

## **Report of the Indiana University SAA Student Chapter for January 2003 – May 2004**

Chapter Coordinator-President: Marybeth Gaudette (February 2003 – April 2004)  
Elia Van Lith (as of April 2004)

Acting Secretary: Marybeth Gaudette (January 2003 only)

Secretary: Curtis Ashton (as of April 2004)

Webmaster: Curtis Ashton (as of April 2004)

Faculty Liaison: Phil Bantin

**Membership:** The IU Student Chapter has struggled and failed to maintain the required minimum of 5 SAA members. As of May 31, 2004, there are only 5 individuals who are known to be current members, a prior member having moved to England after graduating early in May. The current known members are as follows:

Marybeth Gaudette  
Elia Van Lith  
Curtis Ashton  
Heather Rayl  
Beth Benda.

Although President Gaudette was advised in February by SAA Co-Director of Education Patti O'Hara that there is an IUPUI student whose first name is Emily who is an SAA member, said person never joined the Chapter listserv and never notified the Chapter herself that she is an SAA member. Therefore, her last name and student status are not known to the Chapter at this time.

President Gaudette surveyed the 40-plus members of the Chapter listserv as to why the vast majority of them had not joined the SAA. Most of those who responded said that they could not afford the \$40 annual dues. Three people responded that they had attempted to join online but then never got around to completing the process to join because they kept forgetting to fax or mail a copy of their student ID to the SAA. In order to make joining less financially burdensome, the Chapter itself has not yet instituted its own dues requirement.

President Gaudette contacted the President of SAA and its Student Chapter Liaison in order to discuss the problem the Chapter was having with membership. It looked hopeful for a while that the Chapter would be visited by an SAA officer and that such a visit would help stimulate interest in the Chapter; however the visit never materialized. The list of membership advantages communicated to Gaudette by Patti O'Hara was forwarded to the Chapter listserv in hopes that it would increase membership, but such was not the case.

**Officers:** In January 2003, Magia Ghetu resigned as President from the Chapter, giving as her reason that she had too many other responsibilities. The then Acting Secretary, Marybeth Gaudette, agreed to serve as Acting President until elections could be held in March of 2003, at

which time she was elected President. Unfortunately, it was discovered six months later that the two people who were elected at that same meeting to serve as Secretary and Treasurer could not hold office because they had never gotten around to joining the SAA. When they were advised that they would have to join the SAA in order to continue as officers, they ceased to attend meetings and to participate in Chapter activities. It also turned out that, Gaudette, who was and is a member of SAA, was not a validly elected President because the Bylaws under which she had been nominated and elected were never voted upon and adopted by the Chapter.

**Bylaws:** It was determined in the fall of 2003 that the Bylaws under which the Chapter had been operating since 2002 had never been offered to the members for a vote and were, in fact, almost word for word a mirror of the IU ALA Student Chapter Bylaws. Therefore, at the September 2003 meeting, a Bylaw Committee was established. The Committee drafted a proposed set of Bylaws that it believed was more in keeping with the needs and realities of the SAA Student Chapter and with the SAA guidelines for student chapters and offered its report at the January 2004 meeting. The proposed Bylaws were adopted at the March 2004 meeting.

**Meetings:** In an effort to stimulate membership, attendance at Chapter meetings was not limited to SAA members. However, only SAA members could vote and constitute a quorum. Although attendance was often high, at most meetings there were not enough SAA members to constitute a quorum; therefore, we were very limited on the business and potential activities that could be discussed and voted on at most of the meetings.

Although SAA members were scarce at meetings, the Chapter was fortunate in arranging for interesting guest speakers. Denis Shaburov, a visiting scholar from the Russian State University for the Humanities spoke about the history and organization of the Russian State Archives. Paul Heyde spoke about his role at the IU Black Film Center/Archive and the mission and holdings of the Archives. Liana Zhou, Head of the Library at the Kinsey Institute, spoke of the challenges of overseeing a controversial collection.

As SAA only allows one student chapter per university system, one of the goals of the outgoing Student Chapter administration was to find a way to include the SLIS students who are SAA members, and potential SAA members, at the Indianapolis campus (IUPUI) in the Chapter's activities. In March 2004, the Chapter experimented with videoconferencing its monthly meeting in order to make it possible for IUPUI students to attend. Although the videoconferencing was a success from a technical standpoint, it failed in its purpose in that no one attended from the IUPUI broadcast site. Feedback to a query on the Chapter listserv suggested that because IUPUI is a commuter campus and most of its SLIS classes are held in the evening, interested Indianapolis students were not on campus at the time of the meeting. It was also disappointing that only a handful of Bloomington students attended the meeting, the likely reason being that the studio from which the meeting was broadcast is in a building other than the one in which the School of Library Science is located.

**Website:** The chapter website has not been updated since September of 2002 because those who set it up either graduated or had forgotten password, and without the password, the new President or anyone elected as Webmaster could not access the site. Numerous attempts were made by President Gaudette to obtain access, including going to the Technology Center with the

Chapter's Sponsor. But because of conflicting instructions and misinformation from various members of IU Student Technology Center and the difficulty in providing complete and accurate instructions to the Chapter's Sponsor as to what he needs to do to help the process, as of May 31, 2004, the website has yet to be accessed for updating.

**Listserv:** A new e-mail list had to be established because the persons who had set up the Chapter's original MajorDomo mailing could not remember the password. In setting up a new list, it was decided that a listserv would better suit the Chapter's communication needs than another MajorDomo account. The listserv has been successful in gaining members, and as of May 31, 2004 had 40 subscribers. Unfortunately, only a handful of the subscribers are members of SAA.

**Activities:** With only one Chapter officer and with SAA membership being so low, it was difficult to organize activities. However, one activity that was attempted, but which did not meet with success, was the SAA Movie Night Out. The intent of this was to support and attend once a month a movie that had an archival theme or that was presented by one of IU's archives, such as the Black Film Center/Archive. Although all films were free and were heavily advertised by fliers and multiple listserv announcements and reminders, only one SAA member attended any of the Movie Nights Out.

#### **Corrections to the 2001-2002 Annual Report:**

1. The period of time actually referenced by the report is January 2002 through November 2003.
2. Although listed as Secretary on the 2001-2002 report, Marybeth Gaudette was never elected Secretary and started serving only in the capacity of Acting Secretary in September of 2002. Except for the recruitment meeting held in January 2002, Gaudette was not present at any meetings held prior to September 2002 and never held elected office prior to March 2003.

Submitted May 31, 2004, by outgoing SAA Chapter President, Marybeth Gaudette