

University of Michigan School of Information
SI 692 Practical Engagement Workshop
in Archives and Records

Winter 2008

@ Bentley Historical Library, North Campus
University of Michigan
1150 Beal Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2113
USA

Usual location: sessions except four listed below will be held in the Whiting Room (Room 2215) of Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal Avenue, North Campus (directly across Beal Avenue from SI North).

Other locations:

February 5: Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, Classroom A & B

March 18: Detroit Observatory at 1398 East Ann Street

March 25: Duderstadt Center, Video and Performance Studio [pending, otherwise Bentley Historical Library]

April 1: Duderstadt Center, Room 1180 R

Instructor: Nancy Bartlett (Bentley Historical Library, Head Archivist for University Archives and Records Program and Assistant Director for Academic Programs), e-mail nbart@umich.edu, voice 734.764.3482.

Class time: Tuesday, 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Office hours: Wednesday, 10.00 a.m. – noon and by appointment

Course Description

The purpose of this course is for students to gain knowledge and skills in diverse areas of archives administration. Agencies of most relevance to the course are archives, special collections, records centers, and preservation departments. Through engagements at sites, students will be able to experience the daily work of administration in these types of agencies. The internship portion of the course is the intensive practical engagement experience.

Through weekly class meetings, students will examine issues with more than twenty U.S. and foreign senior administrators in archives, conservators, creators of collections, digital library administrators, media producers, information policy specialists, and scholars whose work considers the very nature of archives.

Class meetings will also afford students the opportunity to compare their work experiences. The emphasis in class discussions about work experiences will be on what is particular to the administration of archives and the nature of archival holdings.

As a Practical Engagement Workshop, the course follows the current Society of American Archivists' "Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies" http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/ed_guidelines.asp. These guidelines state in part, "Graduate archival education, in contrast to archival training, is both academic and professional; therefore, it includes both original research and experiential learning. Ultimately, archival education creates an intellectual framework that enables students to understand the ideas on which their profession is founded, to engage in the development of archival principles, and to apply this knowledge in a variety of settings."

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: SI 580 or permission of instructor

Class type: This course provides 3 Practical Engagement Points.

Practical Engagement Experience

All students must prepare three written reports on the progress of their placements and one final, oral report. The three written reports are due January 29, February 19, and March 18. Oral reports are scheduled for April 8 and 15. Any final deliverable to host agencies is due no later than April 15.

Assignments and Grading

Students are required to participate in the weekly meetings of the class; to fulfill 98 hours of a Practical Engagement Experience; to prepare three written reports at designated intervals during the semester; and to present a final, oral report to the class at the end of the semester. Participation in class assumes full and undivided attention to each presentation and active engagement in discussion. Sites and sources listed in the syllabus are essential background for participation in discussions.

Cell phones and pagers should be turned off for the duration of the class session and laptops/notebooks should only be used for note taking (no web browsing or e-mail during class).

Successful completion of the class will be based upon class participation, on-time and satisfactory completion of all oral and written reports, and on-time and satisfactory completion of the practical engagement including any expected deliverables. More than one absence from class participation requires a scheduled meeting with the instructor to discuss progress in the course.

The course is graded pass-fail.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the provisions of the Rackham Graduate School Policy Statement on Academic and Professional Integrity:

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/StudentInfo/Publications/GSH/html/APPC.html-1>

Students with Disabilities

Any student who feels in need of an accommodation for any sort of disability is advised to please contact the instructor, Nancy Bartlett, at nbart@umich.edu, phone 734.764.3482, or office address Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal Avenue, North Campus.

Terminology

A basic familiarity with archival terminology is assumed for enrollment in this class since SI 580 is a prerequisite. Students are encouraged to refer to the online Society of American Archivists Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology, at <http://www.archivists.org/glossary>.

