Pres Section Business Meeting Opening Remarks

[SLIDE 1: Agenda] Hello and thank you for joining us today. This year in Preservation has been exciting and productive. Before I give you reports from each committee, I would like to start with thank yous to all of the steering committee members, whose commitment and help this year has been outstanding. From running surveys to revising the website and its content, we have continued to built a solid foundation for making the Preservation Section a resource for our membership, for all SAA members and the community beyond. Over the last couple of years we have really strived towards improving the function of this Section, and I think we made significant progress this year.

So, could the Steering Committee please stand up and would everyone give them a round of applause. Now, committee reports: our Outreach Committee chairs, Kate Elgayeva and Alix Bentrund worked hard on promoting Preservation Week through social media our Section website [SLIDE 2: Pres Week webpage screenshot]. The Outreach Committee created a webpage listing of Preservation Week events on the Section’s site and received notices from 16 agencies about Preservation Week activities. [SLIDE 3: Pres Week Poster] We also made the preservation poster available again this year. [SLIDE 4: Pres Survey screenshot] The Outreach Committee also executed a membership survey to identify the demographics of this group, their awareness of the Section’s website, and the Membership’s needs for education and training. Survey questions were created with the cooperation of the entire Steering Committee. The survey was also used as a tool to recruit volunteers and encourage section participation. There were seventy-four survey respondents (.07% of the membership). The top preservation concerns of the respondents include digital preservation (or electronic records), environmental control and resources (staff/funding/space). 70% of the respondents would like more digital preservation training offered in an education setting and over 50% marked a need for more training on collection assessments. Topics you’d like to see at SAA annual conference include digital preservation, reformatting (especially audiovisual reformatting), institutional case studies and assessments. And, you’d like to be able to access information and resources from SAA online. Most significantly, we found out that almost none of the respondents use or even know about the Preservation Section website. SO, here it is [SLIDE 5: Pres Section homepage + URL]: it is the 2nd option when you Google it (Brian Doyle is working on that), but go there and poke around. To highlight the content we’ve got up there now, I will continue with a report from the Education committee.

Education Committee chairs Katie Mullen and Rachel Onuf focused on revising the preservation resources page of the preservation section website [SLIDE 6: Resources page screenshot]. Categories were refreshed, links added and updated, and with the help of a volunteer, Dyani Feige, the annual bibliography of "Selected Readings in Preservation" was revived after a ten-year hiatus. Dyani covered the years from 2009 to 2011.  Another volunteer is working on updating the list of “Other Professional Preservation Groups and Departments.”

While these activities were going on, our Web Liaison Lance Stuchel and Member-at-Large Supriya Wronkiewicz migrated all Preservation Section web content to the new SAA Drupal platform. Most of the pages we created have been updated, but there are some to be worked on in the coming year. We hope that its organization and accessibility makes sense to you.

We had some excellent legwork by the Nominating Committee Greg Schmid and Shelby Sanett to pull together a slate of candidates that makes me wish all nominees could be elected at the same time. Thanks to everyone for voting. We had 185 votes and it was a very tight race. I want to congratulate Gina Minks on becoming the new Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Elizabeth Joffrion as the new Member at Large, and Jane Long who will join us on the Nominating Committee.

I whole-heartedly appreciate Daria D’Arizeno’s work as Program Committee chair and all of her help coordinating with our speakers and providing advice and support during the year as I worked closely with her to organized the educational program of this meeting.

Finally, with a baby and all, our Fund Raising Committee chair Kara McClurken worked with volunteers Craig Fensler and \_\_\_\_ to created the apron graphic. She coordinated with SAA headquarters and got the aprons produced and out here for you to buy to in support of the disaster relief fund.

As chair a goal for me this year was to lay some groundwork to make the Preservation Section a more actively used resource for our members, both of the Preservation Section and the wider SAA community. From where we came when I was Vice Chair and Shelby was Chair, I think we’ve established a firm foundation and hope that the Section can grow in innovative ways, which the leadership in our Steering committee and volunteers contribute to over the next several years.

Before we move into the education portion of the program, I’d like to ask if there are any member announcements or job announcements you’d like to share at this time.

