



AIC's Emerging Conservation Professionals Network Liaison Program



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ECPN Officers 2020-2021

INTRODUCTION

The **Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN)** is a forum and network for AIC members who are entering the field of conservation. This includes undergraduate students, pre-program individuals, graduate students, recent graduates, and early-career professionals (ECP). The **ECPN Liaison Program** began as a way to connect ECPs in far flung regions and has developed into a robust network with over 50 liaisons facilitating conversation, support, and community throughout the country. Through an application process coordinated with the ECPN Outreach Officers, Liaisons are selected to be part of one of four distinct programs: **Regional Liaisons, Graduate School Liaisons, Speciality Group Liaisons, and Committee and Network Liaisons**. This poster will showcase the Liaison Program and highlight ways Liaisons have collaborated, grown, served their communities, and promoted awareness of the field this term, despite major obstacles to gathering due to the pandemic.

WAYS TO CONNECT

Learn more about the ECPN and the ECPN Liaison Program online on the ECPN website:
<https://www.culturalheritage.org/membership/groups-and-networks/emerging-conservation-professionals-network>

Stay up to date on event announcements, discussions, and connect with fellow emerging conservators on the ECPN Online Community <https://community.culturalheritage.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=ac2d0362-238e-4595-91cc-8cb8bf92e268> and ECPN's [Facebook page](#). Both are free to join without AIC membership!

Interested in joining the Liaison Program or looking for ways to connect? Reach out to the ECPN Outreach Officers ecpn.aic.outreach@gmail.com

VIRTUAL LIAISON PROGRAMMING

The liaison network was one of the first to come up with creative ways to stay connected even through social distancing during the pandemic. These virtual events include:

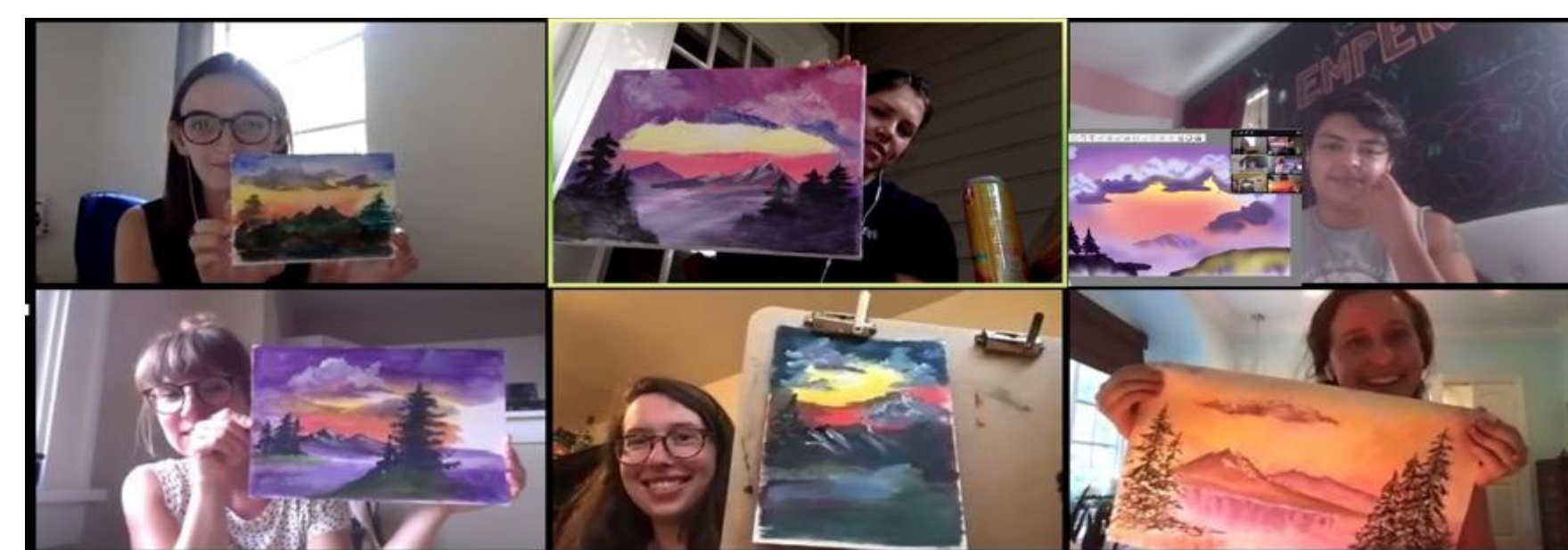
- Lab Tours
- Interview with Conservators
- Happy Hours
- Panel Discussions
- Podcast Reviews
- Portfolio Info Sessions
- Application and CV Reviews
- Practice Interviews
- Craft Nights
- Movie Nights

