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Annual Leadership Report assembled by  
Lindsay Palaima, Secretary Collections Stewardship AAM  
May 2020
Chair Report

Sebastián Encina
Chair, Collections Stewardship AAM

2019-2020 has been an interesting year for Collections Stewardship Professional Network of AAM (CS-AAM). Much has happened this past year, and many endeavors that I think will benefit the field and general museum community. And there were some events that have severely affected the profession.

At the forefront of our shared experience is the COVID-19 pandemic. Though this affected us rather recently, it has already had a profound effect on the museum world. Even prepared museums with strong Emergency Preparedness Plans were caught off-guard. Many of us started seeing a change to our work days, as we began to move from work to home. Meetings have gone virtual. Happy hours have become virtual.

As a result of COVID-19, the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) has decided to cancel the in-person conference scheduled for May in San Francisco. Instead, AAM will look to make the conference virtual. Whatever AAM decides, CS-AAM will be ready to provide our members with many of the same offerings we intended on providing at the conference.

To help with the situation, CS-AAM has created a list of resources for dealing with COVID-19 for the museum collections specialist. Webmaster Mell Scalzi was quick to make these resources available (www.collectionsstewardship.org/covid19-resources). CS-AAM worked with ARCS to ensure the same information was shared across both platforms. When we gather anything new, we will be sure to make it available to everyone.

Mell Scalzi continues to upgrade the Collections Stewardship Website for purposes other than COVID. In the coming year, she will bring about other updates that will benefit the community. It is a great resource, and we will make it even stronger.

CS-AAM continues to partner with the other professional networks of AAM, such as EdCom, NAME, CurCom, and others, to better identify the needs of our members and professions. As AAM continues to change, the PNs leadership adjusts to the times and our missions. Together, we are working on how we can be of greatest service to the museum field and to the individuals who make museums so great.

We are also making greater strides to partner with ARCS, to see how we can work together to serve the collections specialists community. This is an evolving partnership which will lead to amazing collaborations.
This coming year, we at CS-AAM hope to turn our attention to connecting with our members, particularly through the regional organizations. We will visit our relationship with the regionals, and see how we can work together to be of greater service to the field.

Unfortunately, due to the cancellation of AAM 2020 (in person), we will not be able to host our annual Reinforcement Crew. Libby Kreckeck and Nicole Paterson, along with our partners and volunteers, were preparing to bring wonderful assistance to local Bay area museums. Please see their report in the following pages.

Despite all the cancellations and changes in our work and lives, CS-AAM has continued to remain busy with many projects. And we will continue to bring about new opportunities and resources for the community.

In 2019, CS-AAM led an effort to update the General Facilities Report (GFR). An important tool for purposes of lending and borrowing, the GFR needed some editing. A team composed of Darlene Bialowski, Aisha Burtenshaw, Erin Coupal, Ceci Dadisman, Sebastián Encina, Geneva Griswold, Jeff Minett, and Hallie Winter, worked to bring the GFR up to the year 2020, to meet the needs of today’s museum professional. A session at AAM to introduce the new GFR was on the schedule, but CS-AAM will find alternate ways to present the new form.

This past year, CS-AAM has been joined by a number of new faces, ready to assist and help lead the way for years to come. Former CS-AAM Secretary, Sofia Galarza Liu, has agreed to be the new Ethics chair, and along with that, Sofia will be reviewing and updating the Registrar’s Code of Ethics. Rather than take on this task alone, Sofía will be joined by Anne Young.

In her role as Ethics chair, Sofía will also be assisting with the new iteration of the Deaccession Toolkit. That taskforce, led by Robin Lawrence, is transitioning to a new stage. Robin’s report will detail its success and plans for the future.

Along with Sofía, we have the following new additions: Angie Morrow is our new co-chair for the RCS Mentoring Program (along with Erin McKeen from ARCS); Corie Audette is our new Development chair; Nicole Bagley is serving as our new Fellowships chair; Dara Lohnes-Davies is our new Museum Studies Liaison.

2020 is an election year, not only politically but also for CS leadership. Suzanne Hale and John Simmons will co-chair the nomination committee (along with Amber Anderson, Kathy Dougherty, Angela Stanford) to select candidates for the positions of chair-elect and secretary-elect. Currently, Linda Endersby and Caitlin Podas hold those positions, respectively. In 2021, Lindsay Palaima (secretary) and I will step down from our roles, and Caitlin and Linda will assume these responsibilities. More information relating to the nomination and election process will be forthcoming.
As always, the Collections Stewardship listserv continues to be a highlight of the PN. Especially during difficult times, we can always turn to the listserv and our colleagues/friends for help. This tool will continue to be available to the collections field, thanks to the efforts of Mignon Erixon-Stanford.

Finally, I’d like to end the report on a positive note. This year, we are happy to announce that Janice Klein has been selected as the recipient of the Dudley-Wilkinson Award. Katy Hess chaired the committee, composed of the chairs of the regional organizations, which selected Janice as the recipient. Janice is a highly respected, knowledgeable, approachable, and influential member of the community, and well-deserving of this recognition. Congratulations, Janice!

