

NEWSGRAM

News in brief from the Conservation Center

Issue 10, October 2011

Alumni News From ICOM-CC in Lisbon, Portugal

Lisa Pilosi '88 Elected Chair of the ICOM-CC Directory Board

During the week of September 19, 2011, ICOM-CC (International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation), the largest of ICOM's 31 International Committees, held its 16th Triennial Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Many Center alumni were in attendance and presented professional papers, and Lisa Pilosi '88, Conservator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, was elected Chair of the ICOM-CC Directory Board.

Lisa's history with ICOM-CC is a long one, spanning a good deal of her professional career. She was first assistant coordinator of the Glass and Ceramics Working Group (WG) for nine years, WG coordinator from 2002 to 2008, and Board member for the last 3 years. Lisa joined the organization because it is a global enterprise, comprising over 2000 members from nearly every continent concerned with the museum world and with the conservation of objects of historic and artistic significance. Incidentally, the board is also an international mix, consisting of eight members from the following countries: Australia, Chile, Denmark, India, Italy, The Netherlands, and two from the U.S. In addition, the Director-General of ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) serves as ex-officio board member.

Since serving on the Board, Lisa has been keenly aware of the big picture. "The work of the Board should always reflect the interests and concerns of the membership," she says.

"What I particularly like is that, because ICOM-CC is part of ICOM, it places conservation in the context of the museum, which is important because it gives us the opportunity to communicate our message to museum professionals throughout the world." Lisa is also interested in the connections between the various ICOM-CC WGs, both with each other and with other international committees of ICOM that share the same specialties, and she believes there is a lot of potential to enhance collaborations. Some of the immediate projects on the horizon include increasing the profile of ICOM-CC in countries where it is currently underrepresented, continuing to enhance the website by digitizing past preprints and making them available in a searchable format, and planning the next Triennial Conference. Lisa is grateful for the support she receives from The Metropolitan Museum of Art to make her participation in ICOM-CC possible.

This year's conference theme addressed how communities and nations value their cultural heritage and maintain a cultural identity in this age of mass globalization. More importantly, how do conservation, science and technical analysis inform the heritage's relationship to other areas of society, like sociology, economy and politics? During the one-week conference in Lisbon there were nearly 900 delegates from 70 countries. Up to five sessions were running simultaneously to accommodate sessions for all 21 WGs within ICOM-CC.

New at this meeting was distribution of the preprints in CD format. For the first time there is no printed volume. Obvious advantages to using this new medium are its interactivity and ability to search topics and authors, as well as lowering produc-



The new Directory Board, including Lisa Pilosi '88, far right, being presented to the members at the end of the ICOM-CC conference

tion costs and achieving a wider distribution. This decision, made in agreement with the WG coordinators, will be put to the test in a questionnaire and further discussion with members will decide if this new format is to be continued.

Many Center alumni attended the meeting and also gave professional papers (see list to right). The WGs held their business meetings in Lisbon, in addition to the conference's general assembly, plenary sessions and technical visits. The Glass and Ceramics WG elected Hannelore Roemich their new coordinator for the upcoming three-year term.

The next ICOM-CC triennial conference will be in Melbourne, Australia in 2014. •

—Kevin Martin

Kevin is the Academic Advisor for the conservation program

ICOM-CC 16th Triennial Conference Papers Presented by Conservation Center Alumnae

DOCUMENTATION WG

The Rembrandt Database: an inter-institutional research resource for art-historical, technical and conservation documentation

W. Donkersloot, M. Franken, S. Weidema, T. Weidema, Petria Noble, E. Buijsen

The development of an online methodology for interdisciplinary collaborative research: investigations of dispersed paintings by the Master of the Fogg Pietà/*Maestro di Figline*

A. Nevin, A. Burnstock, J. Cannon, C. Richardson, C. Campbell, L. Cox, T. Hensick, N. Khandekar, H. Lie, K. Olivier, S. Wolohojian, R. Albertson, P. Klausmeyer, Winifred Murray '08, B. Strähle, L. Megens, K.J. van den Berg, R. Bellucci, C. Castelli, C. Frosinini, D. Vingtain, R. May, O. Guillon, N. Buoillon

ETHNOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS WG

A collaborative study of Native California featherwork

Ellen Pearlstein '82, R. Riedler, M. Gleeson, J. Druzik, C. Pesme

GLASS AND CERAMICS WG

Examination of ceramic vessels from the Ban Chiang culture in the collection of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Kerith Koss '07, Ellen Salzman Chase '93, B. McCarthy

MODERN MATERIALS AND CONTEMPORARY ART WG

Treatment of Claes Oldenburg's *Ice Bag—Scale C*. An interdisciplinary approach

E.E. Nagy, S. Berger, K. Parker, V. Schuster, J. Miller, J. Girard, Carol Mancusi-Ungaro MA '70

PAINTINGS WG

Technical investigation of Rembrandt and/or studio, *Saul and David*, c. 1660 from the collection of the Mauritshuis

Petria Noble, A. van Loon, C.R. Johnson Jr., D.H. Johnson

White hazes and surface crusts in Rembrandt's *Homer* and related paintings

A. van Loon, Petria Noble, J.J. Boon

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WG

Journeys of our ancestors: interdisciplinary research and its influence on conservation methodologies for the assessment of archaeological artifacts

Caitlin R. O'Grady '04, N. Odegaard, E.C. Adams

SCULPTURE, POLYCHROMY AND ARCHITECTURAL DECORATIONS WG

The conservation of polychrome wood sculpture in the United States: an historical overview, 1870–1970

Lucretia Kargère '96, Michele Marincola '90

The stars align: preservation of the Zodiac Cycle Murals at the Stanton Street Shul

R. Keppler, Sarah Barack '03, Beth Edelstein '04, B. Shtrum

TEXTILES WG

Treatment triage: the conservation of a portable Sudanese architectural element, *Te Saqwit*, 2000–2009

Christine Giuntini, E. Enard, I. Rodrigues

THEORY AND HISTORY OF CONSERVATION WG

To err is human: understanding and sharing mistakes in conservation practice

Michele Marincola '90, S. Maisey

Alumni News

Margaret Holben Ellis '79 was recently elected to the [Heritage Preservation Board of Directors](#) for 2011 – 2013.

photo credit: Matthias Rothkegel, Mikkel Scharff