ALASKA

Monica Shah is working on an emergency plan for the museum, in addition to working on exhibits and exhibit-driven treatments. She finished the first half of an IMLS-funded project for the Hoonah Indian Association. The project goals are to help manage their collections and train their staff in collections management and preventive conservation.

Ellen Carlee recently completed the excellent AIC online course for digital photography. She is currently pondering the conservation issues surrounding two large objects: a possible acquisition of an 18-ton 1914 electric mine locomotive and a proposed restoration of a rare unaltered 1930s Bristol Bay Double Ender (wooden fishing boat.)

Scott Carlee was in Washington, DC in Feb. to sit on one of the IMLS Conservation Project Support Panels. He is currently being kept busy with coordinating 6 internship projects that will take place at small museums around the state.

Janelle Matz is overseeing several contracts with the Alaska State Council on the Arts including managing the Alaska Contemporary Art Bank and the re-installation of the Alaska Native Art collection at the Anchorage International Airport. She is scheduled to finish her thesis for the MA Preventive Conservation Program at Northumbria University in June.

Regional Reporter: Scott Carlee

ARIZONA

Liz Welsh is in her last semester of law school at Arizona State University, enjoying an internship at the state legislature...onward to the bar exam in July!

Brynn Bender and Maggie Kipling surveyed, packed, and moved objects from Tumacacori National Monument in preparation for implementing the redesign of their exhibit space. The lab will be treating the objects in preparation for their return to exhibit. Maggie and Audrey Harrison are treating ceramics from Canyon de Chelly National Monument and the collections repository. Brynn is also busy filling in for the senior conservator position as Gretchen Voeks has left to attend graduate school for Chinese acupuncture. We are all very happy for her.

Teresa Moreno has recently been promoted to associate conservator at the Arizona State Museum and has been awarded tenure at the University of Arizona. Congratulations Terry!

She continues her work as part of the Arizona State Museum team that is working with the University of Arizona Science Center to develop plans for a new joint museum exhibition facility that will be located in downtown Tucson.

The Arizona State Museum Pottery Project Survey is rapidly continuing as Marilen Pool and Norine Carroll continue their work. The opening of the Pottery Vault Interpretive Gallery is has arrived and exhibit-related work is well underway.

Gina Watkinson is continuing her work with Native American Indian silver for the Set in Stone exhibit. She has also been working on several spot testing projects with Nancy Odegaard and Dave Smith as well as focusing on organizing the Preservation Division’s digital photographs.

Caitlin O’Grady attended the “Holding It All Together: Ancient and Modern Approaches to Joining, Repair, and Consolidation” conference at the British Museum in London where she presented a poster. She is currently working on portable XRF research which she presented at AIC in Denver in April.

Regional Reporter: Brynn Bender

HAWAI’I

Rosa Lowinger of Sculpture Conservation Studio was awarded the Rome Prize in Conservation for 2008-2009. Rosa will be spend 11 months at the American Academy in Rome doing a comprehensive study of art vandalism with an emphasis on creating new theoretical models for the protection of outdoor public art.

Regional Reporter: Lynn Ann Davis

GREATER LOS ANGELES

Tania Collas, head of conservation at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, has been overseeing the fumigation of the majority of the automotive collection to address a moth infestation while advising on the move of these vehicles post-fumigation to a new storage facility. At the same time, Tania and senior consulting conservator Claire Dean are continuing their work on the museum’s new permanent exhibits.

In addition, Claire will soon begin heavily involved with the de-installation of the museum’s Ancient Latin America hall, as will conservation technician KT Olson. KT recently attended the annual conference of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, hosted by the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman, OK. KT is also assisting with conservation work for one of the new exhibits, Under the Sun, including the preparation of an historic oil pump and the treatment of an early Chinese-import lacquer sewing table.

Finally, year intern Jennifer Kim (NYU Program) recently performed an extensive treatment on an electrically heated leather flight suit worn by early aviatrix Bobbi Trout slated for the same exhibit. Jennifer has also been studying deterioration in bornite minerals in the Mineral Science collection.

