Hi all ARLIS Midstates Members!

It was great to see so many of you in Boston at the ARLIS/NA conference. I do hope that many of you will be able to come to Ann Arbor this October (more on that later). We had a wonderful meeting with exciting plans for the coming year. Much of our discussion centered on ways to communicate between our spring and fall meetings and on programming for our fall meeting. Tony White noted that the Society has signed a license with “GoToMeeting” allowing us to use the software to coordinate online discussions and broadcast our meetings to those who cannot attend. We’ll be looking into the capabilities of the software before our fall meeting and hope to be able to use it then, if not before.

Membership Initiatives

An important chapter initiative this year is the work of our newly minted Membership Committee. The committee is headed by our incoming-chair, Jennifer Parker. Please contact her if you’re interested in working with her on membership initiatives or have ideas to improve our membership numbers and retain our current members. A big part of this will be establishing contact with our local library schools and any student groups that may have an interest in ARLIS-Midstates. We’ll also work to touch base with ARLIS/NA members who live in our five states, but haven’t joined the chapter. The more the merrier!

Website Revamp

While we’re proud of our website, I think we all realize that it could do with some updating and reviving. Adding some interactive features allowing any member to comment and add content would be great. Anyone who is interested in helping out with a website revamp, don’t be shy – let me or Jennifer Parker know of your interest. We discussed beginning with a new logo – a group will be defining what we want in a logo and preparing a contest type submission to be distributed to design and art schools/students in our region (aiming for a early fall contest). The details of the contest and the selection are yet to be worked out, so stay tuned!

Fall Meeting In Ann Arbor

We decided that the Friday/Saturday of October 22-23 was the best time to meet, so plan on that. A suggestion was made that we meet Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, rather a full day meeting on Friday. This will allow those who are close enough, to drive on Friday morning and Saturday afternoon, requiring only one overnight stay. In a further effort to contain costs, we’ll see what we can do about finding places to stay with local members.

A couple of the programming ideas that were tossed out for the fall meeting include a workshop on negotiating a contract or a workshop on how to run a meeting. I hope also to include a tour of our newly expanded university art museum. There’s also a newly renovated and expanded museum for classical/archaeological studies (Kelsey Museum) for those of you who are interested. We’re not that far from the DIA (Detroit Institute of Arts), where there is a phenomenal collection (and newly expanded!). And the Cranbrook Academy of Art is only 45 miles away. We had our meeting there a few years ago, but I suspect there are some who haven’t been there. Carpooling could be arranged if there’s enough interest to go to either the DIA or Cranbrook. If you think of other ideas, please let the group know! We will be sharing part of our meeting with the VRA Great Lakes Chapter so we can expect some crossover into visual resource themes in anticipation of our joint conference next spring. The meeting is ours to plan and learn from, so let me know what would be interesting and useful for you! You’ll hear from me on the listserv with requests for input and ideas as we move into the planning for our meeting.

May 4, 2010
Rebecca Price
Aside from our Midstates Chapter meeting, I know that many of our members were busy at the conference. It was nice to bump into so many of you during the course of our days in Boston. We missed those of you who couldn’t come this year and I hope that even more of us can attend next year. We have a lot of active ARLIS/NA members in our chapter! Let me recap some of our chapter member participation (I apologize for those left off – I’m sure I’m not aware of all that our members are up to, but will include what I know).

- **Sonja Staum** won the conference attendance award! Way to go, Sonja! She’s the new chair of the Development Committee.
- **Jamie Lausch**, perhaps our newest librarian having just been hired here at the University of Michigan, has jumped in with both feet and is a member of both the Membership Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Serving on the Communications & Publications Committee, **Terrie Wilson** is one of our ARDLIS/NA Reviews co-editors and **Jennifer Hehman** is an editor-at-large.
- **Terrie** also ran our CIC meeting, which involves many of our Midstates members.
- **Jennifer Parker** is chair of the Awards Committee and took on the task of in-coming chair of the Architecture Section.
- **Eileen Fry** is on the Gerd Muehsam Award Committee.
- I coordinate the Urban & Regional Planning SIG and ran the meeting.
- Members of our chapter formed the George Wittenborn Book Award Committee this past year (me, **Annette Haines, Marsha Stevenson, Amy Trendler, Tony White, and Terrie Wilson**) and were very happy that the presenting of the award to two titles went so smoothly and the authors and editors were so excited about receiving the award.
- Last, but not least, **Tony White** of our chapter, serves on the Executive Board as liaison to Education and Professional Development.

