

Vice President's Column MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Michelle Sweetser, Bowling Green State University



I am now halfway into my tenure, and what a year it has been! Even though Josh Ranger, who preceded me in this role, did a great job updating the VP manual, nothing about this year has been by the books. After a long delay due to contract negotiations with our 2021 conference hotel, the Program Committee sprang to work despite an extremely truncated schedule. In just six months, the Program Committee, along with other MAC volunteers and plenty of guidance from Debbie Nolan at AMC Source, planned and delivered our first ever virtual Annual Meeting. I hope you will agree that even though we were not able to meet in person, our line-up of plenary speaker Andrew W. Smith; the education sessions, posters, and tours (though virtual) from our colleagues; and vendor demonstrations was an excellent and affordable educational experience.

All presenters agreed to record their sessions, so the opportunity to extend your learning beyond the two days of Zoom meetings will continue. I encourage you to check out our newly established YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYInbuJ_RbJFdjEuCPpJCw/playlists) for recordings as well as the MAC Annual Meeting Presentations site (<https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/macmeetings/>) for associated slides and handouts.

Please join me in extending thanks and kudos to Program Committee cochairs, Cara Bertram and Kayla Harris, as well as the other members of the Program Committee: Shiraz Bhatena, Anita Doering, Bradley Houston, Kathy Makas, Allison Neely, Shae Rafferty, Danielle Spalenka, and Anna Tunnicliff. Supporting their efforts were Vendor Coordinator Lisa Huntsha, Development Coordinator Ida Mangum, Public

Information Officer Kyna Herzinger, and Webmaster Kate Dietrick, while AMC staff brought their expertise to Zoom webinar management and delivery. If there was any question as to whether “Archivists Respond,” we clearly did!

Because time marches on, we can't rest on our laurels for too long; planning must continue for our other upcoming meetings and events. We are still monitoring the COVID situation and will make a determination later this summer about the format for the Fall Symposium (entirely virtual or a combination of a small in-person gathering with a larger virtual audience). Read more about the planning committee's deliberations elsewhere in this issue.

I'm also pleased to report that after much negotiation, we have finalized a new contract with the Madison Concourse Hotel to host MAC in Madison, Wisconsin, May 5–7, 2022. Not only can we celebrate a return to in-person events, but we will be celebrating MAC's 50th birthday as well. Local Arrangements Committee cochairs Cynthia Bachhuber and Katie Nash are working to reconvene their committee (we'd planned to be in Madison as I write this column). If you're interested in serving MAC as a member of the Program Committee, watch for a call for volunteers this summer. As we honor and celebrate MAC's founding, we have opportunities to creatively apply lessons from this year of virtual meetings to make future educational opportunities more accessible to all of our members and lay the groundwork for the next 50 years.