Greetings, Midstates members.

We have recently concluded our successful joint virtual conference with the Ohio Valley chapter - the first joint conference for our chapter in recent memory, and perhaps ever! We benefited tremendously from a combined effort this year, with a strong program of both poster presenters and lightning round presenters. Our special funding request was approved by the ARLIS/NA board, and we were able to invite speakers from the Black Lunch Table group to deliver their keynote talk. This recording, along with three of our lightning round presenters, will be available on the ARLIS/NA Commons in the future. In the meantime, please visit the Black Lunch Table’s website to learn more about their current and upcoming virtual projects. Thank you to my conference co-chairs, Chrsitine Mannix and Caitlin McGurk of the Ohio Valley chapter, as well as Mackenzie Salisbury, our current Vice Chair/Chair Elect for their hard work in making this program possible.

I want to remind you that much important work is happening across the ARLIS/NA organization in response to the renewed focus on violence against Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in North America. In October the Executive Board announced members of the new Anti-Racism Task Force. Don’t forget that all ARLIS/NA members can login to read the Board’s minutes about their current projects and priorities, including the 50th Anniversary Task Force’s efforts to increase diversity scholarship fundraising. I look forward to our chapter’s future discussion about opportunities to make our chapter more actively anti-racist.

Membership renewal season is upon us. You will receive a message from ARLIS/NA regarding the option to once again "bundle" your membership renewal. If you choose the individual membership category, bundling is the best option for you. However, if you’d like to join our chapter as a student or friend, you will need to renew separately with ARLIS/NA and the Midstates chapter. For any clarification, please contact Larissa Garcia, our chapter’s Secretary/Treasurer.

I want to thank all of my fellow ARLIS/NA Midstates leaders for their support this year. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone as we do our best to support each other through what has been a challenging year on many fronts. Much of our chapter’s strength lies in the many relationships which sustain us personally and professionally. Thank you to Mackenzie Salisbury (Vice Chair/Chair Elect) and Larissa Garcia (Secretary/Treasurer) for their support, and Anna Simon (Past Chair) for her wisdom. I greatly appreciate Hayley-Jane Blackstone’s (Newsletter Editor) perseverance in producing two newsletters that have kept us connected while we haven’t been able to meet in person. In a similar vein, Sonja Staum Lehman (Listserv Moderator) and Rebecca Price (Web Editor) keep the information flowing across our digital channels. And finally, our two committees have undertaken important work to nominate new leaders and identify a recipient of the William C. Bunce Travel Award. Thank you to Melanie Emerson, Becca Pad, and Jackie Fleming (Nomination Committee) and Mackenzie Salisbury, Greg Baise, and Terrie Wilson (Bunce Travel Award Committee). Let’s stay connected this winter and sustain each other until we meet again in the spring of 2021.

With best wishes to you and yours,
Sarah Carter
The Midstates Fall Chapter Business Meeting on November 13, 2020 was held virtually, for the second time this year. Chair Sarah Carter welcomed the chapter to the meeting, which saw great attendance, including new members. Chapter leadership followed with introductions, and Spring 2020 minutes were approved. Secretary/Treasurer Larissa Garcia reported on membership renewal notifications, which are delayed as a result of the Society’s transition to a new management company. She reminded us that individual chapter memberships may be bundled with ARLIS/NA memberships through the Society’s website, and that Friend or Student memberships must be renewed through the Midstates Chapter Membership Form. We will say goodbye to Larissa as Secretary/Treasurer at the end of this year as she ends her term; thank you, Larissa, for your dedicated and thoughtful work as chapter leadership!

We then moved on to an update on this year’s William C. Bunce Travel Award by Sarah Carter. Due to the cancellation of the ARLIS/NA annual conference this year, 2020 Bunce Travel Award recipient Carol Ng-He used funds to support her participation in the course “Open Education Librarianship” this summer, taught by Dr. Steven Bell, as part of her MLIS course work. Carol will chair the award committee for next year. Sarah further discussed the viability of the Bunce Travel Award, which is funded both by the Bunce account and Main account, and a drop in donations this year from the last two (due to both bundled membership options, and the COVID-19 pandemic). Further updates and discussion on the Bunce Travel award can be found on Page 9.