2019-2020 was a busy and trying year, and the dust still has to settle before we can properly assess what has happened. We will carry forward and plan the 2020-2021 year with more projects, which will lead to more tools for collections specialists, and increase the sense of community that makes this profession so strong.
2019-2020 was my fifth year as the CSAAM Archivist. No new materials or records were received over the last year to be transferred to the SI Archives. If any of our outgoing or current officers have materials that they would like to be archived, I am happy to discuss whether the material would be suitable for archiving.

Examples of records that document policies and decision-making, primary functions, and programs and activities of the CSAAM include: conference planning documents (except logistical arrangements), agendas, minutes and reports, publications, brochures, evaluations, election results, committee correspondence, reports, program files, etc.

As a reminder for everyone, I am located in DC and have access to the SI Archives to coordinate transfers of material. I can facilitate transferring material via mail or email (for electronic correspondence and documentation), and I’m happy to provide additional information about the criteria for archiving and whether the material for consideration would overlap with existing archived material. Considering the current restrictions due to COVID-19, the SI Archives have been closed to the public since March 14, but I am able to coordinate remote reference services as needed until the Archives reopen.
Development Report
Corie Audette
Development Chair, Collections Stewardship AAM

After many years of wonderful service from Suzanne Hale, in May of 2019, I began as the new Development Chair within the Collections Stewardship Professional Network of the American Alliance of Museums (CS-AAM). Thank you, Suzanne, for your dedication. I am honored to have her as a mentor during this transition and I look forward to the progress of CS-AAM.

As Development Chair, I have worked closely with sponsors to raise funds for the Collections Stewardship Professional Network Reception at the 2020 AAM conference in San Francisco. Sponsorship goals were also raised to support registration and ticket fees to our annual business luncheon for the winner of the Dudley-Wilkinson Award Distinction. This year’s highest honor in museum collections stewardship award goes to Janice Klein.

We are all saddened by the cancellation of this year’s AAM annual conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the cancellation announcement, CS-AAM had three committed sponsors and many others in the consideration process. Our committed sponsors included Masterpiece International, Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency, Inc., and Crystalizations Systems, Inc. Although AAM guaranteed refunds for sponsors, Dave Epstein from Masterpiece International graciously decided to transfer their $1000 donation to next year’s conference in Chicago. I have been in touch with all sponsors to provide conference updates and to offer some ways they can continue to support CS-AAM. I am glad there will still be a virtual conference for our supporters to attend this year!

Service Project - Reinforcement Crew

Even without a physical conference, all dedicated sponsors for the Reinforcement Crew are willing to fund and provide supplies to the needed San Francisco sites. If these arrangements are not possible, due to holdups from the pandemic, their funds will be supported for Chicago sites next year. Thank you to Terry Dowd Inc., Transport Consultants International, Inc., and Methods & Materials, Inc. for your continued sponsorship towards this wonderful project.

Finally, I’d like to thank Shelagh Grimshaw, Development Director at AAM, for her assistance with the Collections Stewardship sponsors during these unusual times.
Mentorship Program Report

Angie Morrow and Erin McKeen Johnston
Mentor Program Chair, Collections Stewardship AAM and ARCS Mentor Program Chair

YTD:

May 2019  Twelve mentees/mentors were successfully matched.
          Matt Seaman stepped down as CS-AAM co-chair.

September 2019  Angie Morrow assumed the position as CS-AAM chair collaborating with Erin McKeen Johnston as ARCS Mentor chair.

November 2019  ARCS held an informal session in Philadelphia at their annual meeting to speak about the mentorship program and raise awareness membership-wide.

February 2020  Eleven mentees/mentors were successfully matched.

Next Steps:

Our team plans to take steps to improve and manage member data to make the information equally accessible for both professional groups as well as streamline the online application process and the subsequent activity of relationship management. Once we have devised a potential plan to maximize the procedural aspects as well as matching output, we will reach out to the board of each organization for their feedback. ARCS is currently implementing a strategic plan and seeking to update their website. They have discussed the possibility of automating mentorship program registration as a feature that could be built into their website redesign. Further committee discussions will focus on how we can best reach and serve CS-AAM members on our website and identify other avenues of outreach.
Collections Stewardship Fellowship Committee Report

Nicole Bagley
Fellowship Chair, Collections Stewardship AAM

The Fellowship Chair acts on behalf of the Collections Stewardship Committee (CSAAM) to review professional development fellowships offered by AAM to support attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Following two years of service and many years as a museum professional, Ariana Torres is furthering her education and stepped down from her position as CS Fellowship Chair. Nicole Bagley was appointed to serve as CS Fellowship Chair starting in 2019. We are so appreciative of Ms. Torres for her hard work and the care she took in this position.

