

Awards and Scholarships

Emeritus Membership Award

By Matt Gorzalski, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The MAC Membership Committee is pleased to award **Elisabeth Wittman** and **Joel Wurl** with the 2021 Emeritus Membership Award.

The award recognizes those who have contributed to the success, growth, and visibility of MAC through committee work, programming, outreach, and governance. The award intends to recognize those who work behind the scenes for MAC, as well as those who have been honored by election to office.



Elisabeth Wittman

Elisabeth Wittman joined MAC in 1977. During her career, she held several archival positions in the Chicago area, at Northwestern University (1977–1979), the University of Illinois at Chicago (1979–1983), the Evangelical Lutheran Church

of America (1984–2009), and the City of Chicago (2010–2018) prior to retirement. Her extensive service in MAC includes multiple terms on the Local Arrangements, Nominating, Program, Presidents' Award, and Archie Motley Scholarship Committees. She was elected and served on Council from 1984 to 1986, as vice president from 1996 to 1998, and as president from 2005 to 2007. She has also presented at numerous MAC Annual Meetings. In her nomination letter, Cheri Thies credits Wittman with “the many who joined MAC due to her mentorship and glowing descriptions of the advantages of being a member, her unselfish sharing of knowledge to all who needed it, and her amazing friendship and support of her colleagues.”



Joel Wurl

Joel Wurl joined MAC in 1981. He held archival positions at the University of Toledo (1981–1985) and the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota (1985–2006), and he became senior program officer for preservation and access grants at the National Endowment for the Humanities (2006–2020). He was a

frequent session chair or presenter at MAC Annual Meetings and authored, edited, and coauthored over 25 publications throughout his career. He chaired the Program Committee in 1989 and 1997; served as a member and later chair of the *Archival Issues* Editorial Board from 1989 to 1993; and was elected to MAC Council for 1994–1996. He is remembered for his advocacy for underdocumented groups while employed at the Immigration History Research Center, which continued during his time with the NEH. As Chris Prom's letter of support states, his career demonstrated “a clear focus on helping others to succeed in their roles, and in valuing the diversity of thought, experience, background, and identity that make for strong organizations and society.” Wurl was named Fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 2007.