Regional News

ALASKA

Ellen Carrlee of the Alaska State Museum has been focusing on basketry treatments, including the development of a new PEG protocol for the treatment of waterlogged basketry. (She is eager to discuss this protocol with any interested colleagues!) She will soon begin a conservation survey of the museum’s Natural History collection. Ellen led increased IPM vigilance for the Alaska State Library and Archives following the destruction of a nearby building with a large rodent population.

Scott Carrlee of the Alaska State Museum participated in the AIC Collections Emergency Response Training in Seattle in November. There were a number of WAAC members at the training.

Two out of state conservators worked in the Alaska this fall. Dana Seng of DKS conservation in Seattle was in Kodiak cleaning and repairing a large skin covered Baidarka (kayak). Malcolm Collum from the Henry Ford was in Anchorage surveying a significant historical aircraft at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum.

Monica Shah of the Anchorage Museum spent the better part of a week in Bethel Alaska de-installing a large show of Yup’ik Eskimo artifacts called Yupik Science. She is busy at the moment treating objects from that show such as a squirrel skin hood, a swan feather whisk broom, and a fish skin parka.

Regional Reporter: Scott Carrlee

ARIZONA

Martha Winslow Grimm is coordinating an Angels Project, a yearly activity of Costume Society of America, at the Jackson Barracks Military Museum in New Orleans. During hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the museum was under 15 feet of water which stayed for three weeks. The building was condemned and the museum is now in temporary quarters. Two years later there is still much to be done to get the museum up and running. The artifacts desperately need help and the Angels Project volunteers will be vacuuming, labeling, documenting, and photographing the objects for new storage facilities. If you would like to assist, please contact Martha Winslow Grimm, Textile/Costume Conservator, mwgrimm@cox.net.

Gloria Fraser-Giffords is finishing the conservation/restoration on paintings and frames at the University of Arizona’s Museum of Art - objects affected by a broken steam pipe last January that filled the rooms with steam and melted the wax on the cork floors!

At the Intermountain Region Museum Services Program, Brynn Bender is busy working as lead conservator for new exhibits at three National Park Service sites in Arizona. Brynn, Audrey Harrison, and Maggie Kipling are performing treatments for leather, beadwork, and textiles from the Vernon collection of Native American items that belong to Grand Teton National Park. Maggie performed a condition survey for objects from Tonto National Monument and continues treating textiles from Montezuma Castle National Monument.

Nancy Odegaard finished her fall sabbatical semester at the Getty Center as a GCI Scholar and made presentations at the Symposium 2007 conference in Ottawa and the recent international biocidal seminar in Berlin.

Teresa Moreno continues as acting head of the Arizona State Museum’s Preservation Division while Nancy is on sabbatical and is overseeing a number of ongoing projects including research and conservation of objects for upcoming exhibits and loans. She, Gina Watkinson, Melissa Kingston (U of A undergraduate student), and Stephanie Ratcliffe (U of A graduate) are working on the conservation of a collection of Native American silver jewelry and other metal-smithing paraphernalia in preparation for the Set-in-Stone exhibit scheduled to open in February.

Teresa is also heavily involved with the Arizona State Museums and University of Arizona’s planning process in the design of a new museum building that will be constructed as part of the city of Tucson’s Rio Nuevo Downtown Development. The museum will play an instrumental role in the interpretation of the city’s historic and prehistoric origins.

Chris White continues his research and work on the ASM’s Pottery Project. Local conservator Marilyn Pool and Norine Caroll, who relocated here from the DC area, have been hired to work with Chris and continue the condition survey and the conservation treatment of the whole vessel collection.

Caitlin O’Grady is continuing her PhD research and the work she is doing in preparation for ASM’s Journeys of Our Ancestors exhibit, which is in development for installation at the new ASM Rio Nuevo facility in a couple of years. Her research includes the development of portable XRF calibrations for copper alloy objects. In addition she continues her research on the ASM’s archaeological ceramics collection looking at historic Mexican restoration fills on Casas Grandes pots.

Rachel Freer has also joined the ASM team as the Samuel H. Kress Foundation Conservation Fellow for 2007-2008. Rachel will be working together with Caitlin on the conservation of objects for the Journeys of Our Ancestors exhibit. Rachel is focusing her research on the textiles and organic materials that have been selected for display.

Regional Reporter: Gretchen Voeks

HAWAI’I

The Honolulu Academy of Arts opened their exhibition on modernism in Hawaii, Hawaiian Modern: The Architecture of Vladimir Ossipoff. You can check out the exhibition web micro-site at hawaiianmodern.org. The show is up through the end of January; it then travels to Frankfurt and Yale.

