Regional News

ALASKA

In addition to her usual Art Bank Curator position, Emily Ramos is giving a day lecture/workshop in April on the basic preservation practices for records managers for the Greater Anchorage Chapter of ARMA (the Association of Records Managers and Administrators).

In Juneau, a tragedy occurred when the city’s second oldest church burned to its remains of the 108-year-old church. The church, known for the 6 large oil paintings by Francis Davis, which adorned the walls of the main altar. Ellen and Scott Carrlee had removed the paintings in the fall and shipped them to the Western Center for the Conservation of Fine Art in Denver to be conserved by Carmen Bria and his crew. Although the church was a total loss, the parishioners are grateful that the paintings had not yet been returned. They are now all that remain of the 108-year-old church.

Monica Shah has been working on the conservation and installation of the new Alaska Art gallery, part of the new University of Alaska Museum of the North expansion project. The expansion on one of the hills of Fairbanks creates a spectacular building along the skyline (www.uaf.edu/museum/expand/index.html), evoking images of glaciers and ice break-up. The new Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery will open on May 7.

Regional Reporter: Scott Carrlee

ARIZONA

Nancy Odegaard continues to be busy as President of AIC working with Heritage Preservation and the National Hurricane Task Force. Nancy is co-teaching a graduate seminar in Heritage Conservation Science with Pam Vandiver, Director of the new PhD program in Heritage Conservation Science at the University of Arizona (UA). Nancy and Teresa Moreno will be teaching an introductory course in the UA pre-summer session on the Principles of Archaeological Conservation, geared towards archaeology students.

Nancy and Teresa continue to advise on the design and construction of the new Arizona State Museum Pottery Vault and Conservation Lab. Construction is proceeding on schedule, and it is hoped that it will be largely completed in time for the meeting in Tucson. Chris White is continuing work on the Save America’s Treasures Pottery Project and preparing for a major move of the Museum’s Native American ceramics into the new vault.

Private conservator Odile Madden continues to make progress towards a PhD in Materials Science with her research into pesticide residues on artifact materials. Likewise, Caitlin O’Grady, Lesley Frame, and Dan Jeffery, also doctoral students in the Heritage Conservation Science program, are all continuing with their own research while working on various projects in the ASM conservation lab.

Caitlin and Lesley are also busy coordinating a session entitled “Conservation Studies and Ephemeral Remains” as part of the Second Archaeological Sciences of the American Symposium to be held in Tucson at the UA on 13-16 September 2006. The symposium was conceived to address and discuss issues pertaining to the science of prehistoric and historic materials. For more information on this symposium contact Caitlin O’Grady at cogrady@email.arizona.edu.

Western Archeological and Conservation Center conservator Brynn Bender continues her work with historic riverboats at the Grand Canyon. She recently completed treatment of the “WEN.”

Brynn, Gretchen Voeks, conservation assistants Audrey Harrison, Maria Lee and Angie Brock, and pre-program intern Alex Dymier worked with Shoshone elder and bead worker Laine Thom over a two week period learning to do beadwork and quillwork in the traditional manner. Laine will be assisting the conservators with the treatment of objects in the Grand Teton David P. Vernon collection.

Gretchen participated in a collection management planning effort at Golden Spike National Historic Site in Utah. Brynn assisted Kalaupapa National Historic Park in Hawaii with moving collections into their new curatorial facility.

Regional Reporter: Gretchen Voeks

HAWAII

Larry and Rie Pace have been working on-site on Maui and the Big Island. In the lab are paintings by contemporary artists, including Franz Kline, Ralph Iwamoto, and Donald Sultan which have provided interesting challenges. Larry gave a talk to the docents of the Honolulu Academy of Arts regarding the 25 Medieval and Renaissance panel paintings in the collection, which were examined for the rehanging of the remodeling the Western Art Galleries.

Valerie Free is traveling to Beijing, China to prepare Qing Dynasty Empress dragon robes for an upcoming exhibition, Celebrating Chinese Women, at the Bishop Museum. Conservation intern Vaimua Mulia has been working in the objects lab for the last 3 months. Vai hails from Uvea via New Caledonia and will complete his graduate degree in conservation from Universite de Paris at the Sorbonne this year. All hands are preparing for closure of Hawaiian Hall in July. The historic building will be renovated, and all new exhibits will be installed. Valerie has been working with Steve Weintraub over the past few years to develop environmental and lighting improvements for the galleries and Victorian style exhibit cases.

