

# MAC midwest archives conference

## n e w s l e t t e r

*Preserving the Documents of the Past and Making Them Accessible to the Future!*

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As all of you know, due to the global COVID 19 pandemic, the 2020 Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting has been canceled. This happened just as we were going to press.

Thus, we are publishing this issue of the *MAC Newsletter* as we would have if the meeting had not been canceled. It is, in effect, a historical record of what would have happened if we weren't experiencing such unusual and precarious times.

Be well and stay safe!

Alison Stankrauff  
MAC Newsletter Editor

### MAC's 2020 Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa, May 6–9, 2020 “Decision 2020”



*Iowa State Capitol, photo courtesy of Drake University Archives & Special Collections*

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As we write this, the political chaos of the Iowa caucuses has descended on Des Moines, as has the cold and snow. But don't worry, by the time you get to the MAC Annual Meeting on May 6–9, spring will have arrived and farmer's markets, festivals, and baseball will have replaced the candidates.

We are excited to announce our plenary session with *Des Moines Register* columnist Rekha Basu. Basu writes on a range of issues, focusing on politics, human rights, racial justice, and gender equality. Her presentation will be the perfect way to kick off our “Decision 2020” theme.

Pop-Up Session proposals were due in early February, so by the time you read this, MAC members will have cast their ballots (trust us, it's easier than caucusing) for up to three 45-minute sessions that will become part of the Des Moines program.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## News from the Midwest

*Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, University of Oregon, and Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at [bisio@uoregon.edu](mailto:bisio@uoregon.edu) and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Lois at [hamilll1@nku.edu](mailto:hamilll1@nku.edu). Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!*

### ILLINOIS

#### Claretian Missionaries Archives USA-Canada

The working committee charged with synthesizing the presentations and input from the Boston College Conference “Envisioning the Future of Catholic Religious Archives” announces the release of a working paper titled *Preserving the Past, Building for the Future*. The paper provides a broad outline of the major areas of concern for Catholic religious leaders, scholars, and archivists who are invested in the long-term preservation of these valuable collections. The committee recommends that this paper be used as a framework for considering possible solutions to specific challenges faced by each religious community. The working paper can be found at <https://catholicarchives.bc.edu> along with the video recordings of conference presentations. As ongoing dialogue is critical to this initiative, a Google group, Archival Resources for Catholic Collections (ARCC), to facilitate connection among the

three primary constituencies has been formed. Please email [archivalrcc@gmail.com](mailto:archivalrcc@gmail.com) if you wish to join the conversation.

#### Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) Archives

The Leto M. Furnas Information Resource Center and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) Archives stand on a solid foundation laid by the original vision of the Hansen-Furnas Foundation in the summer of 1986. IMSA is grateful that the foundation has continued to show support for the work of the archives with a 2018 grant, which has allowed staff to build and expand on that ground work. This grant funded a major revision and digitization of IMSA’s Archives Finding Aid and Oral History Collection, now available online worldwide via IMSA’s institutional repository, DigitalCommons. Updating and digitizing the Finding Aid and Oral History Collection has been part of a larger project of reorganizing and curating current collections. Because of the 2018

Hansen-Furnas Grant, this ongoing project is now up to date. Locate the Finding Aid at [https://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/archives\\_finding\\_aid](https://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/archives_finding_aid) and the Oral History Collection at [https://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/oral\\_histories](https://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/oral_histories).

### INDIANA

#### The Great American Songbook Foundation

The Great American Songbook Foundation’s archivist and volunteers were busy in the last quarter of 2019. At the annual meeting in July, the foundation’s board approved the purchase of mobile shelving for its off-site facility. Archivist Lisa Lobdell worked with Joe Eberhardt of Shelving Guys, Inc., to maximize the 3,000-square-foot space that overflowed with collections. The newly installed Montel shelving provides space for audio formats, books, archival boxes, and music arrangements. The old shelving was donated to other cultural institutions to make room for the new and improved units. The urgent need for the shelving was created when the foundation acquired a large collection of music arrangements from the West Coast. The shipment of 486 crates arrived two days after the shelving installation crew left. Unfortunately, the project remains far from finished as the physical locations need to be updated and collections moved from the foundation’s main office.



*Volunteer archivist Christian D. Nekkentved, PhD, IMSA History Faculty Emeritus, in the reorganized, relabeled, and recently digitized IMSA Archives. Photo Credit: Emily Holda, MA, archive aide for Finding Aid project.*