

To the MAC community:

Last year I wrote a column for the April 2020 MAC newsletter, but it was scrubbed and replaced at press time with a letter informing you we were canceling the 2020 Annual Meeting. It was a disappointment for all of us, especially for the Program and Local Arrangement Committees and the dozens of speakers and poster presenters.

We were able to come together in June for a stand-alone annual business meeting where we celebrated our award winners and welcomed our new leaders. We also were quick to recognize that 2021 would not be a return to normal. Furloughs, budget cuts, and zeroed-out travel funds meant MAC would have to reimagine its offerings.

And, although 2021 has been anything but normal, I see MAC coming together and providing what it has always provided—education and leadership for the profession.

I am so pleased with the efforts of the Education Committee, cochaired by Amy Bishop and Hathaway Hester, and its work to provide two workshops this spring. These educational opportunities were open to anyone and resulted in record-breaking attendance numbers, including members and nonmembers. These workshops also serve us well in preparing for our first virtual Annual Meeting. In this work, our Program Committee, cochaired by Kayla Harris and Cara Bertram, has done a fantastic job modeling the positive experiences from other virtual meetings over the past year to give you a new but uniquely MAC experience over two days in May.

I would be remiss not to mention that I am also looking forward to the outcome of MAC's 2021 election. It is an outstanding group of candidates. The willingness of MAC members to step up and seek leadership positions is a hallmark of our association. To do so during a pandemic, while living and working in an unending state of uncertainty, is a demonstration of their commitment to you. These new leaders will usher MAC into its 50th anniversary in 2022. Thank you to this year's Nominating Committee, Dina Kellams, Heather Fox, and Rachel Seale, for compiling this slate.

I look forward to virtually seeing you all at the Annual Meeting!

Sincerely,



Erik A. Moore

President, Midwest Archives Conference