



Annual Report 2006
ARLIS/NA Western New York Chapter

Meetings:

On Friday, April 7, 2006, ARLIS/WNY met at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. A career panel on arts librarianship highlighted the morning. Held in the Sanford Room, Warren Hunting Smith Library, ARLIS/WNY members heard both prospective art and architecture librarians and mentors/experienced librarians share views and directions in the field. Dorothy served as facilitator. The three prospective librarians – Ligaya, Sue and Melissa – seemed to concur that they did not really know originally what art/architecture librarians did. They talked about their information needs and ways these needs could be met, including shadowing to learn what and how things are being done in libraries. They welcomed informal gatherings as opportunities for networking and establishing personal connections. They all noted that providing information on organizations such as ARLIS/WNY is important to the process of educational enrichment. Suggestions included job fairs, resume writing workshops, and other input from individuals and organizations to facilitate the job hunt. Stephanie, Kari, Margaret and Kate, a senior assistant librarian working in special projects at the University of Buffalo, then offered their perspectives from the field. The library can serve as a “home” for students, and students can look to experienced librarians as role models. Taking the time to provide guidance to interested students can help in recruiting to the profession. New librarians can also benefit from new employee orientations, and from mentoring by more experienced librarians. Many conferences offer special help for new librarians. In addition to the student listserv, ARLIS/NA offered a free mentoring workshop on how to facilitate the help process. The experienced librarians talked about new aspects in librarianship, such as project management becoming increasingly important. Stephanie stressed that a willingness to continue to learn and learn to change are essential in today’s world. Following lunch and the business meeting, the group took an architectural walking tour of historic Main Street, Geneva. Dr. Stan Mathews, Associate Professor of Architectural History, discussed the growth of this area of town. The day ended with an overview of the history of St. John’s Chapel, offered by Assistant Professor of Art History, Dr. Michael Tinkler.

On October 20, 2006, more than 30 members of the ARLIS/Western New York (WNY) and ARLIS/Ontario Chapters gathered at a joint meeting in Buffalo to hear about Frank Lloyd Wright’s (FLW’s) Darwin D. Martin House, and the “Influence of FLW on Architecture in Buffalo” in the University at Buffalo’s (UB’s) Anderson Gallery. In addition to offering this notable lecture, the joint meeting was intended to build on the success of an earlier joint meeting of the WNY/Ontario chapters in May, 2005 in Toronto. With this second meeting, we endeavored to continue to encourage and enhance cross-border communication and exchange of ideas in art and society. Further, in support of ARLIS NA recruitment goals, since between our two chapters, we have four library schools (Western Ontario, University at Buffalo, Syracuse University, and State University of New York at Albany), the WNY chapter sought special funding from ARLIS, NA to enable us to invite interested students and prospective art librarians to attend an interesting and enjoyable meeting and to defray their travel and

registration expenses. In addition to chapter members, three travel scholarship awardees attended the meeting, including: Jessica Fadel, a recent graduate of the MLS program at the University of Buffalo, who also holds an MS degree in art history from the University of Edinburgh; Nicholas Sovot a fourth year student at the Rochester Institute of Technology majoring in advertising photography, who is presently applying to several graduate programs in art history and library science; and Jennifer Russell, who holds a BFA in illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. At present Jennifer is studying at the College of Computing and Information, University of Albany. The invitation to these prospective librarians reinforced our year's effort to emphasize recruitment and followed up on the WNY Spring meeting in Geneva, which featured a panel of prospective librarians and mentors who spoke about mentoring, internships, highlighting best practices for recruiting new art librarians. ARLIS/WNY voted unanimously to approve Chapter Affiliation with ARLIS/NA.

Treasury:

The opening treasury balance was \$640.15; closing balance is \$1,901.63.

The chapter received an unrestricted donation of \$100.00; 2005 membership renewals of \$20.00; 2006 membership renewals of \$500.00; 2007 membership renewals of \$260.00. The spring 2005 meeting of 2006 was funded by the Provost of Hobart and William Smith Colleges generating a revenue intake of \$240.00 for the chapter. Special funding for bringing in students was provided by ARLIS/NA and Wilson.

Planning:

The chapter is investigating insurance costs for its officers; Dorothy Tao offered to spearhead this effort. We are also looking into a graduated dues format; Kathryn Vaughn will present an option to the chapter at the Spring 2007 meeting after hearing about insurance costs from Dorothy.

We are also considering increasing our donation to ARLIS/NA for the national conference and hope to continue travel awards both to students for attending the chapter meetings and to a member of the chapter to attend the national conference.

We hope to meet in Rochester for the spring 2007 meeting.

Respectively submitted,

Kathryn Vaughn, President
ARLIS NA, WNY Chapter
1/10/07