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ARLIS/SC Student Travel Award Conference Report:

I had a wonderful time at the ARLIS/NA Conference in Minneapolis, MN this year and greatly appreciate the chapter's support. Attending the conference made me aware of the value and extent of opportunities that professional organizations provide, particularly for students and new professionals. The most important things that I gained from the experience were a community of professionals, avenues for career exploration, and inspiration.

Attending the conference helped me become part of a community of art librarians and visual resources professionals. Social events such as the New Members and First Time Attendee's Breakfast and the Icebreaker Welcome Party at the Walker Art Center fostered the sense of community at the conference. These events gave me the opportunity to speak with professionals in a more casual setting as well as hear professionals discuss their careers with one another. I also became part of smaller communities within ARLIS/NA during the conference by attending Special Interest Groups and the Chapter Meeting. I participated in the ARLIS/NA Special Interest Group for Students and New Professionals (ARLiSNAP), where I met people in a similar position within their professional careers and learned about the resources ARLiSNAP provides on their website year-round, which include frequently updated job postings, tips on finding jobs, and technology tutorials. At the Chapter Meeting, I met local professionals and I learned about the chapter's events for the year, which I plan on attending and encouraging other UCLA students interested in art librarianship to attend. These community-building events at the conference encouraged me to become an active member in ARLIS/NA and other professional organizations.

The conference helped me realize the extent of career options within the field of art librarianship, and gave me the opportunity to learn more about these options. I met librarians from museums, architecture schools, fashion and design schools, public libraries, and academic institutions of all sizes. Speaking with these professionals gave me a glimpse into the variety of career paths I can choose to follow. For example, at the welcome party I met two librarians from the Fashion, Textile, and Costume special interest group who presented in the Postcards from the Edge workshop on textiles, and speaking with them sparked my interest in fashion and design libraries. I was also interested in learning more about working as a librarian within a museum, so I attended the Museums Division meeting at the conference where I was able to learn about the issues and concerns particular to this specialized group. My career exploration extended beyond the conference as well based on the contacts I made. For example, I met the head librarian at the Georgia O'Keefe Museum at the conference, and then was able to speak with her following the conference over the phone about her career and her advice for new professionals. My conference attendance was also a great talking point with other professionals during my graduate program's Spring Internship Fair. Attending the conference has greatly benefited my understanding of the career options I can pursue with my graduate degree.

The conference experience also rejuvenated me after two demanding quarters of graduate school while inspiring me to try out new ideas and think of creative solutions. Some of the most exciting sessions I attended were the Case Studies, Growing New Professionals Through Mentorship: A Two-Way Street, and the Closing Plenary with photographer Wing Young Huie. During the Case

Studies sessions, I learned about new projects that professionals are undertaking to advance the field. The most interesting of these were the augmented reality projects conducted by Liv Valmestad at Fort Garry campus of University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and PhillyHistory.org. These projects involve making a virtual layer of information that is mapped onto physical space. In the mentorship session, I learned tips for getting the most out of my current and future mentorship relationships and discovered that ARLIS/NA has both conference and year-long formal mentorship programs. Finally, the Closing Plenary emphasized the power of images and their ability to spread tolerance and insight by highlighting Wing Young Huie's public art projects in Minnesota. These sessions as well as the others I attended at the conference filled me with a sense of inspiration and hope for my future career.

I learned so much about the profession during my time in Minneapolis, and the knowledge and connections I gained will be instrumental in helping me make the most of my second year in Library School and beyond. I look forward to being involved in the Southern California Chapter, and I am already beginning to save for my trip to Toronto in 2012!