

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 6, 2012
San Diego, California**

**2010 and 2011 Mosaic Scholars' Reports
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BACKGROUND

The Mosaic Scholarship was created by the Council to advance SAA's strategic priority related to Diversity. Two scholarships were awarded in 2010 to LaNesha DeBardelaben (Indiana University-Bloomington) and Susan Gehr (San Jose State University), each of whom received a scholarship of \$5,000, a one-year complimentary membership in SAA, and a complimentary registration to *DC 2010*. Two scholarships were awarded in 2011 to Rose Chou (San Jose State University) and Helen Kim (University of Texas at Austin), each of whom received a scholarship of \$5,000, a one-year complimentary membership in SAA, and a complimentary registration to *ARCHIVES 360°* in 2011 in Chicago.

Award recipients are required to submit a 500-word report to the SAA Council upon completion of their second semester. The following reports from the 2010 and 2011 recipients were submitted in fulfillment of that requirement.

Report from 2010 Scholar LANESHA DEBARDELEBEN (*Indiana University*)

No report received.

Report from 2010 Scholar SUSAN GEHR (*San Jose State University*)

I was delighted that the Society of American Archivists awarded me one of two Mosaic Scholarships in 2010. I deeply appreciate the Society's efforts to promote diversity in the archives profession. The award enabled me to attend my first SAA meeting in Washington, DC, where I met many helpful people and began to get a sense of how I would go about answering the questions that started me in my MLIS studies.

My 2010-2011 academic year at San Jose State University was first-rate, thanks to SAA. I studied Archives and Records Management with David DeLorenzo of UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library. He offered a tour of the Bancroft to his students, and the scholarship made it an easy decision to make the six-hour drive from Blue Lake to Berkeley, California. I was also able to arrange other meetings with collaborators on the Karuk

dictionary project, attend a presentation by David Nathan of the Endangered Languages Archive of the University of London, and meet with Teresa Mora, another Bancroft Library archivist.

I finished my first archives internship with Humboldt State University processing a small collection of materials donated by Dr. Thomas Buckley, anthropologist and author of "Standing Ground: Yurok Indian Spirituality 1850-1990." The finding aid is now available online at <http://library.humboldt.edu/humco/holdings/buckley.html>.

In Fall 2010, I also took an oral history class with Nancy MacKay. Oral history wasn't in my original plan for my archival studies, but I am so glad that I did because it set me up well to my current research interests.

In Spring 2011, I took Information Technology Tools and Applications, where I took the opportunity to update my site Karuk Language Resources on the web at <http://karuk.org>. I also took Research Methods in preparation for starting work on my thesis, an oral history of the Advocates for California Indigenous Language Survival's Breath of Life Workshop.

The Breath of Life Workshop was founded by the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival (AICLS) in 1996 to meet the language revitalization needs for California Indian people whose languages have no living fluent speakers. Breath of Life connects participants with linguistic mentors in order to read and interpret archival documents in their language for the purpose of bringing their language back into use.

Most of what has been written on Breath of Life has focused on the role of the linguist and the workshop participants in revitalizing their languages, depicting archives and archivists as benign but passive holders of language data. However, there are complex issues involved in archival care of tribal language documentation. Archives and archivists were the first ones to collect and preserve the documents, make them accessible through indexes and finding aids, and work with workshop participants in locating and using them.

This oral history of the Breath of Life Workshop will tell the story of AICLS and the Breath of Life Workshops, with an emphasis on uncovering the role the archival profession has in its efforts.

I appreciate the opportunities that the Mosaic Scholarship has afforded me. I am currently co-managing the social media for SAA's Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable. I look forward to participating in a panel presentation on independent, community-based archives this year at SAA in San Diego. I appreciate your encouragement and am looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Report from 2011 Scholar ROSE CHOU (*San Jose State University*)

Benefits of the Scholarship

First, I would like to thank the Society of American Archivists for awarding me the Mosaic Scholarship in 2011. Not only did the scholarship help alleviate my tuition burden, but it enabled me to attend the 2011 SAA Annual Meeting in Chicago. I presented a student poster at the conference, which was one of the best professional development experiences I have had. Discussing my research interests on a small scale was a great first step in presenting professionally. The conference was also an important opportunity to meet other students in addition to seasoned archivists.

