From the Director:
Our First Digital Issue

In an effort to be more “green” we are moving to a digital format. We have put a newsletter link on our website and will post to Facebook when we have put a new issue there for our readers. If you would like the PDF delivered right to your e-mail inbox, drop us a note to that effect at libwylie@indiana.edu or call us, and we will see that you get each issue that way.

After seven months of working in our new Education Center, we are feeling more and more at home here. We are deeply grateful to Morton C. Bradley, Jr., whose bequest provided the bulk of the funding for the building, and also to William and Gayle Cook and others who contributed to our campaign and made our project possible. Everyone who has toured the building has fallen in love with it and we still hear exclamations of delight and awe from our visitors. For those who grew up in cities, this may be their first experience of walking into a barn that was built entirely by hand. For those who grew up in rural settings, it often evokes many memories, some of which those visitors share with us or their companions. It’s a joy to work each day in such beautiful and functional surroundings. You will read elsewhere in this issue about some of the programs we have scheduled for the public space: a lecture series, special exhibits, and workshops.

I am very excited about our new initiatives to digitize and make accessible our archival collections. It has always made me sad to think of the plethora of rich archival collections at libraries, historical societies, and museums that are largely unknown and inaccessible to researchers and the public unless they actually visit the repository that preserves them. And even then sometimes collections that have not yet been cataloged and organized, a very time-consuming process, are not available for use by researchers. The IU Digital Library Program (DLP) does a tremendous job of helping repositories at IU make their collections more widely known and accessible so that researchers the world over can either see actual images of the material or at least a list of the materials within a collection. We have made our collections accessible at the item level: a list of items, the scanned image, and a transcription of the item. In addition to family letters, our photograph collection will also be visible online thanks to the DLP’s Photo Cataloging and Access Service initiative. Students will begin to scan our photos this month. Watch our website and Facebook page for announcements when those images are accessible for viewing online.

Jo Burgess
Student projects

We enjoyed working with five graduate students from the School of Library and Information Science during the spring semester. Esther Roth-Katz, completed her second semester as our graduate assistant. She worked on a wide variety of projects, from cataloging museum artifacts to doing research on some baskets made by southwestern Native Americans in the early 20th century that were purchased by Reba Wylie and sent back to her grandmother, Rebecca Wylie, here in Bloomington where Reba had grown up. Arrika Dedmond, our intern for Spring Semester, cataloged ephemera from our archival materials, put together a digital slide show of the barn dismantling and reconstruction, worked on our in-house finding aid for the Wylie family letters, and scanned letters that will be posted to the web (see below).

Amy Jankowski and Molly Biehn returned as volunteers again this semester. Amy converted a finding aid I had written to Encoded Archival Description (EAD) so that the IU Digital Library Program could post it on their web site, Archives Online at Indiana University. (http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/findingaids/)

This, our first digital finding aid, is for the 104 Wylie family letters that were donated to the Museum last summer by Peter Lawrence, a great-great-grandson of Andrew Wylie. If you follow the link above, you will be able to see a list of those letters, plus scanned images and transcriptions of them.

Molly continued her transcription of the letters written by Mr. Bradley from 1920 through the 1940s, and Rieta Drinkwine began creating the EAD finding aid for that discrete collection of letters. These three students plus Alison Reynolds, another SLIS student, will volunteer here this summer to continue work on this and other finding aids. Thanks to all their efforts, we should have two digital finding aids posted to the web by the end of summer, complete with scanned images and transcriptions; another way that we are making the history of the Wylie family accessible to the world!

Students at Wylie House

We couldn’t accomplish nearly as much as we do “behind the scenes” at Wylie House without the help of IU students. Most of our interns and volunteers come from IU’s School of Library and Information Science, but we occasionally get an undergraduate who wants to be involved and we welcome them as volunteers as well. We thank all the students for their interest and involvement here! This summer, they include:

- Molly Biehn
- Rieta Drinkwine
- Amy Jankowski
- Alison Reynolds

Elizabeth Green, 1922 - 2011

We recently noted that Elizabeth Green, a native Bloomingtonian and a resident at Meadowood Retirement Community since 1994, passed away on Sunday, April 10 at the age of 89. During the 1980s, Ms. Green transcribed Theophilus A. Wylie’s twenty-plus handwritten diaries that are held at the IU Archives. She did this while serving as the Chemistry Department’s archivist and as a secretary to Prof. Harry G. Day, a former Chair of that department. Her original transcription included nearly 700 pages of typed text followed by an addenda of another 136 pages. Both documents include translations of Latin and reproductions of numerous sketches and symbols found in Dr. Wylie’s diaries. New technologies permit current researchers to scan digitized tomes like this for information of interest to them. Her work was, and remains, a remarkable contribution to our understanding of this man, his long career at IU, religious and other philosophical debates of the day, and local and national history.