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would love to acknowledge all the wonderful Liaisons that make ECPN what it is, and especially for all their hard work this past year. In preparation for this poster, we would like to specifically thank Regional Liaisons: Jenny McGough and Elizabeth Salmon (LA), Emma Ross (Dallas), Brianna Warren (Houston), and Ali Wysopal (Austin); Speciality Group Liaisons: Madalyn Meehan (CIPP); Graduate School Liaisons: Grace McLean (Queens), Diane Walker and Sara Ludueña (FIT), Gabriela Figueroa (Columbia), and Nylah Byrd (WUDPAC); and other Emerging Conservation Professionals: Leaf Morales, and Anne Schmid.

REGIONAL LIAISONS

Regional liaisons cultivate local networks of ECPs and foster a sense of community, serve as ambassadors for ECPN within the larger conservation community, and help to promote and distribute ECPN's resources. We ask liaisons to organize at least two local events per term such as lab tours, portfolio days, resume reviews, museum or site visits, hands-on workshops, or happy hours. Connecting with your Regional Liaison is a great way for ECPs at all stages to connect with their peers. These Liaisons are also actively involved in other regional associations such as PACA, WCG, MRCG.



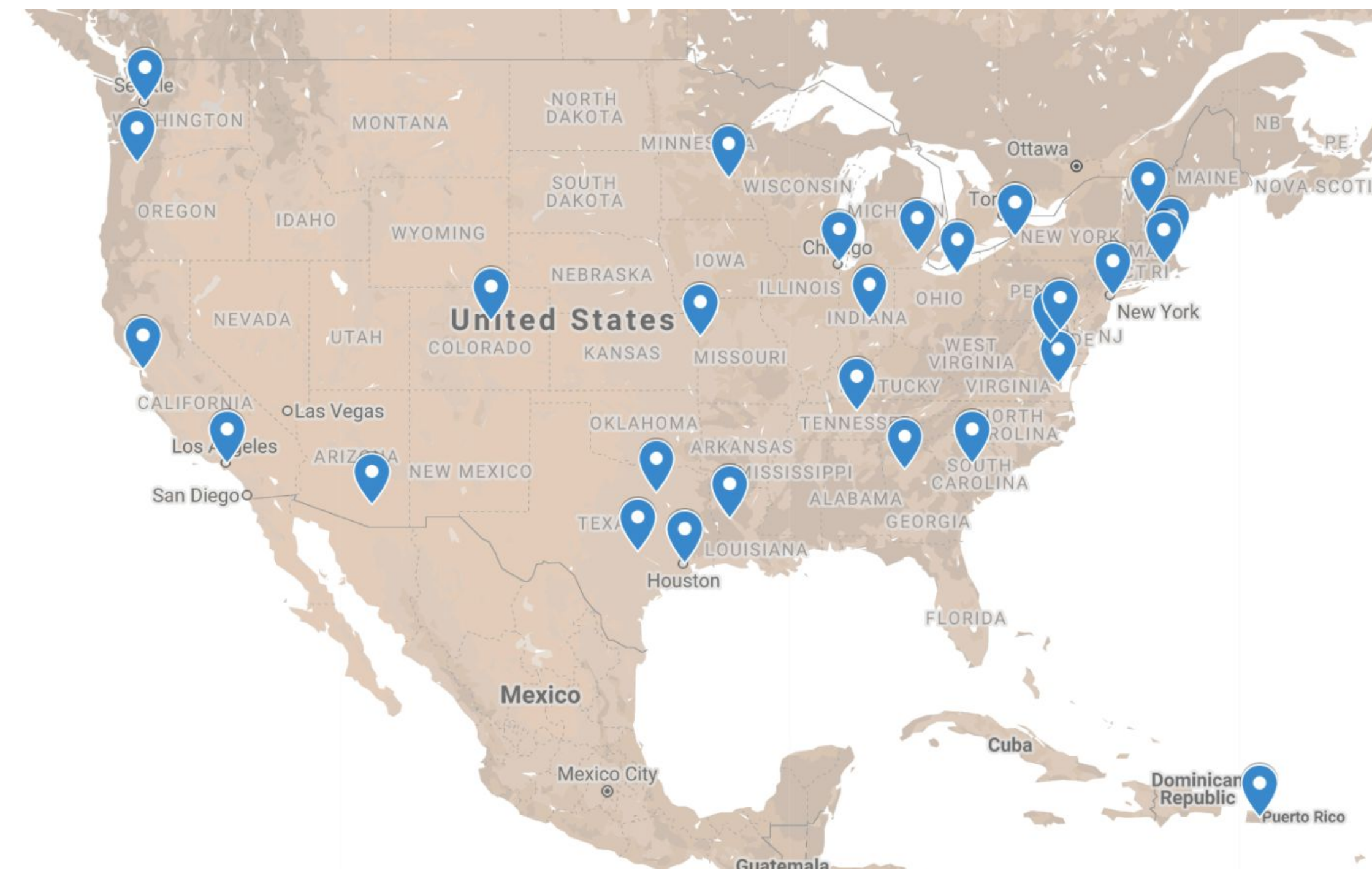
Sip and Paint with Bob Ross Zoom Texas ECPN Virtual Happy Hour. July, 2020. Hosted by Ali Wysopal (Austin Regional Liaison), Brie Warren (Houston Regional Liaison), and Emma Ross (Dallas Regional Liaison).

