyond repair) to five (undamaged) and offered commentary. This information was added to the spreadsheet.

Prior to the conservator’s visit, I had not been able to physically see many of the models. Given their size, it simply was not possible to access them as a lone arranger. To remedy their inaccessibility but also to document the models themselves, we applied for and received grant funding to photograph all the models. We hired a photographer with many years of experience documenting both museum collections and architecture. We sought two types of photos. The first type captures the model as an artifact with views of all sides. The second type attempts to create views as if one were in the model; architects often use this approach when photographing their own models.

When I turned to reappraisal, I asked the same questions of each model: Does it fall outside CIAA’s collecting scope? Does it duplicate materials in the collection? Does it provide little research potential or none (with respect to the collecting scope and mission)? Is it damaged beyond repair? Is CIAA unable to provide appropriate care for it? Does its condition threaten the collection? Answering “yes” to any of the questions could be a reason to consider deaccession. In practice, however, only if a model’s condition threatened the collection was it automatically deaccessioned. Two models found with significant mold infestations were removed immediately from storage and disposed of.

*(Continued on page 18)*

*(Continued from page 17)*



*A detail of the model showing the tennis courts and a playground area*

Of all these questions, the most difficult concerned the research potential of each model. Generally speaking, study models hold greater research potential than presentation models; likewise, primary models made by the architects hold greater research potential than secondary models made by third parties. There were, however, many exceptions, and these exceptions underscored the importance of documenting well-defined processes and collecting criteria for reappraisal projects.

I would like to say the reappraisal process went smoothly, but in one crucial way it did not. Although the CIAA board had asked me to do this work, several board members were opposed to deaccessioning any model without having approval from design professionals. Perhaps I had been naïve, but I had not anticipated this. Several design professionals from the board weighed in on my recommendations for deaccession, and they rejected nearly every one of my recommendations. Each model, they argued, helped “tell the story of architecture in Columbus.” It seemed we were at an impasse.

What happened next might be considered a miracle of sorts. CIAA did not have the financial resources to care for the collection or to maintain professional staff. The board’s charge that I “stabilize the collection” could not be achieved without support from another organization. The CIAA board determined the best course of action was to transfer the entire collection to the Bartholomew County Public Library (BCPL). CIAA had since its start in 1969 been located at BCPL’s main branch, and, in 2018, the CIAA collection officially became part of BCPL. The nonprofit organization known as the Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives became the Friends of CIAA whose mission is to support the collection.



*The photography set up for the project, showing the scale of the model*

Once the collection was transferred to the library, we removed 40 models through deaccession, leaving 34 in the CIAA collection. What happened to those that were removed from the collection? Only one model was transferred to another collecting organization; efforts to transfer others were fruitless. Three were returned to the donors; in one instance, the return was stipulated in the deed of gift. Because our collection documents our community, we worked with building and site owners to see if they might want them. Most had no interest, but the school corporation took three models, and the city, two. Two were transferred to a local graduate program in architecture. Five were removed from CIAA’s collection but remain at the library on display. The remaining 24 were destroyed.

Where deaccession is irreversible, reappraisal is iterative. Among those we retained are several about which the next archivist may wonder why. The reappraisal project, including deaccessioning, took five years to complete. When models were moved from the off-site storage to the archives in 2019, I began to make custom housings for each. Today, just seven lack archival housing. Because the reappraisal process entailed improving the intellectual control over collection materials and documenting all the models photographically, this portion of our collection is more accessible and frequently used.

## NOTE

1. Margo Delidow, “Architectural Models: Materials, Fabrication, and Conservation Protocols,” *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 52, no. 1 (2013): 1–12; <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42751291>.

# Up-and-Comers

Assistant Editor: Meredith Lowe, University of Wisconsin–Madison.  
Contact Meredith at [mclowe@wisc.edu](mailto:mclowe@wisc.edu) if you would like to guest author  
a column or have a good idea to share.

