

Vice President's Column MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Michelle Sweetser, Bowling Green State University



As I write this column on May Day (yes, there's a publication lag!), I am painfully aware of the empty spot on next week's calendar when I would have joined many of you in Des Moines for the Annual Meeting. While MAC had no choice but to cancel our meeting, it does not make it any less difficult or less painful to miss out on our signature event of the year. Many of us look forward to the Annual Meeting as a chance to catch up with professional contacts and friends, to get away from our own shops and office politics, to learn new things, to spend a day or two away from the daily grind of work and child-care duties, and more.

Many people worked hard to put together an exceptional Annual Meeting program and schedule of events. They worked tirelessly—for the better part of two years—all for what seems like naught. Therefore, I want to be certain to recognize these hard-working individuals because no formal opportunities exist to applaud and acknowledge them as they so deserve.

2020 Local Arrangements Committee: Hope Bibens (cochair), Rosalie Gartner (cochair), Hilary Seo (cochair), Heather Campbell, Joan Curbow, Bethany Davis, Claudia Frazer, Kay Grigsby, Anthony Jahn, David McCartney, Becky Plunkett, and Craig Wright

2020 Program Committee: Marcella Huggard (cochair), Benn Joseph (cochair), Sarah Dorpinghaus, Amber Dushman, Ryan Leimkuehler, Kahlee Leingang, William Modrow, Sheri Muller, Arielle Petrovich, Andrea Rile, Allyson Smally, and Alison Stankrauff

2020 Education Committee: Amy Bishop (cochair), Janet Carleton (cochair), Chad Conrady, Hathaway Hester, Brad Houston, Kathryn Kuntz, Ryan Leimkuehler, Carrie Schwier, Matt Strandmark, and Katie Blank (Council liaison)

Many thanks also to the dozens of individuals who were scheduled to share their knowledge with the MAC community through sessions, workshops, forums, and

poster sessions. I hope that you will consider other ways to share your knowledge with us: at future Annual Meetings, in the *MAC Newsletter*, or by developing your presentation into a journal article for *Archival Issues*.

As I humbly step into my new role as your vice president, I am also acutely aware of the significant amount of behind-the-scenes work that outgoing vice president Josh Ranger has performed on our behalf. Josh and I met via WebEx a few weeks ago so that he could begin to transfer his knowledge about all of MAC's upcoming events (read: a massive brain dump). In addition to opening my eyes to exactly how much I will have on my plate for the next two years and how much I have to learn, I recognize that I am fortunate to come into this role at a time when the planning for our upcoming meetings is on schedule and even ahead of schedule—a situation attributable to our excellent volunteers as well as to Josh's leadership. I hope to be able to leave my own successor in such a good position!

If there is one thing that I have learned over the past seven weeks of working from home while also attempting to manage my children's home learning, it is that flexibility is key because our plans are almost definitely going to change. COVID-19 has thrown us all for more than a few loops, speaking for my household and the profession at large. Many of us are experiencing personal turmoil at home and at the office and may not yet know what staffing, budgetary, and travel cuts we may experience in the coming months. A willingness to try new approaches and to be flexible will be essential. MAC has had to make the difficult decision to cancel the Fall Symposium, which had been scheduled for October 9–10 in Indianapolis. It is impossible to even know what things might look like in the next year. As MAC looks forward to other upcoming events (such as next year's Annual Meeting, currently scheduled for Madison, Wisconsin, April 13–18, 2021) that COVID-19 will likely also impact, know that MAC will continue to be flexible, that we will try new things, and that we will always endeavor to serve the needs of our members in a changing world.