

## MEMBER NEWS

► **Polly Trump and Mary Leonard's West Texas Weekend**

Mary Leonard, her sister Elizabeth, and Polly Trump spent four fabulous days in West Texas in June. They met in El Paso and drove to Ft. Davis after stopping for a great Tex-Mex breakfast at the H&H Coffee Shop/Car Wash. They stayed in The Cottage (part of [The Hotel Limpia](#), which they describe as "cute, cute, cute." They went on the [Chinati Foundation](#) tours, to [McDonald Observatory](#) (too cloudy for a star party, but there was a good session about the solar system), and to [Fort Davis National Historic Site](#). Polly found the weather delightfully cooler than Tucson, and all were quite pleased by the constant eating they managed to do in Ft. Davis, Marfa and Alpine.

Polly Trump  
University of Arizona

► **New Letterhead**

New letterhead with the chapter logo is hot off the press! The overall design mimics that of the chapter website. Should you need to have some for chapter-related correspondence, please let me know how many sheets you require and I will mail you some.

Jon Evans  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

# THE Medium

v. 28, no. 2 (summer 2002) | [issues](#)

► **President's Column**

As the summer heat relentlessly bares down upon us, one would assume that all is quiet, or at least subdued. On the contrary, several significant events have occurred during the past few months. A change in the executive board of our chapter was the result of Laura Schwartz's ascendance to South Regional Representative. Congratulations Laura. We know that you will bring the same enthusiasm, dedication, and sensitivity to the position that you brought to that of chapter president. Laura will continue to play an active role in the chapter this year as she is heading the Austin contingent that is planning our upcoming meeting. In her stead, I have become president, while continuing my duties as editor of *The Medium*. Beverly Carver remains steadfast as our Secretary/Treasurer. Sam Duncan continues to serve as our trusty webmaster.

Plans for our regional conference in New Orleans in 2003 continue. We are close to finalizing a date and selecting a hotel. We will continue to keep you updated as plans for this event solidify. Please contact me with suggestions for tours, programming, or anything else.

In this issue of *The Medium*, several of our long-standing and most active members have given a bit of their time and bared their souls to provide some insight into the ARLIS experience beyond the chapter. Please read on to find out what it is that compels them to find continued worth in an organization that they have served, and in turn has served them.

We are poised for yet another fabulous chapter conference--this year in Austin. I believe that the conference organizers have cooked up a stimulating and well-planned event that should not be missed. Thank you for all your diligence and hard work thus far. See you in Austin between October 17th-19th!

Jon Evans  
President, ARLIS/Texas-Mexico  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

► **Message from the South Regional Representative of ARLIS/NA**

As South Regional Representative, I fulfilled my first duty by attending the Conference Planning Advisory Committee meeting June 7-8, 2002. As most of you know, we will be meeting in Baltimore March 20-26, 2003. The conference hotel is the Wyndham Inner Harbor. The hotel is just a few blocks from the Inner Harbor where there are loads of shops and restaurants. In this city of neighborhoods, several neighborhoods are accessible on foot (let's keep our fingers crossed for mild weather).

The conference is shaping up to be great both in programs, tours, and special events. Highlights include a movie night, a Poe party at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, and a reception at the Baltimore Museum of Art. There will

be many architecture and art tours to choose from including a tour of the Row Houses and a visit to the Visionary Art Museum.

I am thrilled at the prospect of our regional meeting with ARLIS/SE in New Orleans in November 2003. I know the Texas-Mexico chapter has been eager to be a part of a regional meeting for a while now and the southern-friendly Southeast Chapter has been great to work with. I will be attending their chapter meeting in Asheville, North Carolina in November. I'll be sure to provide a summary in the next issue of the Medium.

The Mid-Year Board meeting will be held August 10-11, 2002 in New York at the Bard Graduate Center. I will give a full report from that meeting at the ARLIS/Texas-Mexico business meeting in October. Please remember that I am your liaison to the Society, if you have any issues that need to be addressed by the Executive Board, please contact me directly. Thanks!