From there, we looked forward to discussing the Conference to commemorate ARLIS/NA’s 50th anniversary, which is scheduled for Spring 2022 in Chicago, and will likely be a hybrid online/in person model. Submissions for conference theme ideas will be accepted until January 1, 2021.
Thank you to Rebecca Price and Doug Litts for your work on the conference committee! A call for volunteers will be sent early next year, and a conference planning document that outlines several jobs needed is available online. Doug Litts shared that the society’s overall financial health is strong, although it suffered a loss this year.

We then moved on to chapter program updates. Emilee Mathews and Mackenzie Salisbury shared that target outreach to Chapter iSchools continued through spring and summer, and that future plans for the program may include expanding online outreach, and coordinating work with the anti-racism task force. Jamie Vander Broek explained that we have one pair participating in the Chapter Mentoring Program this year, and the next call for participants will be sent in spring 2021. More information on this year’s pair can be found on Page 7.

Our meeting adjourned with new business updates. Anna Simon then announced that nominations for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer, both 2 year terms, will be accepted until November 20, 2020. The chapter is also seeking a member to serve as Past Chair, ideally one who has served as Chair in the past. Finally, the chapter is seeking a volunteer webmaster, as Rebecca Price has been elected as Vice President/President-Elect of ARLIS/NA Executive Board, along with Sarah Carter who has been elected Secretary. Many congratulations to Rebecca and Sarah!

Attendees: Alex O’Keefe, Amy Trendler, Anna Simon, Becca Pad, Doug Litts, Greg Baise, Hayley-Jane Blackstone, Jamie Vander Broek, Meredith Kahn, Karen Stafford, Larissa Garcia, Lynette Korenic, Mackenzie Salisbury, Marsha Stevenson, Emilee Mathews, Rebecca Price, Rijn Templeton, Stephanie Fletcher, Terrie Wilson, Melanie Emerson, Cheryl Arvio, Carol Ng-He, Cara List, Amy Lazet
Amy Lazet is the Digital Scholarship Specialist in the Library at the College for Creative Studies where she collaborates on digital projects, the library website, and the institutional digital image collection. She has far too many cats and enjoys researching somewhat esoteric topics in her spare time.

Amy Seipke has worked in the education field her entire career: first as a math, science and English language arts teacher, then as a museum educator, before coming to the College of Creative Studies. She received her MLIS with a graduate certificate in archival administration from Wayne State University in 2012 and started at CCS as the evening library technician and contract archivist, before becoming the color and materials librarian in 2016. She worked on an assessment of the archival materials and created a processing plan for the start up of an institutional archive at CCS and earned her certified archivist standing with the ACA. In addition to her work with the material collection and the Colour Tools, her work at CCS also includes liaison work with all of the design majors and the MFA department, presenting instructional sessions, book and ebook collection development, and managing the periodical collection.

April Sheridan is the Special Collections Manager at the John M. Flaxman Library, School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She’s also a letterpress printer who is particularly interested in experimental possibilities of artists’ publications. For ten years she ran the letterpress printing, papermaking, and bookbinding studios at the Center for Book and Paper Arts at Columbia College Chicago. As an advocate for book arts education she has spoken at Hamilton Wood Type and Printing Museum Wayzgoose/Educators Conference in Two Rivers, WI, Letterpress: Forward Thinking Conference at St. Bride Library in London, the &NOW Conference at CalArts, SGCI, and several college book arts association conferences. She previously served on the boards of the American Printing History Association, Inland Chapter (President), The Wasteshed (Founding Member), and The Chicago Printers Guild (Assistant Director).

Please welcome our new chapter members!

Not pictured: Lisa Leverett.
Leigh Gates

**Former Art Librarian**
(Ryerson & Burnham Libraries, Harrington College of Design)

IN CONVERSATION WITH HAYLEY BLACKSTONE

As late summer in 2020 was winding down and the school year was beginning (remotely, for many students and faculty across the country) Leigh and Hayley took some time to connect about librarianship and what’s to come as so many of us were at that time- over email.

