Fall programs and events announced

MMWC selected as China/US partner

Student, Museum travel Ghana exhibit

IQ-Wall used for research, teaching
From the Director: Plans and plans

There are many exciting things happening at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures. I could just dive in and start describing some of my favorite programs and initiatives, but that might lead to missing the forest for the trees. Recounting the museum’s newest acquisitions, for example, or celebrating the incredible work that our practicum students are doing is just the kind of thing I aim to do in these “From the Director” columns, but I lack things off here with a development that is less glamorous on the surface of things but that is absolutely central to the museum’s present work and future achievements.

Among my first charges as the MMWC’s new Director was to develop a compelling strategic plan to guide the museum as it begins its second half-century. With input from the museum staff, campus and community stakeholders, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, and the MMWC’s Policy Committee, the museum has developed an ambitious five-year plan and we are now busy implementing its broad goals and specific strategies. I am very excited about our plan and I invite you to join us achieving its transformational goals and its ambitions of leadership among museums of ethnography and cultural history.

One central inspiration for the new Mathers Museum of World Cultures Strategic Plan, 2013-2018 was the list of goals outlined by IUB Provost Lauren Robel in her 2013 State of the Campus Address. Our plan serves the Provost’s goals in a number of ways. As an example, Provost Robel rightly understands that a distinguishing feature of a residential, research-intensive university is the unparalleled capacity that we possess to provide students with hands-on experience pursuing original research. Building upon existing strengths in working with students, our new plan directs us to intensify our research work overall and to place students at the center of these efforts.

Our plan’s details are organized around four broad thematic goals. (1) Increasing Research Productivity, Excellence, and Reach, (2) Networking the Museum, (3) Stewarding People, Collections, Facilities, and Resources, and (4) Strengthening Public Outreach and Campus Engagement. In service of each of these crosscutting goals, our plan outlines a range of specific objectives and strategies. I invite you to consult the plan yourself on the museum’s website. Your ideas and your good efforts in support of its goals are very welcome.

The MMWC strategic plan will inform the campus strategic planning process initiated by Provost Robel this fall. I am honored to have been asked to help develop the campus strategic plan and am thankful for the opportunity that this role provides for even more closely articulating the work of the museum with the goals of the campus as a whole.

Jason Baird Jackson

The MMWC Strategic Plan is now online

IU’s Mathers Museum of World Cultures is one of three U.S. museums selected to collaborate with Chinese museums in a three-year program organized by the American Folklore Society and the China Folklore Society. Funded by the Asia Program of the Henry Luce Foundation.

Between 2013 and 2016 the MMWC will participate in a program of conferences and professional exchanges of museum staff and resources, and Director Jason Jackson will travel to China this December to participate in the first conference of collaborating institutions. The participating museums will also work to develop new resources to support and share information about folklore studies scholarship in both countries.

This project builds upon six years of previous efforts by the APS, and on 2011-2013 funding from the Luce Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Lingnan Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Asian Cultural Council, and the China Ministry of Education.

This longer-term initiative is using the lessons of the field of folklore studies and intangible cultural heritage (ICH) to contribute to a wide range of activities in China and the US—supported by government, the private sector, and community-based organizations—to sustain traditions, connect communities through research, documentation, education, presentation, and conservation.

International guests bring exhibits, insights

In the past few months several international guests have participated in museum programming and events:

Bottom left: Cedric Nunn, South African photographer, discusses Margaret Bourke-White’s images of apartheid. Director Jason Kay (Director of Traditional Arts Indiana and MMWC Consulting Curator) and Teri Kassen (MMWC Graduate Assistant).

Top left: Ms. Vuyiswa Tulelo, the Consul General of South Africa in Chicago, and Mr. Karabo Letlaha, Consul Political, met with curator Alex Lichtenstein and Jason Jackson to learn more about the Bourke-White exhibit.

Top right: Dudu Madomela, Head Curator, Benoisian Museum of Photography in Johannesburg, South Africa, met with museum staff and later spoke at the Bourke-White exhibit opening.

