“Pioneering” virtual heritage at MMWC

Indiana folk art and artists at MMWC

“Beauty” exhibits and events set for fall

Students explore work with folk artists

“Pioneering” virtual heritage at MMWC
When I was first appointed as MMWC Director, my hopes for the museum and the campus’ expectations of it converged around the idea of partnerships. Building on longstanding relationships, our mandate was to serve the campus and our audiences as effectively as possible by acting as a catalyst for activities that bring people and groups together. As in everyday life, we are all stronger when we work together. The academic year now ending and the one that lies ahead provide great opportunities for celebrating productive partnerships.

During spring 2016, the museum enjoyed a tremendous partnership with Indiana University’s Madhusudan and Kiran C. Dhar India Studies Program. Led by Professor Michael Dodson, the Dhar India Studies Program developed and co-presented a remarkable series of public programs in support of the special exhibition Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation. With Dhar program support, some of the most innovative scholars of the Indian diaspora visited our campus and delivered compelling, thought provoking presentations to large and receptive community and campus audiences. The “Beyond Bollywood” project as a whole was a great success for our campus and community because of the partnerships that underpinned it. In addition to the Dhar India Studies Program, this effort was supported by IU’s Department of American Studies, IU’s Asian American Studies Program, and with crucial funding from alumnus Robert Johnson (BA, 1988).

Looking ahead to this fall, we will work closely with another lead partner—the IU School of Public Health (SPH). With the encouragement and support of Dean Mohammad R. Torabi, and the active involvement of Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Michael Reece, the School will co-present the exhibition Siyazama: Traditional Arts, Education, and AIDS in South Africa. Another of our museum’s key partners, the Michigan State University Museum, curated this highly acclaimed traveling exhibition.

For the SPH, “Siyazama” will extend the School's work researching and addressing the global dimensions of HIV/AIDS as a public health challenge, one whose full scope can only be appreciated with concern for local community responses and consideration of humanistic as well as social scientific and biomedical insights. On behalf of the museum and its audiences, I am very appreciative of the SPH’s partnership in this important endeavor. (Learn more about the exhibition on the next page.)

The “Siyazama” exhibition is part of a larger fall effort supporting the Themester initiative of the campus’ College of Arts and Sciences. The Themester theme for 2016 is Beauty. In addition to “Siyazama,” two additional exhibitions and a wide range of museum programs will be presented with Themester support. All will explore beauty in a comparative and global context.

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- Theresa Harley-Wilson, Registrar
- Sarah Hatcher, Head of Programs and Education
- Jason Baird Jackson, Director
- Jon Kay, Director of Traditional Arts Indiana and Curator of Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- Judith A. Kirk, Assistant Director
- Mark Price, Preparator
- Ellen Sieber, Chief Curator
- Matthew Sieber, Manager of Exhibitions
- Judith Silverman, Registrar
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- Pravina Shukla (Folklore and Ethnomusicology)
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- Connor Martin (Arts Administration)
- Meredith McGriff (Folklore and Ethnomusicology)
- Carole Pouzar (Woodwinds)
- Emily Buhrow Rogers (Folklore and Ethnomusicology)
- Kelley Totten (Folklore and Ethnomusicology)
- Maria Zerengue (Folklore and Ethnomusicology)
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**Research Associates (cont.)**
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- Victoria Luksha (Mathers Museum of World Cultures)
- Jodine Perkins (The University of British Columbia)
- Hannah Rawcliffe (Informatics)
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**Ex officio**
- Ed Comentale (Office of the Vice Provost for Research)
- Theresa Harley-Wilson (Mathers Museum of World Cultures)
- Jason Baird Jackson (Mathers Museum of World Cultures)
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**A research center of the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at Indiana University Bloomington, the Mathers Museum of World Cultures is an American Alliance of Museums-accredited institution offering research and training opportunities for IU students, educational support and services for IU faculty and elementary/secondary school teachers, and family-friendly exhibits and programs.**

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**On the cover**

Keith Ruble, an Indiana woodcarver, holds the bowl he carved. Ruble’s work is featured in Indiana Folk Arts: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation.
Exhibits and events planned for “Beauty” Themester

Exhibits, films, folk artist residencies, and lectures will be the focus of Themester 2016: Beauty programming this fall at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures.

Three exhibits will explore ideas of beauty and its role in cultures around the world. Siyazama: Traditional Arts, Education, and AIDS in South Africa will explore the use of traditional arts and associated concepts of beauty in contemporary South Africa, where these arts are being used to address critical needs in the face of a HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Drawing on collaborative research led by Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha McDowell, folklorists at Michigan State University, and arts education professor Marit Dewhurst, at City University of New York, the exhibition will feature beadwork, doll making, basketry, and wirework, as it examines how South African artists use their work to educate others as well as to cope with the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS in their own lives and communities. The exhibition will be sponsored by IU’s School of Public Health.