Laura Schwartz  
ARLIS/NA South Regional Representative  
University of Texas

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▶ **Message from the Conference Planning Coordinator**

Can you believe it has been 7 years since ARLIS/Texas-Mexico met in the capital city? Since our last meeting in Austin, we have been to San Antonio, Fort Worth, Houston (twice), Lubbock, and Albuquerque. Austin is just calling us. We have a terrific program planned with some amazing highlights. The **Texas chapter of MLA** (Music Library Association) will also be meeting in Austin and we have planned some events together. I know we will have a great turnout. Austin is a central location, we are providing architecture, art, and visual resources programming, and October is a beautiful time of year here.

Highlights include a visit to the **Tarlton Law Library** and **Hyder Art Collection**, a tour of the new Materials Lab and the Audiovisual Resources Collection in the School of Architecture, and local gallery tours. We will also be offering a very important disaster preparedness workshop presented by Amigos Library Services.

The chapter dinner will be held at one of Austin's most terrific restaurants, **Castle Hill Café**. Note that the chapter dinner will be on Thursday night instead of the usual Friday night slot. Friday night will be a truly special catered event at the Charles Moore Foundation and House.

And of course, we have left plenty of time for you to discover or rediscover Austin.

I am indebted to Beth Dodd, Janine Henri and Elizabeth Schaub for putting their efforts into making this conference the very best. I certainly could not have done it without them. If any of us can provide assistance to you regarding travel arrangements or dining suggestions, please let us know. We all love Austin dearly, and are eager to share with you why this town is so close to our hearts!

Laura Schwartz  
University of Texas

**Tentative Conference Agenda**

Thursday October 17

- 1:00pm-2:00pm Meet, greet, and register in Fine Arts Library
- 2:00pm-3:30pm Tour of Tarlton Law Library and Hyder Art Collection
- 3:30pm-5:00pm Behind the Scenes Tour of LBJ Library and Museum
- 5:00pm-6:00pm Break
- 6:30pm-9:00pm Chapter Dinner - Castle Hill Café

#### Friday October 18

- 8:00am-9:00am Breakfast Reception at Architecture and Planning Library
- 9:00am-11:30am Business Meeting in School of Architecture Box Athenaeum
- 11:30am-12:30pm Tour of School of Architecture Audiovisual Resources Collection and Materials Lab
- 12:30pm-2:00pm Box Lunch
- 2:00pm-5:00pm Disaster Preparedness Workshop with MLA/Texas
- 5:00pm-6:00pm Break
- 6:30pm-9pm Dinner at Charles Moore House with MLA/Texas

#### Saturday October 19

- 8:30am-9:45am Breakfast on your own
- 10:00am-11:00am Flatbed Press & Gallery
- 11:15am-12:15pm Women & their Work
- 12:30pm-1:30pm Lunch and good-byes - Shady Grove

#### Conference Registration

\*\*\* [Print and Send Conference Registration Form](#) (PDF file) \*\*\*

#### Conference Hotel Information

The [Doubletree Club Hotel](#) is our conference hotel. The conference rate for the hotel is \$99 for a single or a double. Reservations must be made by October 3, 2002. After this date, the room block and rate will expire. When reserving your room, you must mention ARLIS/Texas-Mexico. Our group code is TMA.

#### ► Research Committee Awards

The Research Committee of ARLIS/NA welcomes nominations (nominate yourself or someone else) for research awards. This year we are pleased to be able to make the following awards:

- The H. W. Wilson Foundation Research Grant will be awarded to someone whose research is in process. (up to \$2,000)
- The Worldwide Books Award for Publications will be made for work (articles or books) that has been published. (3 @ up to \$500)
- The Worldwide Books Award for Electronic Resources will be made for development of an outstanding electronic resource. (up to \$500)

The deadline for all three awards is October 4, 2002.

