WAAC welcomes a new Region for this column: Alaska now boasts several in-state conservators and has its own reporter, Scott Carrlee. (Previously, of course, Alaska’s news was reported under the Pacific Northwest region.) Welcome, Alaskans!

ALASKA

Monica Shah has finished a huge commission to clean several large tapestries at the Anchorage International Airport. Monica is still working on contract at the Museum of the North on their move into new storage. In May, she will be co-presenting a paper about the move, at the Canadian Association for Conservation annual meeting in Jasper, Alberta with Angela Linn, Collections Manager for Ethnology and History.

Emily Ramos is moving into a new space in Anchorage where she will have more room to set up a book and paper conservation studio. Sean Charrette has left the Museum of the Aleutians for greener (and warmer) pastures in Cambodia. We wish him well.

Ellen Carrlee is currently working on a huge wooden fish trap that was excavated about 10 years ago from a riverbank near Juneau. The 700-year-old fish trap was originally used by the Tlingit tribe to catch salmon and other fish. The trap, made from hemlock staves lashed with spruce root, survived burial waterlogged and sealed in mud. It was treated with PEG upon excavation and is now being readied for mounting and display at the Juneau Douglas City Museum.

Scott Carrlee recently finished the treatment of a wooden propeller that will go on display at the Juneau Airport. The prop was used on one of the earliest seaplanes to be used in Alaska, a Boeing B314 Flying Boat. In March, Scott gave a 2-day workshop on artifact handling at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.

Regional Reporter:
Scott Carrlee

ARIZONA

Nancy Odegaard and Teresa Moreno taught IPM and Soft Packing for the BACC collection care workshops held in Tucson and San Diego. Nancy developed a 2-day workshop on Pesticide Residues and Testing with the Ely Shoshone Tribe of Nevada that was held at UNLV in Las Vegas in coordination with Vicki Cassman. A new book on the topic, Old Poisons, New Problems, is now available from AltaMira Press.

Peggi Cross is working with Julie Unruh on adhesive testing and identification using FTIR.

Maggie Kipling offered a day of Introduction to Art Conservation for multiple sessions of high school chemistry students in the Phoenix area.

Melissa Huber received a NEA Seminar Scholarship to attend a 3-day National Preservation Institute Seminar in Phoenix on Maintenance in Historic Structures.

Nanette Skov is planning to go to Peru again in June. Anyone wanting to go along can contact her at nanett eskov@hotmail.com by the first of May.

The Heard Museum in Phoenix is re-installing their permanent exhibit galleries scheduled to open in May 2005. Martha Winslow Grimm is responsible for not only treating textiles for the exhibit but also preparing and dressing the mannequins being used in the display.

Gretchen Voeks and Brynn Bender ventured to the Grand Tetons National Park in March to pack half of the Vernon Collection of Native American objects for transport to the Western Archeological and Conservation labs. The collection will be examined for treatment needs, treated, and stored at WACC for 5-7 years while Grand Tetons rehabilitates storage and exhibits.

Brynn continues to work on the treatment of historic river boats at the Grand Canyon. She is currently being assisted by conservation assistant Audrey Harrison, and pre-program interns Tara Hornung and conservator Caitlin O’Grady. Pre-program interns Tara Hornung and Angela Brock, and contractor Maria Lee are assisting Gretchen with the conservation of tinware lamps and chandeliers from the Painted Desert Inn at Petrified Forest National Park.

Regional Reporter:
Gretchen Voeks

HAWAII

A flash flood on October 30, 2004 destroyed the ground floor of Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii. Lynn Ann Davis was up to her ankles in mud working with the Library staff and volunteers to retrieve valuable maps and aerial photographs of Hawaii and the Pacific region. All of these priority collections were stabilized by freezing, and the slow process of treatment continues.

Downey Manoukian (the only paper conservator in Hawaii) responded to an early morning plea for help and worked on over 30 encapsulated maps in the Preservation lab on the 5th floor until it got too dark to work (there was no electricity in the building). The ongoing stress of dealing with disaster recovery has been mitigated by friends and colleagues. Linda Hee kidnapped Lynn and took her out of the mud for lunch at the Kahala Mandarin Hotel. Susan Sayre Batton has insisted on kayak therapy when she is in town working on the Honolulu Academy of Arts collection.

