



Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Joshua Ranger, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Several weeks ago, fellow MAC member and St. Cloud State University archivist Tom Steman stopped by and had lunch with me here in Oshkosh. My University of Wisconsin Oshkosh campus is not exactly on the beaten path, so such visits are pretty rare, but welcome. Over hot and gooey fried cheese curds, we chatted about friends and family, our work and careers, lessons I learned from the recent symposium (which was fantastic—a big thank you to all who made this possible), as well as upcoming meetings. None of this was out of the ordinary, but for the location: a south-side Oshkosh tavern. It reinforced to me that any time two MAC members get together, a little MAC can happen. So imagine with me what can happen when you get 400+ MAC members together . . .

Spring 2019

Detroit's Program Committee received an overwhelming response to the call for proposals for the 2019 Annual Meeting, signaling interest in both the idea of innovation and transformation and in our Motor City meeting site. There were so many proposals, in fact, that we plan to experiment with a mix of traditional-length and shorter-length sessions to maximize content. You might say that we have embraced a sense of experimentation as we have also added a new business archives preconference—a fitting attitude for a host city that itself is being reinvented.

Fall 2019

Speaking of new things, the Fall Symposium in 2019 will take place October 4 and 5 on the campus of North Dakota State University. This is MAC's first time in the Peace Garden State, and it will also be the first symposium focused on the needs of a specific type of professional: the solo archivist. With many archivists in the MAC region situated in solo positions, this program will bring together like-minded individuals to discuss common issues and to learn, share, and listen. We hope to occasionally revisit this approach with future symposia designed for specific audiences in addition to those focused on broader themes or specific activities or technologies.

Spring 2020

The site and date for the Des Moines Annual Meeting are under negotiation as I type this. The Local Arrangements Committee is in place and has already begun its work to make MAC's return to Iowa's capital as memorable and pig-pun-filled as the first.

Future Meetings

Meeting sites beyond Des Moines are in your hands. Are you or your colleagues interested in hosting a MAC meeting? Please let me know . . . I'll bring the curds.