

Fall 2012



Museum Studies @ IUPUI

Coming: Welcome Class of 2014!



Back row: Abigail Cengel, Kelby Dolan, Melissa Klemeyer
Front row: Allysa Porter, Caitlin Kegley, Lauren Baker, Kavita Singh

And Going: Congratulations Class of 2012!



Back row: Justin Ellis, Megan Geurts, Lauren Lucchesi, Julianne Class, Rachel Zimmerman, Chelsea Libby, Abby Wolf; Front row: Elee Wood, Jill Gordon, Emily Janowiak, Maggie Schmidt, Alex Carrier, Stephanie Herrick, Claire Thoma, Lori Phillips, Modupe Labode. (not pictured: Christy Brocken, Deanna Cundiff, Kate Massman, Don Riefler, Sandy Schmidt, and Geneveive Wagner).

Museum Studies @ IUPUI

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<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/mstd/>



Upcoming events

see page 3 for more information

Accessibility Roundtable November 6, 2013

Art Race Space Symposium January 25, 2013

Guantanamo Public Memory Project April 2013



Last semester, I took Dr. Elizabeth Kryder-Reid and Dr. Larry Zimmerman's course on Issues in Cultural Heritage.

On the first day, my classmates and I were told we would accomplish what seemed like a gargantuan task: produce two exhibits, a book, and a public event in three months. Our main topic was the material culture of homeless individuals in Indianapolis, as well as how archaeological research could promote better understanding of homeless life. A key aim of the project was including homeless colleagues in discussions of how to best represent their lives and their needs. Although our final projects used some original research and information from our course readings, we also had the opportunity to draw on a great deal of existing data from previous iterations of the project.

For most of the work, our class was split into three teams. Mike Thompson, Mark Lighthizer, and Shaun Beckett created a Facebook page for Homelessness Archaeology, a book exploring the heritage of homeless life, and an informational brochure that was distributed at our public forum. Lisa Gilmer Watt, Breana Sowers, and Linda Woodbury mounted an exhibit on archaeological approaches to studying the material culture of homelessness, which is on display on the fourth floor of Cavanaugh Hall. I worked with Heather Meloy, Katie Ballard, Christina Hunt-Schubnell, and Morgan Hull to produce an exhibit about divergent



perspectives on homelessness for display on the sixth floor of the Central Library.

In early December, the library allowed us to host a reception for our exhibit,

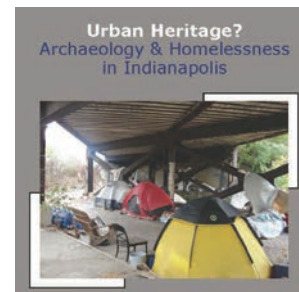


as well as three talks and an open discussion on issues related to homelessness in Indianapolis. Rachael Kiddey, a doctoral candidate in Archaeology at the University of York, spoke eloquently on the importance of collaborative scholarship. Next, Courtney Singleton, an IUPUI graduate and an M.A. candidate in Anthropology at the University of Maryland, shared some of her research on the material culture of homelessness in Indianapolis (much of which informed our other class projects).

Finally, Jessica Welch, an IUPUI graduate who has conducted scholarship on homelessness and worked in the public sector, gave a practical, heartfelt account of how and why to work across institutional boundaries. Dr. Zimmerman served as our moderator, and he led an intriguing discussion at the end of the evening. The talks were thought-provoking, but the most exciting part of the event for me was the enthusiasm of both social service providers and a large group of our homeless colleagues. Our work received constructive critiques from both sets of stakeholders, and their support for the project was overwhelming. Most importantly, I think nearly everyone in attendance

recognized the need for greater collaboration and left energized.

The Super Bowl had foregrounded issues related to homelessness in new—and increasingly time-sensitive—ways. Although logistical limitations meant that our class was only able to provide informal material support to our homeless colleagues in the form of incidental food, transportation, and sundries, the attendance and climate of our public event suggested that some forms of organized community-wide aid are working hard to improve their services. On a more personal level, this project gave me the incredible opportunity to hear direct feedback from the group of people we were trying to represent, as well as others with a vested interest in the same issues. I also feel that I learned a lot from collaborating with my team, coordinating with other teams in our class, and working with our professors, consultants, and institutional partners. (Particular thanks are due to fellow Museum Studies student Genevieve Wagner and Melissa Pederson at the Central Library.) Above all, the success of this project has further convinced me of the power of activist scholarship.