Regional Reporter: Lynn Ann Davis

GREATER LOS ANGELES

After almost two years of volunteer work, Victoria Blyth Hill has completed the book Care and Handling of Thangkas: A Guide for Caretakers. The basic guide for monastery collections and monks is printed with color illustrations and is translated into Tibetan. (Chinese
In September 2007 Terry Schaeffer attended the conference “Printed on Paper” in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, and presented a talk entitled “Printed on Supports Other than Paper: Light-Induced Changes in Media and Conservation.” Aitchison and Watters is continuing to work on a large collection of Fragonard drawings for the Norton Simon Museum in preparation for other ongoing projects.

Cara Varnell and Irena Calinescu, with the help of several assistants, spent a good part of last summer working on a conference relocation project for the city of San Fernando. The Casa de Lopez Adobe, the 1881 home of the prominent Lopez family, among the first residents of San Fernando, is registered as a National Historical Site and was opened to the public in 1975. Grants from Save America’s Treasures and the California Cultural and Historical Endowment will fund preservation of the Adobe for the next year. First, a detailed move plan for the collection of over 2,500 historic artifacts was developed and a collection software database was set up. Then, everything was inventoried, tagged, photographed, condition surveyed, cleaned, and packed by the conservation team in preparation for transport to temporary storage. After the structure undergoes preservation treatments, the artifacts will be returned to the Adobe, and the city plans to re-open it as a “house museum.”

The Sculpture Conservation Studio finished the History of Transportation WPA mural. Eight panels were mounted and a duplicate of the original wall was made. The Grevillea Park in Inglewood, and the dedication was held in August 2007. We would love everyone to go to Inglewood to see it completed and in its new location. It now has lights so you can view it day or night. This past summer, SCS spent 4 weeks conserving a bronze fountain in the Atrio courtyard of the Mission Inn in Riverside, along with 1 week at the Palm Springs Art Museum helping the museum with the conservation of the building and supervision of their Weiner collection for an installation which opened in early November 2007. They welcome Andy Smith and Carrine Fazdik to their staff.

On March 28, 2008, a mountmaking forum will take place at the Getty Villa in Malibu. Intended for anyone interested in mountmaking, this one-day program will address principles, applications, and research in the field of mountmaking. The presenters will be presented ranging in topics from professional and historic research and aesthetic design. As there are no current registries or organizations of professionals who do this type of work, the forum will provide an opportunity to begin an informal network with the goal of growing this affiliation. There is no registration fee, but reservations will be required. For further information please contact the Conservation Lab, Beverly Perkins, at bjfarar@getty.edu. David Armendariz, davidarmendariz@getty.edu.

The staff of Antiquities Conservation at the Getty is busy preparing for a conference in Athens on the protection of museum collections from earthquake damage. This is the third conference of the series, the first of which was at the Getty Villa two years ago and was followed by a conference in Istanbul. The Athens Conference will be held in May and will feature the year's postdoc work as well as efforts underway in Greece and a number of other countries.

The sculpture Conservation Studio finished the History of Transportation WPA mural. Eight panels were mounted and a duplicate of the original wall was made. The Grevillea Park in Inglewood, and the dedication was held in August 2007. We would love everyone to go to Inglewood to see it completed and in its new location. It now has lights so you can view it day or night. This past summer, SCS spent 4 weeks conserving a bronze fountain in the Atrio courtyard of the Mission Inn in Riverside, along with 1 week at the Palm Springs Art Museum helping the museum with the conservation of the building and supervision of their Weiner collection for an installation which opened in early November 2007. They welcome Andy Smith and Carrine Fazdik to their staff.

Regional News, continued

Final year intern Jennifer Kim (NYU Program) and conservation technician Kathleen Olson are currently assessing the overpainting and treatment of a piece of ancient costume and textile collection, items from which are being considered for the Museum’s permanent collection. There is also treating a beautiful late 19th-c. hat made from silk and woolen bird quills that belonged to the Del Valle family. In addition to preparing condition reports for objects slated for exhibit, Kathleen is doing a great job of wrangling the conservation section’s new KEEMu database.

Griswold Conservation Associates, LLC has opened offices in Downtown Los Angeles, CA. In St. George joined the staff as associate conservator and Abigail Doros is the new pre-program intern. Denvly Cloughley, former associate conservator, has returned home to Australia and will be missed greatly. John Griswold participated in a panel discussion about stone consolidants and new VOC regulations, organized by the Western Chapter of the Association for Preservation Technology, at SGH, Inc. in San Francisco.

