Integration of the University of Memphis Collection of Mammals into the Collection of Mammals at the Sam Noble Museum

Janet K. Braun, Marcia A. Revelez, and Michael A. Mares

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK 73072, USA; jkbraun@ou.edu; mrevelez@ou.edu; mamares@ou.edu.

The Sam Noble Museum (SNM) at the University of Oklahoma (OU) currently houses more than 10 million specimens and objects in its collections. The Collection of Mammals (OMNH), which was comprised of approximately 40,000 cataloged specimens, has significantly increased that number by the addition of the Collection of Mammals from the University of Memphis. This transfer was made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation Collections in Support of Biological Research Program ("Curation, digitization, and integration of the orphaned University of Memphis Mammal Collection"; DBI-1057439; $445,000).

The Collection of Mammals (MSUMZ) of the University of Memphis contained ca. 23,000 specimens collected over the past 50 years (Figure 1). The collection grew under the care of Dr. Michael L. Kennedy, who is professor of biology at the University of Memphis, and represents nearly 40 years of his life’s work. Dr. Kennedy became Assistant Professor at the UM in 1976 and has trained more than 50 doctoral and master’s students and mentored a large number of undergraduate students using the collection. His training and mentoring of students, which continues today, was recognized in 1990 when he was awarded the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award from the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. Dr. Kennedy received his PhD from OU in 1976 under the direction of Gary D. Schnell, Curator of Ornithology at SNM (then called the Stovall Museum). Dr. Janet K. Braun, Staff Curator in Mammalogy at SNM, earned an MS in Biology under Dr. Kennedy shortly after he started his career at the UM. Kennedy, in looking to the future, sought out the SNM because of its strong institutional support, outstanding facilities, and commitment to the highest standards of collections stewardship, collection-based research, and education. The SNM will provide an optimum archival environment for the conservation and preservation of the collection.
The Memphis collection will increase the size of the SNM’s mammal collection to more than 65,000 specimens and elevate the OMNH to the 8th largest university-based mammal collection in the Western Hemisphere and the 15th largest overall. The combined collection will boast the largest collection of white-tailed deer in the Western Hemisphere. It will also be the second largest collection of raccoons, the third largest of coyotes and river otters, and the fifth largest collection of beavers. Collected nearly continuously over 40 years in Tennessee, these specimens represent unique data for the state of Tennessee—an important research resource and state and national biological heritage.

As we start 2012, I hope that you have already registered for the 27th SPNHC Annual Meeting at Yale, in New Haven, CT. This year, the subject of the conference, Emerging Technology and Innovation in Natural History Collections Management, will provide another opportunity for sharing new information on a variety of aspects of Natural History collection management and conservation. This will undoubtedly be an excellent meeting and the perfect opportunity to present your recent findings and learn more about your colleagues’ work. You’ll find more in this issue of the Newsletter and at http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/spnchc2012.

And with this year’s meeting comes another change of presidency for SPNHC; two years that went by so quickly. Chris Norris will step in as new President at the Annual Business Meeting (June 15, 2012) in New Haven. I also want to welcome our two newest Members-at-Large: Richard Sabin and Greg Watkins-Colwell. Their three-year mandate will start at the Second Council Meeting in New Haven. Also joining the team as President-Elect will be Andy Bentley, which means that he will follow Chris Norris as President in 2014. Judith Price is re-elected as Secretary. Congratulations to all.

For some reason, it seems like this past year was a lot quieter than the previous. True or not, I suspect that for me, not having to deal with issues resulting from the organization of the 2011 conference had something to do with it. But I also think that the global economic situation may have made many of us a bit recluse, worrying more about issues at home and in our respective workplaces. This is certainly the case here in Ottawa where a major wave of layoffs at the federal level is looming over our heads as I write these lines. Still, I fervently believe that the only way we can make decision-makers realize the importance of and invest in natural history collections and our work therein is to stand strong together. More than ever, we need to be seen and heard, and it is not by retreating into our offices and collection rooms that we can make ourselves indispensable. Your involvement within SPNHC, not just within the Council but within our many committees is one important way of making a difference. Anything that makes SPNHC stronger will make us all stronger. It is nice to say that SPNHC will continue to represent us and work collaboratively with other like-minded organizations to make sure that our voice is heard. But the plain reality is that SPNHC is stronger will make us all stronger.

As Chief Collections Manager at the Canadian Museum of Nature, I have been formally involved in collections management for the past 15 years. Prior to that, my academic training (M.Sc., Université de Montréal, Ph.D, Memorial University of Newfoundland) and postdoctoral research (Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Mont-Joli & Université du Québec à Rimouski) provided great opportunities to get well-acquainted with taxonomy and basic collection management principles. My specialty group is soft-bottom marine invertebrates, with particular interest in deep water polychaetes, bivalves and crustaceans.

