
APRIL AWARD LUNCHEON TO FEATURE FUND-RAISING EVENT

Meet the challenge! Registrants to the Visitor Studies Conference in August are challenged to boost attendance at the annual April Award luncheon by Marilyn ("Molly") Hood, chair of the April Award committee.

For each registration to the luncheon, Molly will contribute an additional \$200 to the April Award endowment fund. The price of the luncheon has been held to a modest \$29 again this year, of which \$10 is a tax-deductible donation to the endowment fund. Molly is hoping that 100 conference registrants will choose to attend the fund-raiser, thereby benefiting the fund by \$200.

In addition to honoring the April Award recipient of 2000, the committee hopes to host the 1999 recipient, Tatyana Bogomazova from St. Petersburg, Russia, who was unable to attend last year.

A brief recital of "rollicking tales from a museum audience researcher" will be offered by Molly Hood as her "valedictory" to a 12-year involvement with Visitor Studies Conferences. At the end of the luncheon, Molly will welcome Carey Tisdal as the new chair of the April Award committee.

The luncheon is scheduled for August 5 at the Science Museum, next door to the conference hotel and promises to be a very tasty sit-down meal! Registration for the luncheon can be made on the registration form.

VSA STUDENT NEWS

by Steven Yalowitz, Student Board Member

*Once a
student,
always a
student*



Last column I looked back at the VSA 1999 Conference in Chicago, so it's only appropriate that I now look forward to the VSA 2000 Conference in Boston.

However, in keeping with the topic of International Visitor Studies, I wanted to mention our international student VSA members. Of the 24 student members, 6 are currently studying in countries other than the US or are from countries outside the US and studying here. Having an international voice and perspective in VSA is very important. Although I have received all of my academic training in the US, I spent about a year at the National Museum of Natural History in Madrid, Spain, and I count it among my most important museum learning experiences. As my first official museum experience, I learned a great deal and there's nothing quite as humbling as interviewing people in a foreign language, but that's another story....

As for the 2000 conference, I hope a lot of student members sent in submissions and that we have a strong showing at the Boston Conference. Besides the normal conference activities, there will be a few things particularly related to students that I want to point out:

I am working on coordinating another student/new professional event, where people newer to the field of

visitor studies can talk to some more veteran members and meet other conference attendees. Any input on this event would be much appreciated.

There will be some money available for student members of VSA to attend the 2000 conference. While all of your expenses cannot be paid, every little bit helps when you're a student. The deadline for requests for the student travel stipend will be June 15, 2000, but please email me as early as possible about this. If you would like more information about this available stipend, feel free to contact me.

Please encourage any interested students to attend the conference and to join VSA. If they have any questions about being a student member, please tell them to contact me. If you are at an institution that has a museum component or program, please spread the word about the conference.

In closing, I want to ask student members, potential student members, or anyone else with student-related questions, comments, or suggestions to contact me. I'd like to make being a student member of VSA as easy and rewarding as possible. Many people offered suggestions at the Chicago conference, and I am following through on those. If anything else has come to mind in the meantime, please let me know, and I'll keep you posted.

Steven Yalowitz

VSA Student Board Member
Colorado State University
Department of Psychology
Clark Building B-219
Fort Collins, CO 80523
(970)491-1320
yalowitz@lamar.colostate.edu