**2020 AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship Program**

Update: The 2020 AAM Annual Meeting will now be a virtual meeting

Scholarships to the 2020 AAM Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California were awarded to CSAAM members through the 2020 AAM Annual Meeting Scholarship Program. The scholarships were funded by AAM and individual professional networks. Through this program, scholarship recipients, or fellows, receive a cash award of $750 to subsidize expenses, complimentary conference registration, and tickets to selected networking events of their choice, and must attend the Alliance Scholarship Breakfast.

This year, AAM provided support for two fellowships available to eligible Collections Stewardship-oriented individuals described as the following on the AAM Website’s Fellowship Application Page*:

2020 AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship applications are encouraged from individuals (members or non-members) who identify as underrepresented or otherwise marginalized, including but not limited to:

- Persons of color
- Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)
- Persons with a physical, cognitive or developmental disability

Preference may be given to applicants who:

- are current AAM members
- have not received an AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship in the past

(https://annualmeeting.aam-us.org/alliance-scholarship-program/)
Funds for the 2020 CSAAM Annual Meeting Fellowships came from the general AAM allocated Fellowship budget.

**AAM 2020 Annual Meeting Fellowship Review Process**

AAM administered the application and review processes for the 2020 Annual Meeting Fellowships. Per AAM’s directive, the review and selection process were handled by a committee comprised of representatives from the various following Professional Networks: Collections Stewardship, CURCOM, DAM, PRAM, Media and Technology, CARE, EdCom, NAME, SMAC, Leadership and Management, and DIVCOM. Additionally, there was representation from the Latino Network, Indigenous People’s Museum Network, Historic House and Sites, and the LGBTQ Alliance.

Each applicant was then assessed by at least two reviewers representing the aforementioned networks. As current CS Fellowship Chair, Nicole Bagley served on the AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship Review Committee. In addition, Robin Bauer-Kilgo, representing the Independent Museum Professionals, served as the second representative on the Fellowship Review Committee for Collections Stewardship. The diverse panel ensured that fellowships were awarded in an unbiased nature to the most qualified applicants who are currently working and studying the many areas of museum operations.

Ms. Bagley and Ms. Bauer-Kilgo evaluated all applicants that identified as collections care professionals and nominated the CS Fellows based on a point rating system.

**AAM 2020 Collections Stewardship Scholarship Recipients**

CSAAM received a total of 12 applications by individuals that identified as collections care professionals for the 2020 Collections Stewardship Fellowship Program. CS was granted funds for two awardees.

The following collections care professionals nominated for the 2020 Annual Meeting Fellowship Program are:

- Michelle Lopez
  Registrar/Collections Manager, Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art

- Najiba Choudhury
  Information Specialist & Provenance Researcher, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

- Chelsea Nielsen Agudelo
  Collections Assistant, Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science
All fellowship recipients have the option to be paired with a mentor from CSAAM during the Annual Meeting. Mentors may attend the Fellowship Breakfast with their mentee and facilitate introductions to colleagues and committee leaders to help build their network.
Rights and Reproductions Professional Practices Committee Report

John ffrench
Chair, Rights and Reproductions Professional Practices Committee


While noted in last year’s report, the second edition of the Rights & Reproductions: The Handbook for Cultural Institutions was released in print format but still serves as a primary resource for Rights related information. The book was published with Rowman & Littlefield publishing with an anticipated release date of late 2018 to early 2019.

A subset of the original authors will be reviewing and revising the original text, as well as adding new resources.

Ongoing Promotion

The Handbook continues to be listed as a featured publication on the following websites:
- American Alliance of Museums: http://www.aam-us.org/resources/bookstore

Social media, particularly Twitter, continues to play a vital role in the promotion of the Handbook through the use of the hashtag #RightsReproHndbk, which continues to be used to reference the publication and to promote its content and availability in a variety of digital platforms.

Anne Young has continued to offer workshop classes which address Rights related topics.

CSAAM Listserv www.collectionsstewardship.org/listserve
Anne Young and I both monitor the CSAAM listserv for any Rights related questions that come up and respond on or off-list where relevant.

MUSIP Listserv (Museum Intellectual Property) https://groups.io/g/musip
MUSIP is an independently managed group of cultural heritage professionals working for museums, galleries, and collections. In recognition of the unique opportunities and challenges of its constituents, MUSIP shares resource information, establishes and supports best practices, and informs members about educational activities and professional development opportunities.
Organized in 2001 by David Sturtevant and Shaula Coyl, the group primarily serves as a resource for the sharing of contact information for artists, foundations, estates or agencies for various Intellectual Property permissions. The listserv also provides a forum for members to share information or make queries about procedures that others may follow in the field of Intellectual Property.

(2016) The site is managed by Cherie Chen (Getty), John ffrench (Yale University Art Gallery), Melissa Fournier (Yale Center for British Art), and Deb Wythe (retired: Brooklyn Museum of Art). Membership is open to any professional working in the general field of Rights and Reproductions and Intellectual Property management. Information shared within the group should not be considered legal advice and we ask that private information shared in posts is respected.