John is also serving as staff conservator at the Norton Simon Museum one day a week, while directing GCA. Dave Harvey led the treatment of two 19th-century, naval cannon carriages from the Mission Inn in Riverside and the initial maintenance treatment of Peace Earth, the monumental bronze by Jacques Lipchitz at the Music Center of Los Angeles County. The new postdoc, Josephine McVicker Bocare, has been assisting Stefanie Griswold in development of the new program. Beverly Perkins, CCI Senior Conservation Scientist Jean Tetreault, and Smithsonian Institute’s Center for Materials Research and Education Senior Furniture Conservator Don Williams co-presented a session on innovative conservation at the Western Museum Association meeting in Oakland. Beverly will be representing AAC and her fellow conservators as a panelist on “Volunteerism” at this year’s AAM meeting.

Regional Reporter: Virginia Rasmussen

NYC

The Craftsman recently presented a session on innovative conservation at the Western Museum Association meeting in Oakland. Beverly Perkins, CCI Senior Conservation Scientist Jean Tetreault, and Smithsonian Institute’s Center for Materials Research and Education Senior Furniture Conservator Don Williams co-presented a session on innovative conservation at the Western Museum Association meeting in Oakland. Beverly will be representing AAC and her fellow conservators as a panelist on “Volunteerism” at this year’s AAM meeting.

Regional Reporter: Virginia Rasmussen

NYC

The Craftsman recently presented a session on innovative conservation at the Western Museum Association meeting in Oakland. Beverly Perkins, CCI Senior Conservation Scientist Jean Tetreault, and Smithsonian Institute’s Center for Materials Research and Education Senior Furniture Conservator Don Williams co-presented a session on innovative conservation at the Western Museum Association meeting in Oakland. Beverly will be representing AAC and her fellow conservators as a panelist on “Volunteerism” at this year’s AAM meeting.
Regional News, continued

Regional Conservator. The course was co-taught by Meg Loew and Margo McFarland at the Cameron Art Museum in March. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Jim’s article “A Renowned Afghani Art Conservator (and Other Essentials of Canvas Preparation)” is now available for download from www.GoldenPaints.com.

Sarah Gates has been working to prepare Turkmen carpets, along with Donna LaValle and Beth Szuhay, for the exhibit “For Tent and Trade: Masterpieces of Turkmen Weaving.” The exhibit will be on view from December 7 - September 2008 at the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco.

Mark Fenn, Associate Head of Conservation at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, just returned from his fourth, and probably final, trip to Bhutan working on the sculptures to be included in “The Dragon’s Gift (Arts of Bhutan),” an exhibit organized by the Honolulu Academy of Art.

At Architectural Resources Group (ARG) and ARG Conservation Services (ARG/CS), Architectural Conservator Kelly Wong is overseeing the exterior treatment of the new new windows at 450 Sutter Street, an art deco medical-dental building in downtown SF. The renovation was supervised by Timothy Pfeifer. Kelly is also supervising the study of the condition and knowledge of the three-dimensional and non-invasive treatments at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. She is also working collaboratively with conservator Anne Rosenthal at the Maritime Museum as the museum undergoes roofing and window upgrades.

Margaret (Meg) Geis-Mooney, textile conservator in private practice, gave lectures on caring for family textile treasures at the Wild Wonderful King Vintage Museum (Oakhurst, CA) in September and at the 30 30 County History Museum (La Conner, WA) in October. She also attended the North American Textile Conservation Conference in Washington, DC in November, with funding provided by both a NATCC travel grant and a Kress Foundation professional development scholarship.

Michelle Barger has been named Deputy Head of Conservation of the Elvis Presley Historic Museum at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. In this new capacity, she works with Jill Sterrett and other conservators to guide the activities of the department. She is one of the advanced level fellowship in conservation alumni and as such, she will keep her hand in objects conservation. Congratulations Michelle!

Marie-Chantale Poisson completed her two year fellowship in the conservation of contemporary art at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in October. Marie-Chantale will be missed greatly, as she is well known for her expertise in examining and accepting new challenges that contemporary art offers. One of her most significant contributions was her dedicated role in the completion of the treatment of a painting survey at SFMOMA with Jill Sterrett.

Barbara Scheret is the new fellow in the conservation of contemporary art and she is working with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art from Munich. She is the first conservator to join the staff with a background in furniture conservation. Barbara will participate in a survey of the furniture and design objects in the museum’s collection.

Regional Reporter: Beth Szuhay

TENES

Mark van Gelder has completed the conservation treatment of the acid-vandalized Rafael Navarro murals in the lobby of the Seton Medical Park Tower building in Austin. He is grateful to the many conservators who responded with valuable tips and kind offers of services to those listed on the AIC Paintings Group website list. He also wants to thank and acknowledge all the conservators for their various roles in the treatment process.

Mark also recently completed a condition survey of the approximately 150 paintings (one is double sided) by this artist who will have been treated in the Art Care conservation studio. Greg is also continuing the conservation of paintings from local private collections.

Regional Reporter: Ken Grant