

President's Letter

Teresa Moreno

Dear WAAC Members,

While I'm sure you are all busy with summer, it is not too early to start thinking about the fall and all that it will bring this year.

The conference schedule for September and October in the western U.S. is jam-packed, but the one that I know you all are most looking forward to is the WAAC annual meeting, which this year will be held November 1-4 in Tucson, Arizona.

This later date for this year's meeting was selected to avoid conflicts with other meetings and conferences in the region, but also to let us take advantage of the cooling fall weather. It also coincides nicely with one of Tucson's signature events.

However, before the WAAC annual meeting, we also have to attend to the business of our annual WAAC election. The WAAC nominating committee is currently looking for outgoing and enthusiastic conservators to serve on the WAAC board. Professional service on the WAAC board is a fabulous way to network across sub-disciplines with other conservation professionals from across the western U.S. and even beyond. There are three positions that will come open this year and will need to be filled, maybe even by you! For those of you who may not be familiar with the make-up of the WAAC board, in addition to the president, the board includes the vice-president (VP), four members-at-large (MALs), the treasurer, the secretary, the fulfillments officer, the web editor, and the newsletter editor. Each year a new VP and two MALs are elected.

The VP serves two years total; one year as VP and then the second year as WAAC president. The VP is responsible for collecting and compiling the regional news and thus has opportunities throughout the year to interact with all of our fantastic WAAC regional reporters. They also, with the help of the nominating committee, coordinate the all-important annual election. In the second year of service, along with the privilege of becoming WAAC president, there comes the responsibility and treat of planning the annual meeting!

If you would like to see the annual WAAC meeting come to your region or town, and you have a penchant for planning parties or other highly civilized large gatherings with like-minded professionals, now is the time to put your name in the hat! Self-nominations are not only accepted, they are encouraged and most greatly appreciated!

The MALs hold two-year terms as well. Every year two MALs rotate off the board after serving their second years, and two new MALs are elected. This rotation ensures that there is always overlap of service among the four MALs on the board. The MALs serve on special committees as needed and often assist the VP with the election and the president with details pertaining to planning and implementing the annual meeting. If you are even remotely interested in professional service, but aren't yet ready to jump in the race for WAAC VP and are intimidated by the idea of serving on a larger national committee, serving as MAL on the WAAC board is a great way to get your toes wet!

Serving on the WAAC board is not only a rewarding way to fulfill a professional requirement for service, and give an injection of life to your curriculum vitae, it is also quite simply a lot of fun! The board meets twice a year, once at the WAAC annual meeting and once mid-year (usually January or February) in the Los Angeles area. Who wouldn't like a reason to travel to sunny LA in the late winter/early spring? While the agenda is usually quite full, covering all aspects of WAAC business, the mid-year board meeting always affords good times with friends, old and new, and often includes a delightful culinary experience. If one is so fortunate to be elected, the WAAC board meetings are not to be missed!

So, now that you are all clamoring to run in this year's election for one of the coveted seats on the WAAC board (and please don't hesitate to send or email your nominations to Randy Silverman, our current VP, at Randy.Silverman@utah.edu), let's move on to the details of the annual meeting.

Contents

President's Letter	1
Regional News	4
VLT - Very Low Tech Technical Exchange	12
Art and Fumigation: Should It Stay or Should It Go <i>by Chris Stavroudis</i>	16
Letter to the Editor: Regarding Insects and Structures <i>from John A. Fidler</i>	20
Conference Review: Metal Soaps in Art, 2016 <i>by Charlotte Ameringer</i>	21
AYMHM	26

President's letter, continued

As I mentioned, the 2016 WAAC annual meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona, November 1-4. The conference will commence on the evening of Tuesday, November 1, with an opening reception at the Arizona State Museum.

This year's meeting venue is the Silver & Sage Ballroom in the iconic territorial-style "Old Main" building, located in the heart of the University of Arizona campus. Old Main is the original University of Arizona building, designed by architect James Miller Creighton and constructed in 1891 when Arizona was still only a U.S. Territory. A walk up the wooden stairs and across the deep covered porch conjures up the spirit of the Old West. The building recently underwent extensive renovation and restoration that was completed in 2014, and it has been certified LEED silver by the U.S. Green Building Council, making it the oldest building in Arizona to receive LEED certification.

The conference sessions will get under way on Wednesday, November 2. The day will begin with a presentation on the preservation of Old Main by Corky Poster, architect and principal with Poster Frost Mirto, Inc., the local architectural firm that was part of the restoration team. There will be general session talks for the rest of the morning and afternoon on Wednesday, and all day on Thursday, November 3.

On Friday, November 4, there will be a special session that will highlight the on-going work by local teams to conserve and preserve the historic Mission San Xavier del Bac, which is located just south of Tucson on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. Built on the edge of the Spanish Empire in the late 18th century, this Catholic Mission is a National Historic Landmark and is the oldest functioning building of European origin in Arizona. We will end the formal conference on Friday afternoon with an excursion to San Xavier and guided tours by the morning speakers. You aren't going to want to miss this!