For more information about past awards, award guidelines and application forms, please see [ARLIS/NA Awards and Honors page](#) (and scroll down to Research Awards). This is a wonderful opportunity to gain recognition and a cash award for your research.

Polly Trump  
University of Arizona

and

John Hagood

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

ARLIS/NA Research Committee Members

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► **Participation in ARLIS/NA: Volunteerism at the International Level**

**Touring, touring...**

Many of us do not realize the number of people required to make an annual meeting a success. On the chapter level, I know I could not have pulled off Albuquerque without my stalwart planning committee's help. For new members or members who are not active at the NA committee level, volunteering at the annual conference can be rewarding, a great way to meet others in the organization, and (best of all) it really does not require much time.

When ARLIS/NA met in San Antonio, I volunteered for everything. I worked at the Registration Desk for an hour. I worked several hours in the Internet Room. I worked with Phil Heagy on the Exhibitors Committee, which involved going up to Phil once a day and saying "Is there anything you need me to do?" I never needed to do anything more than laugh at Phil's jokes, which you all know is not hard work.

This year in St. Louis, I volunteered to be a tour monitor, which requires a bit more effort. The tour monitor goes to the gathering site early and holds up a sign so that tour attendees know where to stand around waiting to get on the bus. The tour monitor checks each name off the list to be sure that everyone who registered for a tour is on the bus. The tours I monitored (Usonian Houses and Architecture Transformed) involved more than one stop, so as we left each site I had to count heads again to be sure we weren't leaving anyone behind. This was especially important on the Architecture Transformed tour as we were traveling on the MetroLink and got off and on at each stop between Union Station and Leclède's Landing. Tour monitors work with the guide (thank goodness the tour monitors do not have to GIVE the tours) to be sure the tour keeps to the schedule. That sometime requires telling people "no," as when someone asked me if the bus could go out of the way to drop her at the art museum. The perk for this work is that tour fee is waived for the monitor, and the only thing it cost me was the half hour before each tour that I had to be there.

All of my experiences volunteering at the Society level have been fun, and I encourage everyone to do it.

Polly Trump  
University of Arizona

**How I became involved in ARLIS/NA service and leadership, or, if I can do it: so can you!**

I began my ARLIS/NA professional service by first being active at the chapter level. This began as a library school student in the Northern California Chapter, first just by attending chapter meetings, then, when my library (The Environmental Design Library at U.C. Berkeley) hosted a meeting. This was back when telnet access to online databases such as DIALOG, RLIN, and the Avery Index was a brand new thing and I was asked to demonstrate how to dial up and search these databases. It was still the 1980s and there was no way to project our computer screens (nor were there any computer labs in libraries), so it was all very informal with attendees gathering around the computer in the library

office. (Times sure have changed! We did not even foresee end-user searching: it was all mediated back then and it was fee-based...).

After graduation I accepted a position at U.T. Austin and was finally able to attend an ARLIS/NA conference. At my first Texas Chapter meeting, I was asked to host the next chapter meeting, which I agreed to do so as local arrangements coordinator if others would take on the programming aspects (since I was still so new to the chapter). Next I was asked to consider serving as chapter Secretary-Treasurer. I figured that this would be a great opportunity for me to get to know my Texas colleagues and the workings of the chapter. Indeed it turned out to be a very rewarding experience. Since this was before arlis-I it was also a great way not to feel too isolated and to network with colleagues. Later I was also asked to serve the chapter as Vice-President/President-Elect and I've since co-hosted or helped to plan additional chapter meetings. (I recommend that any member that has not yet served as a chapter officer volunteer for office or accept an offer to serve. You're bound to enjoy working with your fellow officers!)

When arlis-I was established I did not hesitate to contribute to discussions. That is one way I interacted with colleagues outside of Texas & Northern California. (I don't know where I found the time---maybe it's been taken up by all the added web-page maintenance duties we now have!). In any case I believe that this is why I was contacted by a conference panel moderator who asked me to present a paper at what would be only my second ARLIS/NA conference. Because the paper would give me an excuse to do background research on a policy at my institution, I agreed. The panel was a success and the whole experience boosted my confidence in my abilities. (Again: if you're asked to contribute, I highly recommend going for it!) This initial experience has prompted me to respond to calls for conference papers, to initiate conference session proposals, and to moderate panels. Although there has occasionally been technical difficulties during conference sessions, I can honestly say that I have learned something from each of these activities and that I plan to continue to participate in this manner whenever possible.

