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Hello Midstaters!

It was so great to see so many of you at our Spring meeting just before the annual conference. This past year has been filled with so many changes and pivots, it was nice to come together to talk about our profession and to see both new, and familiar faces. Since our last meeting, we have welcomed a few new members to join our chapter, there has been discussion about a few new diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and we have made some progress on planning for the big 2022 annual conference.

Before getting into all of that, I wanted to say an official congratulations to both Rebecca Price and Sarah Carter who are now part of the Executive Board of ARLIS/NA National! Rebecca is stepping into the role of Vice President/President-Elect, and Sarah Carter is the incoming Secretary. Good luck in these new positions and thanks for all of your service both to our chapter over the years, but also to the larger organization - we are lucky to have you! Additionally, Jamie Vander Broek has a chapter in a book she also edited that just came out called, *Radical Humility: Essays on Ordinary Acts* - that I cannot wait to read!

With three of the four positions on the board being filled by Midstates members, I’m thankful that we have had a few new members join our chapter. I’m hoping that some of our ongoing outreach efforts will continue to help us grow our chapter for students but also area professionals. One of the DEI initiatives that has come up between the chapter officers (shout out to Sarah Carter and Jamie Vander Broek) is how we might expand our professional development and mentoring programs to include sponsored mentorship opportunities for chapter members. More on this will be coming across the listserv, but I am excited by the idea of helping new professionals pay for membership dues as a way to financially support them. I know from my own experience as a new professional, and someone who has participated in a number of mentoring programs - this can be extremely beneficial to more involvement both professionally and at conferences.
Speaking of conferences, I know a number of our members were involved in some way at this past years’ ARLIS/NA Conference which I contributed to its success! As a friendly reminder to you all, ARLIS/NA’s Kaltura Channel (formerly the Learning Portal), contains recordings associated with the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA). It shares video content from annual conferences, chapter events, and SIG/committee meetings. It also makes available research related to the field of art librarianship. You can see our Fall 2020 chapter meeting which included a presentation from the Black Lunch Table group - and other interest groups presentations, among other content.

Now that we have all had a successful 2021 conference, we are looking forward to next year’s conference. The 2022 Conference Planning Advisory Committee gave a great update on where we are at during the spring meeting, as well as putting out the call for volunteers. As I write this letter, I know some folks have been given their volunteer positions, and I am sure more will be coming down the line shortly. As a small group, I know it will be all hands on deck, but I can’t think of a better way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ARLIS/NA than in Chicago!

All the best,
Mackenzie Salisbury, Chair
Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting Recap

BY HAYLEY BLACKSTONE
MINUTES BY SECRETARY/TREASURER BECCA PAD

Though the revival of in-person gatherings amidst the COVID-19 health crisis is becoming more and more viable, our Spring 2021 Chapter Meeting was once again held virtually; the flexibility of which, however, allowed for increased attendance! Plans to test a hybrid model for our Fall 2021 meeting, a working meeting in relation to our upcoming Annual Conference, were discussed.

After approving Fall 2020 meeting minutes, Greg Baise and Rebecca Price updated us on the transition of our website. New Wordpress themes will be explored to keep it fresh, informative, and updated. Much of the meeting was devoted to updated reports on and planning for our 50th Anniversary Annual Conference, to be held here in Chicago in 2022. The Conference Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) shared that the theme for the conference will be “Past, Present, Future: Aspiring to New Heights”, and highlight Chicago’s architecture. Melanie Emerson and Alexis Burson will serve as Local Arrangements Co-Chairs, and Jamie Vander Broek and Cara List will serve as Program Co-Chairs. More information on this presentation can be found here.

Next, Mackenzie Salisbury updated us on outreach for the iSchool project. She identified that challenges for establishing and maintaining relationships with student chapters is the frequent turnover of chapter leadership. However, a recently successful connection has been made with the ALA student group at Chicago State University. Midstates chapter members are invited and encouraged to connect with local iSchools to develop programming, and new virtual programming presents an exciting

Note: a draft of the Fall Meeting minutes can be found here.
opportunity to connect with students located far away from Midstates members.

The Bunce Travel Award Committee has revised the award criteria to align with new conference registration, after the conference had been announced as virtual. Due to lower cost for the virtual conference, the fund has been divided into four awards; two for students, and two for members. As there were no applications this year, funds will be rolled over and allocated for future award cycles. Mackenzie Salisbury reminded and encouraged students and new members to apply for the BTA, a fabulous opportunity!

