

TheMedium

Volume 33, Number 1 (Spring 2007)

Welcome to the first issue of volume 33 of *The Medium*, the first from term-appointed Vice President and Web site administrator Mark Pompelia. This issue features the first column from your new, two-year President, Selene Hinojosa. Be sure to read the annual report submitted to the executive board of ARLIS/NA from Past President Elizabeth Schaub. And lastly you'll want to keep current with chapter member news by reviewing the various entries assembled by our column editors.

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President's Column

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Little did I suspect last October in San Antonio, that I would be the one writing you by the following spring. I had hope there would be time to figure out what was expected of me as a VP, President Elect. I'm not complaining. But I am sorry that I missed the opportunity to work with Sam Duncan on behalf of ARLIS/Texas-Mexico Chapter. Sam is still with us, in spirit for certain, and just minutes away from me in Austin. However, due to the demands of his new position, he had to resign as our incoming President. As webmaster, he gave our newsletter a stylish new look, and for this too, he will be esteemed and missed.

Oh well, on to the good news.

Our elected executive committee is now comprised of me (your new President), and thankfully, Catherine Essinger remains Chapter Secretary, and Craig Bunch remains our Chapter Treasurer. I was faced with two choices, either send out a call to you all, asking for volunteers to run in an election to fill the President position, or take it on early (and for two years) and appoint a single term VP. I hope I made the choice all of you would have preferred, and asked Mark Pompelia, our former President (2004-2005) and bearer of the bad news about Sam, to serve as our VP, just for the year (and to help me out). To continue taking the bad news about Sam out on him, I accepted Mark's offer to serve as our Web master. Elizabeth Schaub, last year's President (2006), and this year's incoming ARLIS/NA South Regional Representative, graciously offered to help with advice and guidance for however long we need her. I am incredibly grateful to them all, and to all of you for the help and support offered thus far, and which I am confident will be offered in the future.

We will continue to plan for this year's chapter meeting in Dallas/Ft. Worth, and to try and make it all you hoped it would be.

I hope all of you are out there cheering, or at least grateful it doesn't have to be you this time. I understand. Please do not hesitate to contact me to let me know what you think, what you want, and what you believe will best serve the ARLIS/Texas-Mexico Chapter in the next two years.

Sincerely,

Gloria Selene Hinojosa

President, Art Libraries Society of North America, Texas-Mexico Chapter

2006 Annual Report

Elizabeth Schaub, Past President of ARLIS/TXMX, authored the chapter's annual report for 2006. The report may be downloaded here:

<http://texas-mexico.arlisna.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2006AnnualReport.pdf>

News: Academic Libraries

News from UT Austin

The UT Fine Arts Library has been selected as the winner in two categories of Texas Library Association's first ever Texas Libraries Public Relations Branding Iron Awards. The Fine Arts Library won in the non-traditional media category and in the marketing plan category. The winners in the individual categories were published in the Saturday issue of the TLA conference onsite newsletter and all the winning entries will be showcased in the summer issue of the Texas Library Journal.

Laura Schwartz, Head Librarian, Fine Arts Library, UT Austin is the recipient of the 2007 ARLIS/NA Conference Attendance Award which is a cash award of \$750.

News: Architecture Libraries

News from Rice University

During the last several years, Rice University's Fondren Library underwent significant changes. Plans to demolish the existing building and build a new library with two floors below grade were abandoned after extensive flooding in Houston during June 2001. To address critical space shortages, the University Librarian and planners embarked on two major solutions: a new storage facility and a library renovation.

The university decided to build a library storage facility about 5 miles from campus, on land that had been donated by Raymond Brochstein. Carlos Jimenez Studios designed a high-density storage facility that recently received a [2007 Honor Award](#) from the Houston Chapter of the AIA. Construction began in February 2003 and the facility was completed by March 2004. The transfer of books, serials, LPs, and archival materials began in January 2004 and as of January 2007, over 600,000 items have been processed and stored in the Library Service Center.

Major renovation to the interior of Fondren Library began in May 2005. The project's architects were Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott, Ray Bailey Architects, and Linbeck Construction. All departments were relocated at various stages of the demolition and renovation process and Collection Development librarians worked to transfer materials from stack areas to be renovated. Most of the renovation was completed by December 2006. The Government Publications and Microforms Department is now located in greatly expanded and improved public and office spaces, and the Technical Services Department and Reference/Collection Development librarians moved into renovated areas. Work is almost complete on the last phase, which involves facilities for the library's computer and IT staff.

The most dramatic changes are on the first, second, and sixth floors. A new west entrance directly opposite the original east entrance of the building is linked by a lighted walkway that bisects the first floor. From this central east-west axis, there is access to an elevator and restrooms. The Circulation & Reserve Desk, staff space, and the "scatter room" now have spacious quarters adjacent to the west entrance. The Reference Desk is placed at the edge of an array of study cubicles with public access Macintosh workstations, and is also adjacent to a large section of study cubicles with Macs reserved for Rice student use only. Throughout the first floor there are 62 carrels for individual study. The second floor features the most dramatic physical changes with six new group study rooms and 18 individual study carrels. The largest group study room is furnished with projection and display equipment. The small sixth floor has been converted into a comfortable study area with ample lounge furniture. There are also two rooms, with one reserved for group study that is equipped with ports and display screens. Access to this floor is restricted to Rice students and faculty.