~ Summary of Schedule ~

January 8: *Course overview*

January 15: *Content Development: New Partnerships and Paradigms*

January 22: *From Accessioning to Enabling Access*

January 29: *Bricks and Mortar, Budgets and Funding* [FIRST WRITTEN REPORT DUE]

February 5: *Administering Access Services: from Freedom of Information Act Inquiries to Digital Deliveries*

February 12: *Analyzing the Search and Interpretation of Archives*

February 19: *Digital Systems, Digital Archives, Risks and Opportunities at the University of Michigan* [SECOND WRITTEN REPORT DUE]

SPRING BREAK

March 4: *Spotting Trouble, Avoiding Disaster*

March 11: *Digital Systems, Digital Archives, Policy and Practice in the Danish State Government*

March 18: *Understanding Images, Creating and Curating Image Collections* [THIRD WRITTEN REPORT DUE]

March 25: *Documenting Dance and Partnering Practices in the Performing Arts*

April 1: *Professional Networking, Career Strategies, and Leadership*

April 8: FINAL REPORTS

April 15: FINAL REPORTS

~ Schedule ~

January 8: *Course Overview*

Abstract: The purpose of this first session is to introduce students to the general program of the class sessions, to review the practical engagement logistics and obligations as well as all other requirements for the course, and to determine the students' level of understanding of archival fundamentals and terminology.

Course instructor:



Nancy Bartlett, Archivist, Bentley

January 15: *Content Development: New Partnerships and Paradigms*

Abstract: New initiatives and ongoing operations in archival administration benefit in equal measure from strategic planning. Over the past twenty years, the Bentley Historical Library has performed a number of deliberate reviews and refinements of its appraisal and acquisition within the library's Michigan Historical Collections (MHC) division and University Archives division. The reviews have led to strategic planning for new areas of appraisal and acquisition. MHC field representative Len Coombs and MHC archivist Tom Powers will discuss the process of planning through their experiences in staff collections reviews and the ongoing field program of the MHC.

Considerable planning and new partnerships were also involved in the initiative to establish a University of Michigan Institutional Repository, administered by the University of Michigan Library system. (The IR is named Deep Blue, and was launched in 2005). Planning for the IR occurred over two years, with involvement on the part of Bentley archivists as well as University Library administrators, School of Information faculty and students, and IT support staff of the Library. Lead project coordinator, Jim Ottaviani, will present an overview of the planning of an identity for Deep Blue, its functionality, relationship to other digital archives on campus, and program growth over time.

Presenters:



Len Coombs, Archivist, Bentley and SI alumnus, 1978



Jim Ottaviani, Deep Blue Project Coordinator and SI alumnus, 1992



Tom Powers, Archivist, Bentley, and SI alumnus, 1968

Sites/sources:

“About Deep Blue,” <http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/about/index.html>

“Saving Michigan’s History, A Guide for New Donors,”
<http://www.bentley.umich.edu/mhchome/donors.php>

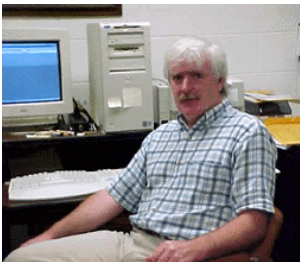
January 22: *From Accessioning to Enabling Access*

Collections development and acquisitions lead directly to a sequence of internal work processes. First steps are identified collectively as “accessioning,” or gaining initial control over collections. Subsequent steps involve arrangement and description, including “processing,” the preparation of finding aids and catalog records, and ultimately the development of other online access tools that are increasingly characteristic of evolving archives. These processes are fundamental to the overall aim of enabling access. The administrative control over new acquisitions, descriptive practices, and newer, exploratory mechanisms for promoting archives will be addressed with the Bentley Historical Library as an example of evolving institutional practices.

