

Report from MARAC, April 2016

Submitted by Amy Lucadamo, College Archivist, Musselman Library, Gettysburg College

With the help of a generous \$400 Continuing Education Grant from ACLCP, I attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) spring meeting in Pittsburgh from April 14-16. Funds from ACLCP were used to supplement the professional development budget of Musselman Library and were used to pay for my meeting registration, travel, and meals.

I was accompanied to Pittsburgh by a current student and an intern who presented a poster of a project that they had completed during the summer of 2015. They were part of a student poster session and the only undergraduate entry. Their poster, "Shall We Dance? The Rehousing and Digitization of the Gettysburg College Dance Card Collection," received a lot of positive buzz and will be made freely available to the public on *The Cupola*, Gettysburg's institutional repository. Having a poster detailing excellent student work definitely accomplished our goals of gaining exposure for Musselman Library's internship opportunities and the amazing work that our students do in Special Collections.

With ACLCP's assistance, I was able to attend sessions about increasing connections to collections through digitization, "scope drift," and describing sheet music. These sessions allowed me to focus on my profession in a very purposeful way. The first session provided good examples and a strong overview. The second was more theoretical, but spurred a lot of conversation later in the day with colleagues. The third session, about sheet music, was incredibly practical for me because we have received several large sheet music collections and I have no musical background. Learning much needed terminology, descriptive characteristics, and discussing copyright considerations with knowledgeable archivists was a great experience.

As a group we attended the plenary and keynote talks and met with Gettysburg College alumnae working in the field, allowing our student and intern to make connections to individuals in government, university, and historical society archives. We also explored some of Pittsburgh's cultural attractions that were made freely available to us through MARAC.

I am very grateful for the support of ACLCP and the opportunity to visit a great city and bring students to an impactful conference.