Once again, the publication of this Newsletter is an opportunity to review progress and challenges within SPNHC and in our field of work, natural history collections management and conservation.

This project will safeguard the largest scientific collection of Tennessee mammals (ca. 75% of the estimated known scientific specimens for the state of Tennessee)—an important research resource and state and national biological heritage. Specimens that are in the collection represent both native and introduced species. In addition to specimens of rare and uncommon species, new state records, and specimens documenting the distributional limits of species, the collection also includes vouchers from adjacent SE states, other US states, and several countries in the Western Hemisphere.

The three-year NSF grant began in Spring 2011 with the transformation of the entire collection space in the Department of Mammalogy. Over several weeks, the SNM collection was packed and relocated temporarily to hallways and other collection storage areas, and the space evacuated to allow for the construction and installation of 3 compact mobile storage systems (Figure 2). New cases and shelving systems were purchased and installed to supplement existing cases to accommodate the integration of the MSUMZ collection. During a 2-week period in August 2011, the MSUMZ collection and its associated documents were transferred to the SNM in Norman, Oklahoma. Despite 2011 being the hottest summer on record with 63 days of 100+ degree F highs, the collection was loaded into a refrigerated truck and treated for 10 days to prevent any potential pest problems. Due to the extreme heat, reaching 113 degrees F in the shade, the refrigerated truck required constant attention and maintenance. After treatment, the nearly 100 boxes and 29 cases were unpacked and placed into temporary holding cases. The collection will be integrated (cataloged, digitized, curated, and installed) over the next 3 years. Since October 2011, nearly 3,000 specimens have been processed; the archives have been inventoried and re-housed, and are being digitized.

This year’s meeting comes another change of presidency for SPNHC; two years that went by so quickly. Chris Norris will step in as new President at the Annual Business Meeting (June 15, 2012) in New Haven. I also want to welcome our two newest Members-at-Large: Richard Sabin and Greg Watkins-Colwell. Their three-year mandate will start at the Second Council Meeting in New Haven. Also joining the team as President-Elect will be Andy Bentley, which means that he will follow Chris Norris as President in 2014. Judith Price is re-elected as Secretary. Congratulations to all.

Opportunities for integrating research into learning and education activities are also part of the goals of the grant. It will provide for the hiring of undergraduate and graduate assistants, as well as a summer intern. Students will acquire first-hand knowledge of a large collection and a broad exposure to the philosophy, methods, and techniques in curation and the care and management of collections — experiences that are essential to building a successful career as a curator, collection manager, or in another museum profession, but that generally are not obtained in the classroom setting (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Construction and installation of three different compactor mobile storage sections (left, open shelving; right, closed shelving; front, cabinets).

Figure 1. A closed cabinet at the MSUMZ used to house carnivore skeletal material.

This space could be yours......

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is August 1, 2012.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Best Practices Committee

The Best Practices Committee continues to make progress on identifying opportunities to both develop best practice documentation and advocate their use in the SPNHC community and beyond. Marcy Revelez and Liz Leith in the Department of Mammalogy at SMONMNH have again announced an internship which will build upon the successful one from summer 2011. During last summer, an intern worked on compiling BP information for eventual publishing on the SPNHC website.

An exciting opportunity for SPNHC for outreach was recently approved which will partially fund an all-day symposium at the World Congress of Herpetology/Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in August, 2012 in Vancouver. The symposium is being organized by Greg Watkins-Colwell and Mark Sabaj Perez and is titled “Technology and Innovation in Herpetology and Ichthyology Collections,” with many SPNHC members providing presentations.

There will also be a focus in the 2012 Annual Meeting at Yale University on best practices including sessions on cryo-preservation storage, preventative conservation, and digitization. Discussions are proceeding to have many of these sessions co-sponsored by affiliated organizations (e.g., AIC).

If you have any resources or documentation on best practices that you feel would be beneficial to share with the community through our website or one of our publications please feel free to contact a Committee member so we can discuss it.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White and James Macklin, Co-chairs

Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee is responsible for the continued development of the Society Bylaws as needed, monitoring Society activities to ensure agreement with the Bylaws, and for periodic updates of the Leadership Manual of the Society.

Bylaws: no revisions have been brought to our attention this year.

