

Building a Community of Emerging Conservation Professionals

presented by

ecpn Emerging Conservation Professionals Network



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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.



Participants at the ECPN speed networking session at the AIC 42nd Annual Meeting.

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 development sessions** at annual AIC meetings. The sessions have featured a panel discussion with established conservators and displayed conservation graduate students' portfolios.

At the 2014 AIC meeting, ECPN hosted a new event: **speed networking**. Conservators at all stages of their careers enjoyed informal networking with lunch, followed by structured networking in **15-minute intervals**.

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.



2014-2015 term ECPN officers at the AIC 42nd Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California.

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

Emerging Connections

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



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