Bottom right: Aleksy Zawacki, president of Poland’s Institute of National Remembrance in Poland, speaks at the opening of Operation AB – Katyn: The Destruction of the Polish Elite at the Beginning of World War II at the Mathers Museum.
Fall programs feature family events, celebrations

Free and fun family programs continue through the fall at the MMWC. In addition to a Family Craft Day, a series of special holiday programs highlight the museum’s offerings:

Holiday Event—Closing of Dia de los Muertos Community Altar/En Calavera: Conversations with the Dead
Friday, November 1; 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Join us for the closing of the Dia de los Muertos Community Altar and En Calavera: Conversations with the Dead interactive experience. The altar’s caretakers will be present to answer questions about its origins, and through storytelling and representation of past ancestors, students from La Casa will share Mexican cultural traditions of this holiday. The event will be free and open to the public.

Family Craft Day—Time Sunday, November 3; 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Daylight Saving Time ends November 3, so let’s celebrate time with hands-on activities and crafts at a Family Craft Day! Learn to make a sundial and water clock during this free event.

Exhibit Opening—Assessing Authenticity: Museum Fakes and Mistakes
Friday, December 6; 4:30 to 6 p.m.
Curated by Betty Bilo, a junior in Anthropology, the exhibit explores the meaning of the “real thing.” The reception will be free and open to the public.

Holiday Event—Winterfest: Holidays Around the World
Sunday, December 8; 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Come celebrate the season with crafts and activities exploring holidays from around the world. Several IU international centers will present hands-on activities, including La Casa, the IU German Club, the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, the East Asian Studies Center, the Center for the Study of the Middle East, the Institute for European Studies, African Studies, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. All activities will include St. Nicholas Day cookies, paper Ramadan lanterns, Sinterklaas masks, and Korean games. The event will be free and open to the public.

Native American workshops, course offered with partners
Partnerships with IU organizations this fall are enabling the museum to offer a number of programs highlighting Native American culture. The workshops organized by the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center and a course offered through IU’s Life Long Learning program. The programs include:

First Nations Educational and Cultural Center Workshop—Cherokee Basketry
Saturday, November 9; 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
John Johnson (Cherokee) will teach Cherokee basket weaving during this workshop sponsored by the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center. All basketry materials and instruction will be provided free of charge, and a light lunch will be served at noon, but participants must pre-register with the FNECC. To pre-register contact FNECC at fnecc@indiana.edu or 812-855-4814.

First Nations Educational and Cultural Center Workshop—Native American Beading
Saturday, November 9; 1 to 4 p.m.
Nicky Belle will teach Native American beading during this workshop sponsored by the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center. All beading materials and instruction will be provided free of charge, but participants must pre-register with the FNECC. To pre-register contact FNECC at fnecc@indiana.edu or 812-855-4814.

First Nations Educational and Cultural Center Workshop—Cerckoke Basketry
Saturday, November 9; 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
John Johnson (Cherokee) will teach Cherokee basket weaving during this workshop sponsored by the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center. All basketry materials and instruction will be provided free of charge, and a light lunch will be served at noon, but participants must pre-register with the FNECC. To pre-register contact FNECC at fnecc@indiana.edu or 812-855-4814.

First Nations Educational and Cultural Center Workshop—Cherokee Basketry
Sunday, November 10; 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Joel Johnson (Cherokee) will teach Cherokee basket weaving during this workshop sponsored by the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center. All basketry materials and instruction will be provided free of charge, and a light lunch will be served at noon, but participants must pre-register with the FNECC. To pre-register contact FNECC at fnecc@indiana.edu or 812-855-4814.

Course—Native American Arts and Culture
Tuesdays, November 12 and November 19; 7 to 9 p.m.
Join us for a 2-part Native American workshop organized by the Midwest Indian Film Institute (MIFI). Throughout the fall season, the center will offer a variety of Native American workshops and classes in collaboration with the Indiana University Cinema Film Series. The workshops are free to the public and do not require registration. For more information, visit the MIFI website at www.indiana.edu/~mifi.

Additional Falls Programs
The museum’s Fall weekend programs include lectures, discussions, and events in a variety of venues.

Two symposia scheduled at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures will enable participants to explore the core themes and topics presented in current exhibits at the MMWC this fall.

