

Spring 2014



Since we last met...

It has been a busy year for the Museum Studies Program @ IUPUI. Since the last newsletter we said bon voyage to the class of 2013; took a trip to Alaska; welcomed a healthy baby boy; welcomed the class of 2015; cleaned birds; read books; held a collections fair; worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; wondered: Why is This Here?; published a book; took on a journal; discussed accessibility; curated three exhibits; transitioned to a new director; launched new media; presented papers at conferences; and completed many great internships.

Faculty continued researching: how visual culture shapes civic identity; an object rating system for family learning; homelessness; repatriation; community collaboration, African Americans in museums, and missions.

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Welcome to the Class of 2015



Top: Nicole Benigno, Alyssa Boge, Claire Broderick, Kat Chappell, Catherine Harmon, Emily Izzo
Middle: Robin Matty, Adrienne Nirde, Elizabeth Quay, Claire Quimby, Rebekah Ryan, Kelsey Smith
Bottom: Ana Wallace, Jenny Watson, Laura Weiss

Museum Studies @ IUPUI

Community Exhibit: Hopeseekers

This March, Dr. Modupe Labode and her intern, Erik Peterson, created the exhibit *Hope Seekers: Survival of Southern African Children in the Shadow of HIV/AIDS* in the Herron School of Art's Marsh Gallery.

They partnered with [Saving Orphans through Health and Outreach](#), an Indianapolis-based nonprofit, to create a photographic exhibit on the plight of orphan-headed households in the southern African nation of Swaziland. Over a quarter of Swazi adults are afflicted with HIV/AIDS, and this wreaks havoc on the nation's social, economic, and familial structures. The exhibit featured not only images by Indiana-based photographer Josef Kissinger and artifacts from SOHO's relief trips, but also saw two well-attended panel discussions on the African AIDS crisis and what IUPUI students and faculty can do to help.



Image: Josef Kissinger



Museum Studies @ IUPUI

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SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
IUPUI

Upcoming events

**8th Annual Portfolio Night,
Thursday, May 8 6-8 pm
@ the Indiana State Museum**



Part of my job in the Museum Studies Program is to assist with various public scholar projects. Last summer it offered me a great opportunity of traveling to Alaska for a week, serving as a Field School trip coordinator for group of Anthropology undergraduates and Museum Studies Graduate students and to assist Public Scholar of Collections and Community Curation, Holly Cusack-McVeigh. Prior to the trip I helped with arrangements, managed student paperwork, organized flights, and coordinated meal planning among other logistics. On June 4th, I set off on a 14 hour flight to Anchorage, Alaska. By the way, did I mention I was seven months pregnant?

The group's first stop was Snow City Café, for me a highlight, and an introduction to Alaskan brunch, which looks almost exactly like brunch in Indiana, but with reindeer sausage. The first official stop was the [Anchorage Museum](#), where Aron Crowell, Director of the [Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center](#) introduced the group to the Anchorage Museum's innovative arrangement with the Smithsonian Institution. Monica Shah, Director of Collections led a tour of the [Alaska Gallery](#), the museum's collections, and discussed the exhibition and object conservation issues in the museum.



At the [Alaska Native Heritage Center](#) we watched fascinating examples of the [World](#)

[Eskimo-Indian Olympic Games](#), saw Native dancers and toured various traditional structures on the centers grounds. Later that day we made the four and a half hour drive down the Seward Highway, stopping at Beluga Point, and then on to the Kenai Peninsula and Homer, AK. The views were amazing along the drive; it varied from flat tundra to mountains, with distinctive Russian Orthodox churches popping up in the landscape.

Once in Homer, we had time to grab lunch and catch the fast ferry (this is no joke, it is an unbelievably fast ferry) to Seldovia across Kachemak Bay. The trip to Seldovia included a camp out on the beach for the students, (sadly but comfortably, I was tucked away at a bed and breakfast). Michael Opheim, the



Environmental Coordinator for the [Seldovia Village Tribe](#) took the students tide pooling. As the tide rolled in it was time to head into the village to tour the Seldovia Village Tribal Visitor Center where the students were given their first fieldwork tasks (in exchange for those fast ferry tickets). Three groups set to work on exhibition and object cleaning, collections storage organization and sanding and painting an exhibit case repurposed from the Anchorage Museum.



