Inside the issue

From the President ........................................................... 2
Newsletter survey results ............................................. 3
SRMA elections now open ............................................. 4
CU Boulder’s Media Archiving and Preservation Education and Community Internships ..................... 6
From the President

Hello SRMA members,

It’s hard for me to believe that this is my last update before the Board year is over at the end of June. I am incredibly grateful to have served you as President, and immensely proud of the hard-working Board we had last year. They have been very generous with their time, creativity, and input. I would like to give a special thank you to those Board members who will not be continuing, either because they are steeping down from their appointment or decided not to run for re-election. They are Jamie Wagner, Aaron Ramirez, and Nathalie Proulx, who all did truly excellent jobs in their roles.

Business meeting on June 10th

The annual business meeting will be held on June 10th from 10:00am-11:30am over Zoom. The information is on the website and the listserv. During the first hour I will present the President’s report and the Board members will present their reports on activities from the last year. At the end of the hour, we will welcome in new Board leadership, which will begin in July. Afterwards from 11:00 to 11:30 we will host an open, social half-hour where you can ask questions of the Board or just catch-up with other archivists!

SRMA Board elections

As Past President, Megan Friedel is chairing the Nominating Committee with Aaron Ramirez from Pueblo City-County Library District, and Kim Larmee from the Science of the Mind Archives and Libraries Foundation. Please see their section in this newsletter for information about the elections and Board positions you will vote on this year. The SRMA Board has been one of the most engaging and collaborative Boards that I have participated on. It has been a very rewarding way to make a difference in the profession. Please consider running for election!

Please reach out to me with any questions at Ashlyn.velte@colorado.edu. I look forward to seeing you and catching up at the business meeting!

All the best,
Ashlyn Velte
SRMA President

Newsletter survey results

Thanks to everyone who participated in the newsletter survey. Results show that members overwhelmingly would like to see the newsletter continue and most would like to keep receiving the newsletter as a PDF. Members would also value more content and a greater variety of content. Selected results are presented below.

We will make efforts to increase the amount and variety of content in coming issues. In the meantime, don’t hesitate to contact us with news, announcements, or stories that you’d like to share. Nathalie Proulx has stepped down as the newsletter editor. Join us in thanking her and in welcoming Will Gregg as the new editor. He can be reached at willjgregg@gmail.com
2022 SRMA election ballot now open

The following candidates have nominated themselves for election to the SRMA Governing Board in this year’s election cycle. Voting is open May 17-June 1 via SRMA’s election ballot. Election results will be announced during the SRMA Business Meeting on June 10, 2022. Please note that voting is open to current dues-paying members only.

Candidate statements

Vice President
Jessie de la Cruz
Music & Recorded Sound Archivist/Assistant Director of the American Music Research Center, University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

I am very excited about the opportunity to serve SRMA again, having previously served as Program Director from 2016-2018. During the last fifteen years, I have gained valuable and varied experience ranging from work as an archivist in a university setting, to creating a single artist museum archive and research center, and as a community arts organizer and archivist with the community archive Arthyve. All of these positions have reinforced my love for humanities, archives and a service-oriented practice. While in these roles I learned to seek opportunities locally and globally to engage with multiple and diverse audiences. I am eager to apply all of this experience to serving the profession and in the continued growth of the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists.

Secretary
Blake Graham
Data Operations Supervisor, National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado Boulder

Hello, friends. I would like to nominate myself for the SRMA Board’s Secretary position. This is a second-term nomination to continue serving the wonderful folks in the SRMA community. In the past two years as Secretary on the SRMA Board, I’ve tried to engage in ongoing discussions around SRMA business, participate in and record Board Meeting Minutes, and brainstorm new funding opportunities to benefit our members. It’s been nothing short of a fun and thoughtful experience for me, and I hope an enjoyable experience for members as opportunities and normal business operations continue. I would love the opportunity to earn your vote and continue serving in this capacity for another term. Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer.