[Urban Heritage](#) available for purchase

[The slideshow on NUVO](#)

["Homelessness Archaeology" on Facebook](#)

Experiencing the ADA

The 2012 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Symposium in Indianapolis was an outstanding 'first experience' with the ADA, providing a solid introduction to legislation related to the rights of Americans with disabilities. As a Museum Studies student focused on improving accessibility, learning the law is an important activity I associate with carving out my niche as an accessibility specialist. My goal is to work toward affecting museum policy and 'best practices' in ways that will benefit people with disabilities by continuing to remove barriers in museums. I need to know the law to ensure my work meets established standards, but more importantly, I need to know the law in order to push beyond meeting minimum requirements. We need to set the bar high to achieve maximum performance in providing equal access for all visitors.

The biggest question I face in my studies is "How can museums translate and transform experiences for visitors with sensory disabilities?" Ray Bloomer, National Center for Accessibility, gave an excellent discussion of Universal Design. Ray is blind, and he has contributed much work and research on tactile experiences for people with visual impairments. I specifically wanted to attend his panel and have the opportunity to meet him, probably because I regard him as

somebody 'like me.' We both experienced the loss of a major sensory ability, and are working to remove barriers for other people like us. His many years of experience in the field have already helped me shape what I want my future museum career to look like.



For more from Kristina please follow this link: <http://emergingprofessionals.wordpress.com/2012/09/12/making-meaning-museum-accessibility-a-crash-course-for-emps/>

Like [Access Indy](#) on Facebook; and look forward to the **Access Indy Accessibility Roundtable**, November 6, 2012, 11 am–12pm Campus Center 405.

Museum Studies Clowes Fellowship

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 the next two years. In their own words, this is what the five 2012-2013 recipients are up to:



Allison Cosby is working with Conner Prairie Interactive History Park: "I developed a guest survey for Conner Prairie's new STEAM!

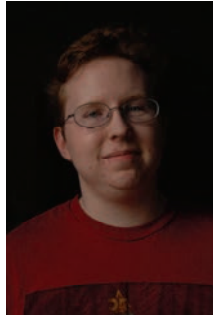
Innovation Fair. This included collecting responses with the help of a few volunteers and analyzing the results. I also researched some talking points related to science in history for the first-person interpreters for the STEAM! Innovation Fair and helped create activities for October's Science Lab. In addition to my long-term projects, I am also helping my department prepare for the Headless Horseman Halloween program."



Dolly Hayde is at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art: "The focus of my internship is the

evaluation of both exhibitions and interpretive programming. Kara Baldwin, our Director of Visitor Experience and a graduate of IUPUI Museum Studies, supervises my daily work, which includes survey design, data collection, data analysis, report writing, and any other relevant tasks that will help fulfill the Eiteljorg's research objectives. Right now, I'm working on the evaluation report for *Steel*

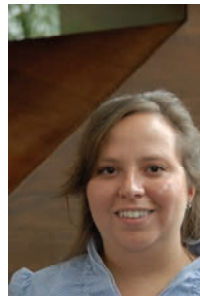
Ponies (the study for which was conducted by fellow Museum Studies students Stephanie Herrick, Cara Lovati, and Sandra Schmidt), collecting data about our artists-in-residence program, and preparing for an evaluation of *Jingle Rails*, their annual holiday exhibition. Ultimately, this work is intended to help museum staff, sponsors, community partners and other stakeholders better understand the extent to which audience needs and institutional goals are being met."