Log Cabin Quilt completed by Wylie House Quilters in 2010
New Lecture Series: A state historic marker will be placed in Seminary Park sometime during this calendar year to commemorate the first day of classes held on April 4, 1825 at what was then the Indiana State Seminary. It became Indiana College in 1828, and finally Indiana University a decade later. The marker’s installation provides the general theme for the first public lecture series produced by Wylie House staff, all held in the Education Center:

“Baynard Rush Hall: Filling in the Blank” was the first in the series, on May 3, 2011. Dixie Kline-Richardson, author of Baynard Rush Hall: His Story, spoke about this man who was the first instructor at the Indiana State Seminary. He left the institution in 1832 due to differences of opinion between him and Dr. Andrew Wylie. Ms. Kline-Richardson talked about this and his life after his departure.

Off- and On-Site Presentations:
The Curator of Education has spoken to a variety of groups and organizations recently, including: Meadowood Retirement Community, Belle Trace Senior Living Community, Binford Elementary School, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Lighthouse Academy, Tri Kappa, the University Women’s Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, and a local chapter of the PEO Sisterhood. Upcoming presentations include ones to the IU Rotary Club chapter, the IU Dowling International Center, the Sons of the American Revolution, and Newcomers.

Upcoming Special Exhibit:
“Looking for Andrew Wylie: Portraits and Their Paths”
On display during the month of August in the Education Center.
This exhibit resulted from research conducted by the Curator of Education on the provenance of the portrait of Andrew Wylie that hangs in the museum. She discovered eight known portraits of President Wylie; two of which were previously unknown to us. We obtained digital images of the portraits which will be shared with the public in this special exhibit, along with some of the other information uncovered while conducting the research.

The Indiana Seminary Charter
Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Our final presenter, Professor Howard McMains, has done extensive work on the history of the charter that created the Indiana State Seminary in 1820. His research was published in the December 2010 issue of the Indiana Magazine of History. His presentation will explore some of the factors that led to the call for the establishment of a state seminary rather than a college or university as the highest level of public education in Indiana.

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An Overview of the History of Indiana University: 1820 – 1851,
Tuesday evening, September 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Bradley Cook, Curator of Photography at the IU Archives, will provide an overview of the history of Indiana University between 1820 and 1851. His presentation will include many images to help illustrate the story of IU’s early years with a focus on buildings, student life, and the faculty.

Dr. Andrew Wylie
image of a portrait owned by a descendant of Dr. Wylie’s
From the Garden

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the 2011 Wylie House Heirloom Seed Sale possible. And special thanks to everyone who ventured out in the rain to buy seeds, making our premiere public event in the barn a success. Many varieties of Wylie House seeds sold out and all but two packs of Seed Saver Exchange seeds were purchased. Visitors were quite impressed with the new site for the sale, the Morton C. Bradley, Jr. Education Center. “What a great place for meetings and events!” was a frequently heard comment.

We are growing several unusual varieties of heirloom vegetables this season. A GRAPPOLI D’INVERNO is the “Winter Grape” tomato of old Italy, where farmers would hang the fruit-covered vines and the fruit would stay fresh well into winter. They also dry perfectly and resemble little “ROMA” tomatoes. The flavorful fruit are delicious, fresh or dried.

Also new to us this year is PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH CROOKNECK SQUASH, a popular 19th century variety sometimes called “Neck Pumpkin” because of its long, flesh-filled neck. They can reach 20 pounds in size with deep orange, richly-flavored flesh, making a delicious squash pie. This variety is also a good keeper.

We are pleased to announce several upcoming gardening-related workshops and exhibits to be held in our new space:

**House Plant Care: You Can Have a Green Thumb Too!**
Saturday, July 16, 2011, from 10 a.m. until noon
Learn tips for growing healthy plants in your home or office.

**A Slice of Life: Artifacts Found on the Grounds at Wylie House Museum**
July 1 through July 29, 2011, Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
A special exhibit of early to mid-nineteenth century artifacts found at the excavation site of the Morton C. Bradley, Jr. Education Center. Household items such as Staffordshire transferware china, medicine bottles, and even a bone toothbrush help to tell the story of domestic life in early Bloomington.

**Corn Husk Craft**
Saturday, November 5, 2011, 10 a.m. until noon
Learn to make baskets, dolls and flowers with corn husks. A suggested $10 contribution to help defray cost of materials will be appreciated.
Please call 855-1858 or email Sherry to register for workshops.