Leadership Manual: A request for revisions was sent to all of the Committee chairs in mid-November asking them to revise the section of the Leadership Manual which pertained to their respective committee. As of this writing, I have received responses from five of the fifteen committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Rabeler, Chair

Conference Committee

Arrangements for the 2012 meeting, to be held at Yale, are proceeding apace, with on-line registration opening at the end of January. The meeting website can be found at http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/spnhc/2012/home. In addition to the invitations received from Yale, School of Mines and Technology (2013) and the National Museum of Wales (2014), we are now in discussions with prospective venues for 2015, 2016, and 2017. This is a very healthy state of affairs for the Society.

An updated version of the Committee profile for the Leadership Manual was circulated to Committee members for comment in late 2011, and work continues on the draft Policies and Guidelines for Planning and Conducting Annual Meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Norris, Chair

Documentation Committee

Beginning during the summer of 2012, a new intern will continue working on the goals set forth for the committee, focusing on best practices in natural history collections management and care. This intern will be hosted by the Department of Mammalogy at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, OK, paid for by a grant from the National Science Foundation Collections in Support of Biological Research Program (“Curation, digitization, and integration of the orphaned University of Memphis Mammal Collection”; DBI-1057439). The primary objective will involve gathering information via other professional websites and publications. The information will be assimilated for posting on the SPNHC resources web page.

There remains a lot of information to be compiled and digested from the previous work regarding Registration, Permits, Legal/Ethical Issues, and Hazardous Materials (including current helpful resources and websites). For the SPNHC website, it will be a first step to get information set up with lists, links, and other resources for the membership to utilize.

We hope to continue gathering pertinent information on various other best practices topics as we continue our search for “all the answers,” so the SPNHC website can become a portal of information for museum professionals. If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the Co-chairs.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Revelez and Liz Leith, Co-chairs

Continued on page 6
Election Committee

For the first time this year, Elections Online (http://www.electionsonline.us/) was used exclusively for elections. Although paper ballots were not available by mail, they were still available as an option in the process of voting online. The fee from Elections Online was $348.63 CDN.

Positions filled are President-Elect, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large. The successful candidates are:

- **President-Elect:** Andy Bentley, Ichthyology Collection Manager, Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas
- **Secretary:** Judith Price, Invertebrate Collection, Canadian Museum of Nature
- **Member-at-Large:** Richard Sabin, Senior Curator, Mammal Group, Natural History Museum, London
- **Member-at-Large:** Greg Watkins-Colwell, Vertebrate Zoology, Peabody Museum, Yale

There were 19 nominations received from 9 different members. Five of the members nominated declined to stand. The election started with an email message sent to all members on a ‘voting list’ (provided to Elections Online based on the Treasurer’s most recent membership list as of July 2011). A few weeks later a reminder email was sent to all members who had not yet voted online. At the close of the election on December 2, 2011, the total number of returned ballots was 206, or 41.6% of the eligible members—a decrease of 15.5% from the previous year. The table below outlines the trends over the last 4 elections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Online Ballots</th>
<th>Eligible Voters</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>493</td>
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</tbody>
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This election was the 4th in which members could vote online. It was also the first set up to be exclusively online. Although there was a significant increase in the number of eligible voters last year (406 in 2011 to 495 in 2012), the percentage of returned ballots decreased. This is likely due to the problem of incorrect or out of date email addresses for some members. If you did not receive an email at the start of the election please check the member directory on the SPNHC site to be sure what’s registered is correct.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Sendall, Chair

Legislation and Regulation Committee

PERMIT-L, sponsored and maintained by the Museum of Geology and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, continues to work in conjunction with AVECOL-L and NHCOLL-L to disseminate information about scientific collecting permits. Recent topics have included CITES validation issues as documented by Ellen Paul, mammal importation and the CDC, and USFWS issues. PERMIT-L currently has 144 subscribers.

A recent request has been made for an online compilation of fossil collection and import/export laws and permit requirements for all countries, an effort last made 20 years ago. The role of SPNHC and the Legislation and Regulations Committee in this important effort will be discussed in the committee meeting in June and then sent to the SPNHC Council for discussion and approval. The results of this will be published through NHCOLL-L and the various paleontology lists.

Please keep sending accounts of permit issues and conundrums to PERMIT-L.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Y. Shelton, Chair

Long Range Planning Committee

A White Paper setting out the process for developing a strategic plan for SPNHC was circulated to members for comment with the last Newsletter. Very few comments were received, which was disappointing.

The Committee has now moved on to developing a framework document that identifies critical elements of the strategic plan. This was circulated to Committee Members in February 2012 and will be discussed at a planning meeting with selected SPNHC committee chairs that will take place in New Haven at the end of February. The Framework document will form the foundation for the Strategic Plan itself.

