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AUGUST 2011  
**THE IRREGULAR**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF  
ARLIS/CENTRAL PLAINS**

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### **Joplin Tornado**

As we all know, an EF5 tornado laid waste to one-third of the town of Joplin, Missouri on May 22, 2011. Over 150 people were killed, hundreds more injured, and thousands of homes and businesses destroyed. This catastrophe continues to receive national and even international news coverage. Leslie Simpson, chapter member and Director of the Post Memorial Art Library in the Joplin Public Library, sends the following message:

“The Joplin Public Library, in whose building the Post Library exists as an independent facility, has been severely impacted. Although the building was not damaged, thousands of items that were checked out were lost. Even worse, at least one-fourth of the tax base that supports the library was wiped out. Next year’s operating budget looks very grim. If the public library has to cut hours of operation, the Post Library would have to cut its hours. For those who would like to help, please consider gifts to the Joplin Public Library.

Although this may sound silly, here’s a cost-free way to help. We’re trying to win \$100,000 to restore historic Cunningham Park, Joplin’s first city park, which was destroyed by the tornado. Please spread the word—go to [http://m.livepositively.com/park\\_details.jsp?parkId=11656](http://m.livepositively.com/park_details.jsp?parkId=11656) and vote as many times as you can to help us win this!

Please keep Joplin in your thoughts and prayers. We are down, but not out!”

For more news from Leslie, see her entry under Member News below.

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### **Fall Chapter Meeting**

The chapter’s Fall 2011 meeting will be held in Columbia, Missouri on October 6 – 8. For the first time ever, it will be hosted at Stephens College! Details are not yet finalized, but please save the date, plan to come, and monitor the chapter’s list-serv for further information.

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### **Chapter List-Serv**

Reminder: The chapter has had its own list-serv since November, 2010. It is hosted by the ARLIS/NA management firm, TEI. It is private--only subscribers can receive or submit posts to this list-serv, and it does not have a moderator. Subscriptions are handled by TEI at the direction of the chapter’s Secretary/Treasurer. To subscribe or unsubscribe, send a message to

[Clare.Vasquez@slam.org](mailto:Clare.Vasquez@slam.org). It has become a very effective way to communicate directly with the group of chapter members and friends. It is now the primary vehicle for announcing chapter meetings-- you are strongly encouraged to join.

### **New to the chapter's blog**

A brief history of the chapter has been added to the chapter's blog: <http://arlisnacp.wordpress.com/>. This essay covers major events in the chapter's history from its genesis in 1972 through the creation of the list-serv in 2010.

### **ARLIS/NA Annual Conference**

The Society's annual conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in March. For the first time in many years, at least one representative from each of our chapter's five states attended. The chapter's "Flat Basket" contribution to the Silent Auction, organized by Marianne Cavanaugh, overflowed with generous gift certificates for wonderful products and businesses based in our states.

### **ARLIS/CP Meeting, Spring 2011, Fayetteville, Arkansas**

The chapter's Spring meeting was held in Fayetteville, Arkansas, May 19-21. Phillip Jones, Librarian at the University of Arkansas, was our generous host. Thursday afternoon as members converged on the hotel, we explored Fayetteville's charming town square and environs, then dined at a wonderful Thai restaurant.

On Friday we met at Mullins Library, the University's main library, starting out with our Business Meeting. At this meeting we approved a larger travel award amount and expanded it to include chapter meeting travel when appropriate, decided to create a Facebook page, and agreed to participate in ARLIS/NA's official Mentorship program. Later we were treated to a presentation by faculty member Leo G. Mazow on interdisciplinary research in art history, and we visited the Architectural Records Archive where we viewed drawings by E. Fay Jones and others. Lunch was in a beautiful restaurant located in the university's first women's residence.

