Wolfgang M. Freitag Internship Award Subcommittee

Submitted by: Jasmine Burns
jburns@cornell.edu
607-255-2565

January 11, 2018

Subcommittee members: Elizabeth Ehrnst, Anna Helgeson, Mario Ascencio, Suzanne Rackover

The call for applications was posted to several listservs, including ARLIS/NA, VRA, and was forwarded to a list of library schools on September 18, 2017. Applications closed on November 17, 2017.

The sub received and reviewed twenty-three applications for the 2018 Wolfgang M. Freitag Internship Award primarily from MLIS students, with a few applications from recent graduates and students from fields from outside of LIS. Four of the applicants were disqualified for not being recent graduates (more than 12 months out of a master’s program) or for not having a graduate degree at all. Applicants represented twelve US states and there were two applications from Canada and five (!) from Nigeria.

The Subcommittee selected Anna Hurwitz to be the 2018 award recipient. Anna is a second year MLIS student at the University of Washington pursuing a career in art librarianship. Although she has almost 30 years of experience working with nonprofit arts organizations as an art event producer, this degree marks a significant career change for Anna, which was inspired by her work with the archives at the Center on Contemporary Art in Seattle. The award will support an internship in Seattle that will advance Anna’s skills in archival collections processing for both analog and digital materials.

I will be stepping down as chair, and a new chair and continuing committee members have yet to be determined pending the ongoing discussions to merge several subcommittees into a Student Advancement committee, which would include the Internship Award subcommittee.

One issue that came up this year is that the timing for this award is rather unfortunate for first-year students. The application requires that applicants have completed 10 credits of grad coursework before the application deadline (which happens to be in the middle of the semester). First-semester students therefore wouldn’t be eligible until the following year, at which point they may already be searching for jobs and not on the market for a spring/summer internship. I had a couple of people email me to ask about this requirement, so perhaps it is something that the next chair can think about.

Respectfully submitted,
Jasmine Burns