After the tasks were completed, we "village hopped" over to Nanwalek. With each leg of our trip the landscape grew larger and larger while the accommodations shrank smaller and smaller. Nanwalek was a whole new experience; this was as rural I have ever been. The airport was a shed, the airstrip was a dirt and rock lane by the water. Holly had arranged for me to stay with a tribal elder, who picked me up. She asked him if he could feed me dinner and, not wanting to be a burden, I said "Oh, I'll grab something at the store or a restaurant" they chuckled, knowing I had no idea where I was. Nanwalek had everything one might need to live, but no restaurant. The students headed into the wilderness to a camp with amazing views, a beautiful clean lake, cabins and no

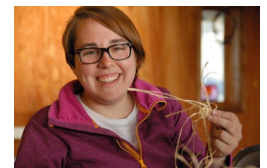
plumbing. Getting to and from the village required a somewhat strenuous 2 mile hike.



I saw the scope of the project the students would be undertaking. They began by assessing the collections and exhibition needs and issues, taking into consideration the layout of the museum, light levels, and types of objects. The end

result would be an exhibit created with the village and proper care/storage of their objects.

Later that day, the community came together for a potluck to say goodbye to a longtime guest and to welcome us. There were multiple tables of homemade and traditional foods including salmon—21 different ways, multiple seafood stews, fried dandelions, a cake made with seagull eggs, and other traditional (and not so traditional) treats. The food was blessed by the local priest and everyone enjoyed. Afterward, members of the community performed traditional songs and dances. Later, the local band played, people danced outside, we spotted whales, and had an impromptu basket weaving lesson.



I stayed in Nanwalek for only a couple of days. While there, I found the people in the village open and kind. They live at a different pace and have a strong sense of community. Because I was pregnant, women were often comfortable approaching me for conversation, usually to share their experience and traditional folklore.

I was impressed with the way Holly intentionally organized the visits to the museums: starting with a large institution, both in size and budget, to a smaller Native run institution, down to locally run village community centers. Each stop revealed a different aspect of native representation, from museum administration to community and tribal members. I believe, because of this immersive field school, our students were able to better understand a new model for community collaboration and the importance of native language and culture to individual communities and their museums.

Please follow this [link to view the Alaska Field School facebook photo album](#).

Cultural Heritage and the FBI

Anthropology and Museum Studies faculty and students assisted the FBI in identifying and preserving cultural artifacts found in the home of a Rush County, Ind., man. The FBI and its multidisciplinary team were working on repatriating items of cultural patrimony. Larry J. Zimmerman, professor of anthropology and museum studies; Holly Cusack-McVeigh, assistant professor of anthropology and museum studies; and Charmayne "Charli" Champion-Shaw, director of the Office of America Indian Programs at IUPUI, were among the art, cultural and museum experts working as consultants at the site.

One of the important aspects of Public Scholars is to help members of the community better understand the background and significance of different and complex issues related to museums and museum practice. When the Central Indiana FBI project made the news there were lots of questions about the issues related to cultural heritage and related laws. To help build public awareness and understanding of the issues related to cultural heritage and repatriation we developed this fact sheet to share with others.

Cultural Heritage Fact Sheet

What is cultural property or patrimony? Cultural property includes monuments, sculptures, buildings and structures, artifacts, and landscapes that are unique, significant and often irreplaceable objects of cultural importance central to a group of people rather than an individual.

What is cultural heritage? Cultural heritage is the inheritance of cultural items to a group or society that is maintained for present and future generations. Cultural heritage might include tangible items like buildings and artifacts, or it may include intangible things like language, knowledge, or traditions.

What is Repatriation? Repatriation is the return of cultural objects to their country of origin. In the case of Native American artifacts it is the transfer of physical custody and legal claim to Native American cultural items to descendants, tribes, and Native organizations.

