

Focus

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International Up-and-Coming-Leaders

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled *Focus*, which features a member or member club, turns to a group of International Up-And-Coming-Leaders: individuals who during a short tenure of membership have made significant contributions to the Photographic Society of America (PSA).

David Daduan Deng, Li Wang and Shen Jian are international members from China.



David Daduan Deng is the Lead Country International Relationships (IR) Director for China and has recruited many PSA members. After referring 106 new members, he received his 5th membership star after

only three years of membership at the Colorado Springs Conference. Along with his assistant, Li Wang, he is responsible for building PSA China into a very strong organization with *bases* in several geographic areas in China and has appointed International Relationship Directors in those places. David received the *International Representative of the Year Award* at the Conference in West Yellowstone (2009). He is an enthusiastic and tireless supporter of PSA and works hard to help Chinese photographers learn about the Society and to access PSA services. He educates Chinese PSA members on how to enter PSA-recognized international exhibitions, and encourages them to enter. As a result of his effort, there is a new force from China entering the international exhibitions worldwide.



Li Wang is an International Relationship Director in Beijing and a Region Director for China, and David's assistant. She is an active, energetic supporter of PSA, speaks fluent English and therefore plays a critical role in recruitment, retention and problem solving

for Chinese PSA members. She is the primary conduit and point of contact between the Society and PSA China. She is responsible for the administration and operations of PSA China, which is exceptionally well organized and is very actively serving photographers in China. Both David and Li are excellent photographers who are involved in the delivery of services to PSA China members. Both are deserving of recognition as *rising stars*. Li Wang has received her 4th membership star and is well on her way to getting her 5th membership star. She has referred 92 new members. Li joined PSA in 2009 and the following year (2010) she received the *International Representative of the Year Award* at the Charleston Conference.



Another up and comer from China is **Shen Jian** who is the International Relationship Director in Shanghai. He is a silent worker in the PSA China team and has conducted many workshops, field trips, and given talks encouraging PSA members in China to enter international exhibitions. Image Collections Vice President, **Henry Ng, APSA, EPSA**, says, "I can say Shen Jian is the glue in PSA China member relationships and education." Shen was directly involved in being sure that the PSA delegation to China in 2011 was supported in every way. And in addition, he is an accomplished photographer and exhibition award winner, including a PSA Gold medal in the Photo Travel Projected Image section of the 2011 PSA International Exhibition. Shen Jian joined the Society in 2009 and has referred 25 new members. The Shanghai Photographers Association selected him for the prestigious Top 10 Photographers in Shanghai in 2010.



Dr. Kate Webb, EPSA, a member of the Society since 2008, resides in Great Britain and is often in attendance at the annual PSA conferences and is a candidate for 2nd Vice Chairperson in the Color Projected Image Division (CPID) and

if elected will take office after the San Francisco Conference. In addition, she is a frequent exhibitor and earned her Excellence Distinction (EPSA) in 2011. In Great Britain Kate has been an active member of the West Cumbria Photo Group and was very involved in the PSA Interclub activities on behalf of the Group. Presently she is a member of the Wrekin Camera Club.



Viki Gaul from Canada is the newest member of the Greenhood Scholarship and Grants Committee. Viki joined PSA in 2007 and is frequently seen at the Conferences where she is willing to help whenever asked. In Colorado Springs she put in a late night helping the Conference committee prepare conference registration material. She has served as the Region Director for the Maritime Provinces in Region 17 (Northeast Canada) since January 2009. Viki is currently leading the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia in competition points. She also competes in the St. Louis Camera Club and is doing very well there also. She enters the majority of international exhibitions in CPID, Nature and EID categories and she won 2 PSA Bronze medals in the 2011 PSA International Exhibition and has won several Best of Show medals.

2012 PSA Clubs, Councils and Chapters Newsletter Contest

Please mark your calendar for the 2012 PSA Newsletter Contest. Entries will be received between March 1 and June 1. Totally electronic, the process now includes an online registration form that will be sent to both **Joan Field, APSA**, and **Hazel Meredith**. Please place your .pdf newsletters in the box shown on the registration form. This is as easy as it gets. You can reach the Newsletter Contest information page at: <http://psa-photo.org/clubs-and-councils/psa-member-clubs/newsletter-contest/>

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Field, APSA, Director, at jfzgf@att.net.

A Message from PSA President, John Davis, APSA, PPSA

This is a special message to members of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) regarding the development of PSA's database and website. This message was sent in January 2012 to all members who have an email address registered with PSA Headquarters.

PSA launched a new website in April, 2011, and intended to complete work on a new, compatible database about that time. The goal was to better serve members and make the PSA Headquarters effort and the work of volunteers more effective and responsive to member needs. The database failed, and after considerable effort to correct the problems, the new database was abandoned and the agreement with the contractor terminated. This failure caused a noticeable decline in the quality of services members expect. This message is meant to inform PSA members about the database and website effort and to reassure all members that the Society is actively taking steps to develop a new database, improve the website and build website and database compatibility.

Accurate, up-to-date membership and financial records are at the heart of the database effort and affect PSA's day-to-day operations. Because of the failure of the new database, PSA used much of the summer of 2011 to re-establish the previous database, a tedious and time-consuming task that impacted other operations and member services. The current system is generally accurate now, and will be used until a newer, more robust, modern, technologically advanced relational database is developed and fully tested. Then the current system will be replaced in a hopefully seamless transition. Contracting, development, testing and replacement are scheduled to take place during 2012. This new work is about to reach the contracting phase.

The goals for the new database are to completely manage and report all membership and financial activity needed now or in the foreseeable future, to increase the efficiency of headquarters operations, and to make volunteer tasks less burdensome. In addition to several levels of volunteer administrative access, members in good standing will be able to log in to the PSA website in order to do such things as update their own contact information, use a membership search feature which is accurate and secure, make membership payments, purchase gift memberships, and order merchandise.

On behalf of PSA, I wish to apologize for any difficulties the database failure may have caused PSA members, and to ask for member patience and understanding as the Society undertakes to complete this project. We will do our best to make 2012 a really good year for PSA.

*John Davis, APSA, PPSA, PSA President
PSA Board of Directors
PSA Headquarters Staff*

Change of E-mail address?

Members change e-mail addresses frequently, but sometimes they forget to tell the Photographic Society of America (PSA)!

Please keep Headquarters informed!

hq@psa-photo.org