In Costume: Beauty, Meaning, and Identity in Dress, practices of wearing costumes—dress set apart from everyday clothing—will be investigated by curator Pravina Shukla, Associate Professor of Folklore at IU Bloomington, and author of Costume: Performing Identities through Dress.

Hózhó: Navajo Beauty, Navajo Weavings will introduce the famed wool rugs and blankets woven by the Navajo people of the Southwestern United States. Situating these textiles within regional history and Navajo culture, the exhibition will focus on the theme of beauty in Navajo cosmology as expressed in the artistry of these treasured weavings, and will be curated by MMWC director Jason Baird Jackson.

Also as part of 2016 Themester: Beauty, a series of folk artist residencies on the IU Bloomington campus will be hosted by the museum’s Traditional Arts Indiana program.

From Miami beadwork and African American quilting to limestone carving and rag rug weaving, some of Indiana’s finest traditional artists will come to the campus to share their talents and insights about their aesthetic choices and their conceptions of beauty manifest in their respective cultural traditions and crafts.

These residencies will provide an opportunity for students, faculty, and the community to watch artists demonstrate their craft, listen to their stories, and learn about their creative process, all of which point toward individual and cultural constructions of beauty in these creative forms. Additional programs will include film screenings and talks. All exhibits and events will be free and open to the public.

Support for the programs is made possible by Themester, 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.

From the Director: Partnerships (cont.)

frame of reference, diversifying and deepening the exploration of a topic that is often viewed through a Eurocentric lens or set aside as a shallow matter masking deeper issues. Since 2014, Themester and the College of Arts and Sciences has been a valuable partner for our fall programs and I am thankful for the chance to work with them again this coming year. A preview of the museum’s Themester activities is provided above.

While we enjoy incredible partnerships with many campus departments and schools and with a wide range of agencies and groups around Bloomington, Indiana, the nation, and the world, I want to close by highlighting one more. In 2015, Traditional Arts Indiana moved into the MMWC. Founded in 1998, TAI is an incredible resource for our campus, our state, and the nation as a whole. As the state of Indiana’s official traditional arts program, TAI has been a vital partnership between IU and the Indiana Arts Commission. We are incredibly thankful for our robust partnership with the IAC and the state. We are also thankful because this partnership unlocks so many more around Indiana. As reflected in the Rotating Exhibitions Network, TAI and its work connects our museum and our university directly to 31 libraries around the state of Indiana. Through the Indiana Folk Arts: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation exhibition, various state bicentennial programs, and ongoing research projects, TAI connects the museum and university to 8 state parks as well as the Indiana State Fair and other agencies around Indiana. Such programs reach over 300,000 Hoosiers and visitors to our state. TAI also provides a framework by which our museum and university can partner with hundreds of artists and cultural workers throughout our state. This work directly enriches the educational experiences of IU students. It also advances our museum’s research important mission. I am grateful to IU Provost Lauren Robel, IU Vice Provost for Research Rick Van Kooten, Executive Dean Larry Singell of the IU College of Arts and Sciences, and IAC Executive Director Lewis C. Ricci for their contributions to TAI—one of our most important partnerships.

As a friend and supporter of the museum—you too are a valued partner in our work. As we conclude one active academic year and look to the next, thank you for all that you do to make the MMWC a vital hub of public humanities and social scientific research, outreach, collections stewardship, and learning.

Jason Baird Jackson, Director
As part of the MMWC/Traditional Arts Indiana’s celebration of Indiana folk artists, three special programs will be presented in late spring/early summer. All events are free and open to the public.

Folk Art, Music, and Root Beer Floats
Sunday, April 24; 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Join us for the premiere of Traditional Arts Indiana’s Bicentennial exhibit, Indiana Folk Arts: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation, and a celebration of Indiana folk arts. Before the exhibit begins its travels across the state, the MMWC will present it to the IU Bloomington campus and local communities, and will celebrate the opening with an afternoon of traditional arts demonstrations, craft discussions, and live music. Folk artists from around the state will join us for this special gathering, including beadworker Katrina Mitten, netmaker Larry Haycraft, rosemaler Jan Boettcher, decoy carver John Bundy, willow furniture maker Greg Adams, and the bluegrass band Hamilton Creek, and at 2 p.m. we’ll serve free root beer floats! The event will be sponsored by the Indiana Humanities Council, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Stephen and Nancy Dickey: Remembering Lotus Dickey
Friday, May 13; 11:30 am to 12:30 p.m.
Lotus Dickey (1911-1989) was a traditional singer, songwriter, and fiddler from southern Indiana (Orange County) who inspired a generation of performers and Bloomington’s Lotus World Music and Arts Festival. Stephen and Nancy Dickey, son and daughter-in-law of Lotus and members of Grease Gravy (a country-bluegrass string band) will perform some of his songs during this concert honoring Lotus’s legacy.

