**Regional News**

**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 Carrlee 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 Carrlee

**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 Odegard 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

**HAWAII’**

Rosa Lowinger of Sculpture Conservation Studio has been 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.

Nancy Odegard has a proposed restoration of a rare unaltered 1930s Bristol Bay Double Ender (wooden fishing boat.)

**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 be 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.

Final year intern Jennifer Kim (NYU Program) recently performed an extensive treatment on an electrically heated leather flight suit worn by early aviatrice 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 collection at the San Diego airport.

Ozge Gencay-Ustun, student from the new UCLA/Getty Conservation Program, is working on her third year internship at the Southwest Museum of the...
In October 2007, the Getty on view in the public galleries brought with him a pair of Frans Hals a guest conservator in February. He conservation department at the Getty as studio at the Getty.

The return of the Louisiana State Museum’s 200 thousand object collection to its New Orleans facility (newly renovated post-Katrina) benefited from the expertise of two LA area WAAC members.

Ashley McGrew of the Getty Museum attended a two day preliminary visit in December of 2007 to design systems to integrate the collections packing and rehousing needs. In January of 2008 she was joined by Angela McGrew of the Getty National Center’s Southwest Museum of the American Indian for a two-day workshop with museum staff and a team provided by the Willamette Conservator-center. The projects is being managed by Katherine Holbrook and supervised on site by Allison Leone.

Suzanne Morris received her BFA in painting from Miami University (Ohio). The summer of 2008 she spent as a trainee at the Center for Conservation at the Getty Museum in San Francisco when she was able to attend the ANAGPIC at the Conservation Center at New York University in April 2008. This is the first opportunity for UCLA/Getty students and faculty to attend this important conference.

Region Reporters:
Virginia Rausmussen

The Conservation Department of the Department of Cultural Affairs was featured in the following articles: “Preserving the Treasures in the Collection” by Siska Genbrugge, who has a BA in art history from the Katholieke Universiteit-Leuven (Belgium). This summer she will be interning at the Athenaeum Excavations (Athens, Greece) and the Akrotiri Museum (Tirrenum, Belgium).

Lauren Horelick received her BFA in sculpture from the San Francisco Art Institute. This summer she will be interning at the Gordion Excavation Project (Turkey) and the Field Museum (Chicago, IL).

Jiafian Liang received her BS in the conservation of historical heritage from the Northwest University (China). This summer she will be interning at the Freer and Arthur Galleries, Smithsonian and the Shenzhen Archaeological Institute (Xi’an, China).

Linda Lin, who received her B.A. in comparative literature from the University of California, Irvine, was awarded a certificate in art conservation from the Studio Arts Center International (Florence, Italy). This summer she will be interning at the De Young Museum in San Francisco’s Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (Xian, China).

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Alice Bear completed conservation on works on paper for the Washington State Historical Society’s new exhibition, The Washington Post Road: The West in the 1940s. This summer she will be interning at the Freer and Arthur Galleries, Smithsonian and the Shenzhen Archaeological Institute (Xi’an, China).

Joe Sembrat has been assistant conservator with Silverpoint Art Conservation, LLC since May 2007, will become a partner later this year. Camille is currently handling new clients, which is particularly helpful to Laura Stannell since she is expecting a second baby in June.

Laura and Camille have several recent collaborations to report: Laura and Beth Heller recently completed a Preserva- tion Assessment and Long Range Preser- vation 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 her conservation studio. They have also been working on an etching by drypoint engraving process. It is a large sheet, the surface—their documentation of the piece has been greatly assisted by Jessica Beth Adams photographer at the Denver Art Museum, who assisted with photography through the DAM’s stereomicroscope; and by Nancy O’Grady at the Arizona State Museum, who has been assistant conservator with Silverpoint Art Conservation, LLC since May 2007, will become a partner later this year. Camille is currently handling new clients, which is particularly helpful to Laura Stannell since she is expecting a second baby in June.

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Regional Reporters:
Dana K. Serje

M. Susan Barger has become the direc- tor of Museum Development Associates, a non-profit architectural services firm for small and rural museums in New Mexico and the surrounding states. Museum De- velopment Associates is offering a series of collections care workshops in the first half of 2008. These workshops are sup- ported by a small grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities funded project to deliver emergency preparedness, response, and recovery workshops with the overall goal of completed disaster plans and trained staff participating in emergency preparedness activities. Presenting workshops in Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, and Oregon; other WESTPAS trainers are giving workshops in Alaska, Washington, California, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas. More information can be found at www.westpas.org.

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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 environments and activities and includes circulating and rare books, archives, photographs, and ephemera.

Denver Art Museum conservators are pleased to report that Sarah Melching has joined us as Paper Conservator. After less than a month in the job, she has done several complicated treatments, deal within the limitations of a small space and become an indispensable part of our team. Welcome to Sarah.