Member-at-Large
Dot Donovan
Digital & Special Collections Program Lead, University of Colorado Denver

I am interested in the position of Member-at-Large. I think this position offers an opportunity to mentee under the guidance of the Program Director and Vice President. I’d like to be more actively involved in events and coordination. I’d also like to be more actively involved in SRMA altogether.

Preservation Director
Cecily North
Librarian-Archivist, Pueblo City-County Library District

Cecily has been involved with SRMA in a variety of positions since 2006. Cecily has recently become a Peer Assessor through the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums to help assist other institutions find resources to help preserve and protect their collections. She has taken trainings through NEDCC and the Western Archives Institute in disaster planning. Preservation and protection is of utmost importance as we face natural disasters and the everyday concerns of preserving our collections.

Continuing Education Director
Amber J. D’Ambrosio
Special Collections & Archives Librarian, Colorado Mesa University

I have consistently found continuing education courses and programming with the regional archival organizations to which I have belonged to be among the most valuable learning opportunities I’ve had as an archivist. As the SRMA Continuing Education Director, I hope to be able to give members the same chances I’ve had to gain new skills and knowledge. Through a survey of the membership, I would like to determine needs and interests and work to shape and schedule programming to serve those needs and interests.
CU Boulder’s Media Archiving and Preservation Education and Community Internships

Jamie Marie Wagner, Moving Image Archivist, CU Boulder Libraries
Sabrina Negri, Department of Cinema Studies, CU Boulder

In 2021, the University Libraries’ Rare and Distinctive Collections (RAD) and the Department of Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts (CINE) at the University of Colorado Boulder received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to develop a series of experiential opportunities for undergraduate students focused on media archiving and preservation. The Media Archiving and Preservation (MAP) program is an outgrowth of a Film Preservation courses developed by CINE professor Sabrina Negri since 2018, with a view toward establishing a certificate program or a dedicated track within the Cinema Studies major in the next few years. Co-PIs of the project are Sabrina Negri and Jamie Marie Wagner, Moving Image Archivist at CU Boulder Libraries.

The three-year IMLS grant, from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, comprises three areas of activity:
- An expanded series of courses in the Department of Cinema Studies related to the theories, practices, and curatorial and ethical principles of media archiving and preservation
- A paid Media Archiving and Preservation Fellowship program for undergraduate students within CU Boulder Libraries’ RAD and Digital Media Services Lab
- A Community Internship Program for undergraduate students in Media Archiving and Preservation that identifies and addresses media archiving and preservation needs of under-resourced cultural heritage institutions and community organizations in the Front Range

We began the project in Fall 2021 by drafting a set of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) for the MAP program that reflect professional skills and competencies recommended by groups like the SAA Education Committee and the Curriculum Subcommittee of AMIA’s Continuing Education Task Force. The SLOs will be used to inform the development and evaluation of program activities. In addition to professional competency frameworks, the SLOs are designed to fulfill CINE degree requirements and serve the broader needs of undergraduate students by emphasizing skills within media archiving and preservation that are transferable to other media production and cultural heritage careers, like project management, digital literacy, and navigating copyright law. Our SLOs and Curriculum Development Report will be made available on the CU institutional repository, CU Scholar, later this summer.

In January 2022, we launched the first two activities of the IMLS grant. The CU Boulder Libraries hired our first three MAP Fellowship students — undergraduates from the departments of Cinema, Media Studies, and Art History — to train in the skills of identifying, describing, and preserving motion picture film, and digitizing archival media in the Libraries’ Digital Media Services Lab. In Cinema Studies, Jamie Wagner taught a 3-credit course on Moving Image Archives: Curation, Management, and Programming. Student projects involved conducting appraisal research, doing intellectual arrangement, and writing metadata records for the CU Digital Library, all using film, video, and audio tape from RAD collections. The students also curated two screening programs of archival film and video from the Libraries’ Rare and Distinctive Collections.