Presenters:



Len Coombs, Archivist, Bentley and SI alumnus, 1978



Greg Kinney, Associate Archivist, Bentley and SI alumnus, 1986



Brian Williams, Associate Archivist, Bentley and SI alumnus,
1990

Sites/sources:

“About the Bentley Library EAD Project,”
<http://www.bentley.umich.edu/EAD/eadproject.php>

Bentley Historical Library University Archives and Records Program FAQ's,
<http://www.bentley.umich.edu/uarphome/faqs.php>

Karen Calhoun, "The Changing Nature of the Catalog and Its Integration with Other Discovery Tools," Final Report, 17 March 2006, <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/calhoun-report-final.pdf>

"Development of the Encoded Archival Description DTD,"
<http://www.loc.gov/ead/eaddev.html>

Mark Greene and Dennis Meissner, "More Product, Less Process: Pragmatically Revamping Traditional Processing Approaches to Deal with Late 20th Century Collections," <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/documents/faculty/greene/papers/Greene-Meissner.pdf>

January 29: *Bricks and Mortar, Budgets and Funding*

Abstract for Bricks and Mortar: The physical infrastructure of an archive requires an expert administration with a full grasp of all core activities and concerns of an archival operation. Bill Wallach was project archivist and administrative liaison for the recent design and construction of a 34,000 square foot addition to the Bentley Historical Library; this addition—including a suite of offices and open work area, two three-level stacks, a conservation area with a cold room for preservation, and a penthouse for mechanical equipment—was completed in 2006. This session will introduce the class to the bricks and mortars of archives, including the important role for archivists at the table in any development of an architectural program; security and other risk-avoidance requirements for an archival facility; and architectural and infrastructure preservation standards.

Abstract for Budgets and Funding: External funding enables an archival institution to further its program beyond what operational costs would otherwise allow. Successful grant proposals are the result of solid project planning. Persuasive writing, a realistic strategy, competitive concepts, compelling collections, and other assets such as a proven ability to realize grant-funded goals and objectives are all elements of such a proposal. Presenter Bill Wallach has over twenty-five years of experience as author, reviewer, administrator, and principal investigator in projects funded through government and foundation grants. For two and a half years, he was a program officer for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and he continues to serve as an NEH review panelist. He and Fran Blouin, director of the Bentley, administered the Bentley's highly successful Research Fellowship Program for the Study of Modern Archives, a program of annual fellowship awards (1982 to 1997) funded by the NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Bill Wallach will outline key concepts and strategies in his presentation on external funding for archives.

Presenter:



Bill Wallach, Associate Director, Bentley

Sites/sources:

Bentley Historical Library Construction Photographs, June 2003-January 2005,
<http://www.bentley.umich.edu/exhibits/bhlconst/>

IMLS, <http://www.ims.gov/applicants/institution.shtm>

NEH, http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/Collections_and_Resources.html

NHPRC, <http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/announcement>

February 5: Administering Access Services: from Freedom of Information Act Inquiries to Digital Deliveries

Abstract: “Discovery” in archives can range in nature and intent from a recreational curiosity to a legal claim for the search and supply of records. This session will address the definitions and administrative practices of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Presidential Records Act, and declassification vis-à-vis archives. FOIA is a frequent springboard for individuals and agencies in pursuit of information embedded within restricted or closed records including those in government and public university archives. Representatives of the National Archives and Records Administration and the University of Michigan FOIA office will address the complexities of FOIA, the Presidential Records Act, and declassification and the role of the archivist in compliance.

Digital deliveries are increasingly an expectation of both onsite and remote users of archives. Reference and Access administrations within archives are challenged to match the expectations of users, who request a wide variety of digital deliveries with a reluctance to tolerate delay or cost. Karen Jania of the Bentley will provide an overview of policies and procedures for administering duplication and delivery services. She will then review measures for evaluating effectiveness of such services.