Sculpture Conservation Studio was awarded a Los Angeles Conservancy Award for the conservation of Helen Lundeberg’s History of Transportation, a 240-long WPA petrachrome mural in Inglewood, CA.

SCS conservator Andrea Morse has completed the conservation of a 1915 cast stone lantern in Kauai, HI and has been carrying out a survey of the collections. She continues her work as part of the Arizona State Museum team that is working with the University of Arizona Science Center to develop plans for a new joint museum exhibition facility that will be located in downtown Tucson.

Regional Reporter: Scott Carlee, column editor
Aputy National Center. She is treating and documenting the wide variety of ethnographic and archaeological objects that are part of the process of moving. In addition, Ustun is working towards her thesis, which focuses on Conservation Science Lab to demonstrate the limitations of portable XRF analyzers to quantitatively identify gold. She will be in the form of organic artifacts. She has presented her study at various conferences including the Biocides Seminar in Berlin and the upcoming XRF Seminar at the Chicago Field Museum and the IIC Conference in London.

Catherine Metzger, senior conservator of paintings at the National Gallery, Washington, was in residence as a guest scholar at the Getty Museum for three months beginning in January of this year. She is co-authoring the summer California volume of the Corpus of Fifteenth-Century Painting in the Southern Netherlands and the Principality of Liège. Her studies catalyzed a unique opportunity to have two tchîneiles by Dirk Bouts, The Annunciation from the Getty Museum and The Resurrection from the Norton Simon Museum of Art re-united for a brief time through a temporary conservation studio at the Getty.

Laurent Sozani, senior restorer from the Rijksmuseum, came to the paintings conservation department as a guest conservator in February. He brought with him a pair of Frans Hals portraits of a mad woman and a boy and, worked on them - along with members of the department and in collaboration with the Scientific department at GCI - during a three-month period. After completion of the studies and treatments, the pictures will remain at the Getty on view in the public galleries until the Rijksmuseum re-opens at some point in the future.

In October 2007, Jim Martin began an apprenticeship as a conservation scientist with Jo Q. Hill (Fowler Museum at UCLA). His activities have included condition documentation of a group of Bengal scrolls (painted paper backed with fabric) and assisting with the mounting and documentation of two large shows in the museum’s galleries: Art Stop/AIDS and Mami Water: Arts for Water Spirits in Africa and its Diaspora.

New Mexico

The Conservation Department of the Department of Cultural Affairs was featured in the following articles: “Preserving the Treasures,” in the Santa Fe New Mexican on 27 January 2008 and “Making the Puppets” in the Santa Fe New Mexican on 24 February 2008.

Joe Sembrat reports that Conservation Solutions, Inc. (CSI) recently completed a conservation treatment of the Saturn V rocket located at the Spaceport America facility in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. The maintenance of the rocket’s deteriorated conditions and ended with the fully restored Saturn V vehicle displayed for a widely anticipated opening celebration in late January 2008.

In 2007, CSI completed the treatment of two zinc statues, Liberty and Justice, from atop the city hall building in Goldsboro, NC. The work consisted of rigging and removing the sculptures, removal of over 100 years of deteriorated overgrowth, treatment of the statues, and application of the zine sheet, gilding, and reinstallation of the sculptures.

CSI is currently engaged in the treatment of another installation, a 17th century fort located in historic Charlotte Amalie in St. Thomas. UV/vis: the treatment of six sets of monumental-sized aluminum night noors located at the Department of Justice Building in Washington, DC; the cleaning of the New York Public Library Lions; the conservation of over 300 artifacts including the on-going treatment of over 100 artifacts from the RMS Carpathia – the ship that rescued survivors from the Titanic, and the conservation of a courthouse mosaics located in New Orleans.

Future undertakings include the assessment of the city of Asheville, NC public art collection and the treatment of the Glen Rose Dinosaur tracks currently on display at the University of Texas in Austin.