Hayley Blackstone (Special Collections Assistant, Joan Flasch Artists’ Book Collection): Hi Leigh! Thank you for sharing your breadth of knowledge from a long and expansive career in art librarianship with our membership. What inspired you to arrive at this work, and what roles have you assumed since?

Leigh Gates: I have always been interested in libraries since growing up in a small Texas town where I volunteered in the summers in the very small community library. While working on a masters degree in Architectural History at UT Austin, I realized that I could combine that interest with library science, so I earned an MLS with a major in Art History. I have had jobs as a slide librarian (at Texas Tech) and as the Library Director at a School of Architecture (Florida A&M University). I was fortunate to take the job as Visual Resources Librarian (originally called Slide Librarian), with Ryerson & Burnham Libraries, at the Art Institute of Chicago, which I enjoyed for 24 years. I oversaw the transition from one of the largest slide collections in the country to an early digital image database. In 2010 I became the Library Director at Harrington College of Design in Chicago, until my retirement in 2015 (and the transfer of the faculty and library collection to Columbia College). I became active in ARLIS/NA and the VRA early on, both organizations which bolstered my career and enabled me to make many friends and colleagues which I value to this day.

HB: How do reference and access services in a museum library and an academic library diverge?

LG: Generally museum libraries serve primarily the curatorial staff, members and scholars. They usually are not circulating or public collections; their collections and reference work are generally more scholarly and are focused often on the museum’s collections themselves. Academic libraries, of course, support the faculty and students of their institutions, and reflect the curricula of the school. I found that it was most useful to be able to advise students where to find information, regardless of whether the school’s collections held it or not. I was fortunate in that at the Ryerson Library, I supported both the curatorial staff, and the students and faculty of the School of the Art Institute. It required me to have both scope and depth of knowledge for reference and collection development.
HB: What has been the most rewarding aspect of librarianship for you? Are there persistent principles and imperatives that have guided your work throughout your career?

LG: I think I am like most librarians in that being able to help satisfy a patron’s curiosity and need for knowledge is very gratifying and professionally satisfying. I have been fortunate in that the subject matter of the collections in which I worked focused on art and design, my own personal interests and love. Not to sound frivolous, but I think that I have learned along the way that “there are no stupid questions!”

HB: COVID-19 has both exacerbated extant challenges in the art library field, and opened up new opportunities for digital curation, archival, and access methodologies. Can you reflect on successful strategies you have implemented to address workplace challenges in the past?

LG: Since most of my professional career was spent as a visual resources librarian, I definitely struggled with making a collection of good quality images accessible. Accessibility meant both the technical means of making the images available and viewable, and the cataloging and descriptions which made them usable by a wide variety of patrons. I think that I had some successes in being able to anticipate what would be useful in my collections by talking with patrons and finding out how I could best help them with their interests.

HB: Do you have any advice or suggestions for new librarians and emerging professionals interested in pursuing this work?

LG: Art and visual resource libraries are wonderful places because of the immediacy, beauty and history in their collections. Cultivate a wide knowledge of our cultural and artistic heritage.

"Art and visual resource libraries are wonderful places because of the immediacy, beauty and history in their collections."
Meet our 2020-21 Chapter Mentoring Program Pair!

**STEPHANIE FLETCHER**

ается the Technical Services and E-Resources Librarian at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. She holds an MA in Art History from the University of Illinois and an MLIS from Dominican University. Formerly the E-Resources/Reference Librarian at the Art Institute of Chicago, she has been a member of the Midstates chapter since 2015 and served as Secretary/Treasurer in 2017-2018. Stephanie is the co-author, together with fellow Midstater Anna Simon, of the article “Addressing the Gender Gap: Confronting Inequities in Librarians’ Professional Advancement by Establishing a Conference Childcare Program,” published in the Spring 2020 issue of Art Documentation. Stephanie participated in the chapter mentoring program in 2016-2017 as a mentee (ARLIS/NA President Amy Trendler was her mentor) and is excited to participate in the program again, this time as a mentor!