Presenters:



Pat Sellinger, FOIA and Policy Administration Coordinator and Lee Doyle, Chief FOIA Officer, University of Michigan



David Horrocks, Supervisory Archivist, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library



Karen Jania, Archivist, Bentley and SI alumna, 1997

Sites/sources:

Bentley Historical Library Reference and Access Services,
<http://www.bentley.umich.edu/refhome/index.php>

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, Research Procedures, Frequently Asked Questions, <http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/guideintro.asp> - 2.6

National Archives and Records Administration Freedom of Information Act Reference Guide, <http://www.archives.gov/foia/foia-guide.html>

University of Michigan and Michigan's Freedom of Information Act,
<http://www.vpcomm.umich.edu/foia.html>

February 12: *Analyzing the Search and Interpretation of Archives*

Abstract: Archivist Chris Prom has written, “How do users interact with on-line finding aids? Because archival descriptive standards do not mandate how finding aids should be presented, user interactions with finding aids deserve close analysis on their own terms. ... Research regarding user behaviors will help the archival community present descriptive data in an easier-to-use format.” Prom has conducted rigorous studies of

users' navigation of finding aids and other descriptive information and will present his findings. He helps to ask the question of "how users actually interact with and navigate current interfaces" in his studies from over the past few years.

Francis Blouin with his colleague and historian William Rosenberg conceived and led the University of Michigan 2000-2001 Sawyer Seminar on "Archives, Documentation, and Institutions of Social Memory." In a weekly series distinguished by an exceptionally high degree of interdisciplinarity around the subject of archives, academics and archivists from fifteen countries together explored and debated perceptions and scholarly interpretations of archives as institutions of social memory. The point of departure of the seminar was "a conception of archives not simply as historical repositories but as a complex of structures, processes and epistemologies situated at a critical point of intersection between scholarship, cultural practices, politics, and technologies." How did this conception match the orientations, research, and work experiences of seminar participants, many of whose contributions are included in a resulting 500-page published volume? How might students of archival administration engage in such deliberations and pursue their own interests in questions of the nature and cultural conditions of archives?

Presenters:



Fran Blouin, Director, Bentley, and Professor, University of Michigan History Department and School of Information



Christopher J. Prom, Assistant University Archivist, University of Illinois Archives

Sites/sources: (Revised February 6, 2008)

Francis X. Blouin, Jr. and William G. Rosenberg, editors, *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory: Essays from the Sawyer Seminar* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2006)

Christopher J. Prom, "Does EAD Play Well with Other Metadata Standards? Searching and Retrieving EAD Using the OAI Protocols," *Journal of Archival Organization*, vol. 1 (3) 2002, http://www.haworthpress.com/store/E-Text/View_EText.asp?a=3&fn=J201v01n03_04&i=3&s=J201&v=1

Christopher J. Prom, "From the College Democrats to the Falling Illini: Identifying, Appraising, and Capturing Student Organization Websites," *The American Archivist*, vol. 70 (Fall/Winter 2007): 344-363 [not online].

Christopher J. Prom, "Optimum Access? Processing in College and University Archives," chapter 8 of draft online, February 4, 2008, <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/archives/workpap/ChapterEight-Prom.pdf>

Christopher J. Prom, "Understanding On-line Archival Use through Web Analytics," <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/archives/workpap/PromSUV2007.pdf>

Christopher J. Prom, "User Interactions with Electronic Finding Aids in a Controlled Setting," <http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/workpap/interactions.pdf>

Christopher J. Prom, "A Unified Platform for Archival Description and Access," (w. Scott W. Schwartz, Christopher A. Rishel, and Kyle J. Fox) *JCDL '07*, <http://portal.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1255175.1255205>

Joan M. Schwartz and Terry Cook, "Archives, Records, and Power: From (Postmodern) Theory to (Archival) Performance," *Archival Science* 2, 171-185

Joan M. Schwartz and Terry Cook, "Archives, Records, and Power: The Making of Modern Memory," *Archival Science* 2, 1-19

February 19: *Digital Systems, Digital Archives, Risks and Opportunities at the University of Michigan*

Abstract: Digital technologies both enable and strain archival administration in almost all of its dimensions. Strategic planning is essential to any operation's approach to digital records and the use of digital technologies for administration. Nancy Deromedi will begin this session with an overview of the history of computing at the University of Michigan and the history of the University of Michigan Archives' engagement with digital technologies. She will review a selection of case studies from the University of Michigan Archives' adaptation of policies and practices for digital records. These case studies will help reveal the benefits and limitations of archival theory vis-à-vis actual practice, and the complexities of integrating digital initiatives into an ongoing archival program in a university setting. Ongoing work of the Bentley's University Archives will be discussed by a panel.

