

# Arts Newsletter

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## Highlights:

Announcements	3
ArtsGuide	7
Discussion Forum	3
Executive Board Minutes	2
From the Chair	1
Member Profile	8
Preview of ALA Washington DC	5

## From the Chair

ALA Midwinter in Seattle was a terrific experience despite (because of?) rain and hilly terrain--bracing. The vibrancy of the city matched the mood and activities of Arts' members. The committee meetings were well attended and productive, and the forum generated discussion and excitement about upcoming Arts activities. Once again we were able to deliver on our promise to be agile enough to respond quickly to suggestions by our members. The first ever *ArtsGuide* was a big hit, despite limited publicity, and the Washington, D.C. edition promises to be even more exciting (more elsewhere in this newsletter).

Our goal to make our collaboration with the Instruction Section mutually beneficial as we work to produce another great program for ALA Annual in June is shaping up well. "Eye To I: Visual Literacy Meets Information Literacy" has evolved into a lively interchange among the three presenters from the original static panel. All three speakers attended Program Planning Committee meetings in Seattle. It was exciting to see them create the program as their relationships strengthened. They listened to and incorporated input from the committee. Do not miss this program!

Encouraging greater active involvement in Arts by more of the members is receiving a boost from new projects: the Membership and Outreach Committee is redoubling its efforts to contact every new member and they are engaged in redesigning the Arts membership brochure.

The second path to involvement is an idea that surfaced first at the Forum in 2006. Chair-elect, Eric Kidwell, has sent out a call to members for mini-presentations at the Arts Forum in D.C. This will give our members a chance to try out their ideas or early-stage research on a supportive live audience who will be able to give them informed, constructive feedback.

The third project is the D.C. *ArtsGuide*. Arts members can participate in a meaningful way even if they can't attend the conference or participate in a committee. Contact Eric to participate in the creation of this publication: [ekidwell@huntingdon.edu](mailto:ekidwell@huntingdon.edu). Continued on p. 4

## DRAFT Minutes of the Executive Board and General Membership Meeting: Sunday, January 21, 2007, 10:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.

### **Attendees**

Hannah Bennett, Laurel Bliss, Adam Burling, Mary Carr, Tom Caswell, Claudia Covert, Brian Falato, Roland C. Hansen, Greg Hatch, Sara Harrington (recorder), Yuki Hibben, Beth Kerr, Eric Kidwell (Vice-Chair), Diana King, Laura McElfresh, Stephen Patrick, Jane Sloan, Ed Teague, Shannon Van Kirk (Chair), Alessia Zanin-Yost, Floyd Zula. Chair Shannon Van Kirk welcomed attendees to the meeting, and invited each attendee to introduce themselves in a round robin. Van Kirk then introduced Mary M. Carr, who will serve as the liaison to the Arts Section from the ACRL Executive Board.

### **Minutes**

The draft minutes of the ALA Midwinter 2006 Arts Section Executive Board and General Membership Meeting held on Sunday, June 25, 2006, 10:30 a.m.- 12 p.m. at the Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center were approved as submitted.

### **Report of the 2006 Annual Program**

The 2006 Annual Program "Preserving New Orleans: The Fate in Media Collections in the Wake of Katrina" was exceedingly well received. The program drew attention to the necessity of preserving media collections by ensuring that they are held in secure storage facilities. Thirty-nine attendees filled out program evaluations, and all were positive. A report of the program appeared in C&RL News.

### **Old Business**

Van Kirk continues to develop the Section's liaison relationship with the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) through ARLIS member Jeanne Brown. Please email Shannon with any thoughts or suggestions regarding strengthening the Arts Section relationship with ARLIS/NA and the Visual Resources Association (VRA).

A brief discussion ensued on liaison relationships. One attendee noted that at one point the Section had an official Liaisons Committee, but that the work of the Committee has perhaps been subsumed by the Membership and Outreach Committee. Current chair Claudia Covert indicated that she was willing to take on the responsibility, and would send a call for volunteers to the Section listserv. Another attendee queried if the Section had made outreach efforts to the Association of Architecture School Librarians, and suggested that this might be a fruitful relationship to pursue.