**CAROL NG-HE**

ается the Exhibits Coordinator at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Illinois. She holds an MA in Art Education from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is a MLIS candidate at San Jose State University. She has been a member of ARLIS/NA and its Midstates Chapter since 2018. Currently she serves as the chair of ARLIS/NA Professional Development Committee and the co-coordinator of Exhibitions SIG. Carol was the recipient of the chapter’s William C. Bunce Travel Award in 2020. Formerly an art museum educator, Carol is interested in expanding her skills in art librarianship. This is the first time Carol has participated in the chapter mentoring program. She looks forward to working with Stephanie and exploring creative approaches for her career development.

Stephanie and Carol will work together for six months, mutually identifying interests and setting professional goals. We’re excited to check back in about their progress and ongoing mentor/mentee relationship! To learn more about the program, or apply to be a Midstates mentee, please visit the chapter website [here](#).
Diane Dias De Fazio is an independent curator of rare books and book arts, currently based in Northeast Ohio. Originally from the Midwest, Diane started in art librarianship in 2006 as a work-study student at Thomas J. Watson Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art while earning her Master’s in Historic Preservation from Columbia University. She graduated, with distinction, from Pratt Institute in 2015 with a Master’s in Library and Information Science and Advanced Certificates in Museum Libraries, and Archives and Special Collections.

Working in the museums sector in New York City for over a decade, Diane specialized in educational programs and primary source instruction at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Brooklyn Historical Society, South Street Seaport Museum, and was Director of Education at the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum, the oldest house museum in the state of New York. Building on her experience as assistant to an experimental filmmaker, while attending library school Diane worked in cultural nonprofit development for Anthology Film Archives and also served as Institutional Giving Associate at The Jewish Museum.

After nearly three years at The New York Public Library’s Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy (located in the flagship research library building at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue in Manhattan), Diane moved to Iowa City as the University of Iowa’s first Curator of Rare Books and Book Arts. In early 2020, Diane began her own independent consultancy, specializing in book arts curation and instruction and archives administration. Coinciding with a family emergency, Diane relocated to Ohio in April 2020, where she is now a full-time student working toward a Master’s in Art History, with a focus on book arts and contemporary art. She presented with Vaughan Hennen (Dakota State University), Evan Schilling (University of Waterloo, Canada), Joan Jocson-Singh (Cal Arts), and Marianne Williams (University of Arkansas) at ARLIS2020 Virtual in July 2020, and continues to be active in numerous ARLIS-related activities.

Diane is an active member of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), where she serves as Co-Chair of the Membership & Professional Development (M & PD) Committee and was recently elected Member-at-Large. Her board service includes the ALA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Assembly, and the American Printing History Association (APHA), where she is part of the re-launch of the Inland Chapter. She founded IGLibraries in 2016, and is a member of the Grolier Club.
The Midstates chapter's Bunce Travel Award: Six Degrees of (Art Librarian) Separation

SARAH CARTER

I spoke at the fall chapter meeting about the current status of the William C. Bunce Travel Award fund, noting that our chapter currently has the reserves to fund the award for three more cycles. As I look back at the history of this award, which was first given in 2004, I see a legacy of support for professionals. Our chapter’s sustained gifts have supported sixteen professionals, many of who remain active members of our chapter. Other recipients have completed their graduate work or first professional work experience, and moved on to be accomplished members in other chapters. I want to highlight a few of our past award winners in this article, and trace how their attendance at annual conferences has supported their eventual careers and contributions toward the larger profession.

Kendra Werst was the 2016 winner of the Bunce travel award to the Seattle, WA conference. Kendra wrote about how important the conference attendance was for her development as a student, and that the thought of attending the conference "was overwhelming but after the first day that thought never came back into my head. I felt very welcomed and accepted by the other professionals and students who were in attendance." Kendra has been the Assistant Visual Resources Curator at Williams College since 2018.

As students, Kendra and Andrew Wang met in graduate school and co-founded the the Society of Art Librarianship Students (SALS) club in 2016. Winning the Bunce award in 2017 gave then-student Andrew a boost as he launched his professional career. At the time, Andrew was moderating the Graphic Novels SIG; now, Andrew is a published author on the topic of censorship in comics. See his chapter titled “Specter of Censorship: Comics in Academic Library Leisure Reading Collections” in Comics and Critical Librarianship: Reframing the Narrative in Academic Libraries. Andrew also connected with peers in order to start the Critical Librarianship SIG within ARLIS/NA, which he coordinated for two years. Andrew eventually moved from Yale to take the position of Instructional Design Librarian at Ringling College of Art and Design.

