MMWC
Mathers Museum of World Cultures
Fall 2015
No. 5

MMWC to present Beyond Bollywood

Fall Themester programs at MMWC

MMWC provides hands-on training

Research featured in MONSTERS!
This is an exciting time across the whole of Indiana University. IU has just launched its first fundraising campaign to span all of its campuses. Called For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign, this effort will culminate with the university’s important bicentennial celebrations in 2020. Raising new philanthropic support to sustain existing university programs and to launch new ones is at the center of this endeavor but the campaign also provides a wonderful opportunity for storytelling. Across media, from small-town speechmaking to state of the art online video presentations, it is an great time to hear, see, and learn more about what the university has accomplished in its first two centuries, including the remarkable—often transformational—teaching, service, and research activities at the heart of the university today. It is also exciting to look ahead—planning, discussing, and funding the university (and museum) that we can continue to build together.

As readers who are enthusiastic about the Mathers Museum of World Culture’s work and its mission, I am happy to report that we are actively engaged in the For All campaign. I am proud of how the museum has played a vital role in the university’s remarkable history and I am always ready to articulate the ways that we will be even more central to our campus’ and university’s future.

Some recent and future MMWC activities can help illustrate my point. This fall we have again animated and illuminated the College of Arts and Science’s Themester program, this year titled @Work: The Nature of Labor on a Changing Planet. For Themester, we presented a wonderful series of exhibitions that drew directly upon the museum’s research work, making it public and articulating it closely with courses from around the College. These exhibitions, which focused on the intersection of labor and basketry, were brought to life with a rich and well-attended series of public programs. Our Themester engagements continued with a wonderful day of activities focused on the Southern Indiana limestone industry. With IU students at their core, these exhibitions and programs engaged diverse audiences from around the IU campus and from around the Southern Indiana region. Each year we learn from our work and are finding ways to make our Themester efforts ever stronger, thereby supporting the College, campus, and community more effectively. Next year’s Themester theme—Beauty—is another perfect one for our work as IU’s museum of world cultures.

We are not only looking ahead to next year’s Themester, of course. An exciting MMWC exhibition is right around the corner. As discussed elsewhere in the newsletter, we will soon host Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation. I am thrilled that we are hosting this wonderful Smithsonian exhibition in Bloomington. I saw it in Washington and it is excellent. A generous donation from IU alumnus Robert Johnson (1988) is helping us host the exhibition and an extraordinary slate of programs is being co-organized with the Dhar India Studies Program, which has invested very generously in the effort. The Department of American Studies and the Asian American Studies Program are also contributing in key ways to this effort.

Thanks to everyone who is making it such an exciting time to visit, to support, and to talk about the MMWC. I look forward to highlighting the year ahead in our next newsletter. Thank you for being a key part of the Mathers Museum of World Cultures.

Jason Baird Jackson, Director

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**On the cover**

Image: Carved wood Bruce Hovis, Oak-rod Basketmaker
From the builders of some of America’s earliest railroads and farms to Civil Rights pioneers and digital technology entrepreneurs, Indian Americans have long been an inextricable part of American life. The Smithsonian traveling exhibition Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation details the history of Indian Americans and their contributions to the United States from the 1700s to the present. The first-of-its-kind exhibition from the Smithsonian will be on view at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures January 30-April 10, 2016.

Created by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), “Beyond Bollywood” features Indian Americans’ migration experiences, working lives, political struggles and cultural and religious contributions.

Approximately 3.4 million people in the US are of South Asian descent—one of, if not the, fastest growing ethnic group in the US. One in every 100 Americans has a family connection to India. Indian immigrants helped build the nation’s railroads, worked in lumber mills, toiled on farms and established prosperous trading routes that are still in use today. Through a vibrant collection of photographs, artifacts, art and interactive learning stations, visitors will experience the Indian American story and explore the many dynamic roles Indian Americans have played in shaping America.

“The vibrant life, culture and history of immigrants from India and Indian Americans is the story of America,” said Konrad Ng, director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. “This wonderful exhibition deepens our understanding of the American experience as lived by the Asian Pacific American communities who have journeyed from being exotic outsiders to being the faces and voices of the future. We are excited to present an exhibition that we hope will excite and inspire generations.”

Beyond Bollywood is accompanied by education curriculum and an opportunity for individuals to share their family stories through a digital portal.

The exhibition has been funded in large part by donations from philanthropists and corporations from across the country. Lead gifts came from Dr. and Mrs. Kanu Shah and Sadhana and Rick Downs, with additional major gift support from TV Asia, the Epker-Sinha Foundation, Citigroup Foundation, Uman and Ruth Gupta, Gautam and Varsha Chandra, Washington Gas, Asian American Hotel Owners Association, Goldman Sachs, Robert N. Johnson, Sunita and Dan Leeds, Haresh and Alpa Bhungalia, Amita and Purnendu Chatterjee, Girish and Indu Jindia, Rohit and Joy Kirpalani, Anil and Sonjui Lal Kumar, Dr. Mahinder and Sharad Tak, Southwest Airlines, and the Network of Indian Professionals Foundation.

