

February 15, 2005

Meeting opened at 2:00 pm

Members present: Dr. Roland Baumann, Shannon Bohle, Mark Bloom, Colin Mack, Helena Richardson, and guests Cari Baker, William Burrows, and another woman. Alan?

Dr. Baumann and Shannon announced that the mid-August national conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. There are scholarships available.

SAA@kent.edu is the newly established email account for this student group. Someone is working on assigning a URL for our future website.

Mary Paschen introduces the distance learning and video conferencing capabilities available to our group on Kent campus. There are multiple connecting sites (ex. Lorain Community College). The instructor stands at the main desk and can send an image and audio. Students hold down the button at their seats, the camera swivels, and the other sites can hear and see you. The document camera allows you to set an image, item, or paper on the flat surface. The PC capabilities allow PowerPoint presentations. Dr. Baumann interjected that distance learning is a trend in Library Science right now. Shannon is communicating with a speaker who is arranging the equipment on his end. Mary Paschen runs a test showing the blue screen in the Reinberger room and what happens when we practice pressing the microphone buttons. There is a specific instructor set up to reduce visual distractions.

Dr. Baumann introduces Bill Barrow from the Cleveland State University Special Collections. He is a member of the Cleveland Archival Roundtable, a first generation group.

Dr. Baumann holds the floor and welcomes everyone. This group is a wonderful initiative to connect professors and students immediately at a low cost. Once we are members of the national SAA, we will find archives professors, be able to purchase books at lower cost. Congratulations to Shannon who has been discussing this group with him since day one of his introductory archival class. We have enough to establish a quorum. This is the founding meeting.

What do you want to know most of all? He will look at the students' resumes. What leads to some success in finding a job? The program is trying to flap its wings a little bit. Need to know setting, jargon, language. Practical experience equals knowing how to do and how other people have done it. Need other notions. It is important to know history and the debates over history. There are internships in the area. One hundred hours go quickly and it is a limited experience. Two hundred twenty hours was his experience. This is "a really good sticker on your resume" being here at the new chapter meeting. Also receiving the newsletter helps a person to be conversant about the sector within the larger information enterprise. Dan Pitti is the grandfather of EAD, Berkeley Project, and University of Michigan seminar.

Archivists need to know perspectives. Practical is good, like working in the field a bit. The Cleveland Memory Project is seeking opportunities for interns. You need to be able to offer more than 100 hours. Maybe someone will keep you on for a while afterwards on some soft money. The practicum is a rich experience even if there is little money. It will get you a better first job. Armory (?) of National Archives --- Dr. Baumann got \$800,000 commission. NEH, NEC two-year project jobs exist. Look at the marketplace. Get experience with mileage.

Identify a solid reference or two. Someone makes a difference in getting a job. Help them identify many skills.

This is Dr. Baumann's nineteenth year at Oberlin College archives. He spent six years at CSU. Be on the archives LISTSERV and sign up for the newsletter bulletin. Watch the Plain Dealer. CWRU has the biggest local academic archives program. There are four archivists. Some of the names are Jill Tatum, Dennis Harrison, Tom Steadman, Tim Erickson, and Richard Cox.

Flexibility is important. If you don't get a good job in the first hunt, go down, and then back up. There is not much job turnover in Northeast Ohio. Turnover of jobs can happen during financial constraints. "I plan to work until I'm 100, don't come sniffing around," says Bill Barrow. Western Reserve Historical Society has a handful of people for a huge collection of local history. Consider relocating if at all possible. Reiterate jobs are not plentiful in Northeast Ohio and the Midwest has small turnover.

A good entry level salary is \$35,000 to \$42,000. With soft money support, the pay could be lower. Factor in the nature of more electronic records focus, short term pay up.

Review professional inclinations of resourcefulness, practical experience, mentors/references, and the ability to move to a program or situation with verticality.

Western Reserve had another 15% cut. There are cuts in Library Science too. Once the cuts level off, and there are more digital age requests, there may be more of a need for archival manuscript caretakers.

Shannon speaks next. Connect with a mentor today? Set up meetings. "Mentors are as good as their mentees." She has been posting national positions on the LISTSERV. There are no national internships due to cleaning house for archives now. Shannon is working with the SAA for her database class. The existing list covers part of the state of Ohio year-round. Maybe one will keep an intern on for a short time after. Contacts from other states can come from here. Former Oberlin professors? Try living with family cheaply. Dr. Baumann says, "I can give you 100 hours—can you do something for me beyond my entire commitment?" Shannon continues. Plan ahead. Watch Smithsonian deadlines and consider their detailed questions. Schedule classes so a section of summer is available as a possible strategy. Anita Weber was a KSU student who now has a job

with a history outfit in Columbia, Maryland in the greater Washington D.C. area. Another KSU student, Carol Jacobs, works at the History Factory.

“In a constricted job market --- competing with five or more courses in archives and preservation.” Oral history course may be possible here soon. We need rare books librarianship. Are online courses available? The University of South Florida? Other places? We should be more preoccupied with KSU requirements right now. There is an Academy of Certified Archivists that was founded in the late 1980’s benchmarking knowledge-based situations. Princeton paid to develop testing. The Academy backed out and separated. Certification is preferred which more frequently requires testing. Provided publishing? Service to your profession? One year of experience is needed before an archivist can take the test. Dr. Baumann has been on the board to create some of the questions. California needs to keep up skill developments.

Will KSU graduates be able to compete with the University of Maryland graduates if we gain certification? This varies from student to student on an individual basis. Hills program is rigorous with 52 credit hours required. Two Masters Degrees would be History and Library and Information Science. Michigan offers \$30,000 as a stipend for the PhD program which is more technically directed. Those graduates are less likely to work in archives (ex. DreamWorks jobs). They can be the bridge between corporate settings and old world information brokerage. They will have positive feelings for the Academy.