Van Kirk requested that Arts Section members vote in the upcoming election, even though the slate of candidates is running unopposed. Good voter turnout for the Section indicates that we are active and engaged.

Continued on page 4

## Announcements

Congratulations to Laurel Bliss as she assumes her duties as Fine Arts Librarian at San Diego State University. Princeton's loss is SDSU's gain. Her new email is <lbliss@rohan.sdsu.edu>.

Shannon Van Kirk and Ben Jacks, her faculty teaching partner when she was Head of the Art & Architecture Library at Miami University, have recently been published in *The International Journal of the Humanities*, v.3. Their article, "Experience + Research = Scholarship: Integrating Information Literacy into Reading- and Writing Intensive Courses in the Arts and Humanities," describes the dynamic librarian/faculty partnership required to balance the practical and the creative without sacrificing course content when preparing Interior Design undergraduates and Architecture graduate students for lifelong learning.

## Discussion Forum at ALA Annual

Have a presentation you'd like to float by a group of friendly colleagues for some benevolent critique ... perhaps looking to turn it into a presentation at a future big, professional conference (perhaps filled with some not-so-friendly colleagues), or to turn it into a publication in a professional/scholarly journal, or just looking to build your cv???

If so, then we invite you to submit a presentation proposal to be given at the Arts Section Discussion Forum at Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., which takes place on Saturday, June 23 at 10:30 - 12:30. Each presentation should be 15- 20 (max!) minutes in length. We anticipate being able to accept 5 to 6 proposals for presentation.

Deadline for submitting proposals is May 1. Proposals should be submitted to Eric A. Kidwell, chair of the Arts Publications & Research Committee, <ekidwell@huntingdon.edu>. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee drawn from the Arts Section Executive and Publications & Research committees. Those submitting proposals will be notified by May 18.

Presentations should be low-tech in nature as we really don't want to have to enter the dark, murky waters of ALA conference tech support. SO - we will not be able to provide AV equipment to you. What we do encourage is handouts if applicable to your presentation (we're librarians; we still love paper). Our objective is to provide an informal, collegial atmosphere, so the configuration of the meeting room will mirror this objective (i.e. no head table).

If you have any questions, please contact Eric at <ekidwell@huntingdon.edu>. This is our first attempt at using our discussion forum for this purpose, so please be patient as we work out the kinks. We know that there are a lot of you out there who have great ideas for presentations at regional or national conferences, or for publication; but you need a safe place to test the waters. We're a nice group of people and promise not to rip you to shreds if you're brave and trusting enough to appear before us.

We're looking forward to hearing from you -

## From the Chair, cont. from page 1

Finally, I am pleased to get the ball rolling on Arts' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party, planned for ALA annual in Chicago in '09. Our Planning Committee, under Chair Roland Hansen, is already beginning to research our founding and evolution as a Subject Specialists' group in 1959. They are coming up with ideas for a reception to honor our founders and officers. Were you active in the early or middle days of Arts? Contact Roland with your memories, artifacts, ephemera, or documents: <rchansen@colum.edu>. Nobody likes a party more than we do, and this is going to be a wonderful celebration. Plan now to be there!

--Shannon Van Kirk <shannonvankirk@gmail.com>

## Executive Board Minutes, cont. from page 2

Arts Section meetings have in the past conflicted with programming offered by the Alexander Street Press. Van Kirk contacted their Vice-President in order to determine if this conflict might be resolved in advance of the 2007 annual conference. Alexander Street Press expressed an interest in holding an event specifically for Arts Section members.

### **ACRL Board Liaison to the Arts Section (Mary Carr)**

ACRL has made a series of recommendations for proposed structural changes in order to be increasingly nimble and flexible, and to facilitate Sections and Interest Groups to work in new ways, with the focus more on content and less on process. ACRL does conduct a new member survey, and the Section can request Arts-specific information from Mary Jane Petrowski. Van Kirk expressed some concern that the suggested Interest Groups may siphon off members from established sections such as Arts.

