ARLIS/NA Internship Award Sub-Committee

Submitted by: Cathy Billings, Chair
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Submitted: March 2009

2007-2008 Internship Award Sub-Committee Members:
Cathy Billings (Chair), Maureen Burns, Robert Gore, Kristen Regina, Rina Vecchiola

2008-2009 Internship Award Sub-Committee Members:
Greta Bahnemann, Cathy Billings (Chair), Maureen Burns, Robert Gore, Rina Vecchiola

Leadership Update
Cathy Billings served a second term (2008/2009) as Chair of the Internship Award Sub-Committee and completed her fourth year on the sub-committee; she plans to resign from the sub-committee. Maureen Burns completed her third year of service on the sub-committee and will resign; Greta Bahnemann completed her first year of service and will continue on the 2009/2010 sub-committee; Robert Gore completed his second year of service and will continue on the 2009/2010 sub-committee; Rina Vecchiola completed her second year of service and will be proposed to take over as sub-committee chair in 2009/2010. Two new members need to be recruited to fill vacancies.

35th Annual Conference – Atlanta, GA
At the Atlanta conference Convocation ceremony Cathy Billings presented the 2006-2007 award to winner Martha González Palacios on behalf of out-going chair Henry Pisciotta who was not in attendance.

Available members of the sub-committee met at a scheduled meeting in Atlanta on Sunday, April 29. Topics of discussion included:

- The composition of the 2007-2008 Sub-Committee (attributes/affiliations to look for in new member recruitment, etc.).
- The unsolicited suggestion received in the prior year that the Internship Award be named in honor of an esteemed member of ARLIS/NA. The members agreed that naming the award could be a good fundraising opportunity. The suggestion was forwarded to the Board for their consideration.
- Reviewing the award process and timeline, including:
  - publicity and ARLIS/NA website content,
  - method of collecting applications,
  - application requirements,
  - method of review and evaluation of applications,
  - assisting with placement coordination/advising award winners regarding placement
- The possibilities for collaboration with other award sub-committees (Travel and Gerd Meusham) that also advertise to a student and recent graduate audience; in particular discussion of the preparation and sharing of an email distribution list for MLIS program staff and faculty in the US and Canada.
36th Annual Conference – Denver, CO
At the Denver conference Convocation ceremony Cathy Billings presented the 2007-2008 award to winner Shilpa Rele.

Available members of the sub-committee met at a scheduled meeting in Denver on Sunday, May 4th. Topics of discussion included:

- Plans to survey past applicants to gather feedback on the award process (clarity of the call for submissions, the effectiveness of our publicity, etc.).
- Membership of the 2008-2009 sub-committee.
- An update on the Visual Resources Association’s efforts to establish an internship award.

2006-2007 Award (Update)
2006-2007 award recipient Martha Gonzalez Palacios carried out her internship at the Frances Loeb Library at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design between May 16 and June 29, 2007. Working with the head librarian (Hugh Wilburn), the conservator and others she undertook a survey of their folio collection, consisting primarily of late 19th and 20th century architecture and landscape architecture book and plate sets. She evaluated six hundred titles and nearly one thousand items, assessing and recording their condition and reviewing and updating existing cataloging records. In his summary of her service Hugh stated “We enjoyed her as much as I believe she enjoyed working with the staff here. Her detailed work on the Folio inventory project resulted in a wealth of data that we will ingest and process -- and the collection is in better shape physically than it has been in the 16 years that I have been at the Library.” The second installment of Martha’s award ($1,250) was issued at the end of August 2007.

2007-2008 Award
Timeline for the 2007-2008 award:

- October 15, 2007: Deadline for submission of applications to Internship Award Sub-Committee
- December 10, 2007: Internship Award Sub-Committee announces award recipient for 2008

Based on discussions that took place at the Atlanta conference and via email post-conference, several slight changes were made to the process for 2007-2008; these were reflected in publicity materials and the ARLIS/NA website content for 2007-2008. These included:

- Increasing the essay word limit from 250 to 300. With the award becoming more competitive the members of the sub-committee felt we needed more narrative from candidates to aid us in making our selection.
- Candidates were asked to submit all their materials electronically.
- Applicants were given 6 weeks instead of 4 between the call for applications and the deadline for receipt of applications.
- A listing of deadlines by which a host institution must be selected by the winner was removed from publicity materials and the ARLIS/NA website. The sub-committee felt this very specific information pertained only to the award winner and was more appropriately discussed with them directly and that its
inclusion in the general Internship Award information was perhaps confusing to prospective applicants.

