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 (ECPN). The ECPN Liaison Program began as a way to connect ECPNs 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, Specialty 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 subite: 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.Visit the ECPN 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 ecpsn.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
● Online Networking

REGIONAL LIAISONS

Regional liaisons cultivate local networks of ECPNs 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 ECPNs at all stages to connect with their peers. These Liaisons are also actively involved in other regional associations such as PACA, WSC, MRCD.

SPECIALTY GROUP LIAISONS

ECPN has established relationships with all AIC Specialty Groups and rely on Liaisons to facilitate communication and advocacy 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 Specialty Group Liaisons are a great resource for early stage ECPs to learn more about the ins and out of that particular area of study. This past year Kris Crossen (TSG Liaison) and Madalyn Meehan (CIPP Liaison) also hosted virtual lab tours with their respective specialty groups.

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 Salmond (Los Angeles Regional Liaisons), Bria Warren (Houston Regional Liaison), and Emma Ross (Dallas Regional Liaison).

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 ECP. 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 Salmond (Los Angeles) worked closely with Madalyn Meehan (CIPP Liaison) on a virtual lab tour of Madalyn’s private practice studio. M Conservation, Kathryn 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 Celebrity Sip and Paint with Bob Ross Zoom Texas ECPN Virtual Happy Hour. July 2020, Hosted by Ali Wysopal (Austin Regional Liaison), Bria Warren (Houston Regional Liaison), and Emma Ross (Dallas Regional Liaison).

ONLINE RESOURCES

Veronica Mercado Oliveras, Paola Valentin Izrraiay, and Mayuri Santkisteelam (Puerto Rico Liaisons) 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 Specialty Group Liaison Highlights highlighting each Liaison and their chosen specialty. These interviews are available on the ECPN subite: https://www.culturalheritage.org/membership/groups-and-networks/emerging-conservation-professionals-network/news/around-town-news