Limestone Carving
Friday, May 27; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Celebrate Indiana’s limestone heritage with master carvers Matt Bruce and Casey Winningham, who’ll talk about their work during this demonstration at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures. They’ll show examples and demonstrate techniques, and discuss more about this distinctive occupational tradition from South-central Indiana. The event will be sponsored by Traditional Arts Indiana through support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.
Bicentennial exhibit to travel the state

Indiana Folk Arts: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation will be on exhibit at the Mathers Museum through the summer, but a second version of the exhibit will travel throughout the state of Indiana showcasing the work of contemporary folk artists, whose crafts represent important threads within Indiana's historical narrative.

For more than 200 years, Indiana has been home to a wide variety of folk arts. Through telling the stories of specific artists, this bicentennial exhibit highlights the important work of individuals in the continuation of traditional arts in the state.

Exhibit panels describe the work of master artisans and highlight the diverse traditional art forms in Indiana, from Mennonite basketry and African American quilt making to Native American beadwork and German-American rag rug weaving.

Made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Indiana Folk Arts will travel to state parks, public libraries, festivals, and select events that commemorate the state's Bicentennial.

At each venue, the exhibit will host demonstrations, narrative stages, and hands-on workshops that augment the display and engage visitors. Additionally, a catalogue focusing on the artists and their work will be published in later.

As a special Bicentennial initiative, the exhibit has been endorsed by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission as a “Legacy Project” for the state.

Below: Indiana Folk Arts: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation will travel to 12 venues across the state, and will be featured at the Indiana State Fair during the summer. Right: A panel from the exhibit highlights master quilters in the state.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Indiana State Fairgrounds</td>
<td>August 5-21</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>Lakeside State Park</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Valparaiso, IN</td>
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<td>McCormick’s Creek State Park</td>
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<td>Bloomington, IN</td>
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<td>Lucas Oil Stadium</td>
<td>September 22-24</td>
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<td>Fort Wayne State Park</td>
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<td>Spring Mill State Park</td>
<td>September 1</td>
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Sisters of the Cloth
Allen County

“Each one teach one” is the motto of the Sisters of the Cloth, an African-American quilting guild that meets monthly in Fort Wayne. Member Jacquie Seals explains, “We love to quilt, to share, to cook. I love the sisterhood of us.” While some women joined the group as expert quilters, and others as beginners, many strive to maintain their family quilting traditions through the guild.

Quilting

The Piecemakers
Vanderburgh County

Quilting provides opportunities for friends to bond. Like clockwork, members of the Piecemakers gather weekly to work on their quilt for the Indiana State Fair Pioneer Village. The finished quilt is auctioned to support the work of the Village. Every year, the project requires more than 200 hours of shared labor and talent, in addition to the two weeks they volunteer at the fair.

Amish Quilt Auction
Daviess County

Since 1987, the Daviess County Amish Quilt Auction has brought the area’s Amish and Mennonite communities together with quilt collectors from near and far. The auction helps support Amish home businesses and fosters fellowship among participants. The annual gathering features a colorful array of quilt patterns, ranging from informal “friendship quilts” created by groups of young women to intricate masterworks made by well-known artists.
MMWC presents programs for Creative Aging Festival

In celebration of Older Americans Month in May, the City of Bloomington Commission on Aging presents the Creative Aging Festival. In recognition of the festival, the museum will be presenting three programs highlighting creative projects and work by elder artists and community members.

One Million Stars/Creative Aging Festival
Sunday, May 15; 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Join us for an intergenerational workshop in partnership with the Lotus World Music & Arts Foundation and the Creative Aging Festival. Weave an 8-pointed star and be part of a worldwide movement—1 Million Stars to End Violence—and has committed to weaving and contributing at least 10,000 stars over the next year. The workshop is recommended for ages 8 and up, and will be free and open to the public; no registration required.

Memory and Creativity: Elder Folk Artist Showcase
Friday, May 20: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
This program highlights the art-making practices of elders as a successful aging strategy. The program includes demonstrations by elder folk artists, calligraphers James and Jenny Yang, carver Bob Taylor, and dollmaker Jenny Kander, as well as a discussion with the elders hosted by Mathers Museum Curator Jon Kay. Come watch the artists work, talk with them about their creative pursuits, and then stay for the narrative stage to hear artists discuss the benefits of the arts for older adults. The event will be free and open to the public, and is sponsored by the Creative Aging Festival.