As far as presenting papers or moderating sessions at the conference, here’s a list of our members’ contributions:

- **Kathleen Lonbom** presented a paper on the role of audio description in a digital image collection.
- **Jamie Lausch** moderated the session called “Revisiting the Past, Embracing the Future.”
- **Jennifer Parker** presented a paper on building and promoting unique collections.
- **Nicole Beatty** presented a paper on intercultural visual literacy.
- **Tracy Bergstrom** moderated the session on new publishing models (open access).
- **Sonja Staum** presented a paper at Tracy’s session, about creating and publishing a hybrid scholarly journal.
- I presented a paper on local Architecture Resources as part of the Harvard City Experience.
- **Tony White** presented a paper at the Artists’ Book Slam, part of the RISD City Experience.

It was impossible to go to all of these, so be sure to look at the Conference Proceedings once they’re online.

Great Job everyone! Let’s keep our participation high as the call for sessions and papers comes out for Minneapolis! 😊
The City Experience: Providence and RISD began with a tour of the Fleet Library at RISD, with a special guided tour of the concurrent exhibition Artists’ Books Content Design voice Form. After lunch participants in the Artist Book Slam Session met in the Special Collections Reading Room to preview their selected artists’ books from the collection.

The Slam session, which was conceived by Tony White (Indiana University) and organized by Tony and Laurie Whitehill Chong (RISD) began with each of the eight participants introducing themselves and giving a brief overview of their involvement in collecting and teaching with artists’ books. Participants were from academic institutions and one public library, all of which have collections of artists’ books.

Each participant was given five minutes to talk about one or more artists’ books that they had pre-selected from RISD’s collection. Some selected books that they were very familiar with and some selected books that they’d only heard about but always wanted to see. Whether a book was unknown or familiar, it was most informative to hear someone else’s perspective on it and to experience how others “read” and analyze these works of art in book form. It was clear that all participants are passionate about artists’ books and strive to know more about them in order to promote their collections for research, exhibitions and teaching.

Books selected for the Slam were by the following artists: Walter Hamady, Jeannie Meejin-Yoon, Christine Hill, Joyce Cutler-Shaw, Ed Ruscha, Tom Phillips, Rein Jansma, Johanna Drucker, Sandra Turley, Keith Smith, Buzz Spector, Ann Tyler, Brad Freeman, Barbara Tetenbaum, and Jeong-In Cha.

After the presentations, an informal discussion followed with participants commenting further on some of the books presented and suggesting other titles of interest. There was a brief discussion on how we define artists’ books and decide which books stay in Special Collections and which circulate. Some talked about how their books are used by classes and also used in individual consultations for bookmaking projects. If students in large classes are allowed to handle the books freely we discussed what guidelines are provided. We shared how many class visits to see artists’ books we handle each year and if the collection is used by non-studio classes, outside researchers or other local institutions.

The need to share exhibition information was briefly touched on and possibilities for doing so included the ARLIS/NA Book Art SIG Blog http://arlisnabookartsig.blogspot.com or email announcements on ARLIS-L, with links to PDF versions of exhibition catalogs. Digitization issues were also discussed as well as social tagging possibilities for providing user-friendly access to our collections. If more time had been possible, the discussion could have gone on much longer.

At the end participants each got to make an “instant book”, a simple folded 8 page book structure made from one piece of paper using one of Laurie’s instructional handouts (a PDF version of this handout is available from lwhitehi@risd.edu). Additional artists’ books were laid out for further informal viewing. All felt that they would like to see more of this kind of hands-on discussion continue, either as a repeat conference session or in the interim, through informal email discussion.
2010 Bunce Travel Award Winner Jamie Lausch

By Eileen Fry, Indiana University, and Rijn Templeton, Univ. of Iowa

The Midstates Chapter Travel Award is given annually in honor of William C. Bunce who served as the Director of the Kohler Art Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1966 to 1999. The award provides funding for a Midstates member to attend the ARLIS/NA annual conference. This year’s William C. Bunce Award Committee was composed of Eileen Fry, Indiana University, and Rijn Templeton, University of Iowa.