Kent State University Library and Information Science’s bread and butter is the public library. Dr. Baumann says it will be difficult to go from this angle to the archival field. Shannon mentions working for Special Collections. Three classes archive related are required to sit for the archive test.

NARA? (National Archives and Records Administration) has entry level positions in Chicago and Philadelphia. \*\*Need 18 hours of American History. The Smithsonian, Nation Gallery interns need to present themselves. Deborah Richardson. John Fleckner. San Francisco, D.C., Boston -- go for free? History Works in Chicago, Oak Park, about corporate histories. Recommended contact is Anita Weber for jobs in non-academic and non-institutional settings. “Get your spurs.” Applying to internships often requires 2 years of archival experience. LISTSERV serves the faster needs for quick replacements.

Publishing is not critical in the first years. Need historical bent, some professional inclination. Prepare a writing sample, a finding guide. Consider an essay from class. 7/10 times a writing sample is required.

Bill Barrow from Cleveland State University Special Collections speaks next. Every institution is the same. The need and circumstances vary. Is it near a library or a big city? Can you relocate your family? He looks for enthusiasm and a decent resume even though “they’re lumps.” Visit the websites of places.

Dr. Baumann describes aptitudes and how they fit into a program. He discusses five core attitudes. Character. Commitment and enthusiasm to the services you provide. Have the ability to search for evidence and the meaning of the document record. Have a rich appreciation for the passing human scene. Have a commitment to institutional neutrality and ethical practices (ex. Oberlin needs to collect both sides of an issue and is careful not to show an opinion). Delicacy. Do you fit it? Are you only an “8 to 5’er?”

Bill Barrow takes the floor to discuss the Greater Cleveland Digital History Archive. It is more technically driven than anything else. It is a consortium of librarians, catalogers, and historians. How to put local history on the web and provide public access? One area of Jill Tatum’s interest is EAD. He discusses the project and mentions many more names. LSTA Grant helps to buy equipment, set standards, and give surveys. Greater Cleveland is expanding out. John Grobosky is the long-time manuscript man at Case Western Reserve. There is always more networking. NHPRC is no longer in existence. “If not from the Feds, not from the State.”

The Ohio Memory Project has zero dollars to put in their budget. They have won lots of awards. No one would underwrite them. Angelo O’Neil’s project. People face career changes now. Oliver Wendell Holmes 1938 para (?) society will only permit so much space, money, and commitment through the preservation of history. Institutions cut checks for only so much money. Bowling Green dismantled their 1970’s enterprise. There is more dependence on soft money. An ebb and flow. Judy..... Martin..... migratory people to OHIOLINK.

Shannon wants to go over the constitution of this new group to be approved by KSU. There is an upcoming speaker – aim for the next meeting. We need wide publicity. Perhaps there can be a newspaper article afterwards. Shannon reads the constitution. Pause before dues. “OK” and “Looks good” chime in the room. Chairman OK for the first year? It is very important that the positions last through the beginning of next year. Any corrections? Changes? Constitution approved by all present.

Leadership positions the next topic. Membership drive could reach the history and art departments. We should attempt contact in the student center building too. Colin reads the description of the President. Shannon introduces herself. Colin reads the description for Vice President. Cohesiveness. Secretary descriptions. Jodi Jameson (absent member from meeting due to illness) made up flyers and posted them for today’s meeting. Mark Bloom is a write in for Treasurer. Program? Webmaster? Dr. Baumann discusses the SOA new group since many of our members overlap. Historian discussion about the founding members being here today. Bill Barrow jokes “get the details right for the monument on the public square.” Colin adds to remember the “ginger ale can or water bottle.” We vote and hand all the ballots to Dr. Baumann.

Resumes? No one brought one. Individuals can meet with Dr. Baumann later to discuss one. General advice. A cover letter should say enough and not too much. Read 1975 “Dear Mary Jane” by John Fleckner in his first archival class. Have the realism that you need to race. What can you do to strengthen the positive to get a good position? It’s all

relative – all things fall into place. Take comfort in a considerable amount of turnover. Unlike the Soviet Union where there are 40,000 archivists, the USA has only 8 or 9,000. Only 4000 belong to the SAA. This is the largest group in Universities. Be aware of unusual archivist positions. New York Stock Exchange. Educational Testing Services. Bowling Green. Share information with each other. With Frank Bohles and Tim Erickson. Feel for greater connections. Friends. Be resourceful. Come back home with new ideas. Go to professional meetings. Come to an interview with stuff in bag. Wish chapter a lot of success – “more than Kitty Hawk.” Support Shannon. Volunteer, endorse archival group and program. This can extend to the University. Attend public programs. Consider wider professional activities and involvement. Dr. Rubin’s upcoming meeting of archivists and digital technology is coming soon to the area.

Last questions to Bill Barrow. Up the project hours? Practicum students are targeted to a single function. Primarily, but not exclusively, to get involved in projects running at the time. Bill Barrow got his Masters late in life in the 1990’s. He tried part-time jobs everywhere all over Northeast Ohio. Unpaid. Academic credit. Items to report on. More connected. Realistic to see the depth of the community. “Able to reduce the measure of his naiveté” in a number of different settings. His first interviews were over the phone. Bill looked at “lots of maps.” He reinforced other skills above networking to build a private core of expertise. Ron Burdick used to be at the Lorain Community Historical Society. Now he is at CPL in the map library as head of geography and history.

Dr. Baumann suggests advisors to all of us present.

Meeting concludes at 4:10 pm