Presenter:



Nancy Deromedi, Associate Archivist, Bentley and SI alumna, 1997

Panel participants:



Nancy Bartlett, Archivist, Bentley



Fran Blouin, Director, Bentley and Professor, University of Michigan History Department and School of Information



Brian Williams, Associate Archivist, Bentley and SI alumnus, 1990

Sites/sources:

Nancy Deromedi, “Accessing, Processing, and Making Available a Born-Digital Personal Records Collection at the University of Michigan,”

http://www.bentley.umich.edu/academic/practicum/2008/digital_cases/case1.pdf

Nancy Deromedi, “Archival Implications in the Design and Implementation of PeopleSoft Systems for Student Administration,”

http://www.bentley.umich.edu/academic/practicum/2008/digital_cases/case2.pdf

Nancy Deromedi, "Gaps and Inconsistencies: Issues in the Dissemination of the University Bulletin at the University of Michigan,"

http://www.bentley.umich.edu/academic/practicum/2008/digital_cases/case3.pdf

Nancy Deromedi, "Defining and Formalizing a Procedure for Archiving the Digital Version of the Schedule of Classes at the University of Michigan,"

http://www.bentley.umich.edu/academic/practicum/2008/digital_cases/case4.pdf

Nancy Deromedi, "Generating and Archiving Records in Digital Form of the Promotion and Tenure Process at the University of Michigan,"

http://www.bentley.umich.edu/academic/practicum/2008/digital_cases/case5.pdf

SPRING BREAK

March 4: *Spotting Trouble, Avoiding Disaster:*

Archives around the world have within the past few years been severely tested by acts of aggression and natural disasters. Headline disasters have resulted in more urgent dissemination among archivists internationally of recommendations for best practices and warnings of worst experiences. Conservators Jim Craven, Dianna Borel, and Ann Flowers from the Bentley Historical Library will address individual instances of damage and even destruction, by fire and by mold, of local collections and personal manuscripts. They will also provide an overview of basic preventative measures for the handling, care, and preservation of physical collections. Through this session, students should acquire introductory knowledge of how to oversee the use of physical collections by researchers in reading rooms, supervise staff in the handling of collections (including their exhibition), be alert to physical and environmental risks to archival systems and facilities, and seek further information on safety and disaster prevention particular to archives.

Presenters:



Dianna Borel, Conservation Assistant, Bentley



Jim Craven, Conservator, Bentley



Ann Flowers, Associate Archivist, Bentley

Sites/sources:

Disaster Mitigation Planning Assistance, <http://www.matrix.msu.edu/~disaster/>

Disaster Planning,
http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets/3Emergency_Management/03DisasterPlanning.php

Disaster Planning and Recovery,
<http://www.sla.org/content/resources/infoportals/disaster.cfm>
Disaster Preparedness and Response, <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/disasters/>

Emergency Preparedness and Response (Preservation, Library of Congress),
<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/pubsemer.html>

NEDCC Online Disaster-Planning Tool, <http://www.dplan.org/>

March 11: *Digital Systems, Digital Archives, Policy and Practice in the Danish State Government*

Abstract: Challenges to digital archives are universal, standards of practice are increasingly international, and at the same time constraints and solutions are often local in character. The Danish national archives received its first transfer of electronic records in the mid 1970s. Since then, the archives have through legal authorization enforced strict requirements for the structure, use and ultimate transfer of databases and electronic document management systems utilized by Danish state agencies. Jan Dalsten Sørensen will present both policy and practice of the Section for Electronic Records within the Danish National Archives. Questions he will address include how Danish archivists have identified digital records of interest. How have they codified and communicated

standards to state agencies for the creation and transfer of such records? What are the limits of their authority? How do Danish archival standards and practices comply with European regulations such as the European data protection directive? How do the Danish national archives measure success in their preservation of electronic records? How is use of such electronic archives documented and analyzed? Questions the class as a whole may consider include how the Danish system compares and contrasts with the efforts of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Sites/sources:

