Letter from the Chair

By Leigh Gates, ARLIS/NA-Midstates Chapter Chair, 2014

Dear ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter Members,

We already seem to be caught in the claws of winter, but even as I type with my mittens on, I am excited to tell you that the ARLIS/NA Chapter Mentoring Program has now been launched! Katie Greer (greer@oakland.edu) from Kresge Library, Oakland University, has kindly agreed to act as our Chapter Mentoring Liaison. She will put out a call for participants in early December. Applications will be accepted until January 2, 2015, when she will notify mentors/mentees of their assignments. From that point there will be monthly communications to the mentoring pairs scheduled each month.

The Chapter Mentoring Program is structured in a similar way to the Yearlong Career Mentoring Program, except mentor and mentee pairs are matched regionally by chapter. Whether you’ve been in the profession for twenty or two years, you can benefit from sharing your perspective with another colleague as a mentor or mentee! All ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter members are encouraged to participate. Initial training will be conducted virtually through a recorded presentation of the same training workshop used at the annual conference for the Career Mentoring Program. Pairs are responsible for goal-setting, regular communication, and setting and attending meetings.

Why should you participate?

For mentees:
- To build a relationship with a more experienced ARLIS/NA member.
- To have someone within ARLIS/NA who takes interest in your development as an art librarian and who will offer you honest feedback as you negotiate professional challenges.

For mentors:
- To feel good about fulfilling part of your professional responsibility.
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- To keep current with the latest technologies and theories. Learn from your mentee’s experience and interests.
- To enjoy a rare opportunity for self-reflection. By taking the time to share your experiences and perspectives with another individual you learn about yourself.
- Because ARLIS/NA can never have too many mentors. There are many eager prospective mentees and not enough mentors to go around.

For ARLIS/NA:
- Healthy organizations encourage mentoring because it builds future leaders.

Keep your eye out for Katie’s call for participants, and in the meantime see page 7 of the newsletter for more information on the program. Here is an enjoyable way to get to know each other in our chapter and to share our career experiences with each other.

Stay warm!

Leigh Gates
Chair, ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter

ARLIS/NA Midstates Fall Meeting 2014

Photos from the joint meeting with VRA Midwest, ARLIS/NA Twin Cities, and ARLIS/NA Midstates chapters held in Madison, Wisconsin, September 12-13, 2014.

Left and below: touring the Arthur H. Robinson Map Library at the University of Wisconsin.

Above and at right: touring the newly renovated Madison Public Library.

Photos by Amy Trendler.
SPQR-ND: Interpreting the Roman Forum Through Early Architectural Publications

By Viveca Pattison Robichaud, University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame’s Architecture Library, School of Architecture, and the Center for Digital Scholarship developed the SPQR-ND iPad Application which is now freely available for download in the iPad App Store. This project started because of student desire to access the rare and antique architectural publications from our Ryan Rare Book Room that include plans, sections, and elevations of important buildings and monuments in the historic city center of Rome while studying in Rome during their third year and grew into a new model to study historic structures.

The Architecture Library’s rare book collection houses many important publications that document the historic city center of Rome and the Roman Forum including Andrea Palladio’s I Quattro Libri dell’Architettura (1570), Antoine Babuty Desgodets’ Les Edifices Antiques de Rome, Dessinés et Mesurés Très Exactement (1682), Domenico de’ Rossi’s Studio d’Architettura Civile (1702-1721), Giovanni Battista Piranesi’s Varie Vedute di Roma (1748), and George Ledwell Taylor and Edward Cresy’s The Architectural Antiquities of Rome (1874). These texts, among others, were digitized and made available in full-text searchable PDF format on the Architecture Library’s website under “Digitized Rare Books” ([http://library.nd.edu/architecture/DigitizedRareBooks.shtml](http://library.nd.edu/architecture/DigitizedRareBooks.shtml)). While this solved the problem of providing access to these rare volumes to our students abroad, we were interested in combining the historic methods of documenting and representing the built environment found in these texts with mapping and mobile applications as a way to bring the library into the field. Our goal was to provide students, scholars, and the general public with the opportunity to study the monuments of the Roman Forum through this important collection of early architectural publications and create a unique way to visualize the development of Rome. With over 1,500 buildings and monuments digitized, we knew that we needed to start with a project that we could achieve and that could stand as a model to be expanded on and refined going forward, so we focused specifically on the Roman Forum. Architecture students who work in the library were involved with the process and plan and worked gathering, collecting and presenting the data while the team built a deliverable model. Based on a suggestions from the Dean of the School of Architecture we called our project SPQR-ND.