Thor Minnick is continuing work on the four Kawaiaha’o Church koa entrance doors and in the process of repairing a broken King Kalakaua koa calabash lid. He has submitted a treatment proposal to Mission Houses Museum for items of furniture in their collection.

The Honolulu Academy of Arts welcomed Janice Schopfer for a week in early March. Janice is working with the Asian Art department to continue the Lange Foundation Project on the conservation and exhibition of the Michener Collection of Japanese Woodblock prints. She will come to Honolulu on a quarterly basis to work with staff, as well as conserve Academy prints in the Western Regional Conservation Paper Conservation Lab at the Palace of the Legion of Arts in San Francisco.
Janice’s project will focus on upgrading the Academy’s digital photography and conservation documentation procedures and criteria to determine rarity and quality in the collection. She will conduct hands-on workshops and write reports for staff. The Academy is fortunate to have Janice’s expertise, as well as the participation of Debra Evans on this important project, now in its 12th year.

The Honolulu Academy of Arts brought Bay Area paintings conservator and writer Will Shank to consult on collections for three days at the end of February. Will reviewed key elements of the Honolulu Academy of Arts’ conservation program, and provided expertise on preservation management.

Over 40 days of heavy rain hit Honolulu, Oahu, and Kauai when Lynnn Davis resumed her sabbatical that was interrupted October 2004 by the University of Hawaii Library Disaster. She has a particular propensity towards drawing attention to the importance of disaster response and recovery planning. Fortunately there were no major disasters at any of the cultural organizations on Oahu or Kauai. The Kahala mall on Oahu got flooded… but malls can be classified as replaceable ephemera with insurance.

Regional Reporter: Lynnn Davis

LOS ANGELES

Jennifer Koerner, Chail Norton, Sokoh Furuhata, and Chie Ito have been busy preparing for LACMA at 40: Gifts in Honor of the Museum’s Anniversary, a temporary Project 10: Mrzygka & Moriceau or of the Museum’s Anniversary, which will open at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on March 1.

Projects Berta is working on include the treatment of costumes in preparation for the exhibition Breaking the Mode which opens in September. Berta is currently a student in the Cologne Conservation Program. She will finish the program in 2007.

Tania Collas, Conservator at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, will be on maternity leave from June through September, 2005.

The Antiquities Conservation Department of the J. Paul Getty Museum has created a new position of Collection Steward, which is presently conserving a large painting of a bludakas and a della that belongs to the Norton Museum in Florida. Laura Rivers, the department’s post-grad assistant, was just appointed an Annunciation by Tommaso del Mazzo. Tiarna Doherty and Laura Rivers have been taking on the large Udny painting of the Lion.

Tiarna Doherty and Chris Stavroudis ran a cleaning workshop using the Modu- lar Cleaning Program at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in November.

Yvonne Szafra has recently finished the treatment of Simon Denis’ landscape painting Large River, which is now on view in the galleries. Yvonne has also finished the treatment of the recent acquisition of François Bonvin’s a large moonlit scene, and also working on an Oostanen’s Circum- flexion for the Portland Museum of Art.

Mark Leonard has recently completed the restoration of one of Bouguereau’s large-scale paintings, Song of the Angels, from the Forest Lawn Museum of Art in Glendale. It went on view at the Getty Museum and was supervised by Caroline, a focus of a small exhibition, following Bouguereau’s preparatory sketch for the picture and his autograph replica of the composition. Gene Karraker gave a paper titled “Framing the Northern Eu- ropean Collection at the J. Paul Getty Museum” at the “Frames: The Northern European Traditions” conference in Dresden.

Regional Reporter: Will Shank

The Conservation Department of the Museum of New Mexico System overlooks useful techniques and software to enhance the conservation of this state’s cultural resources with the lending of loan exhibitions.

Mina Thompson and Andy Smith are using state of the art approaches and research techniques as well as the United States, will present state of the art approaches and research at ICED, the International Congress of Conservation.

Stephen Colton, Lynn Davis, and Natasha Cochran have been busy reviewing key elements of the conservation community of AAD and the Conservation Department at LACMA.

Steve Colton is working on contract with objects conservators at LACMA on a project of a number of objects in preparation for the reinstallation of the museum’s permanent collection and for the opening of the Broad Contemporary Art Museum, scheduled for 2007. Among his projects, Steve is devising a treatment for Donald Judd’s concrete sculpture, Five. And is also consulting on the treatment of a Basket collection in preparation for the reinstallation of the galleries.

