VISUAL MATERIALS SECTION

ATLANTA 2016

Minutes

Paula Mangiafico

Visual Materials Section (VMS) meeting called to order by Chair, Paula Jeannet Mangiafico at 3:35 pm on August 4, 2016. Introduction of agenda (also up on screen).

1. Announcements:

* Introduction of new VMS intern: Nicola Shayer (not present at meeting). She will be involved with Section projects and planning for 2016-2017.
* Reminders: SAA in Atlanta VM-related meet-ups and other events. A big thank-you to Laura Treat, who helped coordinate local arrangements.
* It’s our 65th anniversary! Chair thanked Steering Committee team members involved in planning, special events and projects, as well as special issue of VMS newsletter, *Views*: Gerrianne Schaad, Kim Andersen, John Slade, and Deborah Rice. Reminder of VMS anniversary dinner later that evening.
* Chair also gave special thanks to Stephen Fletcher and Patrick Cullom, who put on an all-day collaborative workshop on born-digital visual materials, which was enthusiastically received by 75 attendees. Also thanks to Gerrianne Schaad and Kim Andersen for putting together the workshop logistics. We will explore the possibility of a similar workshop for next year.
* Chair asked for any additions to announcements or to the meeting agenda.

1. Chair’s speech on theme of diversity and inclusion and VMS history.

In large part due to efforts by Section leaders to encourage an inclusive and outward-looking environment, the Section has experienced a surge of energy and participation by members from a wide variety of backgrounds.

In order to ensure that VM keeps reaching out to archivists working with formats other than the ubiquitous photographs and film, the Chair urged VM members to submit 2017 conference proposals that speak to a diversity of formats by the deadline of November 18, 2016.

1. Report by SAA Council Liaison, Amy Cooper Cary

Amy Cary reviewed the latest Council activities and decisions relating to the status of Roundtables and Sections, an environment scan for best practices in handling digital records, and other matters. A survey for the SAA membership will be sent out on options to propose options for online communities. Felicia Owens is our governance coordinator; if we have any questions or need guidance, either Amy or Felicia can help us.

1. Committee Reports

The VMS heard from the three standing committees: Communications, Education and Training, and Elections. Their full reports are attached as appendices to this document.

1. Bylaws Review

The Bylaws review began slowly last winter, and then in June it picked up steam and members of the Steering Committee commented on and shaped a final draft to be voted on during the 2016 annual meeting.

Since Council’s decision on affinity groups, however, means a new template for the VMS bylaws, we will delay voting on the bulk of the Bylaws changes, including the content changes proposed in our Bylaws review, until that time when all Sections adopt the SAA template.

Also, however, according to our current Bylaws, we can only vote on changes during our annual meeting. Therefore, instead of having to wait until the next annual meeting to vote on upcoming VMS Bylaws changes, the Chair submitted to the membership a proposal to vote during this annual meeting on one change in our current Bylaws in order to allow us to have an online vote on all bylaws review changes when our new template is adopted.

The Chair then called for discussion or questions.

Several members suggested adding wording to ensure the timely announcement of the online vote, as well as enough time for the membership to review the bylaws changes proposed. The agreement was that two weeks of review time was appropriate. The Steering Committee will take into consideration these very good suggestions and make the changes in the bylaws Articles 5 and 7.

The membership then moved to vote on the proposal, that motion was seconded, and a plurality of the membership then voted favorably to alter Article 5 and 7 on Voting and on the Revision of Bylaws to allow the Section to vote online for changes to the Section Bylaws.

1. Election Results

The Membership elected as Chair-Elect, Kim Andersen, and as Member-at-Large, Elizabeth Reilly. The Chair thanked all the candidates and outgoing members Kim Andersen as Communications Chair, and Mary Samouelian as Member-At-large.

The new VMS Steering Committee is:

Gerrianne Schaad, Chair

Kim Andersen, Chair-Elect

Members at Large: Irlanda Jacinto, Elizabeth Reilly, and Laura Treat

Committee Chairs: Kim Andersen (until new Chair is appointed); Education Chair (vacant, as current Chair stepped down in August); and Elections Chair and Immediate Past Chair Paula Jeannet Mangiafico.

1. Introduction of new Chair

Incoming Chair Gerrianne Schaad of the Florida Southern College was introduced by the outgoing Chair. She gave some highlights of upcoming Section activity for 2016-2017 and encouraged VM members to volunteer.

1. Speaker, Allen Tullos, Emory University

Tullos, a member of History faculty at Emory, Co-Director of the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, and Senior Editor of the online journal *Southern Spaces*, presented on the role of archivists and archival material in the creation of submissions for the Southern Spaces journal and other projects. His slides included an overview of projects that use new technology such as drones to map remote locations.

1. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Minutes submitted by Paula Jeannet Mangiafico, August 10, 2016

APPENDIX 1: COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAA VM Section Communications Committee Report

SAA Conference 2016 Atlanta

Kim Andersen, Chair

July 25, 2016

The VM Section Communications Committee has accomplished three exciting goals this year. The Section website has been completely re-vamped, an Instagram presence has been established, and the Views newsletter has been updated and improved. During the first six months through the process of re-thinking the website, we did some critical thinking about Section communications as a whole and achieved some much-needed clarity. We have a firm grasp of how and for what purposes our main website should be used – 1) as a platform for information about the section – who we are, what we do, and what we offer – and 2) as a hub linking together all the rest of the section’s online presences – announcements and listservs, *Views*, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Likewise, we are clear on the purpose and uses of the two listservs to disseminate timely and time-sensitive information to the Section and its followers, and to generate contemplation and discussion of news, current events, and trending issues in the world of visual materials. What we are doing with the social media components of our communications initiatives is currently much less focused and is still very much a work in progress.