**AAM 2020 Conference:**
No sessions were proposed, nor submitted to AAM for consideration.
Deaccession Task Force Report

Robin Lawrence
Deaccession Task Force Representative, Collections Stewardship AAM

Actions
Immediately before the AAM Annual Conference in New Orleans, the Deaccession Task Force decided to rename “Toolkit” a “Toolbox” as it seemed more fitting. Additionally, deaccessiontaskforce@gmail.com was created to begin communication between the task force and parties interested in the group’s activities or having queries about deaccessions.

In December, Task Force held a conference call which included the member’s respective PN Chairs to begin discussing the continuity of the Task Force, the role and usefulness of the Task Force in the coming years, and the terms limits for its current members. It was decided that the topic of deaccessions and institutional sustainability are important aspects of our industry and worthy of continued presence and representation on our respective PN boards. However, each PN is equipped in different manners to support these roles, and how the PN chooses to integrate this additional member or additive responsibility into their board is at their discretion. Collection Stewardship decided to create a new role on the board for a deaccession representative. This role will be a 2 to 3-year term. It was decided by the current task force members that their terms will expire after serving for three years, terminating at the AAM Annual Meeting in 2021.

The Toolbox list of resources was refined, as was the flowchart, which were posted on the Collections Stewardship website in January. AAM supports having these documents included on AAM’s website, which will be the centralized location for the Toolbox once it has been posted.

The Deaccession Toolbox was presented at the following conferences:
- Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists Biannual Conference, November 7th, 2019
- Association of Small Museums Annual Conference, February 17th, 2020
Registrar's Reinforcement Crew Committee Report

Nicole Paterson and Libby Krecek
Co-Chairs, Reinforcement Crew Committee, Collections Stewardship AAM

The 12th annual Reinforcement Crew Event occurred on May 18, 2019, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The committee was able to partner with the Beauregard-Keyes House, the New Orleans African American Museum and the Hermann-Grima House. There were a total of 18 individuals who volunteered their time and expertise. The volunteers worked on a project to condition report a doll collection and condition report and accession a photograph collection at the Beauregard-Keyes House, inventory and condition report the collection at the New Orleans African American Museum and help with a collections inventory at the Hermann-Grima House.


The day’s effort was followed by a reception at Sylvain. The Reinforcement Crew Committee would like to thank Methods & Materials Inc., Terry Dowd Inc., and Transport Consultants International Inc. for sponsoring the 12th annual Reinforcement Crew event.

After the 2019 AAM annual meeting, the Reinforcement Crew Committee went to work planning the 13th Annual Reinforcement Crew Event for the AAM annual meeting in San Francisco which has been cancelled due to coronavirus. The 2020 volunteer sites would have included The Long Now Foundation, the Berkeley Historical Society, the Chinese Historical Society and The Badè Museum of Biblical Archaeology at Pacific School of Religion.
Registrar’s Committee - Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums Report

Jobi Zink
Registrar’s Committee - Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums Chair

Current Officers
CHAIR: Jobi Zink, Registrar, The Rosenbach Museum & Library
2008-2010 Delancey Place, Philadelphia PA 19103
(215) 732-1600 ext. 125  jzink@rosenbach.org

VICE-CHAIR: Danyelle Rickard, Accreditation Program Officer, American Alliance of Museums
2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 1005, Arlington, VA 22202
(202) 289-9106  danyellerickard@yahoo.com

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR: Vacant

WHITE GLOVES GANG COORDINATOR: Elizabeth Alberding, Registrar, The Kelly Collection
9 W. Howard Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-462-8399  Elizabetha@thekellycollection.org

Elections
Elections were postponed for 2019. Elections for Chair and Social Media Coordinator will be held in 2020.

MAAM Annual Meeting
MAAM held its annual meeting October 16-18, 2019 at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, NY along the Historic Hudson River. There were three collections-specific sessions, Tackling Challenges in Historic House Museums, Plotting a Course for Collections Reassessment Projects, Photographing and Digitizing Collections: Essential Approaches for Success. Other sessions involved using collections and collections-spaces in new and innovative ways including Puzzling Through the Past: Creating Escape Room Experiences at Historic Sites and Abraham Lincoln in Negative Space.

White Gloves Gang
RC-MAAM hosted its annual White Gloves Gang dinner on October 15 and volunteer day of service at four museums on October 16. Volunteers rehoused transparencies in preparation for cold storage at Storm King Art Center; conducted inventory at West Point Museum; cataloged and rehoused flat files at Boscobel House and Gardens; and provided training on collection handling and proper storage for staff at the Motorcyclepedia.
With the ARCS conference and Les Benevoles project occurring in the same region in November, RC-MAAM did not receive any donated supplies from vendors to complete the projects. WGG Chair, Elizabeth Alberding purchased the necessary supplies for the projects on her own.

Before and after flat file organization at Bascobel House and Gardens

Scanning photographs and sealed boxes of photograph binders ready for cold storage
Regional Events
Many major cities in the Mid-Atlantic Region have their own registrars networking groups, hosting their own behind-the-scenes museum tours and happy hours. With assistance from the RC-MAAM leadership and the White Gloves Gang activities in 2018, Pittsburgh now has a registrars group as well.