Jan Dalsten Sørensen, [“From IT-systems to the Archives”](http://www.bentley.umich.edu/bhl/academic/practicum/2008/docs/ITtoArchives.pdf)
(<http://www.bentley.umich.edu/bhl/academic/practicum/2008/docs/ITtoArchives.pdf>)

Jan Dalsten Sørensen, [“The Archival Version – How It Is Made and What It Looks Like”](http://www.bentley.umich.edu/bhl/academic/practicum/2008/docs/archivalversion.pdf)
(<http://www.bentley.umich.edu/bhl/academic/practicum/2008/docs/archivalversion.pdf>)

United States National Archives and Records Administration Electronic Records Archives, <http://www.archives.gov/era/about/>

Presenter:



Jan Dalsten Sørensen, Head of the Section for Electronic Records,
Department of Appraisal and Transfer, Danish National Archives

March 18: *Understanding Images, Creating and Curating Image Collections*

Abstract: In her article “Coming to Terms with Photographs: Descriptive Standards, Linguistic ‘Othering,’ and the Margins of Archivy,” (*Archivaria* 54), scholar Joan M. Schwartz writes that, “visual illiteracy ... not just outside but more importantly within the [archival] profession has relegated photographs to the margins of archivy. Prevailing technology and current scholarship now make it both possible and, indeed, imperative to bring them into the mainstream.” Elsewhere she writes that “[photographs] are not only voluminous and highly fugitive, but also demanding of tailored visual rather than hand-me-down textual approaches” (*The American Archivist* 2004).

What is visual literacy? How do prevailing technology and current scholarship both enable and require the integration of photographs into archival theory and practice? What are the particular challenges of establishing film-based photographic collections and of developing digital image banks? What are the core skill sets required of an archivist or curator responsible for photographic collections? What are some of the particular concerns of professional photographers as they consider donating images to archives? How might archivists learn to read across disciplines for a deeper understanding of visual media? As Joanna Sassoon has noted, “criticisms of archival practices of custodial institutions by researchers who understand the evidential values of photographs provide clear demonstration that, far from being format-neutral, what archivists do to photographic materials demonstrates a lack of understanding of the specific needs of formats in their custody.”

After a brief tour of the Detroit Observatory led by Karen Wight, this session will feature a presentation by Joan M. Schwartz, addressing in general the questions above followed by a discussion of writings in this week’s sites/sources.

Presenters:



Joan M. Schwartz, Associate Professor and Queen's National Scholar,
Queen's University



Karen Wight, Reference Assistant and Program Coordinator for
the Detroit Observatory

Sites/sources:

Joanna Sassoon, "Beyond Chip Monks and Paper Tigers: Towards a New Culture of Archival Format Specialists," *Archival Science*, Arch Sci
DOI 10.1007/s10502-007-9045-7 (published online July 14, 2007)

Joan M. Schwartz, "Negotiating the Visual Turn,"
<http://www.archivists.org/conference/neworleans2005/readings/609-schwartz.pdf>

Joan M. Schwartz, "Photographic Reflections: Nature, Landscape, and Environment,"
Environmental History, 12 (4),
<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/eh/12.4/schwartz.html>

Joan M. Schwartz, "We Make Our Tools and Our Tools Make Us: Lessons for Photographs from the Practice, Politics, and Poetics of Diplomats," *Archivaria* 40

Location:

Detroit Observatory, 1398 East Ann Street

The Detroit Observatory is a "three dimensional archive" under the administration of the Bentley Historical Library. Built in 1854 as the first research unit of the University of Michigan, the structure's original telescopes are still in place and operational. The building and the archives of its architecture and research program over time are the basis for an excellent example of the relationship of museum and archival curatorships.