Memory Paintings: Gustave Potthoff’s Creative Aging Practice (Meadowood Retirement Community, Terrace Room, 2455 Tamarack Trail)
Friday, May 27; 3 p.m.
Jon Kay, Director of Traditional Arts Indiana and MMWC Curator, will talk about the exhibit and the life of Gustav Potthoff. Gustav Potthoff paints to remember his fellow prisoners of war who built the Bridge over the River Kwai and the Hellfire Pass during World War II. This program shares his incredible story, and explores his life-review practice as a strategy for creative aging, and presents an exhibition exploring Potthoff’s work. The Traditional Arts Indiana exhibit is sponsored by the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, and will be on display May 27-31, open to the public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at the Meadowood Retirement Community. The event and exhibit will be free and open to the public.

Spring programs feature conferences and “study break”

Gipfelkonferenz der Forscher (Summit Conference)
Saturday, April 23; 1 to 4 p.m.
Students in Germanic Studies (G332 and G571) will present their semester projects inspired by the exhibition The Performative Book presented by IU’s Lilly Library. The event will be free and open to the public.

Anthropology Colloquium: “Feeling at Home: An Evolutionary Perspective”
Monday, April 25; 4 p.m.
John Allen, a Research Affiliate of IU’s Department of Anthropology, will speak on “Feeling at Home: An Evolutionary Perspective.” The event is sponsored by IU’s Department of Anthropology, and will be free and open to the public.

Mathers After Hours Study Break
Thursday, May 5; 7 to 9 p.m.
Take a break from studying and work with a relaxing evening at the MMWC. Play some games, and do crafts, including mandala coloring and finger knitting, to soothe away the stress. The event is free and open to the public.

Current/upcoming exhibits at the MMWC

200 Years of Living and Thriving in the Hoosier State Opens June 6.


Indiana Folk Arts: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation Closes July 29.

Material Culture: Quilts Inspired by Mathers Museum Artifacts Closes May 15.

MONSTERS! Closes December 18.

Stirring the Pot: Bringing the Wanalakers Home Closes May 27.


Tools of Travel On exhibit through December 17, 2017.
Students in Folklore F805/Laboratory in Public Folklore spent the spring semester working with Professor Jon Kay gaining hands-on professional experience, and their work is culminating in the opening of the exhibit *Indiana Folk Art: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation*.

The exhibit opening, organized by the students, will be held Sunday, April 24, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., and will feature folk art demonstrations, bluegrass music, and free root beer floats.

Since folklorists and ethnomusicologists often find employment in arts agencies, museums, and other nonprofits, this hands-on laboratory, developed by Kay, aims to prepare students for work in the public sector. The course covers the research, design, creation, presentation, and assessment of public folklore projects. In addition to experiential learning activities, the course included weekly class meetings at the Mathers Museum to review relevant readings and to discuss the progress of students’ projects.

As part of their work, students participated in a Folk Art Summit, during which over 20 folk artists from around the state came to the museum to meet each other, to learn about opportunities for programming and support, and to be interviewed by the students for a catalog for the exhibit, that will be published in May.

Above right: Students work with Jon Kay to install *Indiana Folk Art: 200 Years of Tradition and Innovation* at the museum. Below right: A video on the Folk Art Summit held at the museum explores the work of the folk artists gathered for the event. (Click on image to view the video.)
Caring for an outstanding collection of objects and images from around the world, IU’s Mathers Museum of World Cultures fosters research and training in the social sciences and humanities.

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“Pioneering” virtual heritage at MMWC

Hannah Rawcliffe, one of the MMWC’s newest Research Associates and a Ph.D. candidate in Virtual Heritage Informatics at IU, has been working with Mathers Museum staff members and members of the Virtual World Heritage Laboratory (under the director of Bernard Frischer, Professor of Informatics at IU) to create a series of three-dimensional models of artifacts at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures.

Rawcliffe is currently spearheading work to model 19th century Indiana artifacts for use in exhibits and educational programs connected to the state’s Bicentennial. The first artifact selected for modeling, an early 19th century wagon, required a large team of museum staff and virtual heritage lab members to coordinate the task. Due to its size, staff members moved components of the museum’s wagon into an outside space for artifact photography by the lab team (as seen below). Hundreds of photographs were taken at all angles for creating 3D models of the individuals components, and Rawcliffe shot more images of the assembled wagon for modeling works as well. An example of a 3D model of a museum artifact (a grain shovel) is featured in the screenshot (below right).
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. During the summer, the MMWC exhibition hall and Mathers Museum Store will be closed May 28-30; July 2-4; and July 30-August 15.

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.