

# AR7ifacts

The Newsletter of the Art Libraries Society of North America, Southeast Chapter  
June 2021

## President's Report from the ARLIS/NA Virtual Conference, May 3, 11–13, 2021

by Lindsey Reynolds,  
Dodd Librarian,  
University of Georgia, Athens

Greetings chapter members!

This May, the Southeast Chapter held its annual spring business meeting virtually along with this year's virtual ARLIS/NA conference. ARLIS/SE met on May 3, with the conference taking place May 11–13. I'd like to take a moment to applaud the conference organizers and our new management team at McKenna for a virtual conference

very well done. I was impressed at the level of interactivity and personality they were able to bring to an online platform.

The agenda for our virtual business meeting aligned with our typical program, including a welcome from the chapter president, self-introductions, reports and updates from the Southeast Executive Board and committee chairs, and new business. We were happy to have our ARLIS/NA chapters liaison Stefanie Hilles join us to give her updates from the NA Executive Board, as well.

New business this spring included a vote on updates to our bylaws. I'd like to thank the bylaws review committee: Patricia Gimenez, Marty



Some attendees of the chapter business meeting on May 3. *Photo by Lindsey Reynolds.*

Miller, and Leah Sherman for their dedicated work and Stefanie Hilles for passing our changes through the ARLIS/NA review process in time for our vote. I'm happy to report that the changes were approved unanimously. You can find the updated bylaws on our chapter website: <http://southeast.arlisna.org/about/chapter-bylaws>.

Another item of new business we discussed, which happily falls in line with ARLIS/NA's upcoming 50th anniversary, is to update the chapter history. Leah Sherman is taking this project on with gusto and is looking for information, particularly from the early 2000's, to add to our documentation. We also discussed the continuing work on a chapter values statement and the creation of a chapter antiracist book club for the summer—look for more information about that on the listserv soon.

I hope everyone is able to take a deep breath this summer! There's so much to process collectively and personally; I encourage us all to rest and replenish. I know for many of us the fall will likely bring a return to in-person work and all the complications that come with that. If there are any ways that the chapter can support you, don't hesitate to reach out to me or any members of our executive board.

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## Member News

From **Raymond W. Smith**, bookseller, New Haven, Connecticut:

The Studley Press, Dalton, Massachusetts, has printed a third set of postcards from photographs I took on my cross-country road trip in 1974. This set of eleven images of Southern subjects, titled *The Road South*, is from my exhibition (which traveled to seven museums in the South from 2014 to 2018) and its accompanying catalog, *In Time We Shall Know Ourselves*. The portfolio is printed in a rich duotone.

During my trip through Alabama, I saw a road sign indicating that I was entering Hale County, the location of Walker Evans's and James Agee's

*Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. I decided that that day's output would be dedicated to and for Walker Evans.

He was my mentor and the one who encouraged me in my work. While a graduate student in American studies at Yale, I was invited to participate in the 1971–1972 Trumbull College seminar offered by Evans for undergraduates. The 1974 road trip was an attempt to create a document for the 1970s inspired by Evans's *American Photographs* of 1938.

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From **John J. Taormina**, Curator of Visual Resources, Communications and Exhibitions Coordinator, Dept. of Art, Art History & Visual Studies, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina:

John Taormina has been appointed the new moderator of the ARLIS/NA Visual Resources Division for the 2021–2022 term.

"ARLIS/NA's Visual Resources Division (VRD) is composed of members who are engaged in the acquisition, cataloging, curation, preservation, discovery, and circulation of visual content in analog and digital formats.

"As a division of the Society, special attention is focused on connecting with affinity organizations engaged in developing and supporting standards and best practices for dealing with images, metadata, digital asset management, collection development, preservation of at-risk collections, and staffing." ([From the ARLIS/NA website.](#))

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From **Floyd Michael Zula**, retired librarian and lifetime member of ARLIS/SE, Portland, Oregon:

The local southeastern Portland newspaper, the *Bee*, published some of what I contributed to them about the winter storm that hit February 12. We could not get out of our house for three days because of the dense ice cover everywhere. A tree

crushed the corner of a neighbor's house, missing us by ten feet. On the 15th, falling branches and trees knocked out our power for three days. At one point 250,000 people lacked power in the north end of the Willamette Valley.

Of late I have been downsizing my hoard of books (it is really too facetious to regard what I have accumulated as a focused collection) by commencing to donate books to Clatsop Community College in Astoria, Oregon (at the mouth of the Columbia River). Some COVID-related downturns in state funding for materials budgets in public and academic libraries were also a prompt. So far, I have donated sixty-nine titles, many art related.

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## Report from the ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison

by Stephanie Grimm,  
ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison,  
Art and Art History Librarian,  
George Mason University,  
Fairfax, Virginia

Happy summer, ARLIS/SE!

