



MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA:

Museum receives federal grant

The Museum of Anthropology was one of two museums in North Carolina to receive a 2004 Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The awards were announced Sept. 21 by Robert S. Martin, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Museum of Anthropology received a \$54,869 grant to fund a new computerized data management program. The Museum's collections and collections research have outgrown the present catalog system. The new system will help the Museum catalog its approximately 25,000 archaeological and 5,000 ethnological artifacts, reorganize storage and provide public access to collection records.

This grant will permit the Museum of Anthropology to purchase needed software and hire essential staff to manage the collections database. It will allow the Museum to institute best practices for collections management, which should strengthen eventual application for accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

The new relational database is based on Re:discovery software. Many museums throughout the Southeast use the Virginia-based software company's product. Project activities include migrating data on ethnographic artifacts in the current ACCESS database and training the Museum's staff in use of the new Re:discovery database.

The IMLS grant also will allow the Museum to create a new staff position for the first time in 20 years. The Museum Registrar will begin work on February 1 and will remain on staff for nine months. The Registrar's primary responsibility will be to enter data on archaeological artifacts, now written on paper catalog cards, into the computerized database. In addition to providing better administrative control of the Museum's collections, including an up-to-date inventory and current insurance values for each object, the database will strengthen intellectual control. Database records can include detailed notes about each object's cultural context based on research by Museum staff and other scholars. By the fall of 2005 the public will be able to obtain detailed information about the Museum's holdings, including the many artifacts in storage and not on display, on a computer terminal in one of the galleries.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities. The Institute fosters leadership, innovation and a lifetime of learning by supporting the nation's 15,000 museums and 122,000 libraries. The Institute also encourages partnerships to expand the educational benefit of libraries and museums.



INSTITUTE *of*
MUSEUM
and LIBRARY
SERVICES

The purposes of the Museum are to educate people about anthropology; encourage public awareness of and responsibility towards anthropological resources; to protect, preserve and manage the anthropological collections of the University; and enhance the instructional and research programs of the Wake Forest University Department of Anthropology.

LOCATION

BEHIND KENTNER STADIUM
ON THE REYNOLDA CAMPUS

MUSEUM HOURS

TUESDAY-SATURDAY, 10 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Arrangements can be made for school classes & special functions. Closed Sundays, Mondays, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend, New Year's Day, Good Friday & Memorial Day weekends and Christmas Holiday Intercession. Hours are shortened during academic recesses and summer. Please call.

MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

As you can see from the articles in this newsletter, the times they are a-changin' for the staff of the Museum of Anthropology. The first and most apparent change for most visitors to the Museum is the December 31 retirement of administrative assistant Myrna Mackin, an integral member of the staff since 1992. Myrna completed her master of arts in liberal studies while working at the Museum and now plans to take a well-deserved rest with husband Jim. We will miss Myrna and wish her all the best.

Stepping energetically and enthusiastically into Myrna's shoes is Leya Williams, who began December 1. Leya comes to the Museum with a bachelor of arts in design from the University of Oklahoma, having also worked as administrative assistant to the director of the Omega Institute for Holistic Studies in New York and San Francisco. Leya is taking on secretarial responsibilities for the MOA Friends as part of her job.

Meanwhile, Anne Gilmore, membership secretary for the past 12 years, will be adding hours to her weekly schedule as she becomes the new shop associate. In this position, she will be performing some of the functions Myrna previously fulfilled as administrative assistant, but she will focus her time exclusively on the Shop's merchandising and profitability.

Last but not least, Kyle Bryner joins the staff February 1 as museum registrar. Kyle has a bachelor of arts in history with a minor in anthropology and geography and a certificate in historic preservation from Shepherd College. She is currently working on a master of arts in history with a concentration in public history and museum studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. We are thrilled to welcome her to the staff and look forward to working with her on creating a new collections database.

The members of the reorganized and enlarged staff are excited to be working as a team to shape the Museum's future.