A special speakers’ series will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition at the Mathers Museum. The series will feature four scholars: Pawan Dhingra, Professor and Chair of Sociology and Professor of American Studies at Tufts University; Seema Sohi, Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder; Vijay Prashad, George and Martha Kellner Chair in South Asian History and Professor of International Studies at Trinity College; and Vivek Bald, documentary filmmaker and Associate Professor of Writing and Digital Media at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Mathers Museum’s presentation of Beyond Bollywood and accompanying programming has been generously funded by Indiana University alumnus Robert N. Johnson, the Madhusudan and Kiran C. Dhar India Studies Program, the Asian American Studies Program, and the Department of American Studies. For more information about the exhibition and accompanying programming, please email mathers@indiana.edu.
Fall programming focuses on Themester

Fall programs at the MMWC focus on the 2015 Fall Themester @Work: The Nature of Labor on a Changing Planet.” Themester is an initiative of IU’s College of Arts and Sciences to engage the collective knowledge and creativity of the faculty and to involve undergraduate students in the exploration of ideas across the disciplines.

Programs this semester have ranged from Artist-in-Residence presentations by Viki Graber, an extraordinary basketmaker, whose work is highlighted in an ongoing exhibit at the museum, to lectures on Hoosier and eastern Cherokee basketmaking traditions by Jon Kay (director of Traditional Arts Indiana and MMWC curator) and Emily Buhrow Rogers (a graduate student in anthropology and folklore).

Upcoming programs include:

**Speaking of Work Baskets**
Baskauta :: Bachao :: Basket: An Interactive Basket Experience
Thursday, November 5; 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Baskets reveal a story for reflecting place and function. Join Carissa Carman, IU Visiting Assistant Professor of Textiles, as she introduces the materials for both historical and contemporary baskets. Carman will familiarize participants with the fine-tuned techniques for how to work through some of the basic interlocking forms that create structure. The session will investigate baskets from the MMWC education collection as a means to beginning construction with playful materials, to build an appreciation for the delicate skill that each material requires. No experience necessary.

**Family Craft Day**
Baskets
Sunday, November 15; 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Explore baskets around the world, and then try your hand at making your own during this fun, free, family event.

Additionally, several exhibits at the museum focus on the Fall 2015 Themester theme, including:

- **Willow Work: Viki Graber, Basketmaker**
- **Putting Baskets to Work in Southwestern China**
- **Work Exposed: Photographs from the Early 20th Century**
- **Working Wood: Oak-Rod Baskets in Indiana**

All events and exhibits are free and open to the public, and sponsored by Fall 2015 Themester @ Work: The Nature of Labor on a Changing Planet.
A new program at the MMWC offers visitors a chance to visit “after hours.” The museum has paired up with camujs partners (including La Casa/The Latino Cultural Center and the Asian Culture Center) to present evening events focused on games and crafts. The activities are free and open to the public:

**Mathers After Hours**
**Asian Games Night**
Thursday, November 5; 6 to 10 p.m.
Join us for gaming fun! Take a break to learn Mahjong, a traditional Chinese game of skill and chance, or Go, a strategic board game similar to chess. Learn, play, and snack! Sponsored by the Asian Culture Center.

**Mathers After Hours**
**Craftapalooza**
Thursday, December 3; 6 to 10 p.m.
Craft the night away--it’s a good way to de-stress and enjoy a study break. Make pop-up holiday cards, ornaments, and other hands-on items during this free event with snacks, music, and your friends!

**Current exhibits**
In addition to Themester presentations focusing on work. and the just-opened **MONSTERS!**, the MMWC is featuring a wide variety of exhibitions this semester:

**Cherokee Craft, 1973** showcases woodcarvings, masks, ceramics, finger woven textiles, basketry, and dolls rooted in Cherokee cultural tradition.

**The Collector’s Eye: Photographs from the Mathers Museum Archive** features selections from the MMWC photography collections documenting the people and places of the world.

**Photography from the Forest: Images by William Siegmann** features photographs, taken by an IU alumnus and leading scholar, of Liberia and its people.

**Thoughts, Things, and Theories...What Is Culture?** explores the nature of culture.

**Día de los Muertos Community Altar**
Come celebrate and honor the memories of deceased loved ones at Bloomington’s 10th Annual Día de los Muertos Community Altar, curated by local artists Rachel DiGregorio and Michael Redman.

You’re invited to add gifts to the altar in honor of deceased loved ones, as it’s customary to leave small offerings of items they would have enjoyed.

The altar nurtures the memory of their lives, and each year it’s built upon the foundation of the previous years’ offerings. The event is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, October 7 through Sunday, November 1; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, and 1 to 4:30 p.m. on weekends; Special closing reception on Sunday, November 1, 3 to 5 p.m.
### MMWC Fall 2015 Events

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<td>Sunday, November 1</td>
<td>5:30 to 8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Craft Day Winterfest</td>
<td>Sunday, December 6</td>
<td>2 to 3:30 p.m.</td>
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**Halloween Family Fun Fest Monster Mash**

Saturday, October 31
2 to 4 p.m.

**Active Collections--Brown Bag Talk**

Wednesday, November 18
Noon-1:30 p.m.