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 number 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 proteins. Her current projects at the Denver Art Museum include investigating a viable solution for removing oils from basketry.

Gina Laurin, objects conservator, is coordinating the conservation of a number of objects for the upcoming exhibition on Asian art. Tanya Uyeda from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts is lecturing and workshop on 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 renovation 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 Center for the Conservation of Fine Arts (WCCFA) as conservation technician in December. Hope previously worked at the conservation laboratories of the San Diego Natural History Museum and the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

WCCFA conservators will treat a group of 47 paintings by J. Alden Weir and his father, Robert Weir, for the Brigham Young University Museum of Art. The treatments will be performed over a 2 year period as part of a Save America’s Treasures Grant, 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 bequested the collection to BYU upon his death. It is an interesting collection of finished and unfinished works by important American artist and his father. It has been in storage at BYU for many years and has not been seen previously outside the family.

WCCFA conservator, Cynthia Lawrence, recently completed the treatment of “King of the Forest,” an oversized pastel on canvas by Rosa Bonheur. This treatment included the recent acquisition by the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY. WCCFA has completed its contract with the Utah State Capitol that included the on-site treatment of over 6000 sq. ft. of framed murals in the capital as well as the treatment of 21 incised and isolated paintings in the error’s portraits that were transported to the WCCFA studio for treatment. This work was only a small part of the much larger project that included the expansion, renovation, and base isolation of the state capitol in Salt Lake City. The WCCFA contract began in 2004 and was completed in January of this year when Carmen F. Briza Jr. made a presentation on the mural treatments during the re-opening and re-dedication ceremonies held at the state capitol in Salt Lake City.

Regional Reporter: Frances Pelchick

SAN FRANCISCO 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 “Glitz and Glam: 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 Kelly Wang is continuing oversight of the exterior renovation of terra cotta cladding and new windows at 450 Sutter Street, an art deco building in San Francisco designed by Timothy Pflueger.

Architectural conservator Mary Slater is completing a conditions assessment and treatment of the largest indoor swimming pool estabishment in California: the Stanford Aquatorium. 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.

Mary Slater and Architectural designer Lisa Kucik are completing an HSR for the Parra Adobe in San Juan Capistrano, California.

Preservation mosaic specialist Devin McDonald and conservation technicians Colin Eaton and Eric Hand completed removal and reinstallation of Bubblestone from the De Young Museum’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, Devin McDonald, Mercedez Jorjani, Colin Eaton, and Eric Hand are treating a mosaic at the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco. Twelve of the forty-five Plexglaz mosaic panels will need conservation treatments.

Devin McDonald, Colin Eaton, and Eric Hand, in collaboration with Mission San Juan Capistrano conservator Samuel U’Ren removed the Portland cement-based wainscot on the Mission’s Serra Chapel. The wainscot removal will be followed by adobe conservation.

Staff at the Oakland Museum of California have completed their two-year project to rehouse three-quarters of the museum’s fine art, cultural history, ethnography, photography, and science specimen collections into a redesigned, climate-controlled 62,400 sq. ft. open-storarge facility, which included a NEHS support for high-density compact shelving. The construction and relocation project was directed by John Burke, assisted by Julie Trooper and Milada Machova.

With support from IMLS, Julie is continuing to work on rehousing about 3,000 California Native American baskets. The objects are being unpacked, tested for toxicity with XRF, and will be rehoused in high-density plastic shelving.

John, Julie, and Milada have also been working on collections de-installation from the main Art and History galleries (altogether 60,000 sq. ft. and over 4000 objects and artifacts) in preparation for major a building renovation campaign. A number of important artworks have been identified for treatment prior to the galleries reopening in November 2009. These include 36 major paintings that Milada, along with Alina Remba, has 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 areas of solubility, microclimates, and modified atmosphere fumigation treatments.

Margaret (Meg) Geiss-Mooney has been elected as Treasurer of the Textile Specialty Group of AIC.

Molly Lambert and stone mason Clark Mitchell are conserving two Spanish colonial objects at the Jesuit Order of the University of San Francisco. The portals are reported to be 11th century and 13th century, and were purchased by William Randolph Hearst and later acquired and displayed by the De Young Museum. In order to detail drawings and measurements of the masonry units, the portals will be 3D scanned by CyArk Heritage Network (Orinda, CA). You can deliver tapas to them at the work site in a not-so-robust 1980s post-modern abandoned department store somewhere in San Francisco.

Sarah Gates and Beth Szuhan of the Textile 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 Redemption 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 Mr. Beets of the East Asia Institute 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 Szuhan

TEXAS

The conservation lab at the Amon Carter Museum is pleased to be hosting Huichiao 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. Mr. 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 prominent contemporary sculpture 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: Ken Grant

Head of Exhibition Services Dept.