

To the MAC community:

Greetings! In my inaugural column as president, I want to thank you for your support and confidence in me to serve you in this role. I would also like to thank David McCartney for his excellent service. He has made MAC and our profession a better place.

A number of discussions and Council actions have taken place since I began my term. I'd like to share a few of them with you here. First, we have many new faces on the Editorial Board for *Archival Issues* and one departure. Please join me in welcoming Jolie Braun (OSU), Kate Nash (UW–Madison), Nick Pavlik (BGSU), and Lydia Tang (MSU) to the AI Editorial Board. I would also like to thank Alexandra A. A. Orchard for her service as chair of the Editorial Board and wish her the best as she relocates to Oregon. Taking on the role of editor is Brandon Pieczko. Brandon was the reviews editor for *Archival Issues* and will be the new editor beginning with volume 40, issue 2.

I would also like to welcome Harrison Inefuku to his new role as chair of the Nominating Committee. During his time on MAC Council, Harrison was a constant advocate for people of color in our membership, profession, and areas where we live and work. He believes MAC can do better in creating a more inclusive environment. I agree. I believe this is a needed focus in building our candidates for MAC's next leaders, and I welcome Harrison into this role.

Finally, I would like to share an action MAC took over the summer to respond to an issue in our region. In early May, a MAC member made me aware of a situation at Doane University where the library director had been placed on administrative leave due to fallout over an archival exhibit. Furthermore, the university's president made vague statements in the press that gave the impression the integrity of the archives was at risk.

The exhibit focused on student parties and celebrations, and it included two images of students in blackface. The library director, who also serves as the *de facto* university archivist, selected these images to raise awareness of racist actions in the university's history in the context of the larger conversation of blackface and other racist imagery in yearbooks and student records at colleges and universities.

After the library administrator was reinstated, questions persisted about the stability of the archives and the ability of library professionals to claim academic freedom. After speaking with the library director and receiving approval from MAC Council, I wrote a letter to the president of Doane University expressing our concerns on behalf of MAC. That open letter is available in whole as part of this newsletter.

I am pleased MAC could step in and offer support, yet disappointed that the process took so long. While I would not want to respond to a situation without first gathering facts and input, it was not a nimble process. Looking forward, I would like to draft a set of procedures for how MAC can best respond to advocacy in a timely and effective manner. This will be a question I will put before Council, but one I ask you, as a member, as well. How can MAC do a better job supporting our members or our profession?

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**MAC** midwest archives  
conference

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**An open letter of support for Doane University's archives**

July 1, 2019

Dear President Carter,

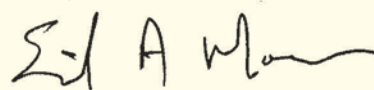
I am the president of the Midwest Archives Conference, a regional professional association representing archivists, curators, and librarians in thirteen states including Nebraska. Members of our organization expressed concern over recent events on the Doane University campus pertaining to an archival exhibit that resulted in the Director of the Perkins Library being placed on a temporary administrative leave. I am writing today to express both our support of Doane's institutional archives and our hope that Doane will work with its information professionals to constructively incorporate what is a challenging and difficult history into a better future for the campus and alumni.

The exhibit proved to test Doane's collective social memory in the context of the current national conversation about racist imagery in campus archival collections and yearbooks. Statements by Doane University in reaction to the exhibit clearly indicate your university's support of an inclusive environment that strives to be a welcoming space for your entire community. However, administrative reaction to the contested exhibit, as described in media accounts, caused concern for many in the archival community over the integrity and authenticity of the Doane archives and for the primary source material it contains.

The Society of American Archivists' Core Values (<https://www2.archivists.org/statements/saa-core-values-statement-and-code-of-ethics>) states that we "preserve such primary sources to enable us to better comprehend the past, understand the present, and prepare for the future." The Midwest Archives Conference encourages Doane University to engage these primary sources to confront individual and institutional racism throughout its history and its present and to value the integrity of the archival collections and the judgment of the professionals in the library who manage these materials.

As Doane University nears its 150th anniversary, I recommend taking recent events and the upcoming historical marker as an opportunity to expand Doane's archival program with the addition of a professional archivist who can contribute to the organization, interpretation, and discoverability of Doane's rich history.

Sincerely,



Erik A. Moore  
President, Midwest Archives Conference

## 2019 Bowen Scholarship Recipient Bianca Bárcenas Says Thanks



I entered an archives for the first time as part of a seminar assignment during my sophomore year of college. My professor provided a list of rare books and a prompt, and I had to choose a few to sift through and write a blog post. I was immediately hooked with the materials in front of me so that

I did not even realize that my allotted appointment time was nearly over before I finished taking notes on the books I had selected.

Fast forward to the end of my junior year—I started to think more seriously about career options and considered an internship at the archives I had visited the previous year. Having an interest in primary source research, it seemed a logical place to turn my attention as I figured out what to do with a history degree. I started my internship at the Loyola University Archives that summer.

As it turned out, I loved the work I was doing. I learned how to process collections and create finding aids. Excitingly, I got to learn history and took a deep dive into the lives of influential university professors as I organized their personal papers. That summer went by quickly. I stayed at the archives as a student worker through my senior year.

My internship at the University Archives convinced me that I wanted to be an archivist. After applying to library science programs, I decided to pursue a public history degree from Loyola and a library science degree from Dominican University. My public history studies are nearly done, and I start my MLIS program this summer.

With my public history training, I learned the theory behind public-focused history. However, an MLIS program will provide me with the technical skills I need to confidently enter the field as an archivist. The Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship is an immense help toward this step.

Some of my favorite moments working in the University Archives were spent watching undergraduate classes come in to learn about archives and primary sources. I enjoyed seeing (and sometimes hearing) the students' amazement when they interacted with the physical sources. Hopefully, as I grow in the profession, I can help expand students' engagement with history in the same ways that I witnessed as a student worker and that I personally experienced looking through rare books three years ago.

Thank you to the scholarship committee for this award and to my mentors at Loyola for their support and guidance. I am excited to see where this new journey takes me!

### President's Page

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One step in this direction is our upcoming Fall Symposium, "I'm Alone, No You're Not: Solo and Small Shop Archivists Retreat." I am looking forward to participating in this conversation so that we never feel alone and know how and where to ask for help. As a professional organization, MAC can also benefit from learning how to respond to your needs. I look forward to seeing many of you in Fargo.

Sincerely,

Erik A. Moore  
President, Midwest Archives Conference

### Between-Meeting Council Actions

On May 16, 2019, Council unanimously approved a motion to appoint Rachael Acheson (Iowa State) as MAC webmaster.

On June 18, 2019, Council unanimously approved Madison, Wisconsin, as the location for the 2021 MAC Annual Meeting.

On June 24, 2019, Council unanimously approved sending an open letter of support to the Doane University president.

On July 9, 2019, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Brandon Pieczko to Editorial Board chair for *Archival Issues*.

On August 2, 2019, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Harrison Inefuku to Nominating Committee chair.