

## President's Letter

*Laura Downey Staneff*

As you will see announced elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, my life has changed radically since my last president's letter. My new son, Zebulon, was born on June 12, and this writing and many other tasks have been done in time snatched mainly during his naps! I want to thank the current WAAC Board members (as well as my family) for having been so supportive and helpful during this period, and I must also extend a warm welcome to the other WAAC Board baby, Tania Collas' daughter Safiye Gurdil, born May 22.

What with all this other excitement, it has been surprising to me that the time has arrived to encourage all WAAC members to consider attending our Annual Meeting. It will be held in Tucson, AZ October 20-22; talks will be held at the Center for Creative Photography on Saturday and Sunday; the Opening Reception will be the evening of Friday, October 20 at the Arizona State Museum. Other attractions include a tour of the new National Park Service conservation lab on the 20th, and of course our annual dinner to be at the original El Charro restaurant.

Before discussing the meeting in more detail, I must put in a plug for the WAAC election! Please, remember to cast your ballot as an active membership is a healthy membership for the organization. Our current Vice President Camilla Van Vooren and her Nominating Committee (Marc Harnly and Pauline Mohr) worked hard to develop a good slate. A word about the VP election – it seems often overlooked in voting for this position that the successful candidate will choose the meeting venue two years down the road. Whether it is an urban venue, a rural retreat setting, a populated coastal area, or a more remote location will be that person's job to decide. Not that the voters can always tell what location each person might choose, and sometimes she or he has something very specific in mind, as I did. But if the venue of the meeting matters to you, it is worth bearing in mind – and also worth letting the successful candidate know your opinion before that choice is settled!

I know many WAAC Presidents sign on to the job in part because they feel compelled to bring the WAAC meeting to a specific place of significance to them. This is why Bev Perkins wanted us to go to Cody WY last year, and it is certainly why I wanted to have the meeting in Tucson, which despite the perambulations of my early life, remains my home town. I understand that WAAC met there in the 1980s; however this was before I was involved in conservation (thus does not satisfy my personal urge to see my WAAC friends there), and both the city of Tucson and the conservation community there have changed a great deal in the last two decades. Meanwhile, the program of talks for the 2006 meeting is coming together well and looks to build on the high quality of presentations seen in recent WAAC gatherings. I hope that, by the time you read this, little Zeb will have allowed me enough spare moments to send a draft of the program to be posted on the WAAC website: please check it to see what the meeting has in store.

Known for the beauty of the Sonoran desert in which it sits, Tucson is home to numerous cultural attractions that make it broadly appealing for tourism. Funkier than its larger neighbor, Phoenix, the "Old Pueblo" nevertheless has greatly expanded in population and development over the years. Our meeting will feature some of the funkier parts of town (though they also are quickly changing) but those who prefer a different atmosphere can easily find it in the shopping and resort hotels of the Foothills area or the east or north sides of the city. Please refer to the WAAC website (<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/waac/meeting/attractions.html>) for a more extensive discussion of Tucson's many museums, gardens, and trails which may tempt you to spend an extra day or two – perhaps with your family – beyond our meeting.

### Contents

<b>President's Letter</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Regional News</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Technical Exchange</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Jobs</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Azeotropes from A to Z</b> <i>by Chris Stavroudis</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>Teaching an Old Dog</b> <b>New Tricks:</b> <b>The Case of the RCA</b> <b>"Composition" Nipper</b> <i>by Maria Valentina Sheets</i>	<b>18</b>
<b>Book Review:</b> <b>Max Schweidler's</b> <b>The Restoration of</b> <b>Engravings, Drawings,</b> <b>Books, and Other Works</b> <b>on Paper, translated by</b> <b>Roy Perkinson</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Conference Review:</b> <b>Modern Paints Uncovered</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>AYMHM</b>	<b>28</b>

**President's letter, continued**

Provided the gods of building construction and renovation smile on us, the new and improved lab at the Arizona State Museum will be completed (perhaps even occupied?) by the time we visit during WAAC's reception. This is a remarkable development to me and I'm sure to everyone who has worked with Nancy Odegaard over the years. At this WAAC meeting we will all be able to congratulate Nancy on her new, larger, better-equipped workspace, far more suitable for the innovative research, teaching, and other projects she and her students and colleagues have been producing for so long.

The conservation lab at the Western Archaeological and Conservation Center of the National Park Service downtown is also new and Gretchen Voeks, Brynn Bender, and associates have much to be proud of in their new facilities. Participants in the Spot Tests for Materials Characterization Workshop will be able to appreciate working in the new lab first-hand; others will have to make due with the tour scheduled for October 20th. Thus WAAC members will, confusingly, come to visit WACC.

The Center for Creative Photography, where the program will be held, is home to a collection of international significance. While the Center does not yet boast a conservation lab of its own, its staff and Director Douglas Nickel place a high priority on the preservation of the collections and welcome WAAC to the institution. Opening the same weekend as our meeting is the exhibition *Richard Avedon: In the American West*, organized by the Amon Carter Museum but featuring prints that have been housed at the CCP through its long collaboration with the late photographer.

Not to be overlooked are the several private conservators (and WAAC members) located in Tucson, some of long standing, and others who have begun their practices more recently. Together with the institutional labs in the city they form one of the more substantial local conservation communities in the Southwest.

This is my final President's Letter, and I must say I will miss being so involved with WAAC. Take note, potential candidates – a WAAC President is not necessarily burned out! While my time is already newly monopolized by family and business matters, this organization remains special to me in a personal as well as professional way. I hope many of you can join me, the rest of the WAAC Board, and all the conservators of Tucson at our October meeting!

Safiye

Zeb



only pictures of Board Member's babies are printed in the *Newsletter*.

**WAAC Newsletter (ISSN 1052-0066)** is a publication of the nonprofit Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC). It is published three times per year, in January, May, and September. WAAC Newsletter is printed on alkaline paper. Copyright 2005 Western Association for Art Conservation.

**EDITOR**

Carolyn Tallent

**REGIONAL NEWS**

Camilla Van Vooren

**TECHNICAL EXCHANGE**

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

Chris Stavroudis

**ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED**

Susanne Friend

**COPY EDITOR** Wendy Partridge

**Photocopying**

To make academic course packets that include articles from WAAC Newsletter, contact the authors of the articles directly.

**Note to Authors**

Authors of articles and other contributions accepted for publication in WAAC Newsletter assign to WAAC Newsletter the right to publish their work in both print and electronic form and to archive it and make it permanently retrievable electronically. Authors retain copyright, however, and may republish their work in any way they wish.

**Disclaimer**

The Western Association for Art Conservation does not recommend particular individuals, businesses, treatments, products, or services. WAAC Newsletter is simply a vehicle for the presentation of information from various sources. Publication of articles or reports in the Newsletter should not be construed as an endorsement of their content by WAAC. Opinions expressed in articles published in the Newsletter are those of the authors.

**Deadline**

Contributions for the *September* Newsletter should be received by the Editor before **November , 2006**.