Though the formal conference will have come to a close, there will still be plenty of activity to engage you over the weekend and even into the following week! We are planning an Angels Project on Saturday, November 5, in collaboration with the Old Pascua Museum and Yaqui Culture Center. The focus will be on the documentation and assessment of two-dimensional art by Yaqui artists, including works of art on paper in a variety of media, and a large mural by Daniel Leon. I hope a good number of paper and paintings conservators will consider signing up, but of course, all experienced conservation professionals will be welcome.

The Week at a Glance

<u>Tuesday</u> <u>Nov. 1</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>Nov.2</u>	<u>Thursday</u> <u>Nov. 3</u>	<u>Friday</u> <u>Nov. 4</u>	<u>Saturday</u> <u>Nov. 5</u>
	Registration	General Session	Special Session: Preservation of Mission San Xavier del Bac	Angel's Project: Old Pascua Museum and Yaqui Cultural Center
WAAC Board Meeting	Conference Commences: Key Note Presentation	General Session	Tour: Mission San Xavier del Bac	
Registration & Reception at ASM	General Session	General Session		
	WAAC Board Dinner			

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 Articles and most columns from past issues of WAAC Newsletter are available on-line at the WAAC website, a part of CoOL (Conservation OnLine) <http://cool.conservation-us.org/waac/>.

Deadline
 Contributions for the May Newsletter should be received by the Editor before **April 5, 2016**.

Western Association for Art Conservation

The Western Association for Art Conservation (formerly, the Western Association of Art Conservators), also known as WAAC, was founded in 1974 to bring together conservators practicing in the western United States to exchange ideas, information, and regional news, and to discuss national and international matters of common interest.

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Individual Membership in WAAC costs \$40 per year (\$45 Canada, \$50 overseas) and entitles the member to receive the WAAC Newsletter and the annual Membership Directory, attend the Annual Meeting, vote in elections, and stand for office. Institutional Membership costs \$45 per year (\$50 Canada, \$55 overseas) and entitles the institution to receive the WAAC Newsletter and Membership Directory. For membership or subscription, contact: Denise Migdail secretary@waac-us.org

Tucson, a UNESCO World City of Gastronomy!

You may have noticed that, aside from the opening reception that will be held at ASM on Tuesday, November 1, there is no formal WAAC banquet or dinner function planned.

The reason is that you will be coming to Tucson, a UNESCO World City of Gastronomy! (It is the first U.S. city to be so named, by the way.) There are so many amazing local farm-to-table dining options, from food-trucks to fine dining, that you will have a hard time choosing during the course of your stay. I am putting together a list of my favorites that I will include with the registration information.

However, in the meantime, if you are intrigued by this you can do your own research by exploring links that are available at this site. If you are a foodie, you are going to love this! tucsonaz.gov/integrated-planning/tucson-unesco-city-gastronomy

President's letter, continued

Plans are also in the works to offer a 3-day **Materials Characterization Workshop** (yes, spot-testing!) that will be taught by Nancy Odegaard and Scott Carrlee. The workshop will be held in the conservation lab at the Arizona State Museum, November 7-9. Details and registration information for this workshop will be forthcoming. If you have always wanted to take this workshop, but haven't had the opportunity, you should definitely pencil this into your agenda. Space will be limited so early registration is a must.

For those of you interested in sticking around over the weekend whether for the Angels Project or the Materials Characterization Workshop, or just to enjoy some warm desert sunshine and local culture, you will be able to experience what has become one of southern Arizona's most unique and meaningful cultural events, the All Souls Procession. The All Souls Procession incorporates art and performance with Hispanic, indigenous, and other cultural traditions of making offerings to and remembering and celebrating our ancestors and loved ones who have passed. The energy of the procession of celebrants and mourners is profound as it winds its way through the streets of downtown Tucson and culminates in a communal expression of grief and loss and a celebration of life and hope. Whether you choose to watch from the sidewalks as the procession passes by or join in yourselves, the experience is moving and memorable. More details about the procession, related events, and how to get involved can be found at allsoulsprocession.org/.

Art, culture, and good food! What more can you ask of a professional conservation meeting? Creative, informative, and thought provoking papers and presentations, of course! The schedule of talks is starting to fill in nicely. Already, I have received a number of really interesting abstracts, but there is still plenty of room for you to share your most recent conservation conundrums, treatment tips, and research advances! While it turns out that the meeting is both starting and ending with an architectural preservation theme, this by no means will dictate what papers will be selected for the general sessions. **Papers on topics from all areas of art conservation and related fields are welcome!** Please send your abstracts of 300 words or less to me at president@waac-us.org. The deadline for submission is September 1!

I look forward to your receiving your abstract submissions and to hosting you all here in my home town and alma mater for our annual meeting!

Sincerely,

Teresa