STEPHEN L. WHITTINGTON, DIRECTOR

MUSEUM STAFF

Stephen L. Whittington, DIRECTOR / Beverlye Hancock, CURATOR OF EDUCATION / Kim Robertson, MUSEUM EDUCATOR / Kyle Bryner, MUSEUM REGISTRAR / Leya Williams, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT / Anne Gilmore, SHOP ASSOCIATE / Brooke Deal, Matthew Lamoureaux, Krishna Pamulapati, Lauren Puls, Kate Yeske, STUDENT ASSISTANTS

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Anne & Larry Gilmore, Gary Hancock, Tony Layng, Myrna & James Mackin, John Reynolds, Bertha Roundtree, Katie Shugart, Wilma Smiley, Eloise K. Smith, Brian Whiteman, Cleve & Ellis Williams, Ruth & Don Williams, Mary Wright

JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS

Holly Fulton, Ria Fulton, Lynne Martin, Emma McCullough, Mary Ann McGrath, Elizabeth Sugg, Eric Summers

EXHIBITS

By Beverlye Hancock, Curator of Education

The spring exhibit, “Spirit Influences on the Arts of Power: The David and Karina Rilling Collection of African Art” opens February 11. It explores how objects connected to the spirit world become essential to governing and decision-making in both kingdoms and in non-stratified African societies.

In 2003, Dr. David and Karina Rilling generously donated African and New Guinea objects to the Museum. The topic of “Arts of Power” was made possible because the gift included objects from the Cameroons and Ghana associated with kingship and other West and Central African objects associated with leadership through access to ancestors. The exhibit will be up through May 21. See the *MOA Newsletter* calendar for associated lectures.

We welcome student assistant Brooke Deal back from a semester in Scotland. Brooke, who was on the “Arts of Power” exhibit planning team, will be helping to install our spring exhibit. Missing from our exhibit team, due to December graduation, is Linden Kistner. Linden is responsible for much of the spring exhibit research, design, lecture series planning and gallery activity design. In addition, she cut and weeded the vinyl lettering for all the text panels, a tedious job. We miss her but wish her well. Thanks also go to student assistants Lauren Puls for organizing and re-shelving the Museum’s research library and Khris Pamulapati for helping with the library project and for updating the Museum’s chemical inventory.

The Southeastern Museums Conference held its annual meeting in Winston-Salem on October 18–22. All of the Museum’s staff served as volunteers either as committee chairs or on committees. Despite the recent storms in Florida and Alabama that prevented some museum staff in those states from attending, we had over 400 people at sessions and evening events.

On November 5, the Midwest Regional Conservation Guild sponsored a symposium, Latest Trends in Museum Storage, in Cleveland, Ohio. I was fortunate to be one of approximately 150 conservators, curators and registrars who attended the event held at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Speakers discussed both ideal and real world “do the best you can” approaches to museum storage. They discussed types of acceptable shelving and the latest state of the art cabinetry. Of great help were discussions and demonstrations of storage materials, fire suppression systems and environmental controls. Several presenters handed out directions for mounting artifacts for safe storage and suppliers for the materials they used.

On November 8, members of the Carolinas Association of Registrars went to Seagrove, NC for a “White Gloves Event” to help the North Carolina Pottery Center catalog their collection. During the day, we created files with essential information and a photograph for each piece that is presently in their permanent exhibit. The Pottery Center is in a new building and has an outstanding collection of traditional as well as art pottery. It is well worth a trip to Seagrove to see it.



THE SPRING EXHIBIT INCLUDES THIS LIFE-SIZED ROYAL BRASS LEOPARD FROM BENIN.

On December 10 and 11, director Whittington and I attended an AAM-sponsored Best Practices in Collections Stewardship: Collections Planning seminar in Washington, DC. The Museum staff, with input from Collections Committee of the Advisory Board, has just rewritten our Collections Policy, so a collections plan is the natural next step. We hope to begin work on this plan early in 2005. While in Washington, I had a few hours to visit the new National Museum of the American Indian that recently opened.