Alan Renga – VM webmaster

In August 2015 Tim Hawkins transferred the Visual Materials Website to a new Wordpress platform (Thanks, Tim!), and since that time Alan has mastered Wordpress and has been steadily modifying and improving [saavms.org](file:///C:\Users\kandersen\Documents\SAA\SAA_WM_Com_Chair\saavms.org). All social media activity is simultaneously reposted together in a right-hand side panel on the website, and this feature has revolutionized the site into a one-stop shop for everything VM Section-related online. Alan has made all the many changes everyone has requested on the website all year long in a timely and cheerful manner while also raising new TWIN BABIES (and he has a job, too)!

Stats: 241 page views, 155 users

Deborah Rice – *VIEWS* editor

Deborah has successfully and creatively initiated several extremely beneficial redesigns to *Views* and has begun to incorporate the changes discussed at Midwinter – moving *Views* in the direction of becoming more of a venue for essays, in-depth research reports, and creativity for and by the section (along the lines of *The New Yorker* magazine) – since the listservs, the website, and Facebook have emerged as more immediate and effective venues for the sharing of timely news and any time-sensitive or time-limited bits of information. Under Deborah’s leadership, *Views* is thriving in its new form and the articles, book reviews, exhibit notes, etc… make for a fun read in a very attractive package.

Stefanie Caloia – VM Facebook

Stefanie has energized the VM Section Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/saavms/>) with interesting posts not only about photography but on art and motion picture film and exhibits. The VM membership is posting timely information and pictures and links, too, and Stefanie encourages more of this. She has also set up the Facebook page so that all the VM Section Instagram posts post also on Facebook, which greatly increases the visual element of our Visual Materials FB page!

Stats: 293 “Likes” (46 more than last year)

Kaitlyn Dorsky – Instagram

Kait approached the VM Communications Committee at the 2015 conference section meeting and volunteered to start our Instagram account ([www.instagram.com/saavms](http://www.instagram.com/saavms)), and it has been gaining ground ever since. She has worked with Stefanie so that all the Instagram posts post also to the Facebook page!

Stats: 42 images posted, includes reposted images tagged #saavms; following 124 other instagram accounts; 118 followers of us

Anna Raugalis – VM twitter

Anna has been tweeting and re-tweeting fascinating VM-related information sporadically throughout the year.

Kim Andersen – Chair

With the great work by the committee members, I have had it easy. I have spent a good deal of my time simply liaising with the Communications Committee, VM Chair Paula Mangiafico, and chair-elect Gerrianne Schaad, working on the plans for the “More Than Mets the Eye” workshop, and sending out announcements and following up on announcements via the two VM Section listservs.

The Future:

What we are doing with Instagram and Twitter (and to a lesser extent Facebook) is still largely undefined and we are not sure how these tools should be best exploited. We would like to solicit ideas from the Section membership about how they would like to see these social media outlets utilized and how/if they would like to interact in these environments. The committee would also like feedback on the evolution of *Views*. And finally – like all SAA – the VM Section Communications Committee eagerly awaits resolution to the Section vs Roundtable vs Affinity Group question and will analyze and report the impact that outcome will have on how we can use our group’s listservs.

SAA VM Section Education and Training Committee Report

SAA Conference 2016 Atlanta

Ricky Punzalan, Chair

July 29, 2016

This year, the VM Section Education and Training Committee has initiated two major projects:

* **Survey of Education and Training Backgrounds and Needs**

The Committee has designed a survey designed to understand the educational background and determine the training needs of the VM Section membership. Responses to the survey will help the VM Section design future training projects and develop ways of advocating for visual materials concerns in archives graduate programs. The survey will be released the first week of August. An article reporting the survey results will be submitted for publication at the *American Archivist* by end of Fall 2016.

* **Archival Photographs: Theory and Practice Syllabus**

The Committee has created a Photo Archives Syllabus Working Group. Members of this group are: Ricky Punzalan, Laurie Baty, and Miriam Meislik. The task of this working group is to create the following teaching resources on photo archives: 1. a model full semester syllabus (or course outline) and 2. one class session module that can be easily incorporated in existing intro to archives course. Both resources are intended to be made freely available at the VM Section website. The working group will also design additional projects that will guarantee dissemination and implementation of both teaching resources (such as holding a train-the-trainer workshop, etc.). Having these resources readily available would encourage instructors to cover photo archives issues in their teaching. In creating both resources, the VM Section is giving instructors a choice to teach a full course or a one-session module in their intro to archives classes. The draft of the full syllabus and session module will be presented at the SAA conference in Atlanta.

SAA VM Section Election Committee Report

SAA Conference 2016 Atlanta

Matthew Mason, Chair

July 29, 2016

The Election Committee, comprised of immediate past Section chairs David Haberstich and Matthew Daniel Mason, undertook its work with messages through the electronic discussion lists seeking nominations and self-nominations for new leadership beginning on May 4, 2016. These two open positions included Vice Chair / Chair-Elect and Member-at-Large. During the ensuring six weeks, the Committee placed many calls for candidates (apologies for the repetition), and communicated with likely candidates/suspects, including current graduate students and paraprofessionals, as well as early and experienced professionals. By the deadline of June 13, the committee compiled a slate of highly qualified candidates. This group included one candidate for the position of Chair-Elect and eight candidates for Member-at-Large. The Committee then submitted the candidates’ names and institutional affiliations to the election coordinator for the Society of American Archivists as well as their biographies, statements, and their portraits to the Visual Materials Section website. The election took place July 7-22, and the final ballot reported Kim Andersen as Chair-Elect and Elizabeth Reilly as Member-at-Large. The Committee expresses is appreciation to all the candidates and its congratulations to Kim and Elizabeth.