Future Events
RC-MAAM will be developing a Courier 101 Training Workshop to present as part of the MAAM Cornerstones Program in 2020
Registrars and Collections Care Specialists Professional Affinity Group of the New England Museum Association

Daniel Neff and Abby Battis
The Registrars and Collections Care Specialists Professional Affinity Group (RACCS-PAG) of the New England Museum Association (NEMA) Co-Chairs

Co-Chair: Daniel Neff
Curator
Fairbanks House Museum
511 East Street Dedham, MA 02026
781-326-1170
curatordaniel@fairbankshouse.org

Co-Chair: Abby Battis
Associate Director for Collections
Historic Beverly
117 Cabot Street Beverly, MA 01915
978-922-1186 x203
abattis@historicbeverly.net

PAG Activities – 2019:

Workshop – September 26

The RACCS PAG co-ran a workshop with the Curators PAG entitled “Understanding Repatriation and Restitution”, held at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. The workshop was well attended and well received. The official NEMA description of the event read as follows:

What do you do when something in your collection might not belong to you? This workshop will discuss the nuts and bolts of repatriation and restitution - processes of returning the control of cultural property or ancestors to the people they were stolen from in the past. Presenters will include experts in NAGPRA (the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). Attendees will also hear from people with experience in repatriation and restitution processes that don't fall under NAGPRA (related to Native or international materials) including work that's been done around artifacts taken from Benin in a British attack in 1897. This workshop is for you if your collection has questionable provenance, if you are just getting started addressing these issues, or if you would like to learn more. The discussion will also be helpful if you've started the process. The workshop will include presentations, a panel discussion, and small-group breakout sessions.
Collected audio from the NEMA Conference – November 6 – 8.

At each year’s conference NEMA has each of the PAGs host a lunch session. The RACCS session was described as follows:

Join us for an update on what we have been up to as a community, both locally and nationally. This will also be an opportunity to meet and visit with colleagues, ask questions, seek advice, get things off your chest, humble brag about what you have been up to, commiserate about the stuff that hasn't gone well, and make confessions, should that be needed. We are seeking additional PAG chairs, so please join us if you’re interested in learning about serving the PAG in this way.

Also at the lunch we said goodbye to PAG co-chair Meredith Vasta. After many years of running the PAG (some of them by herself) Meredith has decided to help the NEMA community in different ways. Fortunately, we also found our new co-chair – Abby Battis from Historic Beverly.

Future Plans:

While things are uncertain because of the pandemic we do have tentative plans to co-run a workshop with the conservators PAG and the Historic House PAG sometime in late summer or early the fall. The workshop will be about disaster preparedness and emergency planning for collections. We will also, as always, host an informal lunch session at the NEMA Conference in November.
Midwest Registrars Committee Report

Andrew Near
Midwest Registrars Committee Chair

Current Officers:
CHAIR: Andrew Near, Collections Manager, Kruizenga Art Museum, Hope College
271 Columbia Avenue, PO BOX 9000; Holland, MI 49422
616-395-6402, near@hope.edu

VICE-CHAIR & TRAVEL STIPENDS: Julie Burgess, Registrar, Grand Rapids Art Museum
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616-242-5020, jburgess@artmuseumgr.org

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230 N. Rose PO Box 4070; Kalamazoo, MI 49003
810-305-4777, bwilliams1@kvcc.edu
Elections:
We are in an election year, and will be inducting new board members in July at our annual meeting.

MRC Annual Meeting:
The MRC held their annual business meeting and luncheon during the Association of Midwest Museums Annual Conference on October 2-5, 2019 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our annual meeting lunch was sponsored by Huntington T. Block, with drinks sponsored by Dietl International.

Four travel stipends were awarded by the MRC to support member attendance at the 2018 AMM Annual Conference. Coordinated by Development Chair, Marisa Szpytman, recipients include: Christa Barleben, Nicolette Meister, Marina Mayne, Liz Fuhrman Bragg. Stipends were generously sponsored by Masterpiece International, Terry Dowd, Inc., ArtPak Services Inc, and Willis Towers Watson.

The MRC board-sponsored and hosted, *Ask the Registrar*, a question and support session.

State Meetings:
The MRC sponsored a state meet up in Minnesota, a Michigan Roundtable in Michigan as well as a Midwest social hour at ARCS, Philadelphia. Guardian Services co-sponsored the ARCS event. State meet-up grant money is available for activities geared towards bringing registration and collections people together for education and community building.

Newsletter and Website:
Three issues of the *MRC Courier* were edited and published by Liz Furhman-Bragg, Linda Endersby and Margaret Helms then distributed to members. Our newsletter contains special articles, information from the board and state representatives along with updates within the region. We began an Ask the Registrar advice column. Brittany Williams maintains our website. Past issues of the *Courier*, contact information for the board and state representatives, and membership information are available at www.midwestregistrars.org. Our Facebook page continues to be a good place for information sharing.

