

From:

Lauren Kime

To:

Karen Sternheim Memorial Scholarship Chair

2022 SCC-SLA Scholarship Committee

Mary Sohn Lee, Chair

I am writing to express my interest in the Karen Sternheim Memorial Scholarship and to inform you of my interest in Special Libraries. I am a graduate of California State University Channel Islands with a B.A. in Art History and a minor in Arts Management. I am currently pursuing my MLIS with a certificate in Digital Asset Management at San Jose State University and expect to graduate in December of 2023. It is my dream to work in an environment where I can continue to pursue my passion working in Special Collections and Asset Management.

My interest and experience in special librarianship largely stems from my time as an undergraduate student and my time as an intern at various cultural institutions. My background and time as an undergrad was focused on collections management, exhibition curation and digital asset management. The first of my internship experiences was with the Channel Islands Maritime Museum (CIMM) in Ventura, California. During my time with CIMM, my responsibilities were to assist with collections management, to create and maintain official records for all objects in the permanent collection or on loan to the museum, and to input metadata in the digital asset management system for all items in the permanent collection. This experience was my first time working with metadata and special collections and it sparked my interest in working with digital collections.

My second internship experience was with the Getty Marrow Undergraduate Internship program where I worked at the Corita Art Center as a collections assistant. During this internship my responsibilities included processing and archiving new artist assets and artworks, assistance with DAM systems including: entry of metadata in FileMaker Pro, QA of database records, flagging

records with inadequate information and clean up of minor errors. Additionally, I applied knowledge of art, research procedures, and online resources and databases to the documentation and organization of the permanent collection. My time with the Marrow program was invaluable in exposing me further to special collections work and started me on my path towards pursuing my MLIS. To this day, I often reflect on my time in the Marrow program and the experience I gained as an intern. My time as an intern with the Corita Art Center solidified my desire to work in Special Libraries and Archives.

Currently, I work as a Disney Professional Intern Asset Specialist with Walt Disney Imagineering at The Muppets Studio. As a asset specialist my primary duties include the organization, inventory and processing of a variety of elements relating to The Muppets Studio and asset storage locations including artwork, images, documents, props, scenic items and merchandise. Additional responsibilities include accession, appraisal, and processing of object and record collections in multiple formats and ensuring access to those archival holdings, preservation and storage of archival holdings, and assisting with digitization of holdings and integration of archives database with other internal company tools. My time with the Walt Disney Company and working in corporate archives has been integral to my development lately and has really driven home so much of what I have been actively learning in my MLIS program.

I grew up with my father working as a prop master in Hollywood, California and so much of what I currently do feels familiar and like a second home for me. I have a passion for Film and Television from my many years spent as a child playing with the various props my father brought home. I would love to continue to work in an area similar to my current position in the future.

As an extracurricular activity I volunteer my time as a Research Assistant at the Hale Library and Archive at the Carnegie Observatories. I am working with Special Librarian, Kit Whitten to conduct original research into the history of women as computers in astronomy. Most of my time is spent looking at the work of the female librarians at the Mount Wilson Observatory and the female computers who worked with them to make scientific discoveries that were integral to our

understanding of Astronomy today. Our aim is to not only name these women who did this work but also to put faces to these names and make sure that these women get the recognition they deserve.

I am also currently the Vice President of the Special Libraries Association Student Chapter at San Jose State University and plan to run for President at the end of the Fall semester this year as our current President plans to graduate. During my time as Vice President I have focused on creating opportunities for our Executive Committee to feel better connected since it is difficult to do so in an iSchool format. I have also managed to implement an informal bi-monthly meeting with a working MLIS professional so that our current members can have a safe space to discuss current topics, seek advice and ask questions about the experiences of established professionals. I hope to continue these programs and opportunities into the future and hope to extend these programs in the future for the general student body.

Based on my professional experiences and skills I've acquired throughout my time working, my professional goals are to work as a Special Librarian in an organization focused on either film and television or the arts. I feel that a special library in either of those two domains would best align with my current experiences and make the best use of my knowledge. I am hoping to focus much of my work in digital asset management, collections development, accessibility of assets and equity of that access. I am also currently drawn to the cultural institution movement of decolonization not only of assets but also of language and would love to work in an environment where I can work on projects relating to this movement.

I look forward to seeing where the future takes me in my MLIS career. So much of what working in Special Libraries is, has to do with being a lifelong learner. As I continue to grow in my professional career, I foresee the Special Library Association acting as an irreplaceable resource. The benefits that my SLA membership has brought to me so far have been so unique and meaningful. I met my current mentor and supervisor, Kit Whitten through the SLA forums and have attended multiple networking opportunities that have helped me get to where I am today with my Disney Professional Internship. In the future, I foresee the benefits of SLA's continuing education opportunities to be important for my career, especially the certificate programs and conference

attendance. In the future, as I graduate from my program and work towards my professional career, I plan to stay on as an active member of the SLA. I wish to continue my participation and contribution by working as a mentor for young professionals, working as an active member of my local SLA community, volunteering my time for SLA events and I hope to one day have the opportunity to present at an SLA conference.