

First, I would like to thank Amanda Bowen, Chair, and the other members of the ARLIS/NA Distinguished Service Award Committee for awarding the Society's highest honor to Patricia Barnett. I do not envy their task of choosing one recipient for this award from a membership as large and distinguished as that of our Society.

It is my great privilege to introduce Pat tonight. I have the pleasure of having known Pat for the past eight years. In this time, she has gone from being my boss and professional inspiration to being my mentor and friend. As an employee of hers at the Frick, I saw how she guided that Library into the 21st century.

Pat's achievements are far too numerous for me to list in this introduction, but I invite you all to look at the brief biography provided in this evening's program.* Assembling her nomination packet, I learned all that she had accomplished in a very remarkable career - from the development of standards to the formation of consortia, Pat has had a hand in almost every important development in our profession of art librarianship in the last twenty years. Throughout this, she has always maintained a spirit of generosity and a terrific sense of humor.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to present to you the winner of the 2009 ARLIS/NA Distinguished Service Award, Pat Barnett.

* Text from Convocation Program:

Patricia J. Barnett, ARLIS N/A Distinguished Service Award

Pittsburgh native Patricia J. Barnett began her adult life as a studio artist, receiving a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie-Mellon University. This artistic sensibility has always been an integral part of her personality, contributing greatly to her success as a librarian, leader, colleague and friend. Though she went on to study librarianship and earn her MLS from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science, Pat has never lost the creative instincts and impulses of the artist; she has always been an innovator helping to guide our profession from its nineteenth-century roots forward into the Twenty-first century.

Pat's achievements as a librarian are far too numerous to list. Many of the projects she developed and guided are so fundamental to the contemporary practice of our profession that it is difficult to conceive of a time when they did not exist. Perhaps the most important of these projects was the formation and development of the Getty Art History Information Program's Art and Architecture Thesaurus, a tool central to current practices in not only the library world, but also those of visual resources and museum object cataloging. Pat was the founder and director of the Clearinghouse on Art Documentation and Computerization; she has always been on the vanguard of integrating new technology

into the better practice of our profession. For Pat this has never been an end in itself, but part of her unceasing effort to improve the quality of access and service, not only at the institutions she has lead, but in realm of art libraries at large. The most recent manifestation of these efforts can be found in "Arcade" the new joint catalog of the libraries of the Frick Collection, the Museum of Modern Art and the Brooklyn Museum. This is merely the most visible aspect of the leadership role she has played in the formation and working of the New York Art Resources Consortium.

Pat has been privileged to hold leadership positions at two of our profession's flagship institutions, the Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where she worked her way up from Catalog/Reference Librarian to Museum Librarian for Coordinated Information Resources, and the Frick Art Reference Library of the Frick Collection where she served as Andrew W. Mellon Chief Librarian until her retirement late last year. The continued excellence of both institutions is largely a result of her commitment and hard work. As a leader Pat has always realized the importance of ARLIS/NA, providing funding for all levels of her professional staff to attend the conference and always encouraging their participation. Additionally, few have been the conferences where Pat herself did not present one of the myriad important projects she or her library was engaged in. Despite this full schedule, she has always been available to discuss any and all ideas her many friends and colleagues in the organization might have.

Though retired, Pat continues to contribute to the profession, recently working as a consultant at the Whitney Museum's Library on a grant for the digitization of archival materials. She continues to be a mentor to her colleagues in the field and continues to enjoy and appreciate all of the cultural offerings of New York City, from its museums to operas, dance performances and concerts where she is often sighted with a fellow ARLIS member or two.