Once at an Academic Division business meeting there was no candidate for Vice-Moderator/Moderator-Elect and since the incoming Moderator was someone I respected and I thought I might enjoy working with her, I decided to respond to the call for volunteers. That turned out to be another great opportunity to get to know the workings of the society and to meet society leaders (moderators, committee chairs and board members) and section members. That this was a rewarding experience for me should be evidenced by the fact that I later agreed to serve as Moderator of the Architecture Section.

Around that same time I was keenly interested in diversity issues. I noted on my membership renewal form that I was willing to serve on the Cultural Diversity Committee. Before the next conference I received a call from the new committee moderator asking me to attend the meeting. Since then I have found out that you can just show up at an ad hoc committee meeting and volunteer to serve. After serving a year on the committee I was asked to chair it. I asked whether I could serve as a co-Chair instead and this was approved. It turned out to be a great alternative for me since it cut down on the report writing workload and I've always preferred to work with others. Our efforts were rewarded when many of our projects came to fruition. (The number of reports required from group officers has been cut down in recent years so don't let this requirement discourage you from serving!) Committees are a great way to contribute to the society by

participating in projects and promoting an agenda that you are passionate about. If there are no committees, round tables, sections, or divisions that match your interests, consider starting up an informal discussion group or another round table (check out Article XII.C in the Handbook).

Participating in the society at the chapter-level, committee level, division level, section level, and in conference sessions turned out to be the best preparation for the next level: the ARLIS/NA Board. When a Southern Regional Representative had to step down the President asked me to fill her term. I was rather anxious about this since I was still Chapter President at the time and since our chapter was preparing to host the 1997 conference. I was led to believe that much of my Board work would be with the Conference Planning Committee and as liaison to the host chapter (so I agreed to serve). Indeed that part of the Board work went quite smoothly. But we were also involved in revising the Bylaws, rewriting the Strategic Plan, and evaluating the performance of an under-performing management firm. Frankly, it was a bit too much! Fortunately the rules have now changed: you can no longer serve as a Board Member when you are a Chapter Officer (or group moderator, or committee member).

I believe that service as a chapter officer is necessary experience for Regional Representatives, which serve as Board liaison to the Chapters in their region. I also believe that service as a committee chair or group moderator is necessary for other Board offices. It is probably best to have served in all of these capacities prior to Board service, but especially so for the president-elect position. Each Board member is assigned as a liaison to several committees and the president-elect is the liaison to the Sections, Divisions, and Round Tables. It is important to understand the workings of these groups to be an effective Board member. Candidates for Secretary and Treasurer should probably have served successfully in a similar capacity at the Chapter level or for other smaller organizations. In my opinion it is probably best to have served on the Board in another capacity before serving as a president-elect. Two years ago I was asked to run for the Secretary position (which I lost). Even though I recall my service on the Board as incredibly time consuming I was willing to try it again: what a great group of people to serve with and what an incredible learning experience it was! The Bylaws have since changed: if you are asked to serve on the Board, you will be the sole candidate.

I have also served the chapter on the Lois Swan Jones Awards Committee, the Mexican Membership sub-Committee and as column editor for *The Medium*. I have volunteered to record conference sessions and have written reviews for Art Documentation. More recently I was appointed to the Joint ARLIS/NA-AASL Advisory Task Force for NAAB Library Accreditation Standard Revisions, to the North American Relations Committee (as liaison to the Association of Architecture School Librarians) and to a one year term on the Nominating Committee. Service on each of these committees has presented special challenges but has also provided personal growth opportunities and rewarding interactions with other members. Please talk to current officers, committee members, or editors if you want to know more about service in a particular capacity and to express your interest. You can initiate chapter activities, section, round table, or division projects as well as publication proposals. Just let the current leaders know where your talents and interest lie and you will be given the opportunity to serve. This is a volunteer-led organization and our programming, projects, products, and services to members are only as good as our volunteers!