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The Librarian

The Librarian

Camilla Van Voeren, column editor
Conservation in Albuquerque, recently completed a training workshop for records managers from the Office of Trust Documents at the University of New Mexico. The course included discussions of Vital Records Protection, Risk Management, and Developing Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans, but also focused on preservation methodologies such as Care and Handling, Environment, and the technology and structure of records materials.

In the past year, Jo Anne also completed a large project of treatment and stabilization of close to 400 ledgers from the Lincoln Monument in southern New Mexico, and two large projects for the Lincoln County Wars of the late 19th century in which Billy the Kid played a major role. The ledgers document the transactions of the Tunstall Store which operated for close to 80 years and remains part of the Lincoln Monument.

M. Susan Barger is the technical services director for Museum Development Associates. This non-profit was set up to serve small, rural, and emerging museums in New Mexico and surrounding states. MDA has moved to a new office and the new contact information is: Museum Development Associates, PMB # 170, 7 Avenida Vista Grande, Suite B7, San Fe, NM 87508, 505-466-3480.

Regional Reporter: M. Susan Barger

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

J. Claire Dean spent 3 months over the winter in various parts of Africa. She carried out conservation work on two rock images sites (one in Swaziland, the other in Kenya) as part of rural community development projects aiming at helping local impoverished communities gain economically from their cultural heritage. Claire also spent several weeks in Johannesburg helping the Rock Art Research Institute open their new Origins Center which includes a new home for their research archive and collections as well as the first museum dedicated to the rock art of Africa.

Marie Laibinis-Craft of MLC Objects Conservation, recently completed the restoration of two of Portland’s oldest fountains, the Shenamski and Skidmore fountains. The Shenamski fountain in a drinking fountain built in 1928 and is located in the park adjacent to the art museum. The Skidmore fountain, built in 1888, is Portland’s first fountain and outdoor sculpture and was created by Olin Warner, the sculptor who designed the doors for the Library of Congress building.

The treatment was completed with the assistance of Tom Fuller of Northwest Objects Conservation, Inc. Marie and Tom are currently working on the cleaning of the granite of the Water Cascades fountain located in Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland. The fountain restorations were initiated by the Regional Arts & Culture Council and the City of Portland Water Bureau and have been funded by grants from the City of Portland.

Regional Reporter: Peter Makley

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Laura Downey Stanef has been busy with surveys at the Center for Creative Photography and the Museum of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, as well as with planning for WAAC’S 2006 Annual Meeting in Tucson, AZ.

Judy Greenfield will be attending the Global Conservation Summer Institute at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA May 27-7.

Mark Minor and his assistant, Jeremy Petersen, have been working on the stabilization of the choir loft of the Santa Ana de la Joya church in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. It is a late 17th-century structure, with a beautiful painted and carved choir loft. They expect the work to be finished in early May.

The Denver Art Museum is pleased to announce that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a $1.75 million challenge grant to fund the Museum’s art conservation efforts. This gift is the largest donation specific to conservation in the Museum’s history and will support the institution’s mission to safely preserve and exhibit its collection, which currently contains more than 60,000 objects. Of the total $1.75 million, $1.5 million is designated endowment to support the Museum’s position of Chief Conservator.

This grant requires the Museum to raise an additional $1.5 million over the next two years in matching funds, bringing the future total of the endowment to $3 million. The additional $290,000 was a cash contribution from the Office of Trust Documents, which will increase the Museum’s conservation staff and purchase necessary equipment for that department’s laboratory.

Jessica Fletcher, Associate Conservator, announces the birth of her second daughter, Nola Christine.

After treating over 600 pieces of art, DAM conservators Kristy Jeffcoat, Carl Patterson, Paulette Reading, and David Turnbull report that art installation has begun in the new 140,000 sq. ft. addition to the Museum. They are excited that the new building includes a satellite conservation lab designed to treat a wide range of collections found in that building.

Denver-based conservator Gina Laurin has again joined the DAM conservation staff on contract to help prepare material for the new addition. She has spent most of last year working on a large 150 piece ceramic installation by Betty Woodman.

Regional Reporter: Paulette Reading

SAN DIEGO

Beverly Perkins traveled to Natchez, Mississippi to teach “Conservation: Do it Yourself vs. The Pros.” The workshop was presented by the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies in cooperation with the Historic Natchez Foundation. Beverly also presented in Louisiana with Hilary Kaplan of NARA and Mary Striegel of NCPTT.