An updated version of the Committee profile for the Leader- ship Manual was circulated to Committee members for comment in late 2011 and has now been submitted to the Bylaws Committee.

March 2012
Respectfully submitted,
Chris Norris and Clare Valentine, Co-chairs

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee would like to welcome our new Book Review Editor, Lynn Jones. Lynn is a museum assistant at the Peabody Museum at Yale University, chair of the IPM committee and works in the collections at the West Campus facility. She has worked in the zoology, and botany divisions at the Peabody in the past. If you see a recently published book that would be of interest to our membership, please contact Lynn (lynn.a.jones@yale.edu).

Sales of our new book Health and Safety for Museums professionals have been healthy, and the book has gotten many favorable reviews. If you haven’t already gotten yours, head straight to University Products (http://www.universityproducts.com) or Archetype Publications (http://www.archetype.co.uk) for non-North American sales.

Watch your mailbox for Collection Forum Volume 26 (Spring 2012), coming soon! If you have ideas for a Collection Forum theme issue, please contact me - susan.butts@yale.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Butts, Chair

Recognition and Grants Committee

The R & G Committee is charged with promoting and reviewing the annual recognition awards that the Society can confer as well as the Faber Research Grant.

We received and reviewed one nomination each for a Special Service Award, the President’s Award, and two nominations for the Carolyn Rose Award. The committee’s decisions on these awards were passed to Council – the results appear elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Rabeler, Chair

Web Committee

There is only a brief report from the Web committee at this time. The new website has been functioning well, and we look forward to adding additional materials from other committees as and when they are ready. Wall2Wall, our website designer continues to address the minor issues that have been noted as more people visit the site.

As always please do let us know if you see errors or wish to add material to our SPNHC webpage, and send any news-worthy items to Ann Molineux, ammm@austin.utexas.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Molineux, Chair

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ethics

The SPNHC Ethics Committee is continuing to reach out to museums, universities, and discipline-specific societies to request copies of best practices and ethics documents. From this broad perspective, the goal is to develop a resource that will be useful to the natural history community with regards to the subject of Best Practices and Ethics in natural history museums.

If any individual, institution, or sister society has such a document, the SPNHC Ethics Committee would sincerely appreciate receiving a copy (electronic preferred), which can be sent to the chairperson, Linda S. Ford (lford@oeb.harvard.edu).

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ford, Chair

Mentorship

The Mentorship Committee is again pleased to announce the Fitzgerald Travel Grant award and hopes that we will have a number of applicants. We are also pleased that Nickson Otieno (National Museum of Kenya), our travel grant recipient from last year who was unable to attend, will be joining us at Yale this year. The Chair was also able to arrange a three-week fellowship for Nickson at the Barcoding of Life facility in Washington, D.C., before the meeting during which Nickson will learn the techniques necessary to barcode bird skins from his collection.

The Chair is also preparing to enter negotiations with Wall2Wall, the developers of the SPNHC website concerning the second phase of development. This involves our proposed international node scheme as well as the implementation of a shipping best practices blog or wiki. A meeting will be held shortly to discuss options and details of both endeavors. If anyone has any ideas regarding either of these, please get in touch with Andrew Bentley (abentley@ku.edu).

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley, Chair
I serve as an ex-officio member of the ASPT Systematics Collections Committee. The chair of the committee leads a Curator’s meeting during the annual Society meeting. The Committee’s effort to revise a Best Practices document for herbarium operations – first proposed in 1998 and last revised in 1978 – is continuing.

The 2012 Annual meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with Botany2012 in Columbus, Ohio from July 7 to 11.

**Geological Society of America**

**Ann Molinaux**

As an associate society of GSA, SPNHC was represented at the 2011 annual meeting which took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 9-12. The SPNHC membership booth was manned for the entire meeting. There was much interest in both our publications and the Society itself. The SPNHC representative was unable to attend the meeting this year and wishes to thank Liath Appleton, SPNHC member from the University of Texas at Austin and Rebecca Newberry from the Science Museum of Minnesota who took over the task so effectively. We are looking forward to a good meeting this year in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 4-7.

**American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASHI)**

**Greg Watkins-Colwell**

At the 2011 meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 6-11 July, 1031 herpetologists and ichthyologists (464 of whom were students) from 26 different countries attended the meetings which were again held jointly with the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR), Herpetologists’ League (HL) and the American Elasmobranch Society (AES).

Approved by ASIH, SSAR and HL, the ASIH Collections Committee will hold a collections symposium at the 2012 World Congress of Herpetology. Herpetologists and Ichthyologists (8-14 August 2012 in Vancouver, BC, Canada). The symposium is entitled “Technology and Collections”. Prior to my current post I worked as a project conservator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. My role is to implement sound conservation treatments and care for objects. I have been a member of the Collections Committee since 2006 and currently serve as chair. I am looking forward to working with the SPNHC members at the meeting and to all the discussions that are expected.