Jamie Lausch was the recipient of the 2010 travel award. A recent graduate of the University of Michigan’s School of Information, Lausch focused on art and art museum librarianship while a student in the program. She also worked as University Library Associate in the Art, Architecture and Engineering Library and as Librarian and Art Handler for the Curatorial Research Center at the University of Michigan Museum of Art. Lausch attended her first ARLIS/NA conference last year in Indianapolis and this year she moderated a panel, “Revisiting the Past, Embracing the Future,” at the annual conference in Boston.

Here, in her own words, is Jamie’s experience at the 2010 ARLIS/NA conference in Boston:

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Boston, MA, thanks to the generosity of the ARLIS/NA-Midstates chapter. The William C. Bunce Travel Award allowed me to fully take part in a fantastic conference, from sharing a conference hotel room with colleagues to filling my notebook with ideas at sessions throughout the weekend. I was also able to spend time volunteering, beginning with ushering at the Convocation event on Friday evening and concluding on Sunday with a stint on what we only partially jokingly referred to as the “reference desk” (Registration). I even got to crash the First-Timers’ Pizza Dinner, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be crammed into a hotel room with the ARLIS/NA Executive Board, several dozen fellow young attendees, libations, and pizza served out of the bathroom.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to both attend sessions and moderate one; I took part in *Revisiting the Past, Embracing the Future* on Saturday afternoon, where I was impressed by the incredible projects currently in progress at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Maryland. At MIT, architecture librarians are preserving and archiving CAD files from the design process, beginning with several major buildings in the Boston area; while at UMD, librarians are actively participating in the archaeological field, storing and providing access to both historical and contemporary data for a site in Italy. Despite a few major mispronunciations, I found moderating an ideal way to take part in the conference as a relative new-comer; I both learned from the presenters and felt actively engaged in the process.

The sessions I attended foreshadowed not only the upcoming joint conference with VRA next year in Minneapolis, but also our own collaborative meeting to be held this fall in Ann Arbor in conjunction with VRA-Great Lakes. A session called *Permanent Beta: The Evolving Role of Visual Resources Professionals* further reinforced the challenges and opportunities we face together in the visual information profession, and the lessons in collaboration beyond the library presented there are certainly applicable to art librarians as well as those engaged in visual resources work. The day before, I sat in on *Global Visions: Building Image Collections in a Participatory Culture*, where I learned about a project at San Diego State University quite similar to our own Flickr database at the University of Michigan, Local Color (http://tinyurl.com/mlibrarylocalcolor). This overlap points out the benefits we will gain from coming together to exchange information, best practices and ideas; the opportunities for cross-pollination and project collaboration are extraordinary.

I enjoyed having the chance to meet many of you in Boston, and I am excited to meet more Midstates members in Ann Arbor this fall, when we can share ideas and enjoy the newly reopened University of Michigan Museum of Art on a weekend strategically chosen to not overlap with a home football game. I am deeply thankful for the gift the chapter has given me, and I look forward to giving back in the future.

Jamie Lausch
North Quad Programming Coordinator
University of Michigan
Library Profile: University of Michigan, Art, Architecture & Engineering Library (AAEL)

By Rebecca Price, ARLIS/Midstates Chapter Chair and Architecture, Urban Planning & Visual Resources Librarian, Univ. of Michigan

The Art, Architecture and Engineering Library at the University of Michigan is one of about thirty libraries/collections in the UofM library. We are situated on UofM’s North Campus, two miles northeast of the town campus. North Campus includes the School of Music, Dance and Theater, the College of Engineering, the College of Architecture & Urban Planning, and the School of Art & Design, as well as numerous dormitories and married student housing units. We are a relatively new library, having been formed by the consolidation of the Art & Architecture library with various Engineering libraries back in the mid-90’s. We moved into the Duderstadt Center, formerly called the Media Union, in 1996.

The building was conceived as a combined computer lab/library/digital media center and we still function in that way – though things are a little different from our first years in the building. Now there is wireless access, so instead of having our original 600+ desktop computers, we have just over 400 PCs available to students, but many more open desks and tables where they use their laptops. In addition, there are numerous study rooms and spaces for group work. We are lucky to have many labs for specialized virtual and real media work; such as, a video studio, a state-of-the art audio studio, an animation lab, a 3-D modeling lab, a digital conversion and creation lab, and a electronic music lab. There’s a lot more information about all of this here: http://www.dc.umich.edu/. Since the beginning the emphasis of the programs in the building has been on digital technologies and the incorporation of those technologies in the curriculum and classroom. The library has worked to be a strong partner in those initiatives and at the very least, a strong proponent supporting and enabling new ways of doing things.