What Federal Laws exist related to the protection of cultural heritage?

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), PL 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048; 25 USC 3001 et seq The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 addresses the repatriation of cultural items to the descendants of Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. It includes burial sites, cultural items (including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects) and objects with ongoing historical, traditional or cultural importance to the group. The act also applies to federal agencies and lands. The act establishes the rights to the ownership of these objects and provides expectations on permits for exploring such sites.

Antiquities Act of 1906, PL 59-209; 34 Stat. 225; 16 USC 431-433 Describes penalties for the damage, destruction, or excavation of any object of antiquity on government lands, and describes the use of authorized permits for examination of archaeological sites.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) Section 106 requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (19 USC 2601) [The United States became a party to the Convention in 1983] Prohibits the importation of documented cultural property stolen from museums, religious

or secular monuments in another country.

Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, PL 96-95; 93 Stat. 721; 16 USC 470aaa et seq. Provides for the preservation of historical and archaeological material. It prohibits the sale, purchase, or exchange of archeological resources obtained in violation of other Federal, State, and local laws.

Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009, 16 USC 470aaa-aaa-11 A law applying to Federal lands that includes the penalties for fossil theft and vandalism and gives authority for permits to collect paleontological resources.

The Indiana Historic Preservation Act (IC 14-21-1), 1989 Provides protection for Indiana archaeological sites and historic burial sites regardless of their location on state or private lands. All archaeological sites with artifacts dating before December 31, 1870, are protected under this act.

Resources and Further Reading

Brown, Michael. 2003. *Who owns Native culture?* Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

Zimmerman, Larry J., Karen D. Vitelli, and Julie Hollowell. 2003. *Ethical Issues in Archaeology* (Society for American Archaeology). AltaMira Press.

Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage www.sfu.ca/ipinch

National NAGPRA home, National Park Service, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/>

Faculty Research Exploration:

Laura Holzman



Supported by a generous IUPUI Arts and Humanities Grant, I set out for Philadelphia to do research for a book project about contemporary visual culture, public discourse, and sense of place. As I traveled to sites across the region to interview artists or consult materials in local archives, my summer research adventures brought me into new and exciting spaces. Here are the top five spots from my trip:

1. **A painter's art-filled living room.** I spent one afternoon interviewing an artist who has painted images of Philadelphia throughout his decades-long career. We talked in his living room, which was packed with his paintings: completed canvases hung salon-style on the walls, while other pieces, some works in progress, were propped up on the floor, on chairs, and on tables.
2. **The recently renovated Philadelphia History Museum.** I toured the museum, which now features new exhibition spaces, including a community history gallery where organizations across the city can tell their history in their own words.
3. **The City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program offices.** I examined documents from a 2009 project while seated amidst the bustling development department at Mural Arts. Their offices are located in the former home of 19th-century painter Thomas Eakins, whose work I also study.
4. **An industrial building-turned-artist studio.** I ventured to an unfamiliar part of town to meet with a prominent muralist. To avoid getting distracted by his hardworking assistants during the interview, we snuck over to the other side of the space, which he shares with another popular painter whom I'd spoken with earlier that day.
5. **The Barnes Foundation's Merion campus.** I had the privilege of spending several days reading documents at the Barnes Foundation's archives in Merion, PA. The archivists' office and the reading area for researchers are located in the historic building designed by architect Paul Cret, which has housed the Foundation's administrative offices for decades. It was also at one time the residence of founder Albert Barnes and his wife, Laura. Remarkably, the old kitchen and bathrooms are intact, functional, and available for use by the staff and guests.