Additionally, SPNHC agreed to sponsor the symposium as an effort to increase outreach to allied organizations and increase awareness of SPNHC. SPNHC funding will be used to help fund travel for non-North American symposium presenters and students as well as to provide a membership booth in the exhibits area of the conference.

**American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT)**

**Richard Rabeler**

The International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) will feature plenary sessions, educational workshops, corner workshops, contributed papers, poster sessions, and working group discussions. Vendors from around the world will demonstrate the latest products, services, and technology in the field of repository and specimen collection. See www.isber.org for more information. Organizations that are developing biorepositories can find a wealth of information on storage technologies and materials, databases and specimen tracking systems, and shipping containers and vendors.

While ISBER has a large number of member organizations that hold or manage human tissues, there is a collaborative international working group focusing on all non-human tissue and environmental samples, such as microbes, plants and animals, including wildlife, domestic livestock, pets, insects, etc., as well as abiotic/chemical samples of relevance to biodiversity and human health. The group’s focus is on preservation methods, uses of samples, terms of use, guidelines for field collection, and intellectual property rights is relevant to cryopreserved natural history collections.

**Society for Herbarium Curators (SHC)**

**Richard Rabeler**

The Annual meeting of SHC coincides with the Association of Southeastern Biologists meeting. The 2012 meeting will be held at the University of Georgia, Athens, 3-7 April 2012.

**International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC)**

The International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) is an international body for professional conservators and specialists. ICOM-CC consists of specialist working groups and includes a Natural History Collections Working Group (NHM WG). We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as your new coordinator and assistant coordinator for the ICOM-CC Natural History Collections Working Group (WG). During the next triennial period, we are hoping to foster a more active participation and communication between our two groups as well as encourage SPNHC members to join our working group and benefit from being an ICOM-CC member.

ICOM-CC Coordinators:

Arianna Bemucci, Coordinator - Currently I work as a conservator at The Natural History Museum in London, UK, and have been there for two and a half years. Prior to this I worked at the British Museum and Imperial War Museum, gaining a variety of experience working with different materials and collections. For the past three years, I have been Chair of the Institute of Conservation Ethnography Group Committee.

Efstratia Verveniotou, Assistant Coordinator - I am currently a conservator at the Natural History Museum in London, UK. My role is to implement sound conservation treatments and provide viable collection care strategies for a range of collections. Prior to my current post I worked as a project conservator at the National Museum of Scotland, and in the collections of the National Heritage Scotland. During the next ICOM-CC triennial period, we are hoping to bring the following ideas to fruition. It is a fantastic opportunity to make connections through our various institutions and communities and to be able to work together. It is our hope to increase membership, which will then increase our ability to achieve the following goals:

1. A more active use of the forum available on the ICOM-CC website – this is a useful tool that we can all use to communicate with one another – whether it be questions about a specific treatment or new regulations banning the use of formaldehyde.

2. To run an interim seminar in conjunction with another group – suggestions are welcome for topics and/or groups with which to partner.

3. To work more closely with other professional organizations, e.g. SPNHC, etc. To build professional partnerships and relationships among, and outside of the membership, to ensure that we work together in progressing our field.

4. To produce an annual professional newsletter.

5. Subjects that we would like to address through open dialogue.

- Historic practices in specimen preparation, preservation and conservation.
- Communicate and share information regarding materials and methods.
als that have been Oddy tested.
- Increase knowledge and understanding of the materials and techniques used which will ensure best practice in all aspects of specimen preparation, preservation and conservation. Report on any new findings and communication within the group.
- Collaborate and share research supporting the optimization of environmental parameters for the care of Natural History Collections with aim of reporting on best practice.
- Provide information on disaster planning including emergency plans and collection retrieval as carried out at The Natural History Museum in London.
- Bring together expertise in the field to provide advice on security of sensitive collections (e.g. rhino horns, bird skins, etc.).
- Open discussion regarding pesticide contamination and suggestion of appropriate actions.
- Open discussion regarding current repatriation practices and policies.

We are hoping to encourage new membership (you can join as a friend or ordinary member) as well as a more open dialogue and communication between our respective groups. If you are interested in joining ICOM-CC, please visit: http://www.icom-cc.org/171/about-icomm-cc/join-icom-cc/. If you are already an ICOM-CC member, then please join our WG. It’s as easy as clicking a button.