We carpoled north about 30 minutes to Bentonville, where we ate dinner at a wonderful southwest-themed restaurant on that town's quaint town square (the one where Sam Walton's original Five and Dime store still stands). Next the group braved a thunderstorm to visit the site of the Walton family's Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, now under construction.

Saturday morning a smaller group breakfasted together in Fayetteville, then drove north to Bella Vista, the site of the Cooper Chapel, one of E. Fay Jones' most beautiful and serene creations. This was a lovely way to end the meeting before we scattered to our homes in four states.

## MEMBER NEWS

### ARKANSAS

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—*University of Arkansas*

**Phil Jones**, Fine Arts Librarian, reports that the evening staff member of the Fine Arts Library, Stephanie Hamblen, has resigned and is replaced by Dorothy Valencia.

Phil co-presented a paper at ACRL in Philadelphia in April, “The Limits of Democracy in Academic Libraries in a Revolutionary Age.” The text of the paper is available in the online proceedings at:

[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/national/2011/papers/limits\\_of\\_democracy.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/national/2011/papers/limits_of_democracy.pdf)

### KANSAS

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—*Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, Lindsborg*

**Ron Michael**, Curator, reports the Gallery is closed for interior renovations, with plans to open in early March of 2012. The renovations will be environmentally responsible and insure better care and preservation of the art collections. Mechanical systems for climate control will utilize the latest environmentally friendly technologies – including geo-thermal heating and cooling. Energy efficient LED lighting and controlled dimmers are planned for all of the exhibition spaces.

Additional plans include replacement of walls and ceilings; added insulation; installation of triple-pane UV windows; an emergency door in the northeast corner of the building; extensive work to replace the woodwork; and asbestos abatement. An integrated audio-visual system will enhance presentations in the main portion of the Gallery.

The renovations, which were part of a recent capital campaign, have been made possible by many generous contributors. The future focus of the campaign will become the continued conservation and preservation of the art collection, endowment, and educational programs.

—*Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence*

**Marilyn Russell**, Library Director, moved gracefully from the ARLIS/NA President’s chair to the Past-President’s position during the Society’s annual conference in Minneapolis. The chapter extends its congratulations for her hard work and many successes during her term!

Mari has just received (August, 2011) the Performance Manager of the Year Award at Haskell Indian Nations University. More congratulations to her!

She reports that the library received a \$250,000 grant to purchase databases and improve collections.

She attended the College Tribal Librarians Institute in Bozeman, MT in June; the ARLIS/NA Conference Planning Advisory Committee meetings in Toronto, Canada in June; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Management Symposium in Tulsa, OK in August.

On a personal level, Mari traveled to Europe in July, when she visited art museums, art libraries and historic sites and castles in Munich, Rosenheim, Murnau, and Nuremberg in Germany; in Prague, Czech Republic; in Bratislava, Slovakia; in Budapest, Hungary; in Vienna and Salzburg, Austria; and in Venice, Italy. Highlights were viewing the Venice Biennale International Art Exhibitions, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, and the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice; plus the “Indians” special exhibitions in Rosenheim.

—*University of Kansas*

**Susan Craig**, Head of the Murphy Art & Architecture Library, announces a new staff member. Andrea (Andi) Back is the new Operations Manager for the library. She earned a BFA at the Univ. of Wisconsin- River Falls and an MLS from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. While working on her library degree, Andi did an internship with former ARLIS/NA President (and former ARLIS/CP member) Debra Ultan Boudoywns. Last year she worked as a solo librarian for the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts--Minneapolis while volunteering for the Library of the Textile Center in Minneapolis. Andi has been a member of ARLIS/NA and plans to rejoin the Society.

## MISSOURI

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—*Kansas City Art Institute*

**M. J. Poehler**, Library Director, is pleased to report that Amelia Nelson is Jannes Library's new cataloging and digital services librarian. Amelia previously served as the library's circulation coordinator in 2005-06. She holds an MA in library science from UM-Columbia and a bachelor of architecture degree from Kansas State University. She recently held the position of library director at the Delaware College of Art and Design, Wilmington, Delaware. In addition to cataloging library resources, she will provide research instruction to individuals and groups and will develop, promote and maintain the library's digital resources.