In 2022, the CU Boulder Libraries also launched an Education and Community Internships program. The first two interns worked with the Film Preservation Fellowship students — undergraduates from the departments of Cinema, Media Studies, and Art History — to train in the skills of identifying, describing, and preserving motion picture film, and digitizing archival media in the Libraries’ Digital Media Services Lab. In Cinema Studies, Jamie Wagner taught a 3-credit course on Moving Image Archives: Curation, Management, and Programming. Student projects involved conducting appraisal research, doing intellectual arrangement, and writing metadata records for the CU Digital Library, all using film, video, and audio tape from RAD collections. The students also curate a screening program of archival film and video from the Libraries’ Rare and Distinctive Collections.
Throughout this summer, we will be working to identify and develop projects for the grant’s third area of activity, a for-credit semester Community Internship Program. The program will pair our undergraduate MAP students with organizations and institutions in the Front Range that collect and care for audiovisual cultural heritage materials or have audiovisual materials within their own organizational records. We hope to work closely with institution and organization leaders in the Front Range to identify at-risk media collections and to develop project work plans that address their unmet preservation needs where they are. Projects could include processing and preserving physical collections, creating descriptive resources, digitizing material, and making material accessible to patrons or the public through digital collections, digital exhibits, or other means. In addition to traditional repositories, we seek internship projects that allow students to directly address the preservation needs of community organizations – like social groups, religious institutions, or artistic collectives.

Here, we would like to ask SRMA members: Do you work in or with a small repository or community organization with unprocessed or at-risk audiovisual heritage material? We would love to be in touch with you to discuss ways the CU Boulder Media Archiving and Preservation program could help meet your needs. Contact us at jamie.wagner@colorado.edu or sabrina.negri@colorado.edu

One of our primary inspirations in developing the MAP program is the acknowledgement that promoting equity and diversity in archival collections and the profession goes beyond acquiring diverse materials or hiring more diverse archivists into major institutions. Instead, diversifying the historical record also necessitates actively sharing the expertise and resources of preservation and archival practice with community organizations and small repositories, to support the stewardship of local histories by their own communities. We hope that the Media Archiving and Preservation program at CU Boulder may address these needs by bringing media archiving and preservation experience directly into communities, with attention to the ethics of building trusting and collaborative community partnerships. Further, we hope the model of an undergraduate specialization program at a regional university may expand access to media preservation education to a much broader and more diverse audience of students than the extant graduate programs in New York and Los Angeles.
Governance

President: Ashlyn Velte
Processing Archivist
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

Vice President: Jay Trask
Head of Archives and Special Collections
University of Northern Colorado

Past President: Megan Friedel
Head of Archives
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

Secretary: Blake Graham
Data Operations Analyst
National Snow and Ice Data Center

Treasurer: Patty Rettig
Head Archivist
Water Resources Archive, Colorado State University

Program Director: Walker Sampson
Digital Archivist – Special Collections, Archives & Preservation
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

Member-at-Large: Nora Plant
Audio-visual Archivist
American Heritage Cetner

Preservation Member-at-Large: Aaron Ramirez
Archivist Librarian
Pueblo City-County Library District

Membership Coordinator: David Fasman
Metadata Technician
Beck Archives, University of Denver

Society Archivist: Kalyani Fernando
Project Archivist – Special Collections, Archives & Preservation
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

Newsletter Editor: Will Gregg
Archivist
University of Colorado
Museum of Natural History

Continuing Education Coordinator: Jamie Wagner
Special Collections, Archives & Preservation
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

Website and Social Media Coordinator: Sean Babbs
Special Collections, Archives & Preservation
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

Do you have any projects or collections to feature in the next issue of Rocky Mountain Archivist?
Contact Will Gregg at willjgregg@gmail.com

Need to renew your membership?
Contact David Fasman
david.fasman@du.edu