SPECIALITY GROUP LIAISONS

ECPN has established relationships with all AIC Specialty Groups and rely on Liaisons to facilitate communication and advocate for the larger ECP community. Specialty Groups can request liaison help on specific initiatives and if liaisons plan to attend the AIC Annual Meeting, they are asked to present the ECPN update at the relevant Specialty Group business meetings. The Speciality Group Liaisons are a great resources for early stage ECPs to learn more about the ins and out of that particular area of study. This past year Kris Nossen (TSG Liaison) and Madalyn Meehan (CIPP Liaison) also hosted virtual lab tours with their respective speciality groups.



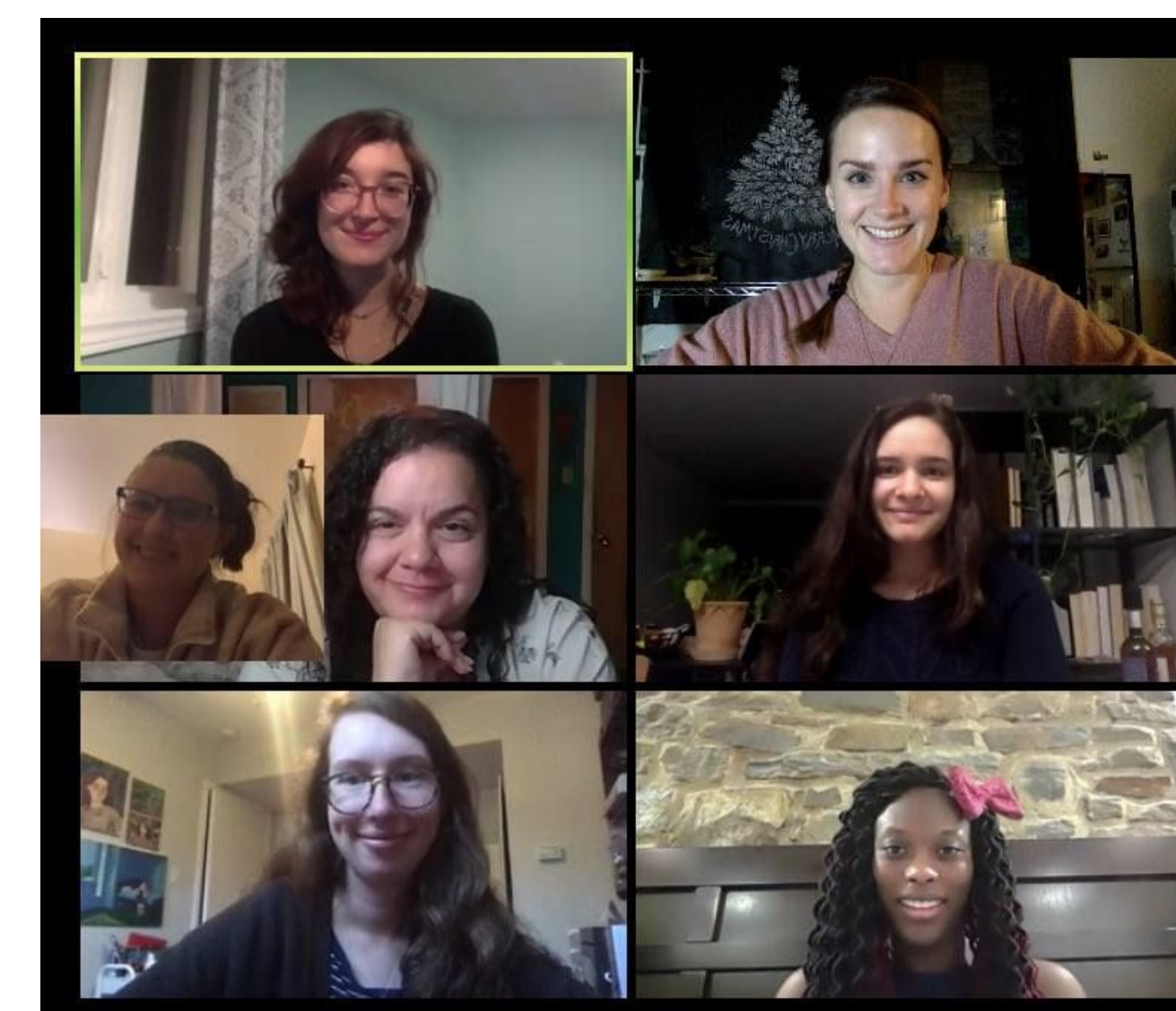
Madalyn Meehan (CIPP Liaison) during a virtual tour of her lab, M Conservation, in collaboration with Jenny McGough and Elizabeth Salmon (Los Angeles Regional Liaisons).



