

2019 Archie Motley Scholarship Recipients Thank MAC

Emma De Vera

I am writing to express my gratitude to the Midwest Archives Conference after receiving one of the 2019 Archie Motley Memorial Scholarships for Minority Students. I am a mixed-race Filipina from Minnesota, and I am honored to have received this scholarship.

Growing up, I hoped to become a librarian because of the endless possibilities of discovery and adventure that libraries offer. While attending Mount Holyoke College where I majored in US history, I discovered the archives profession and was excited to blend my love of history and librarianship. My many mentors at Mount Holyoke supported my desire to become a librarian, offering endless support and practical experience. While working in the Digital Assets and Preservation Department, I became interested in the ways that digital records provide the opportunity for more inclusive histories. Practical experience challenged me to nuance this optimism.

During my undergraduate research, I was excited to use archives to learn about the histories of women of color who pursued reproductive rights. Through my research experience, I learned that finding these underrepresented histories is often difficult because of the classification and preservation structures that buried their voices—if they had been preserved at all—under those of more powerful institutions and people. This pushed me to think more critically about archives and libraries, classification, and how information is made accessible and how power is maintained through institutions.

At the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, I am pursuing a master of science in information and specializing in archives and digital curation. I am interested in ethical open access, digital collections, and diversity and inclusion in classification. I am also interested in the ethical challenges that digital archives may pose for vulnerable communities and the structures that make these records discoverable. At the moment, I am exploring these interests with other scholars while building a forthcoming digital exhibit and collection on the history of sterilization and eugenics in the United States, which will be titled *The Eugenic Rubicon* and hosted by the University of Michigan.

In the fall, I plan to use my scholarship to fund a research trip to the American Library Association Archives. This

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Arika Kaneko

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Midwest Archives Conference for awarding me the 2019 Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color. I feel fortunate to have been selected as a recipient of

this honor.

The Great East Japan Earthquake, which took place on March 11, 2011, had a major impact on my career path and decision to study archives. I was then a third-year undergraduate student living in Tokyo. It was an unprecedented disaster, and I became intensely concerned that we might forget what had happened—both the earthquake’s causes and its effects—if records were not kept. I discovered that preserving records as archives can play an important part in protecting our lives and society. At that time, I did not even know the word “archives,” but I have since developed a deep interest in the archival field and social justice, starting with the question of how and by whom archives are preserved.

In 2013, I began a master’s program in global studies; I wanted to make a contribution to society but was not yet sure how to do so. In my master’s thesis, I researched the US Army’s occupation strategy in Okinawa, Japan, by analyzing the US Army propaganda magazine *Shurei no hikari*, which was published in Okinawa from 1959 to 1972. To read it, I went to the Okinawa Prefecture Archives many times over the course of two years. Okinawa was under US occupation from April 1945 to May 1972, so if the United States had not kept public records, given the lack of archiving by the Japanese government, there would be more than a quarter century of blank space in Okinawa’s history. In writing my thesis, I learned that archives bear the responsibility of our records and our history.

I decided to make a full commitment to the world of archives and moved to Vancouver, Canada, to join the master of archival studies program at iSchool, University of British Columbia (UBC), in 2018. My research made me realize that archival study in Japan had gained a great deal from Western archival science, but we still remain behind our peers.

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Emma De Vera

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research will inform my master's thesis on classification history through Dewey Decimal Classification.

I am always grateful and reminded of the many people who have supported my journey into librarianship. Thank you to the Midwest Archives Conference for your financial support and encouragement through the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship.

Correction

In the previous issue, Janice Unger was inadvertently omitted from the list of Local Arrangements Committee members in the #MAC2019DETROIT article (page 4).

Arika Kaneko

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Meanwhile, as an Asian student specializing in the First Nations curriculum at iSchool, I have become aware that archival professions are not comprehensive enough and that the education program itself is Western oriented, which has made me reflect on my ideal role in the archival field. I have two future career goals: (a) to work in community archives in North America, particularly those related to Indigenous communities, and (b) to help implement archival education programs in North America that are not Western oriented. I believe it is important to educate students on the archives of Indigenous communities because these archives are just as significant as Western archives. I will use the award to cover tuition at UBC iSchool for my second year and am planning to gain working experience with Indigenous communities beginning this September to further my goal. Thank you again for this honor.

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