An international symposium on Documentary Photography and the South African Experience, organized by Alex Lichtenstein, curator of Photos in Black and White: Margaret Bourke-White and the Dawn of Apartheid in South Africa, will bring together Santu Mofokeng, a major contemporary South African photographer; John Edwin Mason, a historian of South African and U.S. photography at the University of Virginia; and Claudia Cookman from the IU School of Journalism, who has written about Margaret Bourke-White, to discuss Bourke-White, South Africa, photojournalism, and their transnational intersections with Life magazine. Beth Buggenhagen, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Faculty Research Curator, Mathers Museum, will chair the symposium, which will be free and open to the public.

Stoking the Fire: A Contemporary Pottery Symposium, organized by Meredith McGriff, curator of Melted Ash: Michiana Wood Fired Pottery, seeks to promote interdisciplinary conversations about clay as a medium and the significant human connections which are made via the process of making pots. While the exhibit introduces visitors to the process of making wood fired pottery and highlights a talented group of potters in the Midwest, additional aspects of contemporary pottery will be explored in further depth within the symposium. Please pre-register for the symposium by emailing museumed@indiana.edu.

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Ongoing Exhibits

Footsteps of a Stranger: Shoes from Cultures Around the World—Explores how shoes can reflect the values and ideas of a culture.

From the Big Bang to the World Wide Web: The Origins of Everything—Examines the nature of culture.

In the Kitchen Around the World—Features objects used in preparing food and food service.

Melted Ash: Michiana Wood Fired Pottery—Presents regional pottery and techniques.

Photos in Black and White: Margaret Bourke-White and the Dawn of Apartheid in South Africa—Images by the famed Life photographer.

Rhythms of the World Audio Exhibit—Provides a free audio tour of musical instruments from around the globe.

Thoughts, Things, and Theories...What Is Culture?—Examines the nature of culture.

Time As We Keep It—Discusses different facets of time, including the evolution of the clock.

Treasures of the Mathers Museum—Showcases the breadth and richness of the museum's collection.

Symposia focus on exhibit connections

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MMWC Fall 2013 Events

Event Spotlight
Meet the Collections—Caboclo Collections from the Amazon Friday, November 1; 4 to 5 p.m.
IU professor of anthropology Eduardo Brondizio will discuss the materials that he and fellow researcher Dr. Andréa Siqueira collected during their research in Brazil. Focusing on the lives of the Caboclo people, their research resulted in an exhibit at the MMWC from 2003 to 2006, as well as a large number of items housed at the Mathers Museum. The objects include home furnishings and decorative items; food preparation and service; general use tools; fishing, hunting, and agricultural tools; and toys and other recreational items.

Holiday Event—Closing of Dia de los Muertos Community Altar/En Calavera: Conversations with the Dead Friday, November 1; 5:30 to 8 p.m.

First Nations Educational and Cultural Center Workshop—Native American Beading Saturday, November 2; 1 to 4 p.m.

IU Cinema Film Series—South Africa: Apartheid and After featuring Come Back, Africa (at IU Cinema) Saturday, November 2; 7 p.m.

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MMWC will be closed during IU’s Thanksgiving Break, from November 23 through December 2

MMWC will be closed during IU’s Winter Break, from December 21 through January 13
MMWC/IU doctoral student develop traveling exhibit

Brittany Sheldon, a doctoral student in IU’s Department of the History of Art and the African Studies Program, has been working with the Mathers Museum of World Cultures to create the exhibition *State of an Art: Research in Action*. In fall 2014, she’ll be curating a second exhibition on Ghanian *bambɔsɛ* (shadow puppetry). Sheldon’s photographs document the red, black, and white designs (bambɔsɛ) that adorn the earthen walls of houses in the Upper East Region in Ghana.

Many scholars have been captivated by these vivid paintings and have published a wealth of information about their creation and meaning. Historically, the Yira people of the Upper East Region lived in earthen compound-style homes, which were constructed and repaired by their male occupants. Once the newly built or repaired walls were complete, the women of the home would join together to cover them in plaster, which they would then embellish with designs.

Once the paintings were complete, the women would sprinkle the walls with an organic sealant called *am*, in order to protect them from deterioration by wind and rain. Plastering and painting processes were highly cooperative, involving all of the women of a household—and often other women from the community—who joined together for a festive day of chatting, laughing, and singing, as they toiled in the hot dry season sun to protect and beautify the compound walls. While the women of this region still paint their walls, the practice has changed considerably over time.

