

One-to-One Campaign – Thoughts to consider

Share your story: Who introduced you to SAH? How has it helped you? Why do you continue your membership? Who have you met through SAH? What opportunities for advancement has SAH offered you (fellowships, grants, awards, etc.)?

Familiarize yourself with what SAH offers: Visit www.sah.org and check out the online resources available to members (*JSAH*, *SAH Archipedia*, SAHARA, the Career Center, Members in the News, fellowship and grant opportunities, study programs, SAH Newsletter, and more).

Assign an article from *JSAH* to your students, written by someone you know and respect or who you met through SAH. Make sure your students know about student membership and the opportunities available to them as a member of SAH (special research, Annual Conference and Study Tour Fellowships, the H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellowship, etc.).

Think about how SAH helps you in your career or research: Things to consider include: using SAHARA, *SAH Archipedia*, online *JSAH* articles in your research; putting a question out on the listserv; contacting a colleague through the member directory; networking with a colleague you met at the Annual Conference. Did you publish a book, an article or something in *BUS/SAH Archipedia*?

Anticipate objections: Have an answer ready for typical objections, including cost, membership in other organizations, limited time for participation, etc. The responses below are meant to help you answer some common objections.

- **Cost:** SAH membership costs between 16 cents and 39 cents a day and is relatively low compared to some other professional membership organizations. The benefits in terms of networking, professional resources, and opportunities make it a true value.
- **My library already subscribes to *JSAH*:** Libraries don't have access to SAHARA or the listserv, and your membership gives you access to the full version of *SAH Archipedia*. Also, SAH offers its members more than \$100,000 annually in research, travel and annual conference fellowships.
- **Time constraints:** You can be as active as you want, and your level of participation is up to you and how much time you have available.
- **Fellowships:** If you don't apply, the answer will definitely be NO.
- **The SAH is only interested in modern architecture:** Not so! True, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of session proposals on modern themes, but the General Chairs of every conference in recent memory have made concerted effort to include pre-

modern topics. If scholars of ancient, medieval and early modern architecture and urbanism stay away until things change, the situation will only get worse, with General Chairs receiving even fewer and fewer proposals on pre-modern topics. In order to reverse that trend, we need more scholars of the pre-modern to join and become actively involved. And think of it this way: in the short term, if you submit a session proposal on a pre-modern theme, it has a much better chance of getting accepted!

- **SAH puts too much emphasis on scholars in tenure-track positions:** While that might have been true in the past, we have a new Professional Development Committee whose charge is to address the needs of SAH members who are in adjunct positions or forging careers (by necessity or by choice) outside the academy.
- **Membership:** This is YOUR professional society – these are YOUR people – it is worth the investment, and each person brings something of value to the table.

Don't have an answer? Offer to get an answer. Call the SAH staff – we are always happy to help.

Sample Statement from an Academic:

"I became an SAH member in 1989, because I wanted to learn more about the field of architectural history. I joined to get regular access to the most respected journal in the field. I joined so that I could fully participate in the annual meetings and exchange ideas with respected colleagues. **I've continued** to be an SAH member for those same reasons, but renewing my annual dues has come to mean more to me than a journal subscription and entrée to giving papers at our conference.

I am an SAH member today because it is an innovative, challenging, growing, organization that attracts the most interesting and intellectually engaged historians, environmental designers, and preservationists studying the built environment. I am an SAH member today because it is **the only** scholarly society in the humanities today that is leading the way in digital innovation for the advancement of research and teaching. SAH is not only using new digital tools to communicate with its members and to help its members communicate with each other, but it is also creating groundbreaking tools and applications that are rapidly advancing the ways scholars, architects, and members of the general public study buildings, landscapes, and cities. And I am an SAH member today because I know that the SAH imprimatur—whether associated with its world renowned journal, the Buildings of the United States series, its study tour program, its digital innovations like the JSAH Online, SAHARA, and the emerging *SAH Archipedia*, or with the Annual Conference—guarantees the highest and most respected level of scholarship.

I am an SAH member today because of the warm fellowship I've experienced over the years at the annual meetings. I am an SAH member because I believe in the Society's mission to advance the study of the built environment worldwide. I hope you'll join me by becoming an SAH member or by renewing your membership today. I look forward to seeing you at the next Annual Conference."

Dianne Harris, Past President, Society of Architectural Historians (2010–2012)