[SLIDE 7: Program panelist] Thank you for attending this portion of the meeting. We have some wonderfully engaging panelists today that were asked to talk about Preservation in the 21st Century. I chose this broad theme for a couple of reasons. As I myself, an archivist, became more engaged with the preservation community, it became quite clear that the meaning and implementation of preservation in the cultural community today has grown quite a bit from what it was two and three decades ago. Now is certainly a time to reflect on how we teach preservation, what the expectations are and how we implement programs on both small and large scale. Another inspiration for this topic was the 2010 International Council on Archives conference in Lisbon: it focus being entirely on the theme of Preservation in the 21st century. This topic is broad and can take many angles. As Chair, I felt it was a very important topic to explore it in the company of the Preservation Section and the topics we will cover today include preservation education, professional responsibility, digital preservation, collaboration and research. I hope that this panel generates some buzz, inspires professional conversation, and provides a seed for collaborations, projects or research. The topic for this panel was meant to dovetail from the earlier conversation started in Session 110 “Partnerships New and Old: Preservation in the 21st Century” that included both digital archivists and preservation administrators to discuss the place of digital preservation in the field today.

I will introduce each speaker individually. To start us off, to set the stage, we have Michele Cloonan. Michele been Dean and Professor at Simmons GSLIS since 2002.  Before that she taught at UCLA. She has written extensively about preservation and in 2010 was awarded the Paul N. Banks/Carolyn Harris Award for Preservation from the American Library Association. Michele will examine how preservation education has evolved from focusing on academic library collections to considering cultural heritage more broadly.  The archives field had a lot to do with this shift: as archives programs grew, the demand for preservation courses grew as well.  A second change in focus began with the creation of digital collections.  Today's broader focus on physical and digital collections has led to new partnerships and career paths for students.  The paper will conclude with some predictions about future directions.

**Ann Marie Willer** is the Preservation Librarian for the MIT Libraries.  She oversees the care of MIT’s circulating collection (both print-based and media), coordinates the disaster response team, facilitates digitization projects, and contributes to preservation planning for the Libraries.  She is Chair of the NEDCC Advisory Committee and Past-Chair of ALA’s Preservation and Reformatting Section. Ann Marie will summarize what a “typical” preservation administrator used to do, will examine changes as revealed in recent job postings, through her own experience and colleagues in the field. She will also touch on the evolution of how we advocate for and treat traditional book and paper collections, a growing need for a broader knowledge base that includes familiarity or expertise in metadata, the building and management of institutional repositories, the mechanisms of digital preservation, copyright, and Audio/Visual reformatting. And finally she will discuss the increased emphasis on funding (grants, donors, or cost-recovery) and the attendant skills of marketing and business management.

**Ian Bogus** has been the MacDonald Curator of Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries for almost two years where he has been developing their new preservation program. Previously, he had preservation positions at Yale and Rutgers where he worked on preserving analog and digital materials. Ian will be speaking on how we can map traditional preservation to digital preservation. For years the words “digital preservation” struck fear in the hearts of librarians and archivists most comfortable with preserving traditional materials. This talk will illustrate how the strategies for preserving digital content is actually very similar to those available for traditional materials. The difference lies mostly with terminology. Preservation options for either traditional or digital materials involve weighing multiple options based on various criteria such as the source material, value, and scarcity. Selecting the appropriate option requires the same thought process: what needs to be preserved in this object and what are the tools available to do it? The intent is to help non-tech archivists become more comfortable making digital preservation decisions.

**Karen Gracey** is Assistant Professor at the School of Library and Information Science, Kent State University.  She teaches in the areas of digital preservation, digital curation, and archival studies, with a particular interest in media archives.  Her research interests include preservation and curation of digital media, audiovisual archiving, preservation education, and the social contexts of information creation and use, focusing on ethics and values.  Her most recent publications include a review of recent preservation literature for *Library Resources and Technical Services*, and a forthcoming article in *American Archivist*, "Distribution and Consumption Patterns of Archival Moving Images in Online Environments." Today she will present on how the last decade has brought significant change to the preservation education landscape.  While some long-established preservation and conservation education programs for library and archival materials have been eliminated or moved to new institutions, other programs have new specializations such as audiovisual preservation, digital preservation, and digital curation have been established. Gracey asks ‘what constitutes a holistic approach to preservation education, one which honors the traditions of analog preservation work, yet integrates new knowledge and skill sets from information technology, digital libraries, archival science, and knowledge management?’