## A Most Distinguished Citizen: Union College’s John Bigelow Papers

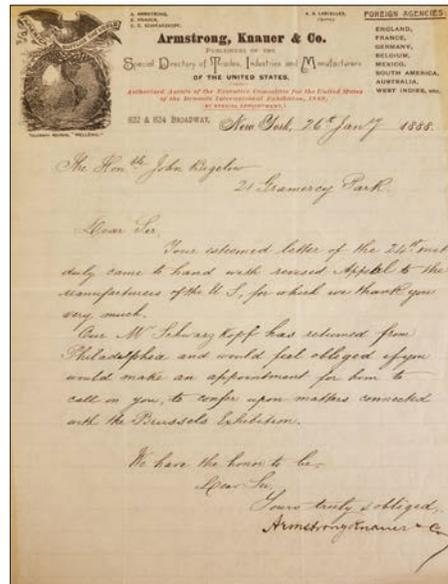
By Amanda Greenwood, Project Archivist, Union College

In December of 2021, I graduated with an MSIS in archives and records administration from the University at Albany, New York. Before graduating, I was offered a project archivist position at Union College in Schenectady. I happily accepted the position, not only for the experience of working at a university as prestigious as Union, but because of my interest in the content of the collection I would be in charge of processing: the John Bigelow Papers. As one of Union’s most requested collections, the John Bigelow Papers consist of biographical and professional papers, scrapbooks, journals, a library exceeding 4,000 books, and approximately 22,000 letters of correspondence. These letters of correspondence are what attracts researchers of various disciplines around the world to Schaffer Library’s Department of Special Collections and Archives, and the digitization requests can be time-consuming and voluminous when a researcher asks for 200 letters, at multiple pages each, to be scanned. This prompted the library to apply for a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant; in 2021, the National Archives awarded Union an NHPRC grant to support the digitization of the correspondence in the collection. Thus, my position was created to support the digitization project, and I am amazed every day by the historic treasures I am finding as I process the collection.

John Bigelow (November 25, 1817–December 19, 1911) lived a dynamic, exhilarating life during a time in history where there was rapid social and industrial change. He was an American author, diplomat, lawyer, and distinguished man of letters who was involved in significant historical events such as discouraging France from building ships for the Confederacy during the Civil War and helping to expose the political corruption of Tammany Hall’s William “Boss” Tweed in New York City. A browsing of his collection reveals that his acquaintances, business associates, and friends represented a “roll call of the leaders of his time”<sup>1</sup> with these leaders steering literary, political, and social movements of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



John Bigelow, date unknown. Courtesy of Union College Schaffer Library.



A letter regarding an exhibition from the 1858 Brussels International Exposition, 1858. Courtesy of Union College Schaffer Library.

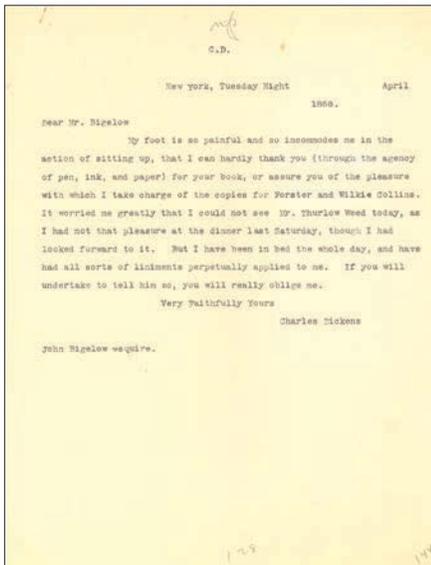
Born in the upstate New York town of Malden-on-Hudson to Asa and Lucy Isham Bigelow, Bigelow studied at Washington College in Hartford, Connecticut, and then at Union College, where he graduated as a member of the class of 1835. From 1835 to 1837, he studied law in New York City, first at Dey and Bonney, and then at Robert and Theodore Sedgwick. During this time, he first made

(Continued on page 20)