For more information on our working group, please visit our website at http://www.icommons.harvard.edu/poll/taker/pollTakerOpen.jsp?poll=1-10795-09016

The deadline to complete this survey is March 31st.

Preliminary results of this survey will be presented at the SPNHC 2012 Annual Meeting in New Haven, CT. (June 11-16, 2012) during a session that focuses on developing best practice standards for genetic resources associated with natural history collections.

Breda M. Zimkus, Cryogenic Collection Project Manager, and Linda S. Ford, Director of Collections Operations, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

Survey of genetic resource collections associated with natural history collections

Natural history collections and other repositories of preserved biological material have traditionally focused on the preservation of organismal whole specimens. During the past decade genetic resources have become a standard preservation of organismal whole specimens. During the past decade genetic resources have become a standard practice in all aspects of specimen preparation, preservation and conservation. Report on any new findings and communication within the group.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email Arliana at arliana@nhm.ac.uk. Hope to hear from you soon!

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Benilovsky (abenny@ou.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is August 1, 2012.

This space could be yours......

March 2012

This project will ensure the long-term preservation and integrity of Tennessee’s natural heritage that might have otherwise been lost as an endangered and orphaned collection. The actual and potential knowledge contained within this natural history collection is critical to science and education. It will provide a resource to teach and train students on the importance of collections and associated data and their roles in research and education.

This project is made possible by a grant from the Improvements to Biological Research Collections Program of the National Science Foundation (DBI-1057439). Co-PIs include Staff Curator, Dr. Janet K. Braun (jkbraun@ou.edu), Museum Director and Curator, Dr. Michael A. Mares (mmares@ou.edu), and Collection Manager, Ms. Marcia Reverez (mreverez@ou.edu).

Ethanol Evaporation from Cryogenic Tissue Vials

Bryan L. Stuart and Gabriela M. Hogue

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-1305 US; gabriela.hogue@ncmns.gov

In April 2011, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences purchased 1.8 mL NUNC CryoTube vials (cat. no. 368632) for storing tissue collections in our new ultra-cold (-80°C) freezers. This vial, which is internally threaded and has a silicone O-ring at the seal, had been used by Bryan Stuart for many years to store amphibian and reptile tissues in EDTA/DMSO salt saturated tissue buffer or in RNAlater (Qiagen), without any problems. However, other units at the museum have tissue collections that were preserved in 95% ethanol, and we soon discovered, after transferring those collections into these vials, that ethanol rapidly evaporates from them (on a scale of weeks).

After lodging a complaint with our sales representative, NUNC in Denmark performed an analysis and determined that the vial’s silicone O-ring is vapor permeable and therefore not suitable for use with ethanol. In fact, we were also told that none of NUNC and Nalgene’s cryogenic vials are intended to store ethanol, but rather were designed for tissue culture. Our sales representative was surprised to hear that there are tens or perhaps hundreds of thousands of cryogenic vials being used in natural history collections in the United States for non-living cultural purposes, a large number of which are holding 95% ethanol.

We were provided with three alternative vials to test that are externally threaded and lack a silicone O-ring seal (and so are plastic on plastic). These are the Nalgene Cryoware Cryogenic Vials (cat. no. 5000-0020), NUNC CryoTube vials (cat. no. 375418), and Nalgene Cryogenic Vials (cat. no. 5000-1020). In our experiment, we stored 95% ethanol in the original vial with the O-ring and the three alternative vials without an O-ring at four different temperatures (room temperature, 4°C, -20°C and -80°C) for approximately six weeks. Indeed, ethanol in the vial with the O-ring dramatically evaporated, while the other three vials did not. Interestingly, ethanol evaporated fastest at room temperature and slowest at -80°C. We had anticipated that it would evaporate the fastest at -80°C because freezers are very desiccated. We also learned that the amount of torque placed on closing the vials with the O-ring seals, i.e. “over-closing” the vials and therefore distorting the O-ring seal, did not have any appreciable effect on evaporation.

In sum, internally threaded cryogenic vials with a silicone O-ring seal such as the NUNC CryoTube vial (cat. no. 368632) should be avoided for storing tissues in ethanol. Instead, we would recommend other models that are externally threaded without an O-ring seal, such as the Nalgene Cryoware Cryogenic Vials (cat. no. 5000-0020) or NUNC CryoTube vials (cat. no. 375418). We are now using Nalgene Cryoware Cryogenic Vials (cat. no. 5000-0020) for all of our tissue storage and have not found any appreciable ethanol evaporation.

We thank Natalie Bradley for assisting with running the vial experiment.

