



**2020/2021 Division & Class Report  
to the  
ACerS Board of Directors**

Division/Class:

Current Division/Class Officers: (complete as appropriate for your Division or Class)

Chair: Glenn Gates  
Vice-chair: Marie Jackson  
Secretary: Jamie Weaver  
Treasurer: Christina Bisulca  
Trustee: Ed Fuller  
Board of Directors Liaison: Mario Affatigato  
PCSA Representative: Sophia Mittman

Incoming Division Officers:

AACS Division Officers who will start their terms at the ACerS Annual Meeting, October 2021 (MS&T):

Chair: Marie Jackson  
Vice-chair: Jamie Weaver  
Secretary: Christina Bisulca  
Treasurer: Fumie Iizuka  
Trustee: Martha L. McCartney

Summary of Meetings and Activities Held/To Be Held (from Oct. 2020 through Oct. 2021):

The AACS Division hosted its even-year symposium at the MS&T20 virtual meeting in October '20, Art and Cultural Heritage: Discoveries and Education. This featured the inaugural Anna O. Shepard Award invited lecture by Dr. Ron Bishop, formerly of the Smithsonian Institution, "Small Steps, Occasional Leaps, Significant Backslides: Ceramic Compositional Analysis in an Americanist Archaeological Perspective".

The AACS Division leveraged membership feedback from the 2020 Business Meeting, which can be summarized as 'no more zoom', and also directed Board initiatives to improving the AACS section within the ACerS website. Our PCSA representative, explained that the previous AACS website was dull and difficult to find, so the Division focused on improving content and presentation, but delayed any structural website changes. The revised AACS website has launched in September 2021, and membership feedback will be incorporated as possible.

In addition, the AACS Division would like to thank ACerS for generously granting Supplemental Funding to support three students at the Geological Society of America meeting in Portland, Oregon, October 2021, to explore the intersection of geological studies with archaeology and materials science, Reading the Record of Volcanic Tephra and Tuff in Geoarchaeological Site Studies and Drill Core Records.

Future Planned Meetings/Activities (from Nov. 2021 – October 2022):

The focus of AACS Division activities in the coming year is on symposia: at the Pan American Ceramics Congress and Ferroelectrics Meeting of the Americas in Panama City, Panama, July 24-28,

2022, and at the MS&T 22 Symposium in Pittsburgh, PA, October 9-13, 2022. The Division is devoting all available funds to these activities in order to assist students with participation costs.

As membership suggests website edits, these will be reviewed by the Board for appropriate action.

The Anna O. Shepard Award will be again bestowed in 2022, since the Board has determined a best-fit to do so specifically during the AACCS participation at the MS&T Annual Meeting in even years.

#### New Initiatives/Opportunities:

The AACCS Division will continue to focus on supporting student participation and diversity and inclusion in meetings and symposia.

What action has the Division taken to address diversity and inclusion (award and officer nominations, invited speakers, etc.)?

The AACCS Division is actively involved in increasing diversity and inclusion in its membership and leadership. Diversity and inclusion is often about race, class, and gender. Race/Ethnicity: having diverse ethnicities in addition to White participants (e.g., Latinos, Blacks, Native Americans, Asians). Class: having people from different socio-economic and educational backgrounds (e.g, first generation, working class backgrounds...), not just those from normative contexts. Gender: having women, men, third gender; people with different sexual orientations (LGBT and more); since women in STEM are under-represented having more than 50% women in the group is a strength. Also, diversity can include having different age groups, members with disabilities and unique life history. We would like to attract these individuals to ACerS.

Many prospective members of AACCS ACerS who are museum professionals, conservators, archaeologists, independent researchers, participants from non-affluent countries, and/or industry professionals do not have institutional support. For ACerS to enhance diversity and inclusion within AACCS membership and symposia, the cost of conference attendance must be significantly reduced.

The AACCS Division, through selecting the most qualified candidates, has a 2021-2022 Board with all-female representation. In fact, there is strong female presence in the fields of conservation, museum studies and archaeology. A 2018 Mellon Foundation run and funded study ([https://mellon.org/media/filer\\_public/e5/a3/e5a373f3-697e-41e3-8f17-051587468755/sr-mellon-report-art-museum-staff-demographic-survey-01282019.pdf](https://mellon.org/media/filer_public/e5/a3/e5a373f3-697e-41e3-8f17-051587468755/sr-mellon-report-art-museum-staff-demographic-survey-01282019.pdf)) found that about 60% of art museum professionals and those who hold positions in museum leadership in the US indicate they are female and 40% indicate they are male, and conservators and education experts have about a 75% (female) to 25% (male) split. Our current board reflects the relative predominance of females in these fields. We look forward to adding more diversity in the coming years.

The AACCS Fellows over the past four years comprise one male and three females. Through adding outstanding female scientists to the balance of ACerS Fellows, AACCS does have the opportunity to make a more global impact for diversity in materials and ceramic science.

The AACCS Board has also encouraged participation of non-traditional students in an interdisciplinary session at the 2021 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting through ACerS supplementary funds.

Action Items for ACerS Board Consideration at the October 16, 2021 meeting:

Issues/Concerns:

The high cost of conference attendance is limiting to the growth of our division. Most museum professionals and conservators do not have institutional support and pay these costs out of pocket. A reduced rate for nonprofits and independent scholars would greatly benefit the AACS Division. This would also encourage more membership in ACerS and AACS. For ACerS to enhance diversity and inclusion within AACS membership and symposia, the cost of conference attendance must be significantly reduced.

Additional Items of Note:

Financial Statement: (Including year-end summary of expenditures from the Division's Funds)

Attached

Submitted By: Marie Jackson and Glenn Gates