First and foremost we are a library and we believe strongly in our mission to serve the teaching, learning and research needs of the University of Michigan arts and engineering communities and by extension scholars and members of the public with interest in those fields of study. Primarily we serve the College of Engineering with about 20 disciplines (to name only a few: Aerospace, Automotive, Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Computer Science, Electrical, Environmental, Industrial & Operations, Manufacturing, Materials, Mechanical, Nuclear, etc.), 450 faculty, and about 9,000 students; the School of Art & Design with about 50 faculty and 530 students; and the College of Architecture & Urban Planning with about 105 faculty and 560 students. We have four engineering librarians, one art & design librarian (Annette Haines) and one architecture & urban planning librarian (me). In addition, each year we mentor and very much appreciate the assistance of three School of Information students.

Why come to the AAEL? In addition to loads of books and journals, we have escalators, a coffee shop, we’re open 24 hours/day, and we have the best librarians and staff on campus! We also have a Visual Resources Collection where students can find over 1500 DVDs on art, architecture and urban planning topics as well as other visual media; a Special Collections room with a growing collection of artist’s books, a strong collection of books on early 20th century architecture and urban design, and a smattering of rare materials from across the ages; a Media Conversion Lab, where students can transfer almost anything in almost any format to almost any other format; and a Video Game Archive, where students can play and research virtual gaming from Pong to the newest game for their handheld device.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall and hope you will take some time come visit our library when you’re in Ann Arbor for our fall meeting (Oct. 22-23). Before then, visit us virtually at http://www.lib.umich.edu/aael/. Photos by Rebecca Price.
Jennifer Parker is the new ARLIS/Midstates Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Jennifer has been the Architecture Librarian at Notre Dame since August of 2008. Prior to that she served as the Art and Architecture Librarian for the University of Colorado at Boulder. She holds advanced degrees in Art and Architectural History from the University of Virginia and Library Science from the University of Maryland. Jennifer has been an active member of ARLIS/NA since 2002 presenting at four conferences and serving on several committees. In addition to serving as Vice-Chair for the Midstates chapter she currently is Chair of the Awards Committee and the Vice-Moderator for the Architecture Section. Jennifer’s current research is focused on early architecture books available in the U.S. and their influence on architectural education.

Jennifer Hehman is ARLIS/Midstates Chapter’s new Secretary/Treasurer. Jennifer has been an ARLIS/NA member since 1975 and a Midstates member since 1982. She has held many offices in the organization including Midstates Newsletter editor in the 1980s and 1990s and executive board member of ARLIS/NA; she is currently on the Communications and Publications Committee. Jennifer has published articles in *Art Documentation* as well as other professional journals and was the Tours co-chair for the 2009 ARLIS/NA conference in Indianapolis. Jennifer works at the IUPUI University Library as an Associate Librarian supporting the Music and Arts Technology Department.

**ARLIS/Midstates Chapter Financial Report**

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As of April 23, 2010, we have 17 chapter members in good standing.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer L. Hehman
University Library- IUPUI
Secretary/ Treasurer ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter
Dear ARLIS Midstates Members:

I am so pleased once again to contribute to your Midstates newsletter!

It’s been a busy spring for all of us, I imagine. The annual conference last month in Boston was a smashing success. Registrations were high, the sessions were compelling, the chocolate fondue flowed freely, and best of all, many of us had a chance to catch up with our esteemed friends and colleagues. The excitement generated from this conference will create great momentum for the next ARLIS/NA conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 23-29, 2011. This conference will be a joint one with the Visual Resources Association. It’s not too early to start planning for it!

In the meantime, at the conference in Boston, Sarah Falls, Chair of the ARLIS/NA Professional Development Committee, made an important announcement about GoToMeeting/Webinar software which will be available shortly for chapters to use, if they so desire. Given cuts to travel budgets, some chapters chose to meet virtually last year. This software opens up even more possibilities for virtual events such as educational webinars with up to 100 participants and virtual meetings with up to twenty-six attendees. The software also enables the recording of webinars and the ability to webcast chapter and annual conference sessions (to create virtual conferences). Be on the look out for more announcements in the near future about this software, including training opportunities, from Sarah.