Exploris: Children’s Museum about the World in Raleigh is showing eight of our objects in their exhibit on African kingdoms that opens in January. The Guilford Native American Art Gallery is displaying 25 photographs that comprise “Crossing between Worlds: the Diné (Navajos) of Canyon de Chelly,” through February 28. Jeanne Simonelli, chair of the Department of Anthropology, curated the exhibit and we hosted it in the Museum last summer. We are pleased to be able to help other North Carolina museums and galleries through such loans.

EDUCATION NEWS

By Kim Robertson, Museum Educator

Our fall series of after-school programs focused upon various parts of Asia. The students made beautiful Chinese tiger hats, Korean *norigae*, and Thai spirit houses. They also designed and learned to play their own Tibetan gongs. We had fun. We want to thank the student workers at the Museum—Kate, Khris and Lauren—for helping to prepare the activity materials.

The spring after-school program series will be held in conjunction with our special spring exhibit, “Spirit Influences on the Arts of Power,” which explores African art and how societies use objects of art to exercise power. Therefore, each of the four spring after-school programs will be devoted to creating objects that communicate power and authority. These programs are all on Mondays: February 28, March 7, March 28 and April 11. They will all be held at the Museum of Anthropology from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. Check the Museum Web site for more specific details.

Summer Camps will be held four times in 2005: June 13–17, June 20–24, June 27–July 1 and July 11–July 15. Our topic is Arctic cultures. Keep us in mind for these dates. We will have more information about the camps on our Web site in January.

The Museum Education Department has some exciting news. We are going to travel to schools to offer our education programs starting in the spring. We still strongly encourage teachers to visit the Museum for their programs, yet we recognize that it is becoming more difficult for teachers to arrange fieldtrips for their students. Therefore, we will conduct all of our programs at schools that request this service. The Wake Forest University Pro Humanitate Creativity and Innovation Fund is co-sponsoring this spring 2005 pilot program. We hope the program proves to be a valuable tool for teachers.

To register for any of our programs or learn more about them, please contact Leya Williams at 336.758.5282, e-mail moa@wfu.edu or log on to our Web site <http://www.wfu.edu/MOA>

MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

By Anne Gilmore, Shop Associate

As I have now taken the position of shop associate, I would like to inform you of some new and intriguing items we have only just acquired. I do hope that you will come and take a look; then take something wonderful home.

We now have beautiful jewelry from Museum Reproductions. These pieces include Russian heart and round ornaments in emerald and red, jeweled miniature egg necklaces, lapis drop earrings, Chinese peace symbol earrings and pendant, a Topkapi brooch, as well as a lovely silver dancer pin. Our showcase is filled with bright and beautiful delights. Also new in the Shop is African wrapping paper done in traditional ethnic designs, some Japanese origami crafts, and miniature *milagros*, or votive offerings, from the Americas.

Don't forget that we have rainforest honey from Chiapas, Mexico. The money from this honey will be returned to the producers. We also have on consignment handmade alpaca caps, toboggans and mittens from Bolivia. These will warm up a wintry day.

I am looking forward to searching for new, ethnic and interesting goodies for the Shop. If you have any requests, I will try and find them.

REMINDER

FEBRUARY 14 IS VALENTINE'S DAY

Come into our Shop during the week of Valentine's Day and receive a 15 percent discount. Pick a special gift for that special person at an excellent price. We will have a lot to choose from to make that someone happy!!! I hope to see many of you taking advantage of this special. Watch for more during the coming year.



SUMMER CAMPERS CREATE THEIR OWN ABORIGINE BARK PAINTINGS.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER NEWS

By Anne Gilmore, Shop Associate

This article is dedicated to our former administrative assistant, Myrna Mackin, who has now retired. Myrna has always been there for me, whether it is planning receptions, giving tours or especially helping me with my computer-skill deficit. We will all miss her; and I, especially, will miss our “across the desk” chats and humor. Her work and dedication to the Museum are unexcelled. Myrna, here’s wishing you a big CONGRATULATIONS upon your retirement, and don’t forget us and the Museum. May you and Jim take many long journeys; and if you build the lake house, we will come.

