

## Vice President's Column MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

*By Michelle Sweetser, Bowling Green State University*



I'm writing this column on a foggy Monday morning with the threat of a massive snow and ice storm later this week. By the time you read this, I would like to think that snow will no longer be a concern in our forecasts, but we are in the Midwest, so I suppose snow is a possibility even approaching and into May. Whatever the temperatures, though, I am looking forward to the Annual Meeting in Madison—learning something new from all of the presenters, catching up with colleagues and friends, sneaking in a long run along Lake Mendota, grabbing ice cream at the Memorial Union, savoring the 50th anniversary celebratory dessert at our opening reception, and more. Regardless of how you plan your visit to Madison—or whether you decide to opt for the virtual conference—I have no doubt that this year's meeting will be memorable.

It is hard to believe that nearly two years have gone by since I was elected vice president. At the time I was asked to run for office, we had no idea that COVID was on the horizon, and we had no idea how many twists and turns MAC's meeting planning would take as a consequence of the pandemic. Since then, we have had many firsts: MAC has hosted its first all-virtual Annual Meeting and first all-virtual Symposium, and now MAC is preparing to host its first hybrid Annual Meeting with virtual and in-person components. And I'll be honest: I've spent many, many hours in MAC-related Zoom meetings. I am so very excited to conclude my term with an event where I actually get to see some of you in person!

It has been a pleasure to work alongside so many dedicated MAC volunteers. I am amazed at the flexibility, ingenuity, attention, and care that MAC members bring to their roles. Likewise, I am grateful for the dedication, knowledge, and compassion of our AMC colleagues who share their expertise to make MAC a great organization. Getting to know all of these people as individuals as well as

professional colleagues has been a highlight for me. In reflecting on what MAC means to me, I'd have to say that MAC members are front and center.

So many good things are in the works for MAC in the coming year, and I know that our next vice president has some great collaborators in place. In case you've missed the news (or have forgotten in COVID-induced brain fog), locations are all set for our next two meetings:

- Jackie Shalberg and Bethany Fiechter are coordinating our Fall Symposium, scheduled for October 14–15, 2022, at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. If you feel like you're grinding your gears, allowing outreach to take a backseat, or revving your motor to find a programming solution at your institution, this Symposium—"Driving Outreach to Victory Lane"—is for you! You'll leave with an outreach tune-up and discover successful methods to engage your audiences.
- Michael Bullington and Pam Hackbart-Dean are cochairing the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2023 Annual Meeting, back in MAC's hometown of Chicago. They are working with AMC to identify a hotel site, and I anticipate that we'll be able to share dates and a location with you at the Annual Meeting. Later this spring, the Program Committee chairs will be putting out a call for members to assist in setting the theme and in establishing the program for our gathering. I hope you'll consider getting involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve! I look forward to seeing you in Madison!

Humbly,  
Michelle