Future Events:
We will hold our annual business meeting during the AMM Conference from July 22-25, 2020 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Andrea Selbig, Wisconsin State Representative serves on the AMM planning committee.
Registrar’s Committee - Mountain Plains Museums Association Report
Alexandra Deselms
Registrar’s Committee - Mountain Plains Museums Association Chair

Executive Board News

Elected Positions
Following a call for nominations, the RC-MPMA membership elected Alexandra Deselms as Chair and re-elected Ashley Yager as Treasurer. Susie Fishman-Armstrong remains on the board as Ex-Officio Chair for one year.

Appointed Positions
Nominations Chair – Mattie Barlow, Gaylord-Pickens Museum, Home of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame
We are looking to fill the role of Development Chair in an effort to build scholarship support and outside of conference opportunities.

State Representatives
The RC-MPMA has also had significant progress made in filling State Representative positions who are proving effective at helping with membership drives and relaying RC information to state members. We are currently searching for State Representatives in Montana and Texas.

Colorado: Michael Lorusso, Assistant Registrar, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Lorusso@gmail.com
Kansas: Theresa Marie Ketterer, Museum Registrar, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, tkette@ksu.edu
Montana: VACANT
Nebraska: Darby Reiners, Archivist and Public Historian, McGoogan Library of Medicine-UNMC, darby.reiners@unmc.edu
New Mexico: Daisy Allen, Collection Curator, National Scouting Museum – Philmont Scout Ranch, daisy.allen@scouting.org
North Dakota: Elise Dukart, Assistant Registrar, North Dakota Heritage Center, edukart@nd.gov
Oklahoma: Laura Bryant, Anthropology Collections Manager, Gilcrease Museum, laura-bryant@utulsa.edu
South Dakota: Diana Welsh, Collections Manager, Indian Museum of North America at Crazy Horse Memorial, diana.welsh@crazyhorse.org
Texas: VACANT
Wyoming: Dara Lohnes, Collections Manager, University of Wyoming Art Museum, dlohnes@uwyo.edu

Membership
During the 2018 calendar year, we reported 69 current members. The RC-MPMA finished the 2019 calendar year with an increase to 72 members! Of those 72 members 26 were new members and 46 were renewing members. We are in the middle of membership renewals and
as of April 1, 2020, 57 members have renewed or are new. With the Covid-19 pandemic however, we have temporarily suspended our last renewal notification. The RC saw an increase in new members signing up thanks to the Behind the Scenes Tour. The number of new members gained from the Behind the Scenes tour was 12. We had our first full year of offering online membership renewals which has been of great use and greatly improved the efficiency of renewals.

Programs and Activities

Behind the Scenes Tour
The tour for the 2019 conference took place at the opening party at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History. David Hoover, Curator and Collections Manager, gave the tours, which hosted two groups of 10 people. The tour sold out again.

We continued last year’s process of all members paying $10 for the tour, applying payment to new and renewing memberships.

The 2020 tour in Sioux Falls is planned for the opening party and will be at the new Siouxland Heritage Museums’ Museum Resource Center.

Newsletter
The Fall 2019 (pre-conference) newsletter came out before the conference in September. The Spring 2019 (post-conference/spring) newsletter came out in May.

The Spring 2020 post-conference newsletter came out in early April.

Scholarships
RC-MPMA ANR Transport Scholarship – Sarah Carlson, University of Denver Museum of Anthropology, CO
RC-Terry Dowd LCC Scholarship – Heidi Vaughn, Laboratory of History Museum, University of Central Oklahoma, OK

Because of low scholarship applications, we are revising our criteria for the Terry Dowd Scholarship to open it to any RC-MPMA member who has not had the scholarship in the last 5 years, and is not currently serving an elected board position (allowing appointed positions, like state reps, to still apply).

Treasurer - Available separately upon request

Business Luncheon
The 2019 luncheon guest speaker was Jeff Teague, Tech Maintenance Lead for MeowWolf (Santa Fe, NM), who spoke about caring for works to be handled, storytelling and touchable art, and electronic creation, programming, and fabrication. The luncheon was well attended.

We are currently working on lining up the speaker(s) for the 2020 luncheon.

Helping Hands
The Helping Hands Brigade assisted the Bioscience and Paleontology Collections Managers at the New Mexico Museum of History and Natural Science. Volunteers spent the day helping with inventory of specimens, over 400 specimens were inventoried. Items included spiders, lizards and toads. The volunteers were also given a behind the scenes tour of the planetarium. The majority of the volunteers had little to no experience with natural history collections. This was a win-win situation with volunteers learning new skills and a museum getting extra help for a day.
We are finalizing plans for the location of the 2020 Helping Hands in Sioux Falls.

Libby Krecek represented the RC-MPMA at the national meeting of the Collections Stewardship-American Alliance of Museums (RC-AAM) in New Orleans, LA in May 2019.

