BACKGROUND

The Mosaic Scholarship was created by the Council to advance SAA’s strategic priority related to Diversity. The first two scholarships were awarded in 2009 to Janet Ceja (University of Pittsburgh) and Harrison Inefuku (University of British Columbia), each of whom received a scholarship of $5,000, a one-year complimentary membership in SAA, and a complimentary registration to AUSTIN 2009.

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

REPORTS FROM THE SCHOLARS

I. JANET CEJA, University of Pittsburgh

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) Mosaic Scholarship has permitted me to continue my scholarship in archival studies, and given me the opportunity to work on research that nurtures my creativity. Next fall, I will be a fourth year doctoral student at the University of Pittsburgh; I intend to defend my dissertation proposal late fall and graduate in 2011. A brief summary of the research I have been working on is found at the end of the document.

Since the last Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, I have become involved in SAA by taking on the position of diversity representative for the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable. Thus far I have provided feedback on the proposed SAA diversity statement. I am looking forward to future involvement in SAA and to be able to provide perspective and assistance.

Additionally, I have a couple of forthcoming publications: one on diversity and documentation practices, and the other on recordkeeping practices at the Native American Resource Center in Los Angeles.
The Mosaic Scholarship program is on its way to becoming an excellent resource for students of archival studies. It has great potential in engaging historically underrepresented groups to the archives profession, but stronger retention methods must be considered. The advice I have to offer in order to make the scholarship program stronger is that recipients of the award be guided (at least initially or for a day) through the Annual Meeting as it can be an overwhelming experience. It would also be beneficial if the recipients had a scheduled time to meet the SAA Diversity Committee as a way to build greater interest in becoming involved with diversity initiatives; to foster networking and mentoring; and to keep a constant flow of individuals engaged with diversity concerns.

SAA's recent Diversity Strategic Priority is a development that is helping create a more pluralistic archives profession as it encourages scholastic and cultural innovation through different mechanisms that empower historically underrepresented groups. The Mosaic Scholarship is one important way this vision is being supported, but its recipients must also be encouraged to envision themselves as on-going representatives of the archives profession.

I am honored to have been one of the first recipients of this award and it is my desire to continue to be a part of the Mosaic Scholarship program. Through mentoring and scholarly and professional guidance, I enthusiastically offer my time to future archival studies students awarded the Mosaic Scholarship (and beyond).

**Research Summary**

My dissertation study is largely defined by my interests in preservation practices, audiovisual media technologies, archives, and diasporas. I question the meaning of “under-documentation” as discussed in library and information science, and specifically archival studies as a way to explore how communities that fall into this “residual category”¹ create documentation about themselves through their own elaborate systems.

Through ethnography, I examine a Mexican (American) community’s social practices in the U.S. and Mexico. I investigate how their engagement across borders with records and technologies creates an information infrastructure for remembering, identity formation, and place. By focusing on the relationship between a community that may be considered under-documented and on the documentation the community creates in order to preserve cultural practices, my goal is to offer an understanding of archives from a diasporic point of view.

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¹ I use the term residual to describe a state in which “the structure of the classification system has a limited choice between categories, and the lived experience.” See, Susan Leigh Star and Geoffrey Bowker, “Enacting Silence: Residual Categories as a Challenge for Ethics, Information Systems, and Communication,” *Ethics and Information Technology* 9:4 (2007), 274.
II. HARRISON INEFUKU, University of British Columbia

Benefits of the Scholarship
Being part of the initial Mosaic Scholarship class with Janet Ceja was an honor. I am humbled and grateful to receive such a generous scholarship package from the Society.

Although the monetary stipend was useful and much appreciated (especially in these tough economic times), the greatest benefit of receiving the Mosaic Scholarship has been the networking opportunities it provided.

Receiving the scholarship allowed me to attend my first Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting (as well as my first opportunity to visit Austin, Texas). Being exposed to such a great network of archives professionals and academics early in my educational program was of great benefit. Through the connections gained, I have been able to learn more about the profession and have found individuals willing to discuss, expand, and challenge my ideas as I begin researching my major project on South African archives.

The Society of American Archivists and the Archives and Archivists Roundtable have worked to ensure that scholarship awardees felt celebrated, with recognition provided at the Roundtable meeting, an invitation to the President’s Reception, as well as to the Awards Ceremony. The membership of the Society as a whole has proven to be supportive and encouraging—I am proud to be entering a profession with such wonderful individuals.

I now look forward to participating as a member of the Mosaic Scholarship Selection Committee. These awards are significant investments in the awardees and, as such, awardees should endeavor to do as much as possible to give back to the profession. I believe strongly in the need to increase the diversity of the profession—attending the conferences of the Society of American Archivists and the Association of Canadian Archivists has only reinforced this belief. The opportunity to serve on the Committee is my first step in my efforts to fulfill this need.

Opportunities for Growth
In addition to receiving the Mosaic Scholarship from the Society of American Archivists, I have also been fortunate to receive similar scholarships and opportunities from the American Library Association (Spectrum) and the Association of Research Libraries (Career Enhancement Program). These programs provide excellent examples of potential directions for the Mosaic Scholarship. For example, both programs incorporate career and leadership development components, which run concurrently with ALA conferences. The Spectrum Scholarship program also runs a robust fundraising campaign to increase the number of scholarships available each year. I hope that, with time, the Mosaic Scholarship program can expand to include such programs for future generations of archives student-scholars.
Acknowledgements
I must give thanks to the Mosaic Scholarship Selection Committee, especially committee chair Petrina Jackson. Teresa Brinati has also been an invaluable resource, with her immense knowledge of SAA and the profession. I must also give special recognition to Deborra Richardson. Throughout the conference, Ms. Richardson ensured that I was meeting people throughout the conference. After the conference, Ms. Richardson continued to point me to resources and opportunities she thought I would be interested in.