**UP-AND-COMERS—Continued**  
**Meredith Lowe, Assistant Editor**

*(Continued from page 19)*

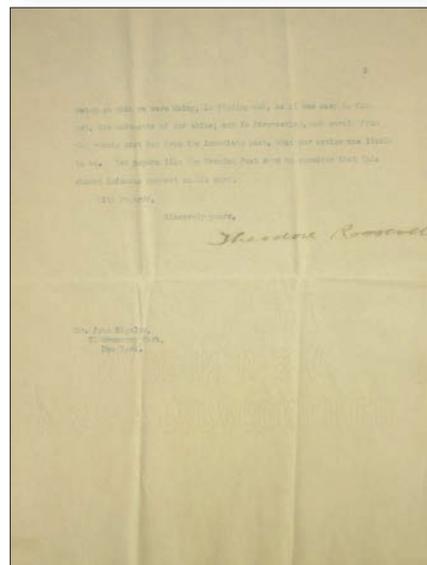
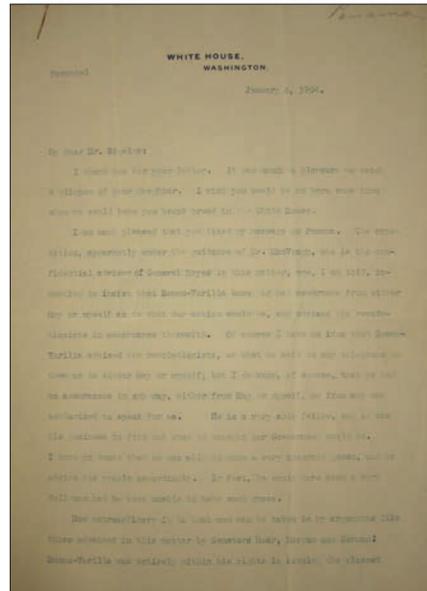
the acquaintance of poet Fitz-Green Halleck, politician Samuel J. Tilden, and poet and journalist William Cullen Bryant, with whom Bigelow would become co-owner and co-editor of the *New York Evening Post*. Admitted to the New York City Bar in 1838, Bigelow moved from practicing law to writing and editing for the next 10 years, contributing to *The Plebeian*, the *New York Review*, and the *Democratic Review*. From 1845 to 1856, Bigelow's experiences led to myriad accomplishments, such as becoming the inspector at Sing-Sing Prison, visiting Jamaica and Haiti, helping to create the Republican Party, and publishing the biography of John C. Frémont. Bigelow's first trip to Europe in 1858 allowed him to further entrench himself in artistic and literary circles upon meeting William Thackeray, William Hargreaves, Charles Dickens, and Anthony Trollope, among others.



*Letter from Charles Dickens, 1868.*  
*Courtesy of Union College Schaffer Library.*

From 1860 to 1861, Bigelow supported the nomination of Abraham Lincoln by the Republican Party and was appointed by Lincoln to be the consul-general at Paris. Seven years later, he edited and published his edition of the Benjamin Franklin autobiography. From 1870 to 1900, Bigelow was involved in New York State politics as he was elected secretary of the state of New York, he bolstered Samuel J. Tilden's presidential candidacy, and he was appointed the commissioner of the US Section 5 at the Brussels Exposition of 1888. After Tilden's death in 1886, Bigelow was elected president of the board of trustees for the Tilden Trust, and he was steadfast in helping to make Tilden's dream to create a public library in New

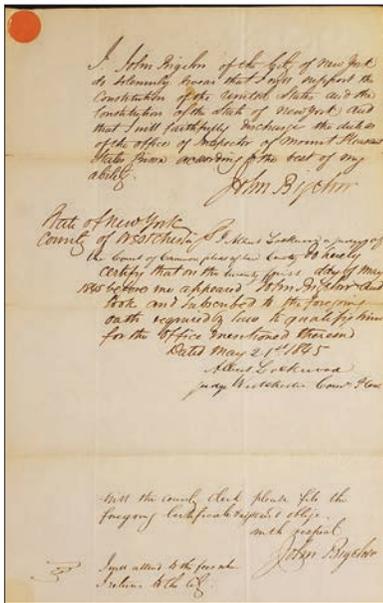
York City a reality. Because of his unwavering loyalty to Tilden's vision, Bigelow became the first president of the New York Free Public Library. Bigelow also played an important role in supporting Philippe-Jean Bunau-Varilla in constructing the Panama Canal, a role that then US president Theodore Roosevelt was thankful for. Bigelow died at the age of 95 on December 19 in 1911.



*Personal letter from President Theodore Roosevelt, 1904.*  
*Courtesy of Union College Schaffer Library.*

At Union College, John Bigelow's incredible life comes alive through the items in his collection. The John Bigelow Papers is Union's best-kept secret, a secret that is not kept by choice, but rather because historically significant materials in the collection continue to be unearthed as the

collection is processed. The collection, the extent of which is approximately 80 linear feet, was gifted to the college in 1958 on behalf of the Bigelow family. It includes around 22,000 letters from prominent cultural and political titans, including Andrew Carnegie, Charles Dickens, John Jay, J. P. Morgan, Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and Thurlow Weed. The letters detail Bigelow's activities as the US consul to France during the Civil War, the founding of the Panama Canal, and Lincoln's assassination. A portion of the collection focuses on Bigelow's professional involvement in the creation of eminent institutions in New York City like the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Public Library.