The call for applications was sent to the following email lists or posted on their blogs or websites:
- ARLIS-L
- ArLiSNAP Blog
- VRA-L
- SAA Museum Archives Listserv
- ALA student members
- SLA Museums, Arts & Humanities Division
- SLA Student Chapter faculty advisors
- CAA (College Art Association)
- MCN
- List of library science graduate program staff (created in 2006-07)

Thirty-two applications were received (twenty-six from the United States and six from Canada) representing twenty-three distinct graduate library and information science programs and one non-library and information science graduate program.

Applications were collected electronically by Cathy Billings and sent on compact disc to sub-committee members. All sub-committee members read and scored applications and participated in email and conference call discussions to select the winning applicant. The sub-committee chair contacted the references provided by the top applicant. The winner was notified by telephone and the candidates not chosen were sent personalized email notifications.

The recipient of the 2007-2008 Internship Award was Shilpa Rele. Shilpa completed her internship with the Steve.museum project, a collaborative research effort of museums in the United States that explores the usefulness of social tagging for providing access to online collections. At her host institution, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, she worked with the Art and Education Systems Manager and her UCLA faculty advisor who is a research participant in the project, familiarizing herself with the project's research methodology and assigning tags to objects. The bulk of her time was spent organizing and analyzing the tag data collected over the life of the LACMA project. Her contribution will assist project researchers as they continue to study the patterns and possibilities of social tagging for online museum collections. The second installment of Shilpa’s award ($1,250) was issued at the end of December 2008.

**2008-2009 Award**

Timeline for the 2008-2009 award:
- October 15, 2008: Deadline for submission of applications to Internship Award Sub-Committee
- December 10, 2008: Internship Award Sub-Committee announces award recipient for 2009

No changes were made to the posting or process for 2008-2009.

The call for applications was sent to the same email lists and posted on the same blogs or websites as in the previous year.
Thirty applications were received (five from Canada and twenty-five from the United States). Four Provinces and fifteen States were represented. Twenty-two different MLIS programs were represented.

Applications were collected electronically by Rina Vecchiola and shared with sub-committee members using the web-based Google Docs application. All sub-committee members read and scored applications and participated in email and conference call discussions to select the winning applicant. The sub-committee chair contacted the references provided by the top applicant. The winner was notified by telephone and the candidates not chosen were sent personalized email notifications.

The recipient of the 2008-2009 Internship Award was Adrienne Lai. Adrienne is presently a candidate for Joint Master of Archival Studies and Library and Information Studies graduate degrees at the University of British Columbia. She holds a BFA from the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design in Vancouver, B.C., and an MFA from the University of California, Irvine. She currently serves as events coordinator and communications director for the Special Library Association’s student chapter at the University of British Columbia. Adrienne is focused on a career in an academic art library or visual resources collection where she can focus on reference services, creative approaches to instruction, and liaison and outreach work. She also plans to continue her investigations into research methods related to the visual arts disciplines and hopes to disseminate her findings through presentations and publications.

The sub-committee is currently advising Adrienne as she makes the arrangements for her internship. The first installment of Adrienne’s award ($1,250) will be issued once the internship arrangements are finalized and approved by the sub-committee. She will be in attendance at the 37th Annual Conference to accept her award at the Convocation ceremony.

**Other 2008/2009 Activity**

Per discussions at the Denver conference, the sub-committee surveyed applicants from the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 seasons to gather feedback on the application process. The survey was written by Maureen Burns and Rina Vecchiola and disseminated by Maureen using the University of California, Irvine’s web-based survey tool. Results will be shared and discussed via email and at the sub-committee’s meeting in Indianapolis.

**Issues for the Executive Board**

None at present.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Billings
Chair, ARLIS/NA Internship Award Sub-Committee

cc:
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