The Circulation/Reserve Desk of the Brown Fine Arts Library was closed on August 1, 2006. The Circulation Supervisor and the weekend supervisor transferred their responsibilities to Fondren's Circulation Department. During the spring of 2006, Mary Du Mont, Music Librarian, and Jet Prendeville, Art/Architecture Librarian, worked on challenges related to the transition and transfer of materials. All Fine Arts and music CDs, videos, and DVDs were transferred to Fondren Circulation. Over 6,000 art and architecture oversize volumes, folios, and rare books were sent to the Library Service Center. All circulation and reserve functions are now handled by the Fondren Circulation Department. The remainder of the Fine Arts collection remains within the confines of the Brown Fine Arts Library. Eventually the doors along the perimeter of the Fine Arts Library will be removed to allow easier access to the rest of the third floor collection. These doors are currently unlocked. Only the main entry doors will remain, so they can be closed to block noise from receptions that are frequently held in an adjacent public area.

Since Fall 2004, Jet Prendeville has been working closely with the Visual Arts faculty to develop a small collection of *livres d'artistes* by post World War II American artists. Two of the most significant and beautiful books acquired are Jim Dine's *Temple of Flora* and Robert Motherwell's *El Negro*. Plans are underway for the Visual Arts Department and Fondren Library to host an exhibition of the *livres d'artistes* sometime in September 2007. A reception and a program of invited speakers are also being planned.

Submitted by Jet Prendeville

News from Texas Tech

Jessica Lu has received a Helen Jones Foundation grant of \$35,000. The grant was awarded to the Texas Tech University Libraries for the purpose of obtaining an architecture digital image collection and to license the *Archivision Digital Archive*. Ms. Lu is the Architecture Image Librarian for the Architecture Library's [Visual Resources Collection](#).

Submitted by Bonnie Reed

News from U.T. Austin

Sam Duncan joined the University of Texas at Austin's School of Architecture in November 2006 as the new Director of the [Materials Lab](#). Former Director Tara Carlisle left the university in August. Most of you will know that Sam comes to U.T. from Fort Worth, where he worked at the Amon Carter Museum as the technical

services librarian. As a result of Sam's job change he regrettably announced his resignation from the ARLIS/Texas-Mexico Presidency.

Sanctioning Modernism, an exhibition of materials drawn from the Alexander Architectural Archive and the Architecture and Planning Library's Special Collection, held in conjunction with a symposium on [post-World War II architecture](#) is on view in the Reading Room of the Architecture and Planning Library at the University of Texas at Austin through May 2007.

Janine Henri and Beth Dodd presented on *Architectural Archives and Special Collections: Best Practices for Libraries Supporting Schools of Architecture* at this year's meeting of the Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL) in Philadelphia (see the [AASL conference website](#) for more information). This meeting is held in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). Beth Dodd was the recipient of the first travel award offered by the AASL. Janine Henri was elected Vice-President/President-Elect of AASL and will be planning the next AASL conference, scheduled for March 27-30, 2008, in Houston.

Kathryn Pierce, Alexander Architectural Archive Processor (Graduate Research Assistant), is the recipient of ARLIS/Texas-Mexico's Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award. Katie is currently a student in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin, and she will begin graduate study in architecture history at U.T. Austin this fall.

Janine Henri and Heather Ball co-authored "Library Support for Study Abroad and Distance Education Programs," published in the January *ACSANews* (vol.36, no.5, p.44).

In February 2007, the American Institute of Architects announced that Battle Hall (home of the Architecture and Planning Library) was included on its list of [America's Favorite Architecture](#). KXAN (Television Channel 36) featured Battle Hall on the 6 o'clock news on Friday Feb. 9, 2007 (Janine Henri was interviewed briefly for that program).

Submitted by Janine Henri

News: Museum Libraries

Activities at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

The Hirsch Library's seventh Highlights of the Hirsch Library exhibition opened on April 17. Installed in a small gallery near the library in the Caroline Wiess Law Building of the MFAH, the exhibition, *Building Foundations: Ima Hogg and Bayou Bend in the 1920s*, offers a glimpse of the key role Miss Hogg played in Bayou Bend's original design and construction. Items on display from the MFAH Archives and the Hirsch Library include auction catalogs that Miss Hogg used in acquiring items for her collection and letters from the decorative artist William Mackay regarding designs for the dining room wall covering. Mackay's original watercolor and gouache schemes are also on display along with a fragment of the final painted canvas. A 1920's portrait of Miss Hogg by Wayman Adams is also included, as well as the New England colonial chair that Miss Hogg saw in Mr. Adams's studio and credited with inspiring her interest in American decorative arts.

Kerri Menchaca, who has been a part-time Reference Assistant in the library for over a year, moved into the full-time Acquisitions Assistant position on February 21, replacing Amy Sullivan, who is now at the Menil Museum. We are happy to have Kerri with us on a full-time basis as she deals with the book orders and budget during the busy last months of the fiscal year.

Submitted by Margaret Culbertson

News: Visual Resources

Mark Pompelia has volunteered to be part of a steering committee to revive the dormant Texas chapter of the Visual Resources Association. This will involve reviewing the chapter bylaws, officer recruitment for fall elections, and exploring a joint meeting with ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico this coming fall.

Elizabeth Schaub participated in the seminar titled *Are We Speaking the Same Language? Communication Strategies for the Visual Resources Professional* at the Visual Resources Association's annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri (March 27-31, 2007). Elizabeth's presentation focused on strategies for effective communication with student employees.

Colophon/Editor's Note

Editor

Mark Pompelia (pompelia@rice.edu)

Column Editors

Academic Libraries

Laura Schwartz (lschwartz@austin.utexas.edu)

Architecture Libraries

Janine Henri (jhenri@mail.utexas.edu)

Museum Libraries

Jon Evans (jevans@mfah.org)

Public Libraries

Gwen Dixie (gdixie@dallaslibrary.org)

Visual Resources

Mark Pompelia (pompelia@rice.edu)

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