Hilary and Beverly taught a workshop entitled, “After the Storm: Recovery of Wet Collections” in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Natchez. Mary arranged the workshops and wrangled Hilary and Beverly.

The workshops were presented by AEC, FEMA, LAM, and LC甜甜圈 and funded by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Mary, Hilary, and Bev spent one day visiting sites in New Orleans and helping with the recovery of collections at Dil- lard University, the Back Street Museum, the evidence room at the Orleans Parish court house, and at the residence of jazz musician Dr. Michael White.

Regional Reporter: Francis Prichett

SAN FRANCISCO

Meg Geis-O’Mooney (textile/costume conservator in private practice) recently completed a site visit to one of California’s oldest missions still serving as a Roman Catholic church. Having left her part-time position at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco last fall, 1/2 years where she conserved a wide variety of textile objects that were once used in the church’s liturgical and religious practices, she is now looking forward to spending more time in these religious realms.

At the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, conservator Dr. Rachel Marple and Beth Suzhau welcome new intern Joy McCallister. Joy is a recent Bay Area graduate student in history and is taking advantage of the opportunity to practice conservation in the Fine Arts Museums. In Paintings Conservation we welcome Mareike Lintellm, who is with us for a 6-month internship. Mareike comes to us from the Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences in Germany where she is in her second year of studies.

Will Shanks is pleased to announce the publication of his first book, Celluloid San Francisco: The Movie Lover’s Guide to Bay Area Film Locations, co-authored with Jim Van Buskirk. The book launch took place in April at the San Francisco Public Library, followed by a series of book signings and presentations in San Francisco and San Francisco International Film Festival in Japan at the Yasuhiro’s Kabuki theater.

Regional Reporter: Charlotte S. Ameringer

TAXAS

Gregory Thomas continues his private practice, Art Care, in Rockport, Texas, as in paintings and paper conservation. Most recently he completed seven, early 20th-century oil on canvas paintings by A.R. Gurry for the Kauai Museum in Hawai. Having completed a survey in May for the museum on Kauai, the conserva- tion treatment proposals were recently funded and the paintings are scheduled for conservation treatment at the Rockport Art Care conservation studio for treatment. Greg also continues to provide conserva- tion services for clients in Texas; works include an impressionistic landscape, oil on canvas, by G. Ames Alldrich and an 18th century pastel portrait by an unknown artist.

Barbara Brown notes that Camille Moore, graduate student in the Insti- tute for Fine Arts, New York University, will be fulfilling her 4th-year intern- ship in photograph conservation at the Harry Ransom Center, working with Barbara for nine months starting in September. Barbara also says that she may perhaps have a bit more news after June when she gets back from Ukraine.

Olga Kondyuk, the book conservator from the Library and Archives of the National Preserve of Tauric Chersones- sos in Ukraine is here at the Harry Ransom Center working in the book lab interfacing with Olivia Primanis for two months. Olga’s husband, Andrei, is also in Austin. He is working with Joe Carter and Adam Rubinowitz at UT’s Institute of Classical Archaeology (ICA) on 3-D computer imaging of the archeo- logical site in Chersonesos in Ukraine. ICA staff initially contacted the Conser- vation Department at the Ransom Center last year and requested their help in a project to train local staff in conservation and preservation methods and library collections. Ransom Center conservators,

Jim Stroud, Stephanie Watkins, Barb- ra Brown, and Olivia Primanis all worked with the Charlottesville library in May and Barbara has been asked to come back for three weeks this June. Barbara will be working with the archivists to continue training and guidance in basic preservation and conservation of photographs and manuscripts. Much of the work is on booklets and questionnaires made of paper and metals with perforated holes. The team is also working on a project to improve the preservation of a series of five murals that was conserved and re-housed in a newly renovated performing arts center, an on-going project expected to continue for about 5 years. Anne is working on smaller paintings and works on paper, including master drawing from the collection of the Crocker Museum and privately owned Japanese prints. Anne will work in the state capitol in San Jose, CA, in May, doing scheduled maintenance and repair of murals in the rotunda and entry vestibule.

On May 25, Cantor Arts Center at Stan- ford University is hosting a BAACG program with Tom Stone of CCI. The general topic is durability of conservation treatments and impact on the value of art objects. Details forthcoming.

Regional Reporter: Ken Grant