M. Susan Barger has become the director of Museum Development Associates, a non-profit organization providing services for small and rural museums in New Mexico and the surrounding states. Museum Development Associates serves a series of collections care workshops in the first half of 2008. These workshops are supported by the New Mexico Historical Society and Kerr Foundations. Brynn Bender taught a preservation assessment course on the care of objects at the University Museum in Las Cruces in February.

The New Mexico State legislature provided $20,000 to Eastern New Mexico University for the Intermountain Region Museum Services Program. And Susan L. Barger, who has been assistant conservator with Silverpoint Art Conservation, LLC since May 2007, will become a partner later this year. Camille is already handling new clients, which is particularly helpful to Laura Stannell since she is expecting a second baby in June.

Lauren and Camille have several recent collaborations to report: Laura and Beth Heller recently completed a Preservation Assessment and Long Range Preservation Plan for the American Alpine Club Library/Colorado Mountain Club Collection in Golden, with additional assistance from Jeanne Brako, who generously loaned a light meter from the Denver Art Museum and have also been working on an etching and print by Winslow Homer on the first surface—their documentation of the piece has been greatly assisted by Jessica Lipsky of the Denver Art Museum, who assisted with photography through the DAM’s stereomicroscope and by Nancy Esswein, Richard Moreno, and Caitlyn O’Grady at the Arizona State Museum, all of whom have helped with spots tests and FTIR analysis.

Laura and Camille traveled to Tucson in March to work on a group of Archibald Adams photographs at the Intermountain Region Museum Services Program. And at home they are thankfully approaching the end of a two-year project treating a collection of Edward Curtis photographs that originated being matted by Joan Longhuridge at Dry Creek Gold Leaf, Inc. in Denver. Many thanks to all our collaborators!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

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Regional News, continued

Beth Heller, a book and paper conservator, has joined the staff of the American Alpine Club (AAC) as preservation librarian. The library, located in Golden, CO, specializes in materials related to mountain climbing and related activities and includes circulating and rare books, archives, photographs, and ephemera. Initially, she will be spending July at the Getty Conservation Institute on a project that will help her understand the role of paper and parchment in. Carl Patterson and Steve Osborne and Carl Patterson attended the first of a series of mount making conferences at the Getty Museum in Malibu, California. The meeting brought together a large group of people with similar interest, concerns, and solutions. Third-year intern, Liz Homberger will be spending July at the Getty Conservation Institute on a project that will help her source and identify her paintings. Her current projects at the Denver Art Museum include investigating a viable solution for removing oils from baskets.

Gina Laurin, objects conservator, is coordinating the conservation of a number of objects for the upcoming Asian rotation. Tanya Uyeda from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts will lecture and work at the conservation of Asian paper at the DAM for collectors and museum patrons. David Turnbull, conservator of paintings and contemporary materials, is beginning a number of projects for the conservation of two floors in the museum’s new Hamilton extension. Carl Patterson and Jessica Fletcher are fine-tuning a cooperative technical collaboration between the DAM and the Colorado School of Mines. This should lead to shared projects between graduate students and the conservation staff.

Hope Fry joined the staff of the Western American Conservators of Fine Arts (WCCFA) as conservation technician in December. They previously worked at the conservator laboratory at the University of Kansas.

Regional Reporter: Frances Peckett

SAN DIEGO BAY AREA

At Architectural Resources Group (ARG) and ARG Conservation Services (ARG-CS), conservator Katharine Untch, architectural designer Kitty Vieth and architectural historian Katherine Petrin presented their paper, titled “Gilt and Glum: Theatrics in the Historical Finishes of Timothy Pflueger” at the Third International Architectural Paint Research Conference, held at Columbia University in New York City.