Susan Sayre Batton has been working in Kyoto on the initial research and organization of the Richard Lane Collection, acquired in 2004 by the Honolulu Academy of Arts. Lane was a world-renowned scholar of ukiyo-e, who published over 300 studies on Japanese art and literature. Academy Director Stephen Little purchased the contents of Lane’s home, including his art collection, computers, files, and library. The Honolulu Academy of Art acquired over 10,000 Japanese and Chinese paintings, over 7000 Japanese illustrated books from the early Edo (pre-1700) period, several thousand ukiyo-e prints, and a significant collection of shunga, or erotic printed books, prints, and paintings. Some highlights of the collection were published in the Spring 2005 issue of Orientations in an article by Stephen Little.

Larry and Rie Pace worked on a large 1950’s Dubuffet painting belonging to a local private collection which was damaged in transit from New York. A large oil painting, which is suspected to be by an Italian Renaissance artist, was taken to the Queen’s Hospital Imaging Department to be X-rayed. The hospital staff were almost as excited about X-raying the painting as they were about having...
Elisabeth Schlegel accepted a new position at the collection Eold in Vienna at the end of 2004. She has been quite busy, working with exhibitions as well as the permanent collection, which is focused on modern and contemporary post-war art. Elisabeth continues her private work, currently involved in the restoration of a huge altarpiece for the National Institute of Conservation. In addition to these activities, Elisabeth gave a presentation on the use of the ultra-sonic humidifier for the consolidation of the surfaces of modern paintings at the Museum of Modern Art Vienna.

The Natural History Museum of LA County is pleased to welcome Susie Seb-borg, a second year Buffalo conservation student, as a summer intern funded by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Susie will work with NHMLAC conservator Tatia Collas on stabilization treatments, exhibition preparations, and other collections care projects in the History, Mammalogy, and Mineralogy collections. Tania recently completed preparations for the display of a suit of Tokugawa Period Japanese samurai armor in NHM’s latest exhibition, Collaps-o. The exhibition will run through January 2006.

Jeinou Mehravanlou and Pamela Bart-ley are new interns with the Jo hill in the Conservation Department of the Academy of Fine Arts, Denyl Coughley, Assistant Conservator at GCA, assisted Dave and John in an architectural finishing workshop held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and at the RILA in Washington, DC, Historic Mortars at the Delft Technical University, in the Netherlands. John has also completed teaching in the Conservation graduate course at the University of Michigan, Conservation at Cal State University, Fullerton. He has been notified of a Peter Liversidge in the Design Excellence Program of the US General Services Administration.

Bettina Raphael, artist conservator, educator, and Martha Grimm, textile conservator, have both been working with the Heard Museum in Phoenix over the past month, preparing its collection for installation of a new long-term exhibit on Native cultures throughout the southwest that is to open in mid May, 2005.

Bettina Raphael will also be participating in a panel presentation at the AAM meetings in Indianapolis on May in “The Teaching Museum.” Integrating Museum Studies into Museum Operations” and will discuss her perspective on how to insure that collections care and conservation principals are better represented in the training of young museum professionals through curriculum design and hands-on, practical experience.

Angie Elliot, another third year intern from Buffalo State College in Objects Conservation, is currently completing a study on basket cleaning including the use of Nd:YLF lasers. She recently returned to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the first museum to use Nd:YLF lasers in the Conservation of Artworks in Vienna, Austria. She is training the rest of the laser cleaning team on the remainder of her laser cleaning tests and analysis prior to giving a presenta- tion and workshop at the Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation. She will be returning to the Conservation Lab of the Department of Cultural Affairs/Museum of New Mexico to finish her fellowship in New Mexico history at the Palace of Governors in Santa Fe.

Associate Conservator Mina Thompson is working with LACMA to develop protocols for reducing staining and old repairs on a collection of Mimbres pottery excavated from Coronado State Monument. The collection is being humidified, unraveled, and battered.

Larry Humetewa has been treating several Native American tanned and beaded leather artifacts and ceramics for the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe. He is lead conservator for the exhibition The Pottery of Santa Ana Pueblo and the upcoming exhibition Elements of Earth and Fire: Ceramics of the Southwest Pottery both at MIAC. He is also helping with a re-housing project of the famous Gustave Baumann marionettes at the MFA.

Laura Downey Stanef, column editor

Regional News, continued

New Mexico

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With Director of Conservation, Claire Munzenrider, Conor is also treating approximately seventy rolled canvases that dropped from the ceiling at El Camino Real State Monument.

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Landis Smith and J. J. Brody, professor emeritus and author, each shared their expertise and conducted separate workshops on Mimbres ceramics.