Janine Henri

University of Texas

### **Why I Became Involved in ARLIS/NA**

I joined ARLIS/NA in 1979, when I was in library school in Boston. I was introduced to ARLIS through my mentor, Nancy Allen, director of the library at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. I got to know her through an internship in her library that was part of my art librarianship course I took at Simmons. Nancy insisted that I attend an ARLIS/New England meeting to be introduced to my future colleagues, and to meet Wolfgang Freitag, who was planning the program for the ARLIS/NA conference in New Orleans that fall. When he heard that I was moving back to New Orleans before then, he immediately recruited me for the local arrangements committee. As it turns out, there was only one other member of this committee, a person in New Orleans who was to become a lifelong friend, Darla Rushing. So my course was charted for me through Nancy's skillful mentoring, and a certain degree of chance.

Nancy also told me that there was a vacancy for a librarian at the New Orleans Museum of Art. As luck would have it, within two weeks of my arrival in New Orleans, I had the one job in the whole city that I wanted. Conference planning was already underway, so Darla and I made feverish tours of plantations and historic houses to find the perfect location for the big Saturday night party. The San Francisco Plantation with the Zydeco band proved to be a great event. We also quickly put together a guide to New Orleans restaurants. That was a difficult task because there was so many great restaurants, we had to figure out how to limit the number of entries. Needless to say, I only attended one or two meetings because I was at the registration desk or running errands that whole time! I did get to meet many colleagues from the southeast chapter, and found out that there were chapter meetings one could attend. That was a big relief to me, because I was a new librarian at an almost one-person library, so I knew I had a lot to learn from colleagues.

After an unsuccessful run for the regional representative to the ARLIS board, the president (Nancy Allen) appointed me to head the Gerd Muehsam Award Committee. I think this was the real launching for me into the activities of ARLIS/NA. I was thrilled to find out that there was a Museum Library group that held sessions at the annual conference. As I got more familiar with its workings, I volunteered to act a co-moderator for a couple of years, along with a colleague at the Chrysler Museum, Amy Ciccone. We put together some well attended programs, including one on museum library publications exchange, in the early 1980s. I got to know many art museum colleagues through this committee, and found it very helpful to know people I could call for advice on various museum library functions that I needed help on.

Once I moved to Texas, I found that the state had a large chapter, compared to the 2 or 3 members in Louisiana. I quickly became involved in ARLIS/Texas, and stepped into the vice-president's job when Donna Rhein left the Dallas Museum of Art library. While I edited *The Medium*, I became familiar with lots of Texas art librarians.

I felt that there was one thing lacking in the format of ARLIS/NA conferences, and that was informal discussion groups. As I became more involved with library administration, I felt a need to get together with other museum library directors to share ideas and concerns. Out of this, the annual museum library directors' meeting grew. ARLIS is truly an organization run for and by its members. I think

that is why people are so loyal to it.

My advice to anyone thinking about becoming involved in ARLIS is, DO IT!!! There is plenty of work to be done, and there is a place for you. It will help you in developing management skills, solving some sticky problems, as well as introducing you to some people who will be your friends for life.

Jeannette Dixon  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

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► **Exhibitions in Texas and Mexico**

**Exhibitions Calendar**

Phil Heagy  
Menil Collection

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► **Editor's Note**

Thank you to the many contributors to this issue, especially to those who added to our segment on ARLIS/NA participation. I hope your experiences and insights have inspired some of our members to consider participation at this level.

Feel free to drop me or the column editors (see below) a note in the coming months about any noteworthy professional or personal news for inclusion in the next issue.

All the best.

Jon

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► **Column Editors**

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► **Colophon**

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