Finally, as Sarah Carter moves on to her role as Secretary of the ARLIS/NA Executive Board, her previous position, “Past Chair”, will be filled during the Fall 2021 election cycle. It was fabulous to connect with our chapter membership, and look forward to an exciting year of librarianship activities!
Please give a warm welcome to our new Midstates Chapter members, Heather Koopmans and Amelia Licavoli!

Amelia Licavoli recently graduated from UI-UC’s MLIS program, with an emphasis in archives and special collections. Previously she studied art and art history; She holds a BFA in Photography & New Media, and a MA in Art History, Theory, & Criticism. She is currently on the job market. Her most recent experience was as a library assistant at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she served museum staff, faculty, and students for over five years. Before that she lectured on contemporary art and worked in the publishing field as an arts editor, journalist, and prepress specialist. She maintains a creative practice, by the midnight oil, as an independent curator and writer. She will be serving as a Program Committee Member for the ARLIS/NA 2022 Conference.

Heather Koopmans is the Fine Arts Librarian at Illinois State University in Normal. She began working at ISU in August 2020, and in this role serves as the Milner Library’s liaison to the Wonsook Kim School of Art, School of Theatre and Dance, Creative Technologies Program, and University Galleries. She is excited to be working with students and faculty in a spectrum of creative fields; one highlight so far has been to grow her knowledge of the performing arts since her subject expertise has previously trended towards design and visual art. She was originally drawn to librarianship because library and visual research were central to her studio practice as an artist/printmaker, and for her the best aspect of art librarianship is supporting creative practitioners in developing their own unique research pathways. She came to Illinois from Savannah, Georgia, where she served as the Satellite Library Manager at Savannah State University (helping to launch a new federal-grant-funded branch library targeting freshmen and sophomores in all majors). Prior to that, she served as Head Librarian of Research, Instruction and Special Collections at Savannah College of Art and Design’s Jen Library. She received her MSLS from UNC-Chapel Hill (’09) and BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (’01). She is very much looking forward to the 2022 annual conference in Chicago!
Congratulations to Carol Ng-He, who has started a new position as the Digital Collections Curator at the Center for the Art of East Asia of the University of Chicago! In this role, she is responsible for managing research and data related to the Dispersed Chinese Art Digitization Project (DCADP).

Cara List is serving as journal editor for Collection Management. Please reach out to Cara if you are working on collections projects at your library!

Hayley Blackstone has started a new role as Registrar at Chicago based art gallery Corbett vs. Dempsey. In May, she graduated with an MA in Arts Administration & Policy, and an MA in Contemporary Art History from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Sarah Carter will be stepping onto the ARLIS/NA Executive Board as Secretary, and Rebecca Price will serve as Vice President/President Elect!

Congratulations to Marsha Stevenson on her recent retirement from University of Notre Dame! Enjoy this well deserved next chapter!
CAROL NG-HE

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Stephanie in the past year through the mentoring program. Not only did Stephanie provide practical and timely advice on my course selection and job transitions, she also gave me the morale support I needed in these challenging times. Stephanie has always been a great listener who shows care and passion for our mentoring relationship. We regularly checked in with each other via email and monthly meetings that gave me an important perspective and a sense of comfort. And since Stephanie and I are in the same state, we are able to share networks even after our mentorship program ends. Regardless of what stage one might be in their career, I think that having this one-on-one relationship is extremely valuable and meaningful to mentees. I would like to thank the ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter for offering such an important platform for my professional development.

Congratulations to our 2020-21 Chapter Mentoring Program Pair!

Stephanie and Carol have just concluded six months of working together, mutually identifying interests and setting professional goals. We're excited to learn about their progress, and hear some year-end reflection! To learn more about the program, or apply to be a Midstates mentee, please visit the chapter website here.

STEPHANIE FLETCHER

It has been my pleasure to mentor Carol and to continue the important work of the Midstates mentoring program this academic year. I was a mentee some years ago to Amy Trendler and I tried to bring the level-headedness, targeted inquiries, and holistic support that I learned from her into my role as mentor. These are tumultuous times for the arts and art librarianship. Museums, galleries, libraries, archives, and universities are tightening their belts and radically altering their organizations through realignment strategies, early retirement incentives, departmental mergers, and job cuts.

