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On behalf of subcommittee members Anne Simmons, Marsha Taichman, Nancy Spiegel, Hollie Wilson.

Because of the relatively early conference timing for New Orleans, we shifted the entire schedule to earlier in the year (a November 15 deadline, which precluded papers written for the fall 2016 semester.) The call to sixty-one North American library schools and seventeen chapters went out via e-mail in October 2017. This year we received only four valid submissions. We reviewed them in early December, and were pleased with the quality of each. We delivered our unanimous decision to Viveca Robichaud and Karen Stafford on December 12:

Jade Finlinson, of the UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, “‘Antique, Oblique and Unique:’ Activating the Collections of the UCLA Department of Geography Air Photo Archive to Explore Multiple Understandings of Landscape.” The project was completed in the Winter 2016 quarter for Professor Anne J. Gilliland’s course “Archives, Records and Memory.”

Jade presented a version of her paper at the “New Voices in the Profession” panel in New Orleans on February 8, and received her prize at the Convocation that same day. Once again, the New Voices panel, co-chaired by Karen Stafford and Ian McDermott, went beautifully. Now, Jade will almost certainly rewrite the project for publication in Art Documentation.

The committee has proposed that ARLIS/NA President Eumie Imm Stroukoff name Anne H. Simmons as Chair for the 2017 award process.

Recommendations for Future

Make announcements to library schools and to chapter listservs in the spring semester of each year (say, in late January and again in late March), so that students can undertake topics and finish projects with the Award in mind.

While striving for a collaborative decision on the winner was easier with so few this year, a numerical grading scale can be helpful in teasing out what is at stake, especially in negotiating a tie. Instant runoff voting may serve as a way of identifying agreement among committee members.
Anne Simmons suggests alerting at least three new groups—librarian mentors at the national conference, mentors at the chapter level, and ArLiSNAP—early each cycle, to encourage student members to write and submit.

With at least one person, Marsha Taichman, rotating off the committee, the committee will need at least two more people to serve in 2016-2017 for the 2017 award.