I was Andrew's predecessor at the Ringling College library by ten years. My successful job interview and initial hire came just one year after I was the recipient of the 2006 Bunce award. This gift allowed me to attend my first ARLIS/NA conference in Houston, where I was roommates with my then-supervisor Eileen Fry. While attending ARLIS/NA that year, I enrolled in the first cohort of the year-long mentoring program while I was still a master's student at Indiana University. This experience was formative in solidifying my commitment to the ARLIS/NA mentoring program and eventual service as chair of the mentoring subcommittee.

The 2009 Bunce award winner also attended IU. Nicole Beatty was a master's student from 2004-2007. In 2009 Nicole wrote "I appreciate all of the advice that I received from librarians and will certainly think of it throughout my career."
Being able to go to the conference gave me a good sense of what is happening not only in the fields of art and architecture librarianship but also with visual resources librarianship.” Beatty went on to accept a job at Weber State University, and eventually co-chaired the 2019 annual conference in Salt Lake City.

Nicole also wrote in her conference reports that one of the panelists she enjoyed hearing from in 2009 was none other than Meredith Kahn. Meredith was the Bunce award recipient in 2008. After attending the Denver conference, Meredith said that "the chance to meet other art and architecture librarians was the most valuable aspect of the conference for me. I now know that I am part of a dynamic community of professionals with a remarkable body of knowledge and expertise.” Since winning the award, she has made an important contribution toward implementing Open Access policies in the profession, eventually becoming the ARLIS/NA Open Access Coordinator.

Jamie Lausch Vander Broek has been Meredith’s colleague at the University of Michigan for many years, and was the Bunce award winner in 2010. Jamie’s experience attending the conference allowed her to "fill [her] notebook with ideas at sessions throughout the weekend," moderate a session titled "Revisiting the Past, Embracing the Future," and "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." Jamie talks in a subsequent ArLiSNAP interview about her strategy of staying connected with ARLIS/NA during the years she worked outside the field of art librarianship. Jamie has been the Librarian for Art & Design at the University of Michigan since 2012.

Mackenzie Salisbury has also had a varied career outside of the field of art librarianship, as well as her positions at the O’Keefe Museum and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She won the Bunce award in 2019, the same year she presented "First-Year Insight: Disrupting Assumptions about Research in Art & Design" with Siân Evans and Shannon Marie Robinson at the Salt Lake City conference. Mackenzie has also contributed several book reviews to the ARLIS/NA Reviews over the years, providing an invaluable service to art bibliographers. Most recently she was elected to serve as the Midstates Vice-Chair/Chair Elect.

It is clear that our members are amazingly connected, and that the tradition of service, scholarship, and collaboration is strong within the Midstates chapter. Our members’ generous contributions to the Bunce Travel award not only honor the memory of William Bunce, who served as the Director of the Kohler Art Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1966 to 1999, but it also bolsters our members’ ability to experience their first professional conference, serve the society in a variety of capacities, and network with colleagues.
FINANCIALS
AS OF NOVEMBER 13TH, 2020

MIDSTATES CHAPTER

ACCOUNT BALANCE

May 1, 2020

$2266.81

$35.00 Member Dues (Checks)

$200.00 Dues (from ARLIS/NA)

$35.00 Dues (PayPal)

- $2.50 PayPal Fees

AS OF NOV. 6TH, 2020

$2514.31

BUNCE TRAVEL AWARD

ACCOUNT BALANCE

May 1, 2020

$818.95

$20.00 Donations

AS OF MAY 7TH, 2019

$838.95

MEMBERSHIP

As of November 6th, 2020, the ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter has 34 members in good standing. Thank you to everyone and friendly reminder to send in your dues if you haven’t already!

Information Submitted by Larissa Garcia, Secretary/Treasurer, larissagarcia@niu.edu