IU Landscape Architects Design Plan

Mark Ramsey and Tristan Johnson from the University Architects Office have delivered a plan for use of the space around the barn. The design calls for a large grassy area in front of the building to suggest a barn lot and on which to hold outdoor events. View of the modern apartment buildings across the street will be softened by placement of white oaks and a Norway spruce. Native grasses planted on the slopes near the building will reduce mowing in difficult areas and create the wild, unmanicured look typically found around a barn. Lawn grass in this area will be mowed only occasionally. Landscape boulders and deciduous hollies with red berries in winter placed along the back alley will help to keep traffic off the lawn.

Since large trees shade portions of the existing garden site behind the museum, making it difficult for crops requiring full sun to thrive, a sunny space near the front doors of the barn will provide a new location for heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and squash to grow. Look for the new bed to take shape soon. Sod will be removed, organic compost mixed in and vegetables planted when the soil is warm. With this added space, we hope to increase the quantity of heirloom seed harvested for sale in the future.

Some sort of barrier that looks appropriate for a historic site will be installed near the sidewalk on 2nd Street to prevent motorists from driving on our newly installed gravel track.
Volunteering

- Do you like history, antiques and a pleasant, tranquil setting? Learn to be a docent at the Wylie House.
- Have limited time? Help with special events at the museum.
- Do you prefer to spend your time in the garden? Lend a hand in our heirloom garden.

If you live in the Bloomington area and would like to become more actively involved with the museum, please call and chat with us about the opportunities.

Thanks to Current Volunteers!!!

Susan Baker, docent
Jane Clay, docent
Marjorie Clayton, quilter
Roseann Dodds, docent
Anthony Eller, docent
Ann Fierst, docent
Catherine Haralovich, docent
Jane Harnett, docent
Ross Hill, garden volunteer
Barbara Lechner, garden volunteer
Terry McCall, docent
Diamond Mather, quilter
Mary Anne Miller, docent
Darcee Neeld, docent
Kylene Parobek, docent
Ellen Pittman, quilter
Lee Ridge, garden volunteer
Eve Schultes-Ridge, garden volunteer
Barbara Seal, garden volunteer
Cindy Smith, docent
Mary Strow, docent
Martha Tarbah, garden volunteer
Kathie Wallskog, garden volunteer
Carla Williams, docent

New volunteers

Three new docents have joined our ranks in the past year bringing the number of docent volunteers to 13. Terry McCall and her husband are both IU alums who retired to Bloomington a year ago. Terry is also an Episcopal priest, an avid quilter, and has an interest in 19th century homes. Darcee Neeld and her family of seven moved to the area a few years ago from Oregon. Darcee credits her parents for her ongoing interest in old homes, family genealogy, and for her curiosity about how people lived during the 19th century. Mary Strow joined us late last fall after finishing her career as an IU Librarian for 25 years. Mary has a special interest in 19th century vernacular architecture and IU history. Welcome aboard and thank you!

Thanks to a long-time quilting volunteer

Virginia Miller learned to sew and quilt when a child and for the last 15 years at least, she has been a valued quilting volunteer at Wylie House Museum. Sadly, her health no longer allows her to quilt and we miss her soft-spoken presence on Tuesday mornings when the other quilters gather here to piece and quilt for the museum. Virginia is noted for her tiny, even stitches and her enthusiasm for quilting. Long before the group would finish quilting a new quilt, Virginia would be asking me what kind of quilt I wanted them to make next! “We can start piecing it now, at home, so it will be ready to go when this one is done,” she'd say. In 2008 we showcased quilts made by our quilters at our annual quilt exhibit. Virginia brought 19 quilts that she had pieced and quilted for her family over the years to put in the exhibit and every one was stunning. We wish Virginia all the best and want her to know how much we appreciated her hours and hours of work for the museum. The quilts she and the others have made for the museum are always admired by our visitors and really help make the house a lively, and lovely, place to visit. Thank you, Virginia!

We Need Your Help!

We are proud of what you have helped us accomplish: turning a neglected old house with an interesting story into a vibrant, beautiful house museum that visitors rave about. There are multiple ways for you to assist us in our mission: becoming a tour guide or docent, working in the garden under the supervision of our Outdoor Interpreter, helping with special events, or through your donations. Currently our greatest need is for funding to apply to the following areas:

- restoration and repair (e.g., new roof for house)
- landscaping (around Education Center)
- acquisitions (e.g., didactic materials for Education Center)