This space could be yours......
SPNHC Newsletter

SPNHC Travel Grant Program

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is pleased to announce a Travel Grant Program designed to assist members with the costs of attending the Society’s annual meeting. One grant was awarded for the 2011 meeting in San Francisco, and grants will be available for attendance at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society at Yale, 11-16 June 2012. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on the conference.

A total of $3,000 has been allocated to the program and grants will be for a minimum of $750 USD each. The deadline for application is 18 March 2012. Some conditions apply.

More details will be available on the conference website: http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/spnhc2012/travel-grant.

AAMG Newsletter

SPNHC Newsletter March 2012

SPNHC Newsletter

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What I like most about my work is developing new knowledge. What do you find most interesting about your work? Of a treatment on risk, value and accessibility and weigh that in a model from health care economics, the QALY (note: the Publications of Interest section in this Newsletter has a reference to this project), and offers a way to quantify the effect of a treatment on risk, value and accessibility and weigh that against its costs.

What do you most about your work? What I most about my work is developing new knowledge and methods to support heritage institutions in doing their work effectively and efficiently. Helping others and gaining insight in return.

Can you tell us of one of your most significant natural history accomplishments? The most important aspect of my work for the natural history collections in The Netherlands was facilitating the network and sharing knowledge. We did this in a series of publications compiled in the ‘green binder’. This was a sort of little sister of SPNHC’s ‘Storage of Natural History Collections’ books that has served as a source of information for many. And through the network research I came in contact with Lorraine Gibson in Glasgow and Cecily Grzywacz at the Getty. As ‘carbonyl girls’, we initiated the Indoor Air Pollution meetings in 1998. It is great to see that Morten Rhyt-Svensdern and others have taken that farward and that this year the 10th Indoor Air Quality meeting is being organized at University College London!

What have you learned from SPNHC? Although I no longer actively working with natural history collections, the experience that I have gained from working with these ‘arches of nature’, has enabled me to connect more easily to collection management issues in museums and galleries as well as archives and libraries. SPNHC is a source of information and contacts and has played an important role in my personal development from thinking in terms of molecules via to objects. How has SPNHC helped you in your career? SPNHC has opened doors within the natural history community, and the work with SPNHC members, to which I previously referred, has been fruitful and insightful.

Registrars Committee Western Region SPNHC Stipend 2012

We are pleased to announce that one registration stipend for the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections annual meeting is available to the RC-WR and SPNHC membership ($285 value).

To Qualify: Applicant must be a current member of RC-WR or SPNHC

Applicant must submit the following:
- Letter of application (indicate how attending will benefit your professional development)
- A copy of your current resume
- Supervisor’s recommendation letter (or a letter from a previous client)

Application deadline: March 23, 2012

Successful applicant will be notified by March 30, 2012. The successful applicant will be required to write about a session that they attended at the conference. Their article will be published in the RC-WR Fall 2012 newsletter.

Email all materials to: Marnie Leist, RC-WR Vice President marnie@alutiiqmusuem.org

For more information on the Registrars Committee • Western Region please visit RCWR.org

DemoCamp 2012 Call for Demonstrations!

Submissions of proposals are solicited for DemoCamp session presentations at the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) conference in New Haven, June 11-16, 2012. DemoCamp provides a venue for promotion of technological solutions to advance the field of museum curation with broad applications for biology and biodiversity informatics.

Computer demonstrations are welcomed in any technologies relevant to biologists, collections managers, or biodiversity information managers. Technologies demonstrated may include, among other things, collections/transaction management software, data portals for biocollections content, georeferencing applications, and programs for analysis of data/images. DemoCamp presentations should feature the latest developments in currently available products/software/applications as well as ongoing research projects and prototypes.

Live demonstrations of these technologies will raise awareness of new (and improved) tools available for data acquisition, documentation, and synthesis. Demonstrations will also provide a venue for idea exchange and feedback from potential users. Demonstration abstracts will appear in the conference proceedings, and this year the DemoCamp fact sheet will be included in the program book.

Format

The strictly-timed format of DemoCamp gives each presenter 15 minutes to present the demo plus 5 minutes allowed for set-up and questions (20 minutes total). No PowerPoint or other ‘canned’ presentations are allowed. Only live demonstrations of functional software or applications may be presented. Demonstrators must provide their own laptops, with all necessary software installed. A projector and internet connection will be provided.

Submissions

Demonstration proposals (abstracts) must be submitted by April 13, 2012. Abstracts should be prepared according to the guidelines defined on the conference website (http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/spnhc2012) and must be submitted electronically following conference website instructions. The submissions will undergo peer review. At least one author should register and attend the conference.