The mentoring program empowered Carol and me to explore the challenges and trauma of the last twelve months together. We discussed the pandemic-fueled financial struggles of major art museums, the impending cuts to graduate programs across higher education, and the demands for public libraries to remain nimble and present at a time when the health of employees and the needs of patrons conflicted with each other. Our monthly conversations offered an opportunity to explore the effects of the pandemic more deeply and to offer each other support during these trying times. I highly recommend the mentoring program to MLIS students and early career librarians who are seeking professional guidance and networking opportunities, and to mid- and late-career librarians who are ready to critically examine the state of the profession through their mentees’ insights and questions.
When we went remote, the librarians at the John M. Flaxman Library at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago already had plans for a Sexual Assault Awareness Month book display and virtual reading list. Rather than skip the initiative, we created the first of many "virtual pop-up libraries." Virtual pop-up libraries are individual resource lists that exist inside of a pre-existing Pop-Up Library LibGuide. They are very similar to bibliographic lists of old, but in the remote environment they provide an opportunity to help our community connect to resources in the library and beyond.

This initiative proved particularly beneficial in June 2020 when we were seeking ways to uplift resources for the Black Lives Matter movement and anti-racism self-education. We created the Anti-Racism and Black Lives Matter Virtual Pop-up Library (which has since been revised and reorganized). The guide gained a lot of traction both in the school and on social media, and helped the library foster new collaborations as they embarked on the upcoming academic year.

The first was the National Indigenous Peoples' Day Virtual Pop-Up Library, which was a collaboration with Native American Student Association (NASA) in October. The second was recently released for Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAAPI) Heritage Month (which is in May, but the school launched programming in mid-April so celebrate before and throughout finals). Thanks to working with the Multicultural Affairs office, we were brought in to early school-wide AAPI Heritage Month planning conversations. This gave us the opportunity to seek feedback from members of our campus community (including students, faculty, and staff), gather suggestions, and appropriately frame and organize the resources.

While we have executed many other virtual pop-up libraries since April of 2020, these three have provided concrete ways the library can support our community's self-education around the topics of anti-racism and cultural humility. Moreover, the most recent two are examples of collaboratively building these resources with the community in a way we hope to continue cultivating and improving in the future.
CPAC needs volunteers for the 2022 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Chicago!

Help make our 50th anniversary conference a major success! If you are enthusiastic about the occasion, willing to work collaboratively with a great group, and interested in exercising your leadership skills, or if you just want to have a great time making something good happen, take a look at the descriptions below, and fill out a simple form!

Click here to apply today!
CONTEMPORANEITY: JOHANNA DRUCKER VISITS SAIC

In March 2021, Johanna Drucker, artist and Breslauer Professor of Bibliographical Studies in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA, virtually visited The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). The events, which included a public lecture and workshop entitled “How to Read Artists’ Books” at the Joan Flasch Artists’ Book Collection, was a joint production facilitated by Jina Valentine, April Sheridan, the JFABC, and the Departments of Printmedia, Visual & Critical Studies, The Graduate Division Immedicies Cluster. Drucker’s talk attempted to dispel the “mythic principle” leftover from a long-discredited Modernism that aesthetics is a politics and serves as “the moral conscience and activist agent of culture”. She discussed, among other visual/critical studies related subject matter, Jaques Rancière’s notions of dissensus, models of critique, expanding historical and cultural frameworks for interpreting works of art. Drucker’s well attended remote work shop expanded on these principles, diving head first into works in the collection of the JFABC, offering new lenses to view and absorb them. Drucker’s visit was a long anticipated event after a full year of COVID-19 related delays, and brought so much joy and thought provocation into the SAIC community and abroad.
# FINANCIALS

**AS OF APRIL 23, 2021**

## MIDSTATES CHAPTER

### ACCOUNT BALANCE

- **November 6, 2020**
- $2514.31
- $50.00 Member Dues (PayPal)
- -$10.38 PayPal Fees
- $580.00 Member Dues (checks from ARLIS/NA)

- **AS OF APRIL 23, 2021**
- $3133.93

## Bunce Travel Award

### ACCOUNT BALANCE

- **Nov. 6, 2020**
- $838.95
- $225.00 Donations

- **AS OF APRIL 23, 2021**
- $1063.95

## Membership

As of April 23, 2021, the ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter has **39 members** in good standing. Thank you to everyone and friendly reminder to send in your dues if you haven’t already!

Information Submitted by Becca Pad, Secretary/Treasurer, April 23, 2021