Senior Conservator Maureen Russell organized a day-long workshop for the lab on various fill materials for 3-dimentional objects. Ev everyone in the lab gave presentations and tips. Maureen is assisting on several upcoming exhibitions including the reinstallation of the historic Tunstall Store in Lincoln, New Mexico and Explorations in Bronze: De gases and New Mexico Sculptors from the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe. She will be traveling to the Copia Museum of Art, Food, and Wine in Napa Valley to install the traveling Mayolica exhibition, Ceramicas y Cultura from the Museum of International Folk Art.

Keith Bakker, objects conservator in Albuquerque, has been teaching a “Seminar in Museum Methods” for the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico. He is also working on the planning committee for the Museums Studies curriculum at the university.

M. Susan Barger is teaching a class on the “Detection of Art Fakes and Forgerys” in her home department, Earth and Planetary Sciences, at University of New Mexico. Both Steven Prins and Keith Bakker have been guest speakers in her class. Susan is also working on an evaluation of the New Mexico Historic Records Review Boards Grant Program for the State Archives. She was recently elected to the board of CARTA, the Camino Real del Tierra Alurento Trails Association. In addition, Susan and Barbara Hagedorn have opened a non-profit organization to help prepare New Mexico’s small museums for statehood in 2012.

Regional Reporter: M. Susan Barger

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Nicholas Dorman would like to announce that K. Elizabeth Brown, the former Objects Conservator at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, joined the Seattle Art Museum staff as the Objects Conservator. A newly created position, in December 2004. Her responsibilities include the conservation, examination, and treatment of works of art. She is focusing on small collections, as her specialty is the conservation of small-scale objects. She will also research objects and present findings in lectures, displays, and publications.

Aliece Bear Conservation will take on intern Ginger Bellurud from the University of Delaware. Ms. Bellurud is enrolled in the Museology graduate program to assist in completing the rehousing and conditioning phase of over 700 Japanese woodblock sumo wrestling prints.

J. Claire Dean spent a month in South Africa at the Rock Art Research Institute, University of the Witwatersrand, assisted by Art Mentor (Conservator, University of Delaware). They carried out a condition survey of the archives in preparation for moving them to a new museum on campus in early 2006. Claire is already planning for her next field work in Texas, Washington, Oregon, and California. She is also delighted to let fellow fans of the Lovejoy Ramp Columns (the subject of a couple of presentations at past WAAC meetings) know that two of them are due to be installed in Portland’s Pearl District sometime this year under her watchful eye.

Janae Huber, formerly Registrar at the Tacoma Art Museum, has begun a new position in Olympia as the Washington State Art Commission as their Collections Manager. She will be caring for approximately 4500 objects conservator in Museum Methods” for the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico.

Regional Reporter: Claire Dean

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
In the Spring quarter at the University of Denver, Laura Downey Stanef is teaching an introductory preservation course in the Library and Information Science Department. Laura continues to consult for clients in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, and is in the process of renovating her new studio.

Denver Art Museum pre-program interns Tosha Wagener, Paige Isaacs, and Dawn Jaros have been busy interviewing at the conservation training programs. Kristy Jeffcoat, Assistant Conservator, has received a scholarship from the Mayer Center for Pre-Columbian and Spanish Colonial Art to attend a study tour of Western Spain. This opportunity will allow Kristy to further her research on applied decoration to Spanish Colonial paintings and present her findings to other tour attendants.

Regional Reporter: Maureen Reading

As one friend put it — “If he were a musician, I would say he has perfect pitch – as a conservator – he has perfect pitch in color. I have never seen anyone with such a unique talent.” He was awarded Honorary Fellow status by the Bay Area Art Conservation Guild in 1990.

After retiring from the art conservation field in 1988, Robin brought his talent and energies to the awareness of AIDS as “the world’s pre-eminent post modern disease.” He spoke widely on the subject of AIDS in the context of a series of 12 woodblock prints he created entitled AIDS’ Dark Terrain: Twelve Stencils from a Yankee Pilgrim. He viewed AIDS as a passage out of external appearance, but rather as an internal development and exploration of self. Robin’s artworks can be found in over 100 museums and archives in the United States and abroad. In addition, he participated in over 24 solo and juried exhibitions from 1991-1996.

In an interview with the Visual Aid News in November 1994, Robin was very concerned that AIDS would fall from public attention as the epidemic was prolonged, and he used his work to increase awareness of the disease. His outreach to communicate the understanding of AIDS as one of the 8 to 10 defining events of the 20th century was global. He is survived by his art, conservation, and activist friends, and is revered in the San Francisco Bay Area fine arts community. Robin’s posthumous work has been the subject of extensive exhibitions and publications, and he was awarded Honorary Fellow status by the Bay Area Art Conservation Guild in 1990.

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