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Southeastern Registrars Association Report
Corinne Midgett
Southeastern Registrars Association Chair

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The Southeastern Registrars Association held its 2019 business meeting at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Museums Conference held in Charleston, SC, October 21-23, 2019. Election results for the positions of chair, vice chair, and treasurer/membership chair were announced. Also at the SEMC meeting, SERA sponsored a behind-the-scenes tour at the Gibbes Museum of Art and welcomed members to the annual Registrars’ Respite, sponsored by Willis Towers Watson and Transportation Consultants, Inc. The 2019 SEMC conference experienced record attendance and SERA’s events were very well-attended. Planning for SERA-sponsored events and sessions at SEMC 2020 are underway.

SERA provided two travel scholarships in 2019. Heather M. Otis, collections manager at the Marco Island (FL) Historical Society, received a scholarship to attend SEMC. Jordan Brothers Cao, assistant registrar at North Carolina State University’s Gregg Museum of Art & Design, received a scholarship to attend the 2019 Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists conference.

SERA is partnering with SEMC to provide virtual meet-ups and presentations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The first event on April 2 had 55 attendees and presentations on managing loans and shipping, applying for unemployment, keeping a team connected while working from home, and remote professional development opportunities. The second event will be held the week of April 20, and presentations will reflect questions and discussions that arose during the first event. SERA’s communications chair, Erica Hague, put together a list of resources for the SERA website and shares other resources as they become available through the SERA Facebook page.

At the end of 2019, SERA had 112 members.
Registrar’s Committee - Western Region Report

Katy Hess
Registrar’s Committee - Western Region Chair

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Report of Activities – 2019

RC-WR had already reached & exceeded our funding goal for 2019. This year we plan to hold more workshops & distribute more stipends to members.

**CSI: Registrars Event**

Last year’s CSI: Registrars (Collections Service Initiative) Event was held at the Idaho State Historical Society’s off-site storage in Boise, ID. We were pleased to work with Idaho state representative Nicole Inghilterra to clean, condition report, photograph, and re-house a collection of items related to Boise’s original Chinatown. Participants were divided up into teams of two and worked together to process a total of 213 objects in one day. There were a total of 13 participants.
Annual Business Luncheon
The annual luncheon was held last October in Boise, ID during the Western Museums Association’s Annual Meeting. Approximately 60 members were in attendance, and the luncheon was underwritten by the U.S. Art Company. During the business meeting, the new Board was announced, and a new budget and bylaws approved.

Time Based Media Workshop
Summary: A discussion on Time-Based Media (TBM) was held at the Hearst Museum of Anthropology on the UC Berkeley campus, Wednesday January 15, 2020 from 4:00 to 6:00pm. For those new to TBM, the term describes any artwork that has both physical and temporal dimensions, unfolding over time when presented. Typical examples of TBM (known also as New Media or Media Art) are video and sound artworks, film-based installations, computer or software-based art and other forms of technology-based artworks, many of which can be
regarded as installation art. The Time Based Media Panel discussion at the Hearst Museum examined topics of acquisition, cataloging and tracking, exhibition, loan, and storage of these works. Panelists from the Berkeley Art Museum Pacific Film Archive, the Oakland Museum of California, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art shared concerns and proposed solutions for museum staff in the management and care of TBM works. Panel attendees were encouraged to bring questions and shared experiences in an open forum Q&A directly after the panel discussion.

Shipping Essentials Workshop
Summary: January 24, 2020: The Broad, Los Angeles, CA
Join your colleagues in learning how to ship art and artifacts domestically and internationally from start to finish. Speakers will cover timelines, internal museum policies, trucking vs. air freight, crate requirements, customs issues, standard courier requirements, and more. This workshop is geared towards emerging museum professionals who are unfamiliar with the shipping process, as well as those mid-career Registrars who’d like to bone up on the process, become more efficient, or gain an inside track on how best to communicate with shippers.
Speakers Included:
Naomi Abe, Registrar for the Getty Villa
Jacqueline Cabrera, Independent/Contract Registrar
Amanda Shumante, Contract Registrar

Member Stipend Recipients
Stipends were distributed to 7 members to attend ARCS, WMA, and state conferences.

Planned Activities – 2019

Annual Business Luncheon
This year’s Annual Business Luncheon will be held during WMA’s Annual Conference in Portland, OR in October. Funding for the luncheon has already been underwritten by ACLA.

CSI: Registrars Event
This year’s CSI: Registrars (Collections Service Initiative) event will be held in conjunction with WMA’s annual meeting in Portland, OR. The host of the event is TBD.

Other Events
The new Board is conducting a Membership campaign with State Reps to increase Membership and offer unique workshops, tours, and other events like Happy Hours and get-togethers in areas with concentrated membership such as Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle.
Code of Ethics Revision Task Force Report
Sofía Galarza Liu
Code of Ethics Revision Chair

The Code of Ethics Revision Task Force was formed in April 2020 to review and update the 1984 AAM Code of Ethics for Registrars. The Code of Ethics serves as a guide for all collections care professionals. The revision of this important document is a joint venture between members of the Collections Stewardship Professional Network (CSAAM) and the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialist (ARCS).