Museum Studies Clowes Fellowships

The Museum Studies Program was awarded a \$50,000 Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation grant with matching funds from the IUPUI Solution Center and IU School of Liberal Arts, to support students over two years. In their own words, this is what the five 2013-2014 recipients are up to:



Abby Cengel worked with Freetown Village during fall 2013: The main focus of this internship was to make the research collection more accessible and usable to Freetown staff, and to ensure their proper storage. This involved cataloging and organizing books, newspaper clippings, newsletters, brochures,

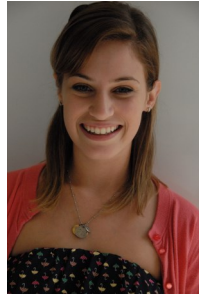
flyers, photographs, VHS and audio tapes, and developing finding aids for these materials. I also consolidated and updated the records for their historic objects and created an updated collections management policy. This spring Abby is working in visitor experience research at the Eiteljorg Museum.



Caitlin Kegley is at the Indianapolis Zoo: I have created evaluation surveys to gauge whether or not visitors would be interested in a new python up-close experience. I have also conducted

informal interviews to determine what kind of information or actions visitors would like to see included in up-close experiences in general. My favorite part of the experience has been conducting timing studies. I was able to time how long visitors spent at the Zoo's Shark Touch Tank and Flamingo Mingle, and interactive program where visitors are able to be touched by a flamingo. This has given me new insight into the attention span of Zoo guests. This semester I will am helping with Naturalist Interpretation for the Zoo's new International Orangutan Center which will be opening in May.

Alysa Porter is working with The Children's Museum of Indianapolis on the Experience Mapping Project. The experience maps a tool that produces quantifiable metrics that gauge the needs, perceptions, and expectations of TCM's visitors. These metrics aid the museum in



producing and providing training sessions that prepare employees to uphold the institution's commitment to quality service, thereby ensuring a consistent quality experience for visitors. I monitor the effectiveness of the experience mapping program in four ways: through structured observations of staff and

visitor interactions, enter and exit surveys, a generated net promoter score, and the mystery shopper program. My Fellowship has allowed me to develop strong working relationships with staff members from various departments at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. I greatly appreciate the experience and perspective these individuals have shared with me through our collaborations. My work has allowed me to enhance my knowledge of user design and museum evaluation as well as to refine my organizational skills as a project manager. My experience as a Clowes Museum Fellow has been invaluable to my development as an emerging museum professional.

Claire Quimby is working in the Collections Department of the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. The Collections Department had six interns this semester under the supervision of Amy McKune, Director of Collections, and together we worked behind the scenes to prepare for the Quest for the West art show and sale and the Contemporary Art Fellowship show. We unpacked hundreds of crates of artwork, did twice as many condition reports, and packed the artwork again when the shows were finished. We also tackled a



newly acquired collection of over 100 Katsina carvings - entering catalog data, photographing, and creating safe storage for the objects which are very delicate and range from a few inches high to more than five feet high. Working at the Eiteljorg has given me fantastic experience in handling museum objects and understanding the logistical ins and outs of collections work.

Kavita Singh is working with the Indiana State Museum: The focus of my fellowship is to participate in a diverse range of projects in collections and interpretation. In the



last few months, I worked closely with Elaine Klemesrud, Visitor Advocate and Evaluation Specialist, on a variety of evaluation-related projects, including the creation and implementation of a School Field Trips Survey and an exhibit design survey for *Fearless Furniture*. Additionally, I was involved with exhibit-related projects including assisting with the opening of *Fearless Furniture*, research for the upcoming *431 Gallery*, and cleaning and conserving artwork for the exhibition *Style, Elegance and Wit: The Artwork of James Spencer Russell*. Finally, the largest of the projects I worked on consisted of evaluating all of the public, school, and gallery programs from the last fiscal year and recurring programs over the last three years. By defining the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the Museum's programming, I made recommendations based on extensive research and examples from case studies. The results of the analysis, along with my suggestions, are currently being compiled into a comprehensive report with a goal of strengthening Museum programming for future visitors.

Related news: IUPUI statement: [Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation Grants Museum Studies Program \\$50,000 for Fellowships](#)

Upcoming Museum Studies Events

[Split but not Separated: Recapturing the Legacy of the Near Southside:](#) Opening April 27 2-4pm @ The Concord Neighborhood Center 1310 S. Meridian Street

8th Annual Portfolio Night: Thursday, May 8 6-8 pm @ the Indiana State Museum

[Commencement:](#) Sunday, May 11, 2014, @ the Indiana Convention Center

Accessibility Roundtable For more information please contact Kristina Johnson via museum@iupui.edu.

