western association
waac
for art conservation
Newsletter

September 2012 Volume 34 Number 3

President's Letter

Daniel Cull

Dear Membership,

This is my third and final letter as President, it's a bittersweet moment. Writing this letter I've realized I'm sad to be leaving the board, but also glad to see my term coming to an end and the vague plans I laid out a year or so ago looking set to flourish into an actual real life conference.

Contents

President's Letter 1

Regional News 3

Publications from Our Members 8

The Multipurpose Mount An Adjustable Support for Photography and Radiography of Ancient Dinetah Pottery 10
by Jamie Hascall

The Organic Analysis of Artworks: Early Challenges and Future Directions 12
by Kristin deGhetaldi

Conference Review

The CAPS 3 London Workshop: A Space-time Continuum of pH and Conductivity 18
by Nicholas Dorman

More from CAPS3: Surfactants, silicone-based solvents, and microemulsions 24
by Chris Stavroudis

AYMHM 28

Yes indeed, the annual meeting is nearly upon us. Planning seems to be going pretty well right now. In the last few months there have definitely been some days where nothing seems to come together however much I try, and then other days where it all seems to fall into place without my even having thought about it. Today was one of the latter days, so I'm in a very positive mood about the conference today and am truly looking forward to it. Papers will be presented from a range of conservation disciplines, in an interdisciplinary and collegiate setting for which WAAC is famous.

The Palm Springs Art Museum will provide a comfortable setting for enlightening discussions, and I hope you also take a bit of time to explore the museum itself - as PSAM have been kind enough to extend free entrance to all conference attendees. On the first day of the conference, there are also hikes and tours where you can join your colleagues to find out more about what Palm Springs has to offer. There's also an angels project where you can share your expertise and experience, as well as help out a collection in need. Don't forget to bring items for the silent auction, I've been told there's already some great stuff that's been donated… so dig deep and see what you can come up with. Whatever you do in Palm Springs I hope the annual meeting is fun and informative.

Having discussed a little about what I've been up to, I'd like to take a second to thank Vice President Nicholas Dorman, who formed a nominating committee with Suzanne Friend and J. Claire Dean, and worked tirelessly to put together the slate of candidates who stood in this year's election. I hope you voted, and even more than that, I hope that you'll consider standing for a position next year. WAAC relies on the effort of the volunteer board members to run, and there's much to be said for the positive experience of working closely with a group of dedicated conservation professionals from across the West. I wish Nick the best of luck as he transitions into the role of President, it's been great getting to know him this last year, and I'm sure he'll do a wonderful job. I extend the same best wishes to the new MALs and VP.

In the last *Newsletter* you'll have seen a membership survey, As you'll no doubt be aware, the idea for a survey came out of our thinking about the financial situation WAAC is in, as it's not great. Amongst the board there's been a lot of discussions this year about both the short and the long term sustainability of an organization such as ours. The questions essentially boil down to: What do we do? Why do we do it? Do we do it well? Should we do it? What else should we do? How do we pay for it? The board is only a small fraction of the total membership, so it seemed only logical to me that we broaden the discussion, and the scope of possible ideas, before coming to any decisions. Therefore the survey is a great opportunity for you to help shape the future of WAAC. I hope you'll take the time to share your thoughts.

As this is the last of my letters I thought I'd share some of my own thoughts; for what they're worth. I think this is a truly exciting time for our profession. We're living in a world that is in a period of flux, as new forms of content creation and sharing seem to appear and disappear in the blink of an eye. Yet the one constant seems to be a public expectation that information will be disseminated freely. We've seen university libraries drop journals that hold their content behind pay walls, and we've seen governments demand that the results of their funding be distributed through open-

access channels. At the same time we've seen corporations enact stricter controls over their brands and their copyrights. Every change comes with a cost and every action a reaction. It is my own belief that conservators will increasingly begin to look to their academic/professional organizations less to provide "answers" and more to provide "data" to use, and re/interpret themselves. This has already been seen in websites that present information about conservation based on data-mining sites such as the Consdistlist. As the edu-punks said "give us data, we'll visualize it for you." It seems to me that WAAC is in a great place to consider strategies to utilize this societal shift towards portability, free-sharing, and remixing, as we already have a pretty robust system of data sharing and dissemination - you're reading it right now! There are my thoughts, and I freely admit I may be entirely wrong. As Joe Strummer said, "The future is unwritten." What does your idea of the future look like? Please let us know.

I'd like to close by offering my appreciation to the board as a whole for their work over the last year. It's been a tricky year in terms of navigating financial troubles and issues of sustainability of a regional conservation organization, but WAAC seems to be weathering the storm thanks to all the board's hard work and dedication.

I'd like to extend an especially big thanks to outgoing MALs Molly Gleeson and Sean Charette, who joined the board at the same time as I did and who have both been a constant help to me in tasks big and small. I'd also like to extend a special thanks to Chris Stavroudis and Carolyn Tallent who have answered my numerous questions and provided sage advice. Their long term service to WAAC is an impressive example for us all. I'd also like to thank you, the membership, for without you WAAC simply wouldn't exist. After all you are the organization, which is why the first part of the *Newsletter* I read is always the regional news section, so excuse me while I turn the page.

See you in Palm Springs -

Cheers,

Dan

Welcome to the world Theresa Brynn and Abigail Drury Bender (5lb 7oz. and 5lb. 2oz) born June 19! And Congratulations to Moms Kate and Brynn Bender.

(One of the many perks of being a Board Member is having one's babies' pictures in the *Newsletter.*)

Volume 34 Number 3
WAAC Newsletter

WAAC Newsletter (ISSN 1052-0066) is a publication of the nonprofit Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC). It is published three times per year, in January, May, and September. WAAC Newsletter is printed on alkaline paper. Copyright 2012Western Association for Art Conservation.

EDITOR
Carolyn Tallent

newsletter@waac-us.org

REGIONAL NEWS
Nicholas Dorman
vp@waac-us.org

HEALTH & SAFETY
Chris Stavroudis

cstavrou@ix.netcom.com

ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED
Susanne Friend

sef@conservartassoc.com

COPY EDITOR Wendy Partridge

Photocopying

To make academic course packets that include articles from WAAC Newsletter, contact the authors of the articles directly.

Note to Authors

Authors of articles and other contributions accepted for publication in WAAC Newsletter assign to WAAC Newsletter the right to publish their work in both print and electronic form and to archive it and make it permanently retrievable electronically. Authors retain copyright, however, and may republish their work in any way they wish.

Disclaimer

The Western Association for Art Conservation does not recommend particular individuals, businesses, treatments, products, or services. WAAC Newsletter is simply a vehicle for the presentation of information from various sources. Publication of articles or reports in the Newsletter should not be construed as an endorsement of their content by WAAC. Opinions expressed in articles published in the Newsletter are those of the authors.

Internet

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 January *Newsletter* should be received by the Editor before **December 15, 2012.**