—*Post Memorial Art Reference Library, Joplin*

In addition to her account at the beginning of this issue, **Leslie Simpson** reports that she has been very busy this summer. Earlier this year, she completed a book on Joplin for the Arcadia Press Historic Postcard Series, which is due to be released in September 2011. However, after the devastating tornado, she convinced the publisher to let her add an epilogue documenting the impact of the monster storm on Joplin's historic neighborhoods.



A lot of her reference work this summer has related to the storm. People who lost art and antiques needed assistance in determining values for insurance claims. She has also had calls from the news media wanting information about historic buildings and houses that were destroyed.

The Post Library has been selling items for tornado relief. “Hope Rocks Joplin” t-shirts raise funds for the Joplin School District, which suffered destruction or damage to 10 buildings. “Signs of Hope” note cards, which feature photographs of Joplin’s iconic neon signs, benefit the Trees for Joplin Fund, one of which is pictured here to the left.

—*St. Louis Art Museum*

**Marianne Cavanaugh**, Head Librarian, Richardson Memorial Library, is pleased to announce that the *Bulletin of the St. Louis Art Museum* and its predecessor, *The Bulletin of the City Art Museum of St. Louis* are available full text and complete in JSTOR. The arrangement has been in the works for some time. The contract was signed in December of 2009 and the issues shipped off in early 2010. This is an excellent way to preserve the *Bulletin* and enable students and scholars interested in the Museum’s collection access to the records of the museum.

This follows the release of about 2,000 images of the Museum into the ARTstor Digital Library. The staff hopes that this begins a trend that will increase access to more of the museum’s digitized resources.

This comes at a time when physical access to the library is still limited to Thursdays, by appointment only, due to the construction of the new Chipperfield wing. Library staff can now direct students to both ARTstor and JSTOR for information on the Museum’s collection.

—*St. Louis Public Library*

**Suzy Frechette**, Head of the Fine Arts Department, attended the course “Provenance: Tracing Owners and Collections” at Rare Books School in Charlottesville, Virginia in June. As always with the school, the course and week were enlightening and a lot of fun. The highlight of the class was learning the rudiments of the language of heraldry, useful in “reading” heraldic bookplates.

The Central Library remains closed for extensive renovations and restoration. Pictures of some of the work and progress can be viewed at <http://central.slpl.org/tour/renewal-underway/>

—*Washington University*

**Rina Vecchiola**, Art & Architecture Librarian at the Kranzberg Art & Architecture Library, became the Development and Membership Liaison on the ARLIS/NA Executive Board during the Society's annual conference in Minneapolis.

## OKLAHOMA

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—*Oklahoma State University*

**Susan Bobo**, Architecture Librarian and Associate Professor, is pleased to announce that the Cunningham Architecture Library recently produced its first digital project – a collection of more than 130 architecture and architectural engineering theses is now more easily accessible to students and faculty. The project was made possible through the generous support of Mr. Sterling Little (M Arch'85). These items can now be viewed online at: <http://www.library.okstate.edu/arch/reports.htm>.

In addition, Professor Emeritus Richard A. Williams, FAIA, has established an endowment at the OSU School of Architecture specifically supporting the Cunningham Architecture Library. The endowment will be used to continue adding new materials to our library and will enrich the education of students for generations to come.

Susan co-presented a session on wayfinding and signage for libraries at the annual Oklahoma Library Association conference in April 2011. Along with the director of the OSU Writing Center, she has been invited to speak on the topic of librarian/faculty collaboration at a workshop sponsored by the University and College Division of OLA planned for October 2011. The pair will discuss *The Writing Studio*, a collaborative project of the Cunningham Architecture Library, the Writing Center and the School of Architecture.