Alex Hampton is working with the Indianapolis Zoo: "My fellowship project is the evaluation of labels and materials that will be part of the Indianapolis Zoo's International Orangutan Center. I am currently working on writing evaluation plans and designing

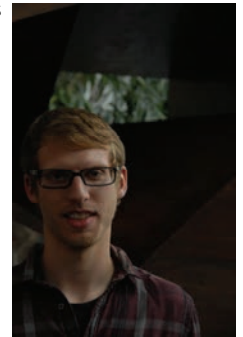
instruments for data collection for several types of interpretive labels. I attend project meetings with representatives from all of the firms involved in the development and construction of the exhibit. The pilot testing phase is the next part of the project, and hopefully that will be underway soon!"

Cara Lovati is working at the Indiana State Museum: "Over the course of the 2012-2013 academic year I will work within the Education Department on public programs. My primary duties will include program research, development,



facilitation, and evaluation. Many of these programs will be facilitated by docents, volunteers, or ISM Gallery Hosts. During each semester I will focus on a different area of gallery programming. I will spend the fall semester coordinating Holiday Sounds, a performance series, and developing holiday-themed programs for *Celebration Crossing*. In the spring, I will be responsible for developing programs for the museum's core galleries which cover a variety of topics related to science, culture, and history.

Jake Sheff is working with the Percussive Arts Society: "During the first two months of my fellowship, I have focused on overhauling the Percussive Arts Society's collections and archival practices. I helped implement an updated version of the previous collections policy and have begun to train staff on best practices in relation to museum collections. Also, I have been surveying the library and archival holdings of the Percussive Arts Society to begin the process of creating an archival database. Lastly, the Rhythm! Discovery Center is in the process of receiving drum sets for an upcoming exhibit. I have been assisting our curator with accessioning and storing these objects."



Related news:

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

Upcoming Museum Studies Events

Accessibility Roundtable November 6, 2012 For more information please contact Kristina Johnson via museum@iupui.edu.

Art Race Space Symposium January 25, 2013 Artists and scholars from across the country will join leaders from Indianapolis's arts and culture sector in an interdisciplinary daylong symposium dedicated to exploring the complicated relationships between art, race, and civic space. Participants will begin by reflecting on artist Fred Wilson's *E Pluribus Unum*, a public art commission for the Indianapolis Culture Trail that was cancelled in 2011 due to controversy surrounding Wilson's appropriation of a freed slave figure from the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Building on the ideas about race, class, visual culture, and democratic debate that emerge from the Indianapolis project, presenters will also address related historical and contemporary examples from other parts of the United States. In order to encourage public dialogue about art, race, and space, the symposium will provide an opportunity for audience members and presenters to engage in conversations about these matters throughout the day. The proceedings will be published in an edited volume and used to develop curricular materials for use in classroom settings.

For more information please follow this link: <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/artracespace/>

Guantanamo Public Memory Project April 2013 An exhibit in the Campus Center's Cultural Arts Gallery with accompanying programming. Details to be announced.

Congratulations Due (and Overdue):

Welcome our newest faculty, **Holly Cusack McVeigh** Assistant Professor of Museum Studies and Anthropology, Public Scholar of Collections and Community Curation and **Laura Holzman** Assistant Professor Museum Studies and Visual Arts (Herron), Public Scholar of Curatorial Practices

We offer our congratulations to **Matt Groshek** on his new position as Director of the Center for Integrative Design at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, School of Human Ecology beginning January 1, 2013

Program Director, **Liz Kryder-Reid** [honored for long-term distinguished service to the museum profession](#)

Museum Studies Administrative Secretary, **Becky Ellis** (Undergraduate, 2005) [recognized with Schultheis Award for Outstanding Staff](#).

Despi (Mayes) Ross (Undergraduate, 2001) Manager of Creative Media Design & Development at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Rosemary Arnold (M.A., May 2011) Education Programs Manager, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, Fishers, Indiana

Sarah A. Cole (M.A., May 2010) Director of Exhibits and Gallery Experiences, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Deanna Cundiff (M.A., May 2012) Collection Manager, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi

Justin Ellis (M.A., May 2012) Sociology PhD Candidate, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

Megan Geurts (M.A., May 2012) Assistant Supervisor, Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City, Shawnee, Kansas

Jill Gordon (M.A., May 2011) Program Director, Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana

Christine Gregg (M.A., May 2011) Virtual Classroom Coordinator, World War II Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana

Chelsea Libby (M.A., August 2012) Director, The World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame, Long Beach, Washington

Lauren Lucchesi (M.A., May 2012) Design Arts Department Curatorial Coordinator, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana

Emily Lytle-Painter (M.A., December 2011) Media Project Coordinator, Publishing and Media department, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana

Anna Musun-Miller (M.A., May 2010) Conservation Interpretation Program Specialist, Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, Indiana

Lauren (Talley) Moschner (M.A., May 2011) Cataloguer, Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont

Katherine Petrole (M.A., May 2011) Lead Facilitator, Interpretation Department, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana

Lori B. Phillips (M.A., May 2012, Graduate Certificate December 2010) US Cultural Partnerships Coordinator, Wikimedia Foundation; Digital Marketing Content Coordinator, Wikipedian in Residence, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana

Don Riefler (M.A., May 2012) Educator, Mobius Science Center in Spokane, Washington

Maggie Schmidt (M.A., May 2012) Exhibition Research and Development Assistant, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, Indiana

Karen Shank-Chapman (M.A., December 2011) Gallery Programing Specialist, Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana

Claire Thoma (M.A., May 2012) Evaluation and Research Coordinator, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana

Abigail Wolf (Graduate Certificate and M.A., May 2012) Exhibit Assistant, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, Indiana

Museum Studies Conference Fellow

Emily Janowiak



Lori Phillips (l) and Emily Janowiak (r)

This spring, I was fortunate enough to be the recipient of the Museum Studies conference fellowship. Thanks to some very generous funding, I was able to travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota and attend the American Association of Museums annual meeting where I participated in a variety of sessions and made a presentation about my internship experience at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Joined by nearly 5,000 museum professionals and graduate students from around the world, we convened to dialogue about this year's theme of

"Creative Community". Despite differences of opinion and philosophy, everyone I met seemed to have the same overall goal: to determine how museums can improve their contributions to society at large, as well as the individual communities they serve in thoughtful, creative ways.

As a person who has spent the past several years learning about museums through Museum Studies coursework and hands-on experiences in Indianapolis, I was curious to find out what kinds of topics were prioritized outside the Hoosier state. Eager to expand my sphere of influence, I anticipated meeting people who would open my eyes to new concepts and perhaps some things that my professors had not had time to teach me during my career as a graduate student. After four days at the conference, I discovered that the majority of issues facing museums are universal. I saw seasoned museum professionals debating the best ways to engage communities, collaborate with one another, give voice to diverse perspectives, and create future museum leadership. I became aware that the Museum Studies program at IUPUI is closely aligned with topics that are flying around in the "real" world of museums. In fact, many of the program's core values are based on these issues. Because of this, I was able to participate in group discussions and lend my voice to the creative community gathered in Minneapolis instead of simply being a quiet observer.

A notable experience at the conference was meeting my AAM Mentor, Julie Hart. Julie works for AAM in Washington, DC as the Senior Director of Museum

Standards and Excellence, and she was kind enough to take me under her wing. Anyone who is a first time attendee of the annual meeting is eligible to be paired with a mentor, and I highly recommend this option for anyone who plans to attend this conference in the future. I spoke with Julie about my background and interests and she gave me advice about sessions and events to attend, as well as contact information for people in the museum field who might be able to help me with my goals. My conversations with Julie served to reinforce my realization that the Museum Studies program is providing students with concrete, useable skills. She advised me to attend sessions about writing resumes and cover letters, as well as self-branding and job interview tips, all topics that were recently covered in my Museum Colloquium course. My mentor also stressed the importance of familiarizing myself with museum ethics and thinking through potential ethical dilemmas. As anyone who has participated in the Museum Studies Ethics Bowl can tell you, students in IUPUI's program are challenged to write and debate these very scenarios.

I returned to Indiana full of creative inspiration and gratitude for the opportunity not only to attend the conference, but also to have been a part of a graduate program that was designed with student success in mind. I believe that past, current and future students will have a strong impact on the museum field and will contribute greatly to the world's creative community.