Code of Ethics Revision Task Force Members:

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Museum Studies Liaison Report
Dara Lohnes-Davies
Museum Studies Liaison
Appointed to the position in April of 2020 to take on the role from Dixie Neilson.

Gathering of Student Surveys on Listserv
There was an expressed desire by members of the CS-AAM and others on the CS-AAM listserv to gather results of the multiple survey requests posted by students on the platform. Currently work is happening to establish guidelines for these survey requests and building relationships with museum studies programs in order to receive copies of the final reports of these surveys. This is in partnership with the Museum Studies-PN. The result will ideally be a section of the CS-AAM website that features the results published based on a rubric.

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National Program Committee Summary

Valerie Huaco and Leslie Freund
Representatives to AAM National Program Committee, Collections Stewardship AAM

Short summary of the National Program Committee work done in preparation for the San Francisco AAM Annual Conference. The conference is not happening.

Statistics from the AAM National Program Committee:
- 457 session submissions were received
- 150 session proposals were accepted
- 26 posters & 6 conversions from rejected sessions to posters (32 posters total) were accepted
- 275 proposals were not accepted
- 79 accepted proposals were submitted by/with underrepresented voices
- 50 accepted proposals were submitted by/with emerging professionals

As you know, AAM asked that sessions be identified as belonging to various “Tracks.” The number of submissions by “Track” follows below:
- Boards & Governance 5
- Collections & Curatorial Practice 40
- Community Engagement & Impact 112
- Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion 64
- Education/Audience Research & Evaluation 69
- Exhibition Planning & Design 67
- Finance, Management & Administration 31
- Human Resources & Professional Development 30
- Marketing & Communications 15
- Technology & Innovation 23
Collection Stewardship Webinar Debrief

Caitlin Podas
Secretary-Elect, Collections Stewardship AAM

For this first webinar hosted by the CSAAM PN, the Leadership Panel reached out to speakers who had presented a Collections/Registration topic at the previous AAM annual meeting rather than attempt to create new content or do a ‘cold-call’ search for speakers. This webinar was a test subject to see if future webinars would be worth-while. The first group of speakers who were asked to participate in the webinar agreed, so further inquiries were not necessary. In order to prepare for the webinar, the host and speakers had two Zoom-hosted meetings to test the functions of the program. This was very helpful and contributed to the success of the webinar. The host and speakers communicated through email, as well, and collaborated on writing the blog post, AAM marketing material, and formulating the description for the webinar.

The subject matter was very timely as Deaccessioning is a frequent topic on the CSAAM listserv, deaccessioning has been in the news in recent years, and a new Deaccession Toolkit is in the works and coming out soon. Feedback from participants was positive and many said that they learned a lot from the speakers.

The slideshow, handouts, and a recording of the webinar were emailed to all the people who Registered after the webinar was completed, regardless if they logged-in or not. A survey was also distributed to the participants and only 15 responded. Responses show that Zoom is a good platform to host webinars and people were interested in participating in future webinars. They also expressed an interest in regional networking events and in-person tutorials. Only one respondent said they would want to attend the AAM annual meeting for the same kind of content. Also of note is that only 4 respondents are members of the CSAAM PN; 5 couldn’t remember, and 6 are not members. This is something that the PN Leadership Panel should take note of, and try to find ways of reaching out to Collections professionals who are AAM Members to join the CSAAM.

**Takeaways:** Since the content was already written and had been presented before it was fairly easy to put this webinar together. The majority of the work revolved around providing content to AAM marketing/advertising teams including writing marketing emails, a blog post, and ensuring that all the AAM news outlets had the necessary information to promote the webinar. In this case, the blog post may have not been necessary since it was essentially an expanded marketing email and did not provide additional content or information about the subject matter. If content is new or hasn’t been presented before the lead time and amount of work for the Leadership Panel will greatly increase.
Using Zoom was straightforward and fairly easy to use. It helped a lot to have test runs of the webinar and to change views between a participant and a host to know what the other is seeing and has control over. As mentioned above, respondents to the survey were in favor of participating in another Zoom Meeting so between that response and the number of people who registered/participated in the Meeting I think that hosting Zoom Meetings in the future is a worthwhile endeavor for the CSAAM PN Leadership Team.

**Webinar Title**: Collection Ranking - Making Deaccessions Work for You  
**Date**: October 30, 2019  1pm EST  
**Host**: Caitlin Podas, Secretary-Elect, CSAAM  
**Speakers**: Robin Lawrence, Jennifer Rigsby, Alisa DiGiacomo

**Number of Registrants**: 390  
**Number of Participants**: 240  
**Average log-in time**: 55 minutes  
**Total Duration**: 79 minutes
Collection Stewardship Leadership

Mission: The Collections Stewardship Professional Network of AAM advocates for the diverse body of professionals dedicated to the stewardship of collections, and strengthens our members' knowledge base through educating and disseminating best practices, networking, and connecting people to resources.

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See [www.collectionsstewardship.org](http://www.collectionsstewardship.org) for the leadership roster, as well as professional network resources and news.
Thank you Collection Stewardship Sponsors

Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!

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