Map of Regional Liaison locations, find your city or connect with the one closest to you. Interested in starting your own chapter? Reach out to the Outreach Officers!

GRADUATE SCHOOL LIAISONS

ECPN has established relationships with conservation graduate programs in both the United States and Canada. Liaisons facilitate the flow of information about their particular graduate programs from their perspectives to you, their fellow emerging conservators. Whether you're pre-program or a graduate of a different program or specialty, they are here to help! Prospective students are welcome to contact Graduate Liaisons with specific questions relating to student life and a student's perspective on the curriculum.



Meet the Graduate Liaisons Zoom Event, Liaisons shared information about their programs and answered questions from pre-programmers in December 2020.

COMMITTEE AND NETWORK LIAISONS

ECPN has established relationships with all AIC Committees and Networks and rely on Liaisons to facilitate communication and advocate for the larger ECP community. Temporary Working Groups are also included in this liaison program as their charge and activities may have a direct impact for ECPs. Additional responsibilities and initiatives can be given to liaisons by their respective Committee, Network, or Working Group.

LIAISON PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The ECPN Liaison Program saw some positive changes throughout the 2020-2021 term despite major obstacles due to the pandemic. These included growth and expansion of the program to new regions, new ways of connecting virtually, collaboration between Liaisons, and expansion of online resources.

GROWTH

2020 saw the expansion of the Regional Liaison network to include five new cities (Indianapolis, IN; Providence, RI; Nashville, TN; Dallas, TX; and Upstate, NY) and Puerto Rico. Currently, there are now a total of 30 Regional liaison positions, 6 of which have co-liaison teams.

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

Clair Emma Smith and Laura García Vedrenne (San Francisco) have started a **Mentorship Program** with local conservators and their area ECPs. The Mentorship Program, which they helped form in response to COVID-19 lockdowns, was created to help match pre-program students struggling to find opportunities with virtual mentorships in the Bay Area.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN LIAISONS

Collaboration between Liaisons exploded this year, due to the virtual nature of events. Summer 2020, Jenny McGough and Elizabeth Salmon (Los Angeles) worked closely with Madalyn Meehan (CIPP Liaison) on a virtual lab tour of Madalyn's private practice studio, M Conservation. Kaitlyn Wright (Atlanta), Travis Zuidema and Jennifer Bullock (Columbia, SC), and Nhat Quyen Nguyen and Caroline Shaver (Williamsburg) have also hosted a joint **Portfolio Night**. Texas liaisons, Ali Wysopal (Austin), Brianna Warren (Houston), and Emma Ross (Dallas) hosted a Texas-wide **Conservators in Private Practice Panel** that spoke with CIPP in various stages of their careers. Mackenzie Fairchild and Brianna Bosley (Chicago) hosted a **Midwest Meet and Greet** for area ECPs to network and talk about their experiences. Greta Llanes (Boston) and Brianna Turner (Providence) co-hosted a similar **Meet and Greet** for their combined regions.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Veronica Mercado Oliveras, Paola Valentin Irrizarry, and Mayuli Santiesteban (Puerto Rico Liaisons) and have been busy **translating ECPN resources** into Spanish and providing virtual events to connect Latino conservators with ECPN in their ongoing series "**Latinos in Conservation: Journeys, Challenges, and Experiences.**"

Graduate Liaison Highlight Series, started by the ECPN Outreach Officers in 2020, interviews one Graduate Liaison each month to learn more about the student's insight into the program, application process, and other helpful tools and resources. During the 2018-2020 terms, Outreach Officers completed the **Speciality Group Liaison Highlights** highlighting each Liaison and their chosen specialty. These interviews are available on the ECPN website: <https://www.culturalheritage.org/membership/groups-and-networks/emerging-conservation-professionals-network/news/liason-program-news>