I'm excited to be "returning" to the Southeast chapter as your new board liaison. It was great to see so many familiar faces at the business meeting! While my term started just after the conference, there's already a lot happening behind the scenes to share. Here is a summary of some of my activities and the Executive Board's updates, including information shared at the Southeast chapter business meeting by Stefanie Hilles, your previous liaison.

### New Initiatives: Chapter Support and Resources

As liaison, one of my first tasks is to address questions and concerns around chapter membership and fundraising/donations. To that end, I am starting conversations between the Development Committee, the Membership Committee, Gaby Webster (our chapters contact in HQ/McKenna), and other groups as needed. Our goal is to evalu-

ate some of the issues arising out of bundled membership (including reporting questions) but also larger discussions of member recruitment and retention, student engagement, and strategies for chapter development with regard to these points.

In a similar vein, I am also developing a series of chapter-focused discussions like the Leadership Townhall series that the Executive Board ran this past year. While this is early in the planning stages, some potential topics include land acknowledgments, membership and student engagement, mentoring, and development. Various chapters expressed interest in these kinds of events, with both formal and informal or social elements, and I'm hoping they'll provide momentum on individual chapter work and shared progress across all chapters. More to come on both these efforts!

### Chapter Management & Officer Onboarding

Of interest to chapter leaders and officers: an updated version of the [Chapter Success Book](#) is now available on the ARLIS/NA website and archived in our Chapter Leaders Basecamp group. These updates reflect changes to the ARLIS/NA Bylaws and Policy Manual from the past few years, as well as clarification on filing deadlines for chapter 990-N forms.

On May 26, the Executive Board presented a Leadership Onboarding online session, which introduced new and continuing members of the Executive Board and McKenna, and shared an overview of guiding documents and supporting materials (like special funding request forms and technology) and other tools to support the work of leaders and officers. [A recording of this session is available on our new media platform](#), hosted by Kaltura through Michigan State University (MSU).

### Executive Board Updates

Our **new management company** (McKenna, or "headquarters") is now in place, under the guidance of Cambria Happ, executive director of ARLIS/NA. Some transition and updates are still happening behind the scenes, but you can see a

full list of headquarter contacts and responsibilities on the [ARLIS/NA website](#). Gaby Webster, deputy executive director, serves as the HQ point-of-contact for ARLIS/NA constituent groups. While chapters should continue to communicate questions and issues directly to me, Gaby can provide information and updates on your chapter rosters and membership dues payments.

One of McKenna's biggest projects for this summer is the transition to our **new association management system** (AMS) and **ARLIS/NA website** (AWS). Our hope is that this new system will improve the registration process and management of member renewals and reporting. There will also be some changes to the look and feel of the ARLIS/NA website as part of this transition. Cambria Happ is leading this project and will provide updates in the coming months.

Work continues on the **ARLIS/NA Commons**. This project was in a holding pattern due to COVID-19 conditions but has resumed now that members of the task force have been able to return to their offices. Content from the old Learning Portal is being reviewed and updated for import to the new system, which is hosted on the Kaltura platform through MSU (our host for the ARLIS/NA Commons). This work requires some significant updates to recording metadata and is expected to continue through the summer.

Over the past year, the Executive Board hosted several **Leadership Townhall** discussions on topics of leadership, advocacy, the society's 50th anniversary, systemic racism, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The board plans to continue these sessions and has expressed an interest in opening them up to a larger group of participants (i.e., not just those in leadership roles).

On the point of diversity, equity, and inclusion work, the **DEI Task Force** is managing three distinct initiatives: **student-led research** into the history of systemic racism and structural inequality in the library, publishing, and bookselling professions, with a special focus on art librarianship and ARLIS; a **membership survey** to inform the task force's work around perceptions of ARLIS/NA; and an **assessment of ARLIS/NA**

**affiliations** with other organizations that could support ARLIS's antiracism efforts. The DEI Task Force also organized the President's Choice session of the annual conference, "Changemakers Conversation: Addressing Systemic Racism, Effecting Change."

The **50th Anniversary Task Force** continues to plan for the annual conference next year in Chicago. As part of this, the group solicited chapters for details on their histories and archives. The task force also offered recommendations to other committees and groups, including Development and Documentation, to continue some of this work in the leadup to, and after, the 2022 conference.

I hope your summers are off to a great start, and I look forward to working with you all in the coming few years!

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**[Minutes from the  
ARLIS/NA Southeast Chapter  
Spring Business Meeting,  
May 3, 2021, 10:00 a.m.,  
Online via Zoom](#)**

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## Membership

Chapter membership is now bundled with ARLIS/NA membership. To join ARLIS/NA Southeast, or to renew your membership, find details [here](#).

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***ARTifacts* is published twice a year.  
Next submission deadline: December 10, 2021.  
Please send your contributions to:**  
**[wcary@themorris.org](mailto:wcary@themorris.org)**  
**Cary Wilkins**  
**Morris Museum of Art**  
**1 10th St. Ste. 320**  
**Augusta, GA 30901**

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