March 25: *Documenting Dance and Partnering Practices in the Performing Arts*

Abstract:

The archivist's effort to understand and then accession and preserve representations of the performing arts can be especially daunting. Some claim it cannot be done. In *The Archive and the Repertoire*, Peggy Phelan states, "performance cannot be saved, recorded, documented, or otherwise participate in the circulation of representations of representation ... Performance's being ... becomes itself through disappearance." Despite such misgivings, there are scholars, archivists, and media producers who are engaging in productive initiatives to place performance and its evidence in the archive. They acknowledge that, as June Layson writes in *Dance History*, "the prime dependence on written sources will give way to more conceptually based concerns as new thinking and new technologies become available." Efforts at the University of Michigan archives have yielded new archives enabled through new technologies and new partnerships with artists, performance technology specialists in digital media, and archivists. The Peter Sparling collection is an important example of the ongoing challenge and commitment by the University of Michigan archives to document dance, as taught, learned, performed, produced, researched, and reviewed at the University of Michigan over time. The intentions of the archives are to learn from and work in tandem with creators and digital facilitators of artistic expression, addressing in new partnerships the complexities of digital media that are so fundamental to new works.

Peter Sparling will take part in a panel discussion on creativity and its analog and digital artifacts in the archives, in part by reviewing the transfer of his earlier works to the Bentley and in part by discussing with his colleagues at the Duderstadt the interactive processes of choreography, production, and performance.

This session will also address the challenges of preservation of audio-visual records in the University of Michigan archives, with the Peter Sparling collection as an instructive case study, as well as the efforts of the University Archives staff with Professor Jessica Fogel of the dance department and SI students to promote the history of dance at Michigan.



Tom Bray, Managing Producer Media Resources, Digital Media Commons



Alice Goff, Bentley Historical Library Student Manuscripts Assistant and SI 692 alumna



Jacques Mersereau, Digital Media Commons Video Studio, Duderstadt Center



Peter Sparling, Professor, University of Michigan Department of Dance and Artistic Director, Peter Sparling Dance Company

Peter Sparling Dance Company,

http://www.dancegalleryfoundation.org/sparling/index.php?topic=Peter_Sparling

April 1: Professional Networking, Career Strategies, and Leadership

The thematic focus of the upcoming 2008 annual conference of the Society of American Archivists—the identity of the archivist—is equally suited to the practicum. Archivists often define themselves and measure their professional growth through associations such as the SAA since such professional associations afford networking, career enhancement, sources of knowledge and experience, and opportunities for leadership and mentoring. The panel for this session includes three SAA presidents (past, current, and incoming) and other senior archivists with considerable experience in mentoring new members of the archival profession. They will discuss as a panel their recommendations to new members of the archival profession including what they perceive as critical skills and knowledge, strategies for employment and involvement in the profession, future

directions for the profession, and paths to leadership. Mark Greene, current president of SAA, will take part via webcast.

Panel participants:



Elizabeth Adkins, President of SAA 2006-2007 and Director, Global Information Management, Ford Motor Company



Frank Boles, Incoming President of SAA 2008-2009 and Director, Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University



Mark Greene, President of SAA 2007-2008 and Director, American Heritage Center



Mike Smith, Director, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University



Bill Wallach, Associate Director, Bentley

Sites/sources:

Elizabeth Adkins, Society of American Archivists Presidential Address, 2007, “[Our Journey Toward Diversity – And a Call to \(More\) Action](#)”

John Fleckner, Society of American Archivists Presidential Address, 1990, “Dear Mary Jane: Some Reflections on Being an Archivist,”
<http://www.archivists.org/governance/presidential/fleckner.asp>

Mark A. Greene, Society of American Archivists Incoming Presidential Address, 2007, “Strengthening Our Identity, Fighting Our Foibles,”
<http://www.archivists.org/governance/presidential/ma-green2007.pdf>

Richard Pearce-Moses, Society of American Archivists Presidential Address, 2006, “Janus in Cyberspace: Archives on the Threshold of the Digital Era,”
<http://www.archivists.org/governance/presidential/pearce-moses.asp>

Location: Duderstadt Center, Room 1180R

April 8: FINAL REPORTS

April 15: FINAL REPORTS