Carr encouraged Jane Sloan to resubmit the Section's action plan for the database project "Class and Ethnicity in Motion Pictures." The Arts Section asked for tech support and server space from ALA. Carr also wished to remind the group about the upcoming ACRL conference in Baltimore. In conclusion, Carr noted that if anyone is interested in applying to the new ACRL initiative to be an ACRL Legislative Advocate there would be an application form on the ACRL site shortly.

### **Reports**

#### Program 2007 (Alessia Zanin-Yost)

The speakers for this program met on January 20, 2007. In examining the interaction between information literacy and visual literacy the speakers will conduct dynamic presentations. A call for virtual posters has been made and some element of the program will remain accessible on the web after the program is completed.

Continued on page 5

## ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC



The 2007 Annual Conference will be held in Washington, DC from June 21 - 27, 2007. The exhibits will be held June 23 - 26, 2007 in the Washington Convention Center, located at 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW.

Check <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2007a/home.htm> often for meeting updates, travel and accommodation information, the Event Planner, FAQ, *CogNotes*, and more. Advance registration ends on May 18, 2007.

## Executive Board Minutes, cont. from page 4

### Program 2008 (Eric Kidwell and Hannah Bennett)

Bennett will chair the Program Planning committee for '08 in Anaheim. Preliminary proposals will be available for review at the 2007 Annual Conference. Tip sheets are available from ACRL regarding meeting deadlines and planning budgets. Kidwell will post a call for volunteers.

### Program 2009 (Shannon Van Kirk)

The planning process has already begun for Program 2009, which is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Arts Section.

### Nominating (Stephen Patrick for Sandy Mooney)

Our slate of candidates is:

Sara Harrington, Secretary

Lucie Stylianopoulos, Vice-chair/Chair-elect

The biographies of the candidates will be posted to the listserv.

### Membership and Outreach (Claudia Covert)

The Section currently has 921 members. The Committee met on January 20, 2007 to discuss the new brochure. They are looking for quotes about participation in the Arts Section touting the benefits of membership. The Committee will send letters to those who relinquish membership in the Section, and is preparing a letter to library schools in order to invite membership. The Committee distributed a draft "Top 5 Reasons to Join."

Burling stated that it is great to see membership increasing, and noted that the Section is getting close to the 1,000 member mark, which would bring additional funding to the Section. On behalf of ACRL, Burling has begun a new membership retention program. As part of this program he welcomes and follows up with new members.

Continued on page 6

## Executive Board Minutes, cont. from page 5

### Publications and Research and Conference ArtsGuide Project (Eric Kidwell)

The publication *A Core Collection for Dance*, edited by Mary Edsall, will be published in a second edition perhaps by the end of 2007. This edition will appear in both print and online format.

The first ArtsGuide for ALA meeting sites (Seattle) has received extremely positive informal feedback. The intent of these guides is to provide selective, focused, lesser-known arts venues in the conference city, and include recommendations about transportation and the amount of time that might usefully be spent in the venue. Van Kirk added her praise and thanks to the group that composed the guide, and offered best wishes for the 2007 Annual guide.

Eric Kidwell revisited the idea of holding informal presentations by members on any theme related to the Arts as a part of the regularly scheduled Discussion Forum. This idea met with enthusiasm and the Section will attempt to hold the first series of presentations at the Discussion forum at 2007 ALA Annual.

### Planning (Roland Hansen)

Ed Teague has agreed to join the Planning Committee. The Committee will coordinate the Section's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We will perhaps have a reception or celebration that will go hand in hand with the program. Roland will post a call for Committee members to the listserv.

### Technology in the Arts

No report, a report may be posted to the listserv.

### Film and Broadcast Studies (Diana King)

The Rare Book and Manuscript Section will be planning a film preservation program for the 2008 Annual Conference. They are potentially interested in Arts Section co-sponsorship. Fifteen members participated in the discussion group, and discussed issues such as library instruction.