*John Bigelow's Sing Sing Prison Inspector Oath, 1845.  
Courtesy of Union College Schaffer Library.*

The diaries of his wife, Jane Tunis Poultney Bigelow, are unique pieces of the collection. Just as respected and loved as her husband, Jane was an important figure in the New York literary and social scene. Her diaries offer a fascinating look into the Bigelow family as she details their life and travels. Some especially delightful tidbits are entries wherein she writes about Charles Dickens and Oscar Wilde when they stayed with the family during their trips to New York City. The Bigelows also had a remarkable library of over 4,000 books that can be found in the collection. The rare books cover various topics, such as religion, biography, fiction, and history and politics. In addition to those items, over 20 scrapbooks, various journals kept by other family members, drawings, photographs, and an assortment of John Bigelow's writings are also found in the collection.



*One section out of many holding the rare books that make up the Bigelow family library in Union College Schaffer Library's Department of Special Collections and Archives*

Throughout his life, Bigelow championed democracy in his professional and personal lives, and evidence of this can be seen throughout his collection. Bigelow biographer Margaret Clapp wrote that upon his death, his character was remembered far more than his accomplishments;<sup>2</sup> it is evident from the correspondence created during his lifetime, and the testimonials about Bigelow after his death, that those words are accurate. Because of the NHPRC grant to digitize the correspondence series of the collection, researchers will soon be able to gain access to these documents, enriching scholarship in a variety of disciplines.



*L. John Bigelow, 1911. Courtesy of Union College Schaffer Library.*

*(Continued on page 22)*

**UP-AND-COMERS—Continued**  
**Meredith Lowe, Assistant Editor**

*(Continued from page 21)*



*Amanda Greenwood is a project archivist at Union College in Schenectady, New York. She holds an MSIS in archives and records administration from the University at Albany, New York, and an ALM in English from Harvard University. Her research interests focus on the intersection of postcolonialism and masculinity in the works of James Joyce, trauma and emotions in archival work, archiving the COVID-19 pandemic, and web archiving labor and maintenance.*

**NOTE**

1. Margaret Clapp, *First Forgotten Citizen: John Bigelow* (Greenwood Press, 1968), vii.
2. Ibid.

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# People and Posts

*Assistant Editor: Greg Bailey, Iowa State University. The MAC Membership Committee invites members to share positions, appointments, and honors in the People and Posts column. Please send items to Greg at [gtbailey@iastate.edu](mailto:gtbailey@iastate.edu). Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!*

## People

### ILLINOIS

Tonya Calvin  
Black Metropolis Research Consortium  
Emily Eckstrand (Student)  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### INDIANA

Nolan Eller  
Wabash College

### KANSAS

Julia Fassero  
Benedictine College

### MICHIGAN

Leah Minadeo (Student)  
Grace Del Priore  
Felician Sister of North America

### MINNESOTA

Angela Salisbury  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Anne Levin  
Minnesota Historical Society

### MISSOURI

Katie Sowder  
Kansas City Public Library

### OHIO

Audrey Wimbiscus  
Ohio State University

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Northern State University  
(Institutional)

### WISCONSIN

Laura Jacobs  
University of Wisconsin-Superior



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 **ATLAS SYSTEMS**

(Continued from page 23)

## Posts

**Bradley J. Wiles**, MA, MLIS, was recently appointed associate professor and head of the Special Collections and Archives (SCA) department at Northern Illinois University Libraries in DeKalb, Illinois. The SCA includes a variety of rare and special book and manuscript collections, the Regional History Center for an 18-county area in northwest and north central Illinois, and the NIU University Archives. Wiles has worked in academic, public, and corporate library and archives settings for the past 15 years and is currently finishing his doctoral dissertation at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee School of Information Studies.

It is a sincere pleasure to share that **Amanda Rindler** has joined the Indiana University Archives as university records manager. She comes to the archives from the Ohio History Connection/State Archives, where she had been the local government records archivist since 2015. Prior to that, she was an archivist with the Department of Defense. Rindler earned her MLS at IU Bloomington in 2011 and, while at IU, was a student worker for the University Archives, Modern Political Papers and the Lilly Library. We welcome Rindler and her family back to Bloomington!