As Myrna has retired, my position at the museum has changed. I will now assume the position of shop associate. This is a job that Myrna did, along with all the other things she was responsible for. The position requires taking care of the daily operation, ordering and financial record-keeping for the Shop.

The job of membership secretary will now fall under the responsibilities of our new administrative assistant, Leya Williams. I have enjoyed working and corresponding with all of you—our members—for the past 12 years. Please continue to renew so that Leya’s job will be easier. I will be assisting her when necessary, and still look forward to seeing and talking with you at the Museum.

I would also like to welcome Leya to the Museum family!! We are happy to have you, and know you will do a wonderful job.

“Thank you” to our volunteers, who come when possible, and I hope you will continue your good work.



CHANGES IN THE MUSEUM’S STAFF INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MYRNA MACKIN’S RETIREMENT AND HER REPLACEMENT BY LEYA WILLIAMS.

JOIN THE MOA FRIENDS

Membership benefits include invitations to previews of exhibits and openings; reduced rates for field trips, lecture series, classes, and other special events; 10% discount on purchases from the Museum Shop and 25% discount during sales. For more information, call (336) 758.5282 or e-mail moa@wfu.edu

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Matching Gifts

Are you or your spouse employed by a matching gift company? Many companies and law firms will match your gift. Please obtain the proper form from your employer and return it to us with your gift. THANKS! My gift will be matched by: _____ and forms are enclosed. (Corporate matching gift of spouse may also qualify.)

Payment

Please make checks payable to the Museum of Anthropology. Return form to Museum of Anthropology, Wake Forest University, P.O. Box 7267, Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7267. Memberships are tax-deductible.

- Student [\$5]
- Individual [\$15]
- Senior Citizen [\$12]
- Teacher [\$15]
Additional Benefit: 10% discount for class programs
- Family [\$20-49]
Additional Benefit: reduced rates for children for after-school and summer programs
- Supporting [\$50-99]
Additional Benefit: Museum Shop note cards, mug, or Museum logo soap
- Patron [\$100 & above]
Additional Benefit: the Museum catalogue, A Select Guide to the Collection
- I do not wish to receive any premiums

FEB
I-12

FEB I-12 / SHOP SALE
Receive a 15 percent discount on purchases \$5.00 and above.

FEB
II

FEB II / SPIRIT INFLUENCES ON THE ARTS OF POWER: THE DAVID AND KARINA RILLING COLLECTION OF AFRICAN ART
Exhibit Opens.

FEB
17

FEB 17 / LECTURE
Simeon Ilesanmi, Associate Professor of Religion at Wake Forest University, will talk about the importance of ancestral and spiritual worlds in the control and legitimization of authority in African Kingdoms.
Free admission. 7:30 p.m.

FEB
28

FEB 28 / AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
"Brass Leopards," a program for children in grades 1-5. Includes learning activity and a craft. \$15 (\$12 for MOA Friends) for one program or \$35 (\$32 for MOA Friends) for all four programs in the series. Register at 336.758.5282. 4:15-5:30 p.m.
Snow date March 14.

MAR
7

MAR 7 / AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
"A Staff Meeting." See February 28 for details.
Snow date March 21.

MAR
15

MAR 15 / LECTURE
Yomi Durotoye, Senior Lecturer of Political Science at Wake Forest University, will focus on Yoruba art in an investigation of troubling questions that arise from defining African art as either "traditional" or "contemporary." Free admission.

MAR
25-26

MAR 25-26 /
Closed for Easter.

MAR
28

MAR 28 / AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
"Guardian of the Bones." See February 28 for details. Snow date April 4.

APR
II

APR II / AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
"Oduduwa's Children." See February 28 for details.

APR
20

APR 20 / LECTURE
Victor Archibong, Professor of Political Science at Greensboro College, will talk about "Traditional Political Structure in African Societies." Free admission. 7:30 p.m.

MAY
21

MAY 21 / SPIRIT INFLUENCES ON THE ARTS OF POWER: THE DAVID AND KARINA RILLING COLLECTION OF AFRICAN ART
Exhibit closes.

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