Our project provides the fully digitized publications virtually broken apart in order to study different

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interpretations of particular monuments in the Forum side-by-side. The SPQR-ND app is designed to allow access to historic documentation of the monuments through either a map view or with a browsable list. Each monument entry contains a historic drawing and a current photograph, which the viewer can fade between, demonstrating the transition over time and showing the current state of the monument. Each of the historic plates is zoomable and each monument features multiple representations. Bibliographic information on each plate is given allowing the viewer to find the plate within the context of the original volume, either in-person or digitally from the Architecture Library’s website.

Each monument in the SPQR-ND app is geolocated, which enables the user to understand not just their design but also their physical placement in the Forum through visualizing them on a map. The app also includes layers of historic maps of Rome. These maps, Giambattista Nolli’s 1748 map, Giovanni Battista Piranesi’s 1778 map, Taylor-Cresy's 1874 map, a 2013 satellite map, and a hand drawn map of the Roman Forum by fourth year architecture student Michi Aman, are presented together as layers, which the viewer can fade through to see changes over time as represented by cartographers. The user is able to compare visually the different historic conceptions of the layout of Rome.

This project started at the request of our students who study in Rome, and we have involved students in each phase of the process, from scanning the texts, virtually breaking apart the volumes to pull out the buildings and monuments, geolocating them in Rome, and creating content for the app. Students who work on the app are given attribution for their work within the app itself, and we have a waiting list of students interested in working for the Architecture Library because they want to work on these projects. Future plans for the SPQR-ND app include not only making it available on an iPhone, but also adding additional monuments and buildings within the center of Rome, translating the app into multiple languages, and developing a 3D viewer that will allow users to study high-quality scanned data stitched together to create a virtual monument.

For those interested in learning more about the SPQR-ND app, it will be presented in the Emerging Technologies Forum at the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, this upcoming March.
Interview with Terrie Wilson, Co-editor of the 

ARLIS/NA Reviews

In the first of a series of interviews with ARLIS/NA Midstates members, Terrie Wilson discusses her role as co-editor of the ARLIS/NA Reviews. For the past five years Wilson, Art Librarian and Head of the Fine Arts Library at the Michigan State University Libraries, and co-editor Doug Litts, Head of the Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library, have shared responsibility for ARLIS/NA Reviews. Below, Wilson describes what those responsibilities entail.

How did you get started as the ARLIS/NA Reviews Co-Editor?
Terrie Wilson: The former book review editor, Joan Stahl, stepped down in 2009, and I answered a subsequent call for applications for her replacement. It was decided the position would be a shared one, so Doug Litts and I began our appointment as co-editors of the Reviews that same year.

How are books chosen for review?
TW: Doug and I have a variety of sources: publishers catalogs, email messages from reps, and suggestions from our readers. We also receive a lot of unsolicited review copies. Doug makes a master list that combines our selections with the unsolicited titles, and we each choose six titles per edition.

What makes for a good review?
TW: A good book review is a combination of several things. It needs to be a critical assessment of the book at hand. It should include a concise summary of the book’s content, but the reviewer needs to be careful not to simply list a bunch of chapter headings. The reviewer should assess the overall value of the book in the discipline, the clarity of the writing, the intended audience, and any other noteworthy aspects.

Has being the ARLIS/NA Reviews Co-Editor brought any new insights to your day job as Art Librarian?
TW: It has reemphasized the value of having solid writing skills and keeping those skills sharp. Even editors need editing! It’s also tremendously useful to be aware of so many new publications in the field when doing collection development. From the comments Doug and I receive, it seems like the majority of our readers use the Reviews for assistance in collection development.