**Folkloric Monsters of Japan and the People who Love Them**

Friday, November 13
4 to 5 p.m.

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**Mathers After Hours**

Craftapalooza

Thursday, December 3
6 to 10 p.m.

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**Family Craft Day**

Baskets

Sunday, November 15
2 to 3:30 p.m.

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**Family Craft Day**

Winterfest

Sunday, December 6
2 to 3:30 p.m.
Museum practica provides hands-on training

A practicum/internship at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures provides students with the opportunity to gain hands-on work experience in the museum field while earning academic credit through a number of Indiana University’s schools and academic departments.

The museum provides training for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a variety of practica courses, including those offered through the Department of Anthropology, the Department of History, the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and the Program in Arts Administration.

Although the courses are offered through specific departments, the practica are open for students in most disciplines on the IUB campus. However, the acceptance of practica students must be limited.

Students work closely with museum to develop specific skills related to their studies or areas of interest. Recent practicum projects have included exhibit development, educational kit coordination, and artifact research and cataloging.

At the end of each semester, practica students present a summary of their work in a capstone event.

Students interested in enrolling in museum practicum can find out more about the enrollment and authorization process in the MMWC Practica Guide available online.
Just in time for Halloween, a new exhibit at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures explores extraordinary or unnatural beings that challenge the predictable fabric of everyday life—"MONSTERS!" The exhibit presents monsters from around the world, examining who they are and what purposes they serve in various cultures.

Monsters have haunted human culture for as long as history has been recorded, embodying fears and fantasies; populating stories, rituals and beliefs; and infiltrating dreams. While they play a role in ancient mythologies, they are also part of contemporary culture via urban legends, films, anime, and games, and the exhibit uses masks, costumes, musical instruments, and a variety of other artifacts to demonstrate their presence.

One feature of the exhibit presents the research of IU scholars Michael Dylan Foster, Associate Professor of Folklore and East Asian Languages and Cultures, and Kate Schramm, a PhD candidate in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Both scholars work in Japan studying supernatural creatures and local deities, and exploring the varied roles such figures have played within Japanese culture and history.

Foster has researched and written about Japanese yōkai—often translated as monster, spirit, or supernatural creature—for many years, and is the author of "Pandemonium and Parade: Japanese Monsters and the Culture of Yōkai" and "The Book of Yōkai: Mysterious Creatures of Japanese Folklore," as well as numerous articles on folklore, literature, and media.

In addition, two events have been scheduled in conjunction with the exhibit:

**Halloween Family Fun Fest**
Saturday, October 31; 2 to 4 p.m.
Come help us celebrate our just-opened exhibit about MONSTERS! with a free, family-friendly, and fun monster mash! Play monstrous games, including “Pin the Eye on the Monster” and “Monster Bowling,” but save some time to make some crafts, too, like everyone’s favorite—MONSTER GOO!

**Folkloric Monsters of Japan and the People who Love Them**
Friday, November 13; 4 to 5 p.m.
Kappa water sprites, tengu mountain goblins, shape-shifting animals, and a panoply of other fantastic creatures known as yōkai have long haunted Japanese folklore and are now popular characters in manga, anime, film, and computer games. This free presentation by Michael Dylan Foster, Associate Professor of Folklore and East Asian Languages & and Cultures at Indiana University and co-curator of MONSTERS!, will broadly introduce the concept of yōkai—often translated as monster, spirit, or supernatural creature—and explore the varied roles such figures have played within Japanese culture and history.

MONSTERS! will be on display at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures through December 18, 2016.

Participants in the Namahage Sedo Festival in Akita Prefecture, Japan. Photo courtesy of Michael Dylan Foster.
IU Press and MMWC announce new book series

IU Press and the MMWC are partnering to present Material Vernaculars, a new book series that will focus on ethnographic, historical, and comparative accounts of material and visual culture found in both the everyday and in the extraordinary lives of individuals and communities, nations and networks.

While advancing a scholarly tradition focused on the makers and users of hand-made objects, the series will also address contemporary practices, such as recycling and collecting in global and local contexts.

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Visiting the Mathers Museum

The Mathers Museum of World Cultures is located at 416 N. Indiana Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana. Admission to the museum is free. The MMWC exhibition hall and Mathers Museum Store will be closed Saturday November 21 through Monday, November 30 for the Indiana University Thanksgiving break; and Monday, December 21 through Monday, January 11 for the Indiana University Winter Break. During normal hours of operations the exhibition hall and Museum Store are open Tuesdays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Free visitor parking is available by the Indiana Avenue lobby entrance. Metered parking is available at the McCalla School parking lot on the corner of Ninth Street and Indiana Avenue. The parking lot also has spaces designated for Indiana University C and ST permits. During the weekends free parking is available on the surrounding streets.

An access ramp is located at the Fess Avenue entrance to the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology on the corner of Ninth Street and Fess Avenue. Reserved parking spaces are available on Ninth Street, between Fess Avenue and Indiana Avenue. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Please call 812-855-6873. For more information, please call 812-855-6873, email mathers@indiana.edu, or visit our website at www.mathers.indiana.edu.