Building a Community of Emerging Conservation Professionals

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Background
The Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN) formed in 2008 as a resource for junior professionals and students seeking to establish careers in conservation. ECPN is part of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC). Our mission is accomplished through the volunteer efforts of eight officers, each an emerging conservation professional. ECPN invites international members at any point in their career and encourages collaboration with similar groups internationally.

Local Programs
A number of ECPN’s domestic programs could be adapted for other countries.

Mentoring
ECPN’s self-matching mentoring program fosters relationships between professionals and those in the beginning stages of their careers. Mentors provide guidance and help to connect mentees with other professionals.

Liaison Programs
ECPN’s 20+ Regional Liaisons organize local events, lab tours, lectures and happy hours, and support AIC Specialty Group Liaisons and Graduate Program Liaisons with direct communication between ECPN and the broader conservation community.

Outreach + Presentations
ECPN officers present at the annual Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation (ANAGPIC) conference and AIC specialty group meetings. ECPN also publishes posters at AIC Annual Meetings. The annual ECPN Happy Hour provides an informal setting for members to socialize and network.

Portfolio + Networking Sessions
ECPN facilitates questions and offers advice in its Portfolio + Networking Sessions and network.

Emerging Connections
If you’re an emerging conservation professional (less than 7 years experience) please pin your location on the map.

Web-Based Programs
Our web-based initiatives reach a global audience of emerging conservators.

Webinars
Guest presenters speak on subjects of interest to emerging conservators. Recent talks have included: Get Involved! Conservation Education, Outreach, and Advocacy, and Beyond the Prerequisites: Preparing for Graduate Education in Art Conservation. Recordings are posted publicly at the AIC YouTube Channel.

Blog, Newsletter + Wiki
Conservators Converse, the AIC blog, features news, program reports, and internship/fellowship/volunteer opportunities. The bi-monthly AIC News column highlights ECPN events, while feature articles explore topics relevant to the entire field. The AIC Wiki houses our Public Relations (PR) Toolkit and more.

Facebook
Daily posts by ECPN officers and group members cover regional news and events, current conservation research, queries for the group, and more. Since 2009, the group has grown to nearly 2,000 members, building a dynamic space where emerging conservators can converse with peers all over the world.

45% of ECPN Facebook members live outside the U.S.
*Based on a recent survey

Conclusion
Over the past six years ECPN has established a strong presence in the United States. The positive response from the conservation community and the unwavering support of AIC have been instrumental in the network’s growth. International membership in ECPN’s Facebook group suggests a demand for similar networks in regions around the world. ECPN welcomes international membership but is focused on the conservation field and training programs in North America. We encourage YOU to form a dedicated group for emerging professionals in YOUR region today!

More Information
AIC website www.conservation-us.org/emerging
AIC Blog www.conservators-converse.org
AIC YouTube www.youtube.com/user/aiconservation
AIC Wiki www.conservation-wiki.com

Why Members Joined ECPN’s Facebook Group

| General networking with a community of peers | 100% |
| Information about conservation news & current events | 83% |
| Information about internship/fellowship/job opportunities | 76% |
| Information about ECPN programming | 43% |
| Advice about applying to conservation graduate programs | 41% |
| Support with internship/fellowship/job applications | 37% |
| Information about social & educational events | 26% |

Results are derived from an online Facebook survey conducted July-August 2014.