Good afternoon to you all. As incoming President, I have been given some brief time to share what I plan for us to work on together during the coming year. A year-long presidency is very short, but I believe we can achieve some tangible goals while also considering the future of the Society and of the archives profession.

**Advocacy and Outreach/Diversity and Inclusion:**

It probably comes as no surprise for anyone that advocacy and outreach as well as diversity and inclusion will be a focus for the SAA Council and the Society in the coming year. I did want to make mention of the newly created Brenda S. Banks Travel Award (proposed by the Archives and Archivists of Color Section), which recognizes and acknowledges individuals of color employed in archives who manifest an interest in becoming active members of SAA. Each year, this award will give one recipient full financial support for attending the Annual Meeting and a one-year SAA membership. Making the appointments for this subcommittee was particularly satisfying, as Brenda gave me my very first SAA appointment.

**Membership:**

For the members of SAA—you in this room, and those not present due to any number of reasons, financial or otherwise—I want to explore ways for everyone to feel connected and valued. I would encourage every member to think about the value of SAA and why you are a member in the first place. What does it provide that you need? Is it access to publications, the Annual Meeting, networking, opportunities for volunteering, leadership and skill development, standards, or workshops?

And what does the Society need to provide? What can we do to break down barriers to participation? The SAA Council will be discussing and relying on recent surveys undertaken by groups within the Society to brainstorm about what we can do to make it easier for all members to achieve their true potential as professionals. The recently appointed Task Force on Research/Data and Evaluation will be assessing SAA’s future efforts to conduct, facilitate, and evaluate research that will be useful for us to make decisions about the future.

**Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship of SAA’s Budget:**

Finally, one of the most important responsibilities the Council and I have is to practice fiscal prudence and responsibility and to steward SAA’s finances through these challenging times. The
SAA Foundation is establishing additional financial resources for SAA members to access when needed. I also want to explore expanding our financial support by partnering with private foundations and other organizations that believe archives are important.

While we are here together, I want you to take a brief moment and look around. I want you to see the multitude of individuals in this room and think of those not here, a total of more than 6,000 members—the depth and breadth of the experiences, energy, and commitment of all of you. During my time with SAA, I have always been impressed with the level of volunteerism its members demonstrate in doing the work of the Society and the profession. It is my job, in this brief time as your leader, to collaborate with you to harness all of that for our Society and for each other. The work we do is hard. It is emotionally challenging and sometimes difficult, and particularly as we face society’s broader challenges as well. I cannot guarantee this year will be easy for archivists or SAA, but I can promise that I am here for you. If you have an idea or something else you think should be considered or discussed, please do not hesitate to contact me using the president@archivists.org e-mail. While there are never easy fixes or solutions, our organization is only as successful as our willingness to listen to each other.

As I close, I look forward to seeing you at the 2018 Joint Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., where I will share a “State of SAA.” This address will compare and contrast today’s SAA to its past, review the results of the coming year, and provide some thoughts about where SAA’s future lies.

And now I would like to recognize another Council member retiring at this time, Nancy McGovern, our SAA President. Nancy has had an active and involved year, and her accomplishments include:

- Exploring beyond our traditional SAA boundaries by inviting allied group representatives to join us here and brainstorm potential collaborations;
- Encouraging the creation and supporting the idea of The Liberated Archive: A Forum for Envisioning and Implementing a Community-Based Approach to Archives, which we will all experience tomorrow;
- Creating Try5, which encouraged SAA members to Try 5 Technical Things they may have never experienced before;
- Developing important criteria for the SAA Foundation to consider when evaluating grant proposals; and
- Responding to numerous advocacy issues, representing the Society, and keeping in close communication with our partner organizations of CoSA, NAGARA, and NARA.