The photographs included in the exhibit were taken by Sheldon during two research trips undertaken between July 2012 and March 2013, focusing specifically on plastering and painting projects in Sirigu, Bongo, and Zuarungu-Moshi, three rural communities in the Upper East Region. This exhibition also illustrates some of the ways in which these processes have changed over time, providing a glimpse at the state of traditional architectural embellishment in 21st century northern Ghana.

Sheldon will spend the next year in Ghana, continuing to research and document the designs and practice, and is sharing her experiences online at State of an Art: Research in Action. In fall 2014, she’ll be curating a second exhibition on Ghanaian *bambɔsɛ* for the MMWC.

Mathers Museum Store offers global goods

“How to spend a long day?” asks the poem on this lovely tea set from China. “I treated myself with a bowl of tea.”

Treat yourself to one of the many tea sets from across the globe at the Mathers Museum Store. They’re perfect for a soothing brew and some quiet time alone, or a warming concoction with a gathering of friends.

The Mathers Museum Store offers merchandise for a range of moods, including books, global music, and figures of peace and meditation to help de-stress your day.

Proceeds from the Mathers Museum Store enable the museum to provide free weekend hours for visitors. And visiting the museum with family and friends on the weekends (or during the week) can also be a nice way to treat yourself.

The Mathers Museum Store is open Tuesdays through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Jennifer Goodlander named Faculty Research Curator

Jennifer Goodlander, an assistant professor of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance at IU, has been named a Mathers Museum Faculty Research Curator.

As an ethnographer working in Bali, Goodlander’s work focuses on puppetry, particularly shadow puppetry. She is a practicing *dalang* (puppeteer) who has already staged a very successful performance at the museum. Her MMWC project will involve both study of the museum’s Indonesian puppet collections and their contextualization through new fieldwork.

Goodlander joins two other IU faculty members holding curatorships at the museum: Beth Buggenhagen and Stacie King, both associate professors of anthropomology. King’s position is shared with the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, IU’s Office of the Vice Provost for Research and the museum have partnered to establish Faculty Research Curatorships at the MMWC.

Jackson’s work with Yuchi people explores folklore and cultural expression

Jason Jackson, director of the Mathers Museum of World Cultures, has authored a new work exploring the cultural identity of a largely unknown Native people—the Yuchi (Euchee).

Yuchi Folklore: Cultural Expression in a Southeastern Native American Community, published by University of Oklahoma Press, was published this fall.

The text reflects Jackson’s 20-year collaboration with individuals who share their cultural performance, dance, material culture, and spoken language.

Mistakenly assumed to be part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation during the first half of the 19th century, the Yuchi have continued to be denied federal recognition as an independent, autonomous people.

Jackson’s work describes their history and ethnography, and documents their distinctive language, customs, architecture, and religious beliefs.

Royalties from the book will be forwarded directly from the publisher to the Yuchi Tribe for its use in its cultural and historical preservation efforts.

Web redesign survey

A MMWC staff/student project focusing on web revision and redesign is looking for assistance from MMWC newsletter readers and website users.

The team is seeking feedback on the museum’s current website, and has implemented a short online survey to gather data. You can participate in the survey by directly linking to it from here.

Jennifer Goodlander, new Faculty Research Curator at the MMWC, performs wayang kulit (shadow puppetry).
The Mathers Museum of World Cultures is currently hosting an Indiana University IQ-Wall, developed by the UTIS Advanced Visualization Lab to promote innovative research and education using information-rich, ultra-resolution displays.

Available for use by IU faculty, students, and staff, the IQ-Wall consists of 12 high-resolution monitors with a total of 12.5 million pixels. The device is managed via a Windows 7 computer, and has an ease of operation comparable to most desktops and laptops. From PowerPoint to geospatial mapping, a variety of software programs are available and additional software might be installed upon request. The IQ-Wall is also networked for web-based work, and USB ports are available for data transfer. Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to utilize the device for a wide range of activities including research, teaching, and learning.

The IQ-Wall is also a crucial resource for the research program of the MMWC. Mathers Museum researchers are currently using the IQ-Wall for innovative research visualizations of the Mathers’s photograph and object collections, as well as a platform for the development of research-based exhibitions and digital humanities projects. If you’re interested in how you might be able to incorporate the IQ-Wall into your work, or to schedule an IQ-Wall session, please contact the MMWC at mathmers.indiana.edu. The installation in the Mathers Museum of World Cultures is a collaborative effort of the Mathers Museum of World Cultures and the Advanced Visualization Lab, with assistance from the IU Libraries. The Advanced Visualization Lab at IU is a unit of the Research Technologies division of UTIS: Research Technologies is a Pervasive Technology Institute Cyberinfrastructure and Service Center.