Congratulations Due (and Overdue):

Congratulations **Elee Wood**, on both becoming the new Director of the Museum Studies Program and recent completion and publication of [The Objects of Experience](#) co-authored with Kiersten F Latham.

Alumni Updates:

Mike Barclay (M.A. Candidate, May 2014) Assistant Gallery Director, Herron School of Art & Design

Stephen Borden (M.A., May 2013) Contractor, Phase Two Collections Move Team, National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Paul E. Garber Facility, Suitland, Maryland

Allison Cosby (M.A., May 2013) Evaluation Coordinator, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park

Charity Counts (M.A., December 2008) has been awarded IUPUI School of Liberal Arts Alumni Association Early Career Award

Angie Day (M.A., May 2009) Associate Registrar for Exhibitions, Indianapolis Museum of Art

Stephanie (Hebda) Eddleman (M.A., May 2013) Early Childhood Specialist, Playscape, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

Megan Geurts (M.A., May 2012) Contract Registrar at Edward Wayne Gallery, Kansas City Missouri

Jill Gordon (M.A., May 2012) Recognized as one of [Indy's Best and Brightest](#)

Alexander Hampton (M.A., May 2013) Indianapolis Zoo

Katy Harvey (M.A., December 2008) Special Projects and Grants Coordinator, Indiana State Museum & Historic Sites

Dolly Hayde (M.A., May 2013) Research Associate, Lifelong Learning Group, Columbus, Ohio

Anne Hiatt (M.A., May 2013) Site Supervisor, Wisconsin Youth Company, Madison, Wisconsin

Kris Johnson (M.A., May 2013) Access Indy

Emily (Janowiak) Litsey (M.A., May 2012) Teacher / Museum Partner, Art Education Association of Indiana

Emily Lytle-Painter (M.A., December 2011) Education Technologist, J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, California

Amy Patterson (M.A., May 2013) Campus Art Collections Manager, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Shelly Orlowski (M.A., May 2010) Registrar, Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, California

Jennifer Rigsby (M.A., May 2013) Assistant Registrar for Collections, Indianapolis Museum of Art

Jake Sheff (M.A., May 2013) Museum and Library Registrar, Percussive Arts Society

Abby Wolf (M.A., May 2012) Started [Exhibit A](#)

Rachael Zimmerman (M.A., May 2012) Staff Interpreter, Dayton History at Carillon Historical Park, Dayton Ohio

Kavita Singh (M.A. candidate, May 2014) has been named the Chancellor's Scholar for the Graduate School-Master's degree

Museum Studies 2013-2014 Outstanding Students: Mike Barclay (M.A. candidate, May 2014) and **Tara Cravens** (undergraduate)

Early congratulations to the Class of 2014: Lauren Baker, Mike Barclay, Abigail Cengel, Kelby Dolan, Caitlin Kegley, Melissa Klemeyer, Cara Lovati, Alyssa Porter, Claire Quimby, and Kavita Singh

Museum Studies Undergraduate Certificate recipients: Kaela Clemens, Tara Cravens, Danielle Douglas, Kayla Kauffman, Brandi Naish, and Jessica Taylor

Museum Studies Conference Fellowship Awards:

Emily Izzo, Laura Weiss and Elizabeth Quay, Visitor Studies Association Annual Meeting

IUPUI Solution Center Venture Fund Awards:

Alyssa Boge, Lauren Baker and Caitlin Kegley received funding to present at the Alliance of American Museums Annual Conference about their Alaska experience.

Congratulations Class of 2013!



Back row: Stephanie Eddleman, Elee Wood, Dolly Hayde, Jake Sheff

Front row: Stephanie Michaels, Allison Cosby, Jennifer Rigsby, Kris Johnson, and Stephen Borden.

(Not pictured: Alexander Hampton, Anne Hiatt, Amy Patterson, Lisa Watt)