The Mosaic Scholarship has supported my interest in conducting research on diversity in archives. A paper I wrote for a fall semester class was accepted for publication in *Library Student Journal* this year. This paper examines why archival organizations should implement participatory models in the digital preservation of materials related to indigenous and other historically marginalized communities. My current research this summer and fall focuses on American archival history, specifically archivists of color before 1970. I plan on writing an article containing profiles of historical archivists of color and submitting it for publication in a scholarly journal. One of my future goals is to pursue a PhD in Library and Information Science to continue my research on diversity in the American archival profession.

The encouragement I received by receiving the scholarship pushed me to become involved in a variety of professional service activities. Last fall I started writing regularly for the collaborative blog Hack Library School, which is a space for library school students to critically examine and discuss LIS education. I became a managing editor of the blog in January, where I provide leadership and guidance to the entire team of 14 writers. I also started as a content editor for San Jose State University's *SLIS Student Research Journal*. This editorial work has given me a rich perspective on scholarly writing. Furthermore, I continued serving on the SJSU SLIS Diversity Committee.

I am honored to be a recipient of the Mosaic Scholarship and hope to continue contributing to the development of the profession.

Opportunities for Growth

While I received a lot of support and encouragement at last year's SAA Annual Meeting, follow-up activities throughout the year would make the scholarship more meaningful. One of the main areas I believe that the scholarship can grow is by establishing a formal mentorship for Mosaic Scholars. Another idea is to create more networking opportunities for scholars to meet past award recipients and established archivists of color. Scholar participation in SAA could also be increased by offering leadership development opportunities, such as serving in a junior role on one of SAA's committees or subcommittees under the guidance of other archivists.

Report from 2011 Scholar HELEN KIM (*University of Texas at Austin*)

After my fiancé proposed to me last May, we celebrated quietly with scoops of gelato. Less than an hour later, I yelled excitedly from an email I just read. I tried to tone it down, but it was too late. I regretted it immediately. My fiancé, who was in the next room, heard my excitement and asked what could possibly be so exciting after his proposal. I was yelling: “I got a scholarship from SAA!”

I credit my enthusiasm to my professors, mentors, and classmates. Dr. David B. Gracy, Dr. Ciaran Trace, and Dr. Patricia Galloway, archives professors at the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin, encouraged us archives students to get involved with internships, volunteer activities, and SAA. It is their support and enthusiasm that encouraged me to pursue other opportunities like the Mosaic Scholarship, which in turn led me to participate in other SAA activities. Attending the SAA meeting in Chicago was a wonderful experience—a great time to meet archivists from across the country and learn what they’re working on and the methods they use.

After the conference, I volunteered as an intern with the Reference, Access, and Outreach Section, updating the website with archival highlights featuring repositories around the country. I also worked on the SAA Oral History Project, transcribing interviews of SAA leaders. Through SAA, I’ve met archivists (some just over the internet!) and developed relationships that I normally wouldn’t have had the opportunity to establish.

After graduate school, I returned to Los Angeles and began work at Visual Communications, an Asian American media arts nonprofit organization. Working with audiovisual materials that document American communities in the U.S. is rewarding because of the unique range of materials in our collections. Our materials cover issues and events that include Japanese American internment and redress, immigration, community activism, civil rights, labor issues, and Asian American film.

These materials, like SAA’s commitment to diversity, encourage the recognition of the diversity of our culture and collective consciousness. The title of Elisabeth Kaplan’s article, “We Are What We Collect, We Collect What We Are: Archives and the Construction of Identity” comes to mind and reminds me that multiple variations of “diversity” exist, too. The historical and socioeconomic backgrounds of Japanese Americans are not the same as those of Vietnamese Americans, and so on.

I hope that, as an archivist, I will try my best to include underrepresented groups in the archives and to acknowledge their respective differences with other groups and within their own communities. Recognizing, encouraging, and celebrating diversity in America, our holdings, and the archival profession is a commitment of mine. I am so honored to be an SAA Mosaic Scholar and look forward to future involvement with SAA and with fostering diversity efforts. I look forward to meeting you all in San Diego, and congratulations to this year’s scholarship recipients!