**Nolan Eller** is now serving as the new digital archives librarian at Wabash College. As a native of Lafayette, Indiana, and as a Wabash alum (2011), he is very much returning home. Eller received his MLS with a concentration in archives and records management from Indiana University in 2013. For the past seven years, he lived and worked in the great state of Louisiana as the assistant archivist at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana (2014–2016), and as university archivist, head of Special Collections, and records manager at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana (2017–2021). Eller is past president of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA) and is excited to become more involved with MAC and the entire archival community in Indiana and the Midwest.

**Dr. Janet Weaver** has been named the new curator of the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa. Weaver, the former IWA assistant curator and a labor historian, brings over 20 years of experience to the position. She has been instrumental in building the community connections that made the Archives' *Mujeres Latinas Oral History Project* and *Migration Is Beautiful* website possible. **Anna Holland** will step into the role of associate curator of the Iowa Women's Archives. She has been with the University of Iowa since 2018 as a processing archivist. We look forward to seeing what the future of the Archives holds as both women step into their new roles.

**Carrie L. Marsh** has been named the director of the Clarke Historical Library of Central Michigan University (CMU). She began her duties on February 14. Marsh comes from the Claremont Colleges Library in Claremont, California, where she has served as director of Special Collections and Libraries since 2014. Her tenure in the Claremont consortium included the roles of library assistant director and head of special collections, reference librarian for the Denison Library, and special collections librarian for the Honnold/Mudd Library. Marsh is a proud CMU alum, earning a BA in English and art history in 1984, followed by a master's in literature in 1986. She has a master's in library science with an emphasis on special collections librarianship from the University of Arizona.

**Riza Miklowski** became a special collections librarian at the Akron-Summit County Public Library on December 20.

## Posts



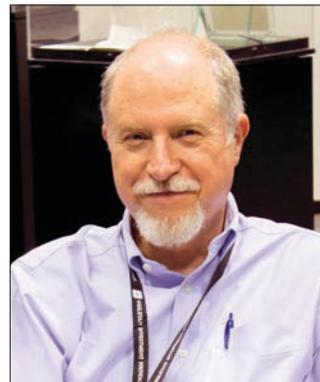
*Marley Crusch*

**Marley Crusch** joined the Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections at Kansas State University Libraries as processing associate in February 2022. She has worked in public and college libraries since 2019 and has been a copywriter at Campfire Copy since 2017. Crusch holds an undergraduate degree from K-State and is pursuing an MLS from Emporia State University. In her new position, Crusch will support efforts to describe department holdings and improve collection management.



*Becky Briggs Becker*

The University of Missouri–Kansas City Libraries are excited to welcome **Becky Briggs Becker** as university archivist. Becker comes to UMKC with 10 years of experience in the archival field, most recently as assistant university archivist at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she held responsibility for collections management and processing, researcher-centered services, outreach and engagement, and digital archives, collections, and exhibits for University Archives. She previously worked at the same institution as a processing assistant. She graduated with her MS in information sciences from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and is currently pursuing an Online Teaching and Learning Graduate Certificate. As university archivist, Becker is responsible for planning, building, and stewarding collections documenting the history of UMKC, for providing leadership and expertise in archives and records administration, for facilitating access to university records and archives in all formats, and for research support.



*Stan Ingersol*

**Stan Ingersol**, PhD, retired from the Nazarene Archives on March 1. He has been the denominational archivist for the Church of the Nazarene since 1985. During that period, the collections grew from 750 to 6,000 cubic feet of materials, and the archives moved from Kansas City, Missouri, to newly built facilities in Lenexa, Kansas. From 1990 to 2000, he was editor of *The Dusty Shelf*, the newsletter for Kansas City Area Archivists, and published over 1,000 newsletter pages over that decade. He has published two guides to the Nazarene Archives collections (one on social ministries and one on women and religion) and several books on church history, including *Nazarene Roots: Pastors, Prophets, Revivalists, and Reformers* (2009) and *Past and Prospect: The Promise of Nazarene History* (2013). He has contributed articles and chapters to many other publications. He is succeeded by **Ryan Giffin**, PhD.

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