What’s next for the ARLIS/NA Reviews?
TW: We are beginning to prepare the January 2015 edition and starting to make review assignments for March. We don’t have any major changes or additions planned at the moment, but Doug and I are always eager for feedback and suggestions, so anything is possible.
From the ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison

By Sarah Sherman, Chapters Liaison

Hello Midstates Chapter Members!

As we reach the end of 2014, looking back it was productive and busy for ARLIS/NA and its Executive Board! As usual, with every monthly Executive Board meeting we have a lot to discuss toward the advancement of ARLIS/NA. In August, the Executive Board met at the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University for our two day mid-year meeting. It was nice to meet in person to break from our regular conference call meetings.

One of the Society’s biggest developments was the launch of the Learning Portal. I encourage you to explore this new area of the ARLIS/NA website. It is available to anyone by registration. The portal provides access to ARLIS/NA’s virtual conference tracks, lunchtime chats, and webinars focusing on current issues most important to the art library community.

The Chapter Chairs have met virtually twice this year, in August and November. The first meeting we learned more about how the Development Committee can support chapters in fundraising efforts and in our second meeting we learned more about the Diversity Committee. It’s been a great opportunity to provide this new forum for Chairs and I look forward to the continuation of these meetings. In between meetings Chapter Leaders can stay connected with the newly established shared for Chapter Leaders space in Basecamp where they can share and learn ideas to further benefit all 17 ARLIS/NA chapters and their members.

I look forward to seeing chapter members and my fellow Board members during the 2015 annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas where I will attend my last Executive Board meeting before passing the torch the next Chapters Liaison.

If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all the best,

Sarah Sherman
ARLIS/NA Executive Board, Chapters Liaison
Reference Librarian
Getty Research Institute
ssherman@getty.edu
Midstates Chapter Account:
Balance on June 26, 2014: $1766.67
  + $100 (memberships)
  + $114 (fall meeting donations)
  - $66.19 (fall meeting expenses)
  - $23.91 (VRA/fall meeting split)
Balance as of October 3, 2014: $1890.58

Bunce Travel Award Account:
Balance on June 26, 2014: $1065
  + $15 (donations)
Balance as of October 3, 2014: $1080

Members
As of October 3, 2014 the ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter has 22 members in good standing.

New Midstates Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Viveca Pattison Robichaud has been elected ARLIS/NA Midstates Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Congratulations, Viveca!

Jamie Lausch van der Broek Elected ARLIS/NA Secretary
ARLIS/NA Midstates member Jamie Lausch Vander Broek was elected Secretary of the society in November. Van der Broek will join the board with the other incoming board members at the 2015 annual conference in Ft. Worth Texas. Congratulations, Jamie!

Remember to Renew Your ARLIS/NA Midstates Membership
Don’t forget to renew your ARLIS/NA membership for the year! Can’t remember if you renewed or not? Contact Melanie Emerson, ARLIS/NA Midstates Secretary & Treasurer, with questions: memerson@artic.edu. You’ll find the renewal form on the ARLIS/NA Midstates website: http://midstates.arlisna.org/membership.html.

ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter Mentoring Program to begin in January
The ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter is excited to announce that our chapter mentoring program will kick off this January! We will be looking for both mentors and mentees to participate in the six-month program. Are you just starting your career, and have lots of questions? Are you an experienced professional who would like to share the experience you’ve had as you’ve built your career? The official call for participants will be sent out via the listerv in early December, but you may access the information sheet (http://tinyurl.com/n5624hy) and the application form (http://goo.gl/ULsBQd) at any time.

SEI 2015 at the University of Illinois
The Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources & Image Management will take place at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for a second year. SEI is scheduled for June 9-12, and registration is due to open in January 2015. See the SEI 2015 website for more details.

Send news items and articles for the next ARLIS/NA-Midstates Newsletter to Amy Trendler at aetrendler@bsu.edu