2010 is also an exciting year because we will be drafting a new strategic plan for ARLIS. The plan, meant to cover 2010-2015, will be facilitated by the Strategic Plan Task Force (SPTF) with the following members: Ken Soehner (Metropolitan Museum), chair; Sandra Brooke (Princeton University); Eumie Imm-Stroukoff (Georgia O’Keeffe Museum); Barbara Rockenbach (Yale University); Eric Wolfe (New York School of Interior Design); and Jamie Lausch (University of Michigan).

The new plan will attempt to tackle the following rather pithy questions:

- What does the future look like for art information professionals?
- How can ARLIS/NA position itself to best address this future?
- What are the top three benefits that ARLIS/NA can offer its members?
- How can ARLIS/NA increase and better retain membership?

The final strategic plan will also articulate five to seven strategic goals; for each goal there will be five to seven actions that can be taken to achieve those goals.

Watch for the Task Force’s communiqués, and if you have any ideas or suggestions for the Plan, please feel to share them with me or one of the SPTF members.

And finally, I will close with a special plug for Special Funding requests. The Executive Board accepts proposals for special funding each fall for the following fiscal year, January 1-December 31. The deadline will mostly likely be in early September 2010. Projects may be awarded up to $500 depending on the merit of the project and the availability of funds. Guidelines and a simple application form are available on the ARLIS/NA Web Site. The ARLIS/NA Treasurer and Chapters Liaison will assist chapter members in applying for special funding, and will answer any questions that arise about the process. A couple of examples of what has been approved for funding in the past: a request to print 250 brochures to serve as outreach to library school students, and a request to publish online proceedings of a conference on artists’ books. I encourage you to start thinking of ideas for special funding requests. As always, I’m here if you have any questions. For more information, see: http://www.arlisna.org/organization/admindocs/funding_cdssig.html

Until next time and happy summer to one and all! ☀

Vanessa Kam, Chapters Liaison
Head, Art + Architecture + Planning
University of British Columbia Library
Vanessa.kam@ubc.ca
Lyn Korenic Named 2010 “Librarian of the Year” at UW

By Linda Duychak, Art Reference Librarian, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Each year the University of Wisconsin-Madison Librarians’ Assembly gives two awards to librarians in recognition of outstanding contributions to library services on the UW-Madison campus. Lyn Korenic was named the 2010 “Librarian of the Year” in the 10+ years of service category. The award (including a crown) was conferred at a “high tea” on April 15, 2010.

The news release had this to say about Lyn:

She has been serving as director of the Kohler Art Library since 1999. During her tenure as director she has worked vigorously at collection building while at the same time she has greatly improved user services. … One of her nominators wrote of her, “Lynette Korenic has really vitalized the art library and brought it into the 20th, then the 21st century. I have enormous respect for her and her contributions to the art library to GLS, and to the profession of art librarianship.”

See the full news release for more.

Book Arts Exhibit at ISU
Illinois State University’s Milner Library will be hosting an exhibit of book arts, book bindings, conservation treatments by the Midwest Chapter of the National Guild of Book Workers. The works will be exhibited in the library from October 1st—November 15th, 2010. In conjunction with the exhibit, the library has invited two speakers to present: book arts scholar, Dr. Betty Bright, November 2nd, and conservator Don Etherington, November, 11th. The exhibit and talks are open to the public. Questions? Contact Kathleen Lonbom, klonbom@ilstu.edu

MACDG
The Midwestern Art Cataloging Discussion Group (MACDG) is a loosely organized group of librarians who meet two to three times a year. Anyone interested in art and architecture or visual resources cataloging is welcome to attend.

The next meeting will be held at the Madlener House with the Graham Foundation; the date is to be announced. For more information or to add your name to the group’s mailing list please contact Laurie Chipps at lchipps@artic.edu.

Chapter Dues Reminder
If you haven’t already renewed your membership for 2010 you may still do so. Go to the ARLIS/Midstates website to find the dues form: http://midstates.arlisna.org/membership.html

Boston Conference Survey
If you attended the ARLIS/NA conference in Boston you are invited to complete and return the conference survey by May 30: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/boston2010
The feedback helps the organizers of next year’s conference with planning. The 39th annual ARLIS/NA conference will be held in Minneapolis, March 23-29, 2011; it will be a joint conference with the Visual Resources Association.

Send your news items for the next Midstates Newsletter to Amy Trendler at aetrendler@bsu.edu