Architectural conservator Mary Slater is completing a conditions assessment and conservation planning for a group of the basins opened in 1896 as the world’s largest indoor swimming pool establishment. Mary is collaborating with an archeological team to produce a site map and with historians to outline the evolutionary history of the baths. Mary Slater also conducted paint analysis research for the Hollywood Palladium.

Sarah Gates and Beth Szuahy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco have been working to prepare the monumental tapestry Combat of the Virtues and Vices, for loan to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The tapestry, which is Flemish and dates from 1510-1515, is from the Redenbrd series of tapestries. The tapestry will be on loan beginning in September.

Denise Migdal of the Asian Art Museum, Hannah Riley in private practice and Robert Rota, an artist who collaborated on Art and Artifice, the opening exhibition for the Museum of Performance and Design in their new gallery space. The exhibition is on view until August 30th.

Regional Reporter: Beth Szuahy

TEXAS

The conservation lab at the Amon Carter Museum is pleased to be hosting Hua-Chiao Huang, graduate conservation student from Taiwan National University of the Arts, Taiwan, for a 3-month internship in the conservation of photographic materials. Ms. Huang will be working with Sylvie Pénichon, Carter’s conservator of photographs.

The Nasher Sculpture Center is pleased to announce the recent addition of sculpture conservator, John Campbell, who specializes in modern and contemporary sculpture. With Campbell’s appointment advances Nasher’s ongoing mission to be the global focal point for the exhibition, interpretation, and preservation of modern sculpture. Mr. Campbell most recently worked for a conservation studio in New York City specializing in contemporary art. Prior to this, he was at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA) for approximately 3.5 years.

Regional Reporter: Kent Grant

Head of Exhibition Services Dept.

Regional News, continued

Betty Starvoulin, the library, which was recently awarded to the university. The paintings were part of J. Alden Weir’s estate and were left to his daughter, Dorothy, upon his death. Dorothy was married to Mahonri Young, one of Brigham Young’s grandsons and an artist in his own right. The collection was left to Mahonri, when his wife died, and he bequeathed the collection to BYU upon his death. It is an interesting collection of finished and unfinished works by an important American artist and his father. It has been in storage at BYU for many years and has not been seen outside the family.

WCFFA conservator, Cynthia Lawrence, recently completed the treatment of King of the Forest, an oversized pastel on canvas by Rosa Bonheur. This painting was recently acquired by the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY.

WCFFA has completed its contract with the Utah State Capitol that included the on-site treatment of over 600 sq. ft. of fixed murals in the capital as well as the treatment of 21 of the capital’s original paintings at a conservator’s request. This is the first in a series of projects that will include the Utah State Capitol that included the on-site treatment of over 600 sq. ft. of fixed murals in the capital as well as the treatment of 21 of the capital’s original paintings at a conservator’s request. This is the first in a series of projects that will include the Utah State Capitol.

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John, Julie, and Milada have also been working on collections deinstallation from the main Art and History galleries (altogether 60,000 sq. ft., and over 4000 works and artifacts) in preparation for a major renovation campaign. A number of important artworks have been identified for treatment prior to the galleries reopening in November 2009. These include a major works of Milada, along with Alina Remba, have been working on with support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

John spent a couple of weeks in December at the National Palace Museum in Taipei, working with conservation staff in the deinstallation of await another day.

from Ten Days in the Hills by Jane Smiley

San Diego

In March, paintings conservator Betty Engel attended the AIC-sponsored Modular Cleaning Workshop, taught by Chris Stavroulakis, at the Chicago Conservation Center.

stone in Bernard Maybeck’s First Church of Christ, Berkeley. Bubblestone is an early form of autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) used by Maybeck as a fireproof material.

Katharine Untch, Devlin McDonald, Mercedes Jorgani, Collin Eaton, and Eric Hand are treating a mural at the Museum of Fine Art, in Boston. The mural panels will be 3D scanned by CyArk Heritage Network (Orinda, CA). You can deliver gaps to them at the site for a not-so-lovely 1980s post-modern abandoned department store somewhere in San Francisco.

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North Carolina

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