**Events bring together teaching and public programs**

Three upcoming events at the MMWC demonstrate the intersection of university teaching and public programming. Two of the events feature musical demonstrations and performances, and are part of E460/660 Creativity and Collaboration, a course taught by Alex Lichtenstein, IU professor of history, inaugurated the IQ-Wall at the MMWC with students in his VATT 3104/The Strategy for Civil Rights: Resisting to the Front page.

Demonstration—Argentine Tango
Friday, November 8; 10:30 a.m.
Demonstration—Arms: Tomás Lozano
Friday, November 15; 11 a.m.

**Film—Hand Carved**
Saturday, November 9; 2 p.m.

This 1981 Appalshop film (directed by Herb E. Smith) looks at the work of Kentucky craftsman Chester Cornett. The event will be sponsored by IU’s Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology.

**Performance—Arms: Tomás Lozano**
Friday, November 15; 11 a.m.

**Donors to the Mathers Museum of World Cultures**

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**Jackson on Giving to the MMWC: The Ostroms**

In the inaugural issue of MMWC I introduced the theme of supporting the museum’s work. I want to reiterate my thanks for those who have given financial resources to fund the museum’s unique campus mission and who have entrusted the museum with the care and use of significant objects from their personal collections. I also called attention to the new “Give Now” button that can make online giving from the museum website extra easy.

We also introduced the amazing collection of artifacts left to the university, and thereby to the museum, by distinguished faculty members Vincent and Elinor Ostrom. That newsletter story evoked how the Ostrom Collection came to the museum and how our students in spring 2013 Curatorship course began their work cataloging and researching this large, new acquisition. The Ostrom Collection contains an amazing assemblage of art and artifacts from Native North America, one that any museum of ethnography would be thrilled to curate, research, and exhibit publicly.

The Ostrom Collection is on my mind today because I spent time with a group of four very talented student co-curators who are continuing their studies of the collection and organizing the upcoming exhibition of the collection.

As very often happens, we did not know that the Ostroms had planned to leave their collection to the campus and museum. This fact came as an inspiring surprise in the wake of the sad news of their passing. But at a practical level, this means that no plans were made ahead of time for the significant collection housed in the building. It is an important, complex object collection. As a responsible, accredited museum, we have an obligation to care for the Ostrom Collection professionally and with an eye on preservation over the longest imaginable timeframes. On the other hand, we are a frugal institution—perhaps the most modest of economic stress—on university campuses and in society at large—motivates us to be ever more stewardful of any museum resources that we do have. They also motivate me to take my role as the museum’s chief evangelist and fundraiser seriously. While the Ostrom’s gave us a priceless collection, I have hope that a growing community of donors can provide us with the financial resources needed to house, care for, study, teach with, and exhibit their noteworthy collection alongside the museum’s many other unique collections.

In the Ostrom case, what might that entail, specifically? I evoke the Ostrom Collection as a single example of the gene-pheno-nema. The museum has many needs, but in this instance, financial support of the Ostrom Collection would provide for:

- Tours, lectures, and other means by which to share the Ostroms’ collections and the Ostrom Collection’s mission with the University of Indiana and the broader community.
- Support for the care and use of the Ostrom Collection, which is also a means by which the next generation of Hoosier scholar-curators is trained for careers and success beyond the MMWC and their IUB studies.

- The Ostrom Collection is just one example culled from among many. The take away is that the MMWC needs you—our most serious supporters—to help make the museum’s work possible through your charitable gifts. As always, please call on me to help you connect with those aspects of the museum’s work most aligned with your interests and your philanthropic goals. While a $5,000 gift can obviously do much good, so too can a $50 or $500 one.

Thank you very much for your support.

Jason Baird Jackson, Director
Visiting the Mathers Museum

The Mathers Museum of World Cultures is located at 416 N. Indiana Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana. Admission to its exhibit halls is free. MMWC exhibit halls and Mathers 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 E 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.