### Dance Librarians (Laura McElfresh)

Seven members attended the open discussion group. There was some discussion as to whether or not the dance librarian at the Library of Congress might be able to come to speak to the group in Washington, D.C. in order to discuss major dance collections and other issues.

### Webmaster (Tom Caswell)

A place has been made for the ArtsGuide on the Section's webpage, we hope to build a body of these guides over the years. ALA will convert the ALA website to a new content management system, and Caswell will add updates as necessary.

### Newsletter Editor (Laurel Bliss)

The next Arts Section newsletter deadline is April 9, 2007. The newsletter will contain condensed Committee reports.

Continued on page 7

## ArtsGuide - DC edition

After the successful (and premier Seattle edition) of the new ACRL Arts Section ArtsGuide for ALA conference cities, work has begun on the Guide for Washington, D.C. Sharon Wasserman, Director of the Library and Research Center for the National Museum of Women in the Arts, is serving as the D.C. guide editor and is working with Kristina Keogh, Rebecca Cooper, Eric A. Kidwell (as chair of the Publications & Research Committee) and Tom Caswell (as section webmaster) to compile a guide that will offer select recommendations on what to see and do in the arts while in D.C. this June. As with Seattle, the D.C. ArtsGuide will focus on the areas of architecture and design, visual arts, music, dance, film and theatre. Look for the Guide on the Arts Section webpage by early May.

### **IFLA Liaison Update** (Ed Teague)

The Arts Section has been sorting out its relationship with IFLA. Delegates to the IFLA Board's General Council can only fill pre-existing vacancies. Ed has been appointed to run for a delegate slot, and will serve as delegate provided that another candidate does not run against him and win the election. If Ed Teague is able to serve as a delegate it will be an international link that the Arts Section has rarely enjoyed.

In closing, please share any feedback, questions, or concerns with Chair Shannon Van Kirk and please continue to publicize the Section's upcoming 2007 Annual Program, "Eye to I: Visual Literacy Meets Information Literacy," with other arts related organizations, as well as solicit participants in the virtual posters sessions.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

*--Thanks to Sara Harrington for these minutes!*

## Member Profile: Eric Kidwell

Eric A. Kidwell is the current vice-chair/chair-elect of Arts and chair of the Section's Publications & Research Committee. Eric's the library director at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama; a position he's held since mid-1987, and he also served as director of the college's original first-year experience program called the Liberal Arts. Eric is now also serving as director of Huntingdon's core curriculum.

Eric received his MLS in 1985 from Vanderbilt and has a B.S. in finance from the Chattanooga campus of the University of Tennessee. A number of years after arriving at Huntingdon he decided to take advantage of the tuition waiver offered to faculty and earned a second undergraduate degree, this one a B.A. in art (which caused untold confusion for some students who would see him in the classroom and think he was a regular student, then see him in the library in his official capacity).

Continued on page 8

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## Member Profile, cont. from page 7

Collage is Eric's medium of choice for his art. He's had one one-person showing of his work and has had work accepted in a number of local art guild shows including the biennial Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts show. He just wishes he had more time to give to his art. Eric's favorite artists are Artemisia Gentileschi and Romare Bearden. Eric also enjoys collecting art, both that of friends and his art mentor, and from his travels (he's currently paying off a piece of Pacific Northwest art he bought while in Seattle for Midwinter - thank heavens some galleries have payment plans). When traveling, he enjoys visiting the art museums of the cities he's in (and tries to avoid the libraries). Outside work and other than art, Eric likes to spend time reading, music, film and the theatre, getting up several mornings a week at 4:00 for the gym (co-workers and friends think he's crazy), and traveling.

Eric's been attending ALA conferences for longer than he can remember, but easily considers the best professional development opportunity he's taken advantage of to be the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute. He highly recommends it, and not just for librarians in administrative positions ... we're all in leadership positions. He also recommends the books written by Lee Bolman and Terrence Deal (one of which is used by the Institute), and having just finished reading *Leading with Soul*, wishes more administrators would do likewise.