The abstract should emphasize the purpose of the technology and the intended audience or users of the technology. What are the major components of the product? What is novel about the solution you present? Compare your technology with similar products if such exist. Is your product currently available to prospective users or still under development? Is your product proprietary or open source? Is the software or a web-based application? In addition to the normal abstract submission requirements for SPNHC 2012, a COPY of your submitted abstract should be sent to the session organizer, Amanda Neill, at aneill@bril.org.

Accepted Abstracts

All submissions will be acknowledged within a few days. Proposals will be reviewed for relevance, innovation, technical quality, and greatest predicted appeal to the SPNHC audience. In the likely event of more submissions than available DemoCamp timeslots, final selection will be determined by subcommittee vote. Abstracts will be required to provide a description of technical details (licensing, platforms supported, etc.) in a standard factsheet that will be included in the printed program. A factsheet template will be e-mailed with the notification of acceptance.

Further details on the date and time of the demonstration session(s) will be determined and provided at a later date. Please send any inquiries to the session organizer at: aneill@bril.org.

Important Dates
• April 13, 2012 Abstract submissions due
• April 23, 2012 Notification of acceptance
• April 30, 2012 Factsheets due
• June 11-16, 2012 SPNHC conference

Amanda K. Neill, Director of the Herbarium, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX USA
Revitalization of the Collection of Recent Invertebrates of the Sam Noble Museum

Katrina Menard, Janet K. Braun and Tamaki Yuri

The Sam Noble Museum (SNM) of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK 73072, USA; kmenard@ou.edu; jkbraun@ou.edu; tyuri@ou.edu.

The Sam Noble Museum (SNM) is a non-profit, educational, and scientific organization that is the designated museum of natural history for the State of Oklahoma and an Organized Research Unit of the University of Oklahoma (OU). The Territorial Legislature of the future state of Oklahoma established the museum in 1899. In 2000, the estimated 10 million specimens and objects, organized into 12 collections, were moved into the new, state-of-the-art facility to ensure their long-term preservation and care. With this transition to new and better conditions came the renewed opportunity to revitalize and re-curate collections. We would like to announce the latest achievements and findings for the SNM Collection of Recent Invertebrates.

As part of a multi-phased long-term collections plan, in conjunction with national and international efforts to digitize biological collections, revitalization efforts to date have focused on cataloging specimens and digitizing their associated information. This information is not only invaluable for internal assessments of holdings and re-curation goals, but also benefits the research community and the public, as the data will become available through online portals and databases (e.g., GBIF, SNM online catalog). The Department of Recent Invertebrates has also recently joined the InvertNet, an Advancing Digitization of Biological Collections project to share data of our collection’s holdings with other research institutions throughout the Midwest and North America. A blog has also been started by the department highlighting unique specimens identified by the cataloging process, and is available on the SNM website.

The inventory and revitalization of the collection, to date, has progressed through 2 grants awarded to the museum within the last 6 years. In 2005, a Conservation Project Support grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provided support to re-house, re-curate, catalog, and digitize the mollusk collection. Over 26,660 specimens were inventoried, including representatives of Oklahoma mollusks collected from 68 of the 77 counties and specimens from Oklahoma, and mollusk specimens from North America. The collection has accessioned over 20,000 new specimens during the past year alone, from as diverse of groups as the Ortenburger-Banks spider collection of about 900 specimens (the Ortenburger-Banks spider collection of about 900 specimens), and Diptera.

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WELCOME
The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History is excited to be hosting the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections in New Haven, Connecticut. This year we are joined by the Consortium of Northeastern Herbaria for our meeting, Emerging Technology and Innovation in Natural History Collections Management.

The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History is one of the largest, academic, natural history museums in the United States. The museums’ collections encompass eleven curatorial divisions and over 11 million specimens are housed either on Science Hill or at the West Campus facility. The museum has strong ties to the academic programs at Yale in part through the research of divisional curators who are also Yale faculty. The current museum opened in 1924, although collections date back to the 18th century, specifically for teaching purposes.

Collection tours will offer behind the scenes access to most curatorial divisions including those currently housed at West Campus. Built in 2001, the Class of 1954 Environmental Science Center continues to act as a model for contemporary collections care facilities. Those participating in the pre-meeting georeferencing workshop will also see the new Center for Science and Social Science Information.

SOCIAL EVENTS
Ice Breaker
Come and meet your fellow meeting attendants at this Tuesday night event held in the picturesque Great Hall of the Peabody Museum. Hearty appetizers and delicious cocktails keep the mood light while enjoying the company of friends both old and new.

Annual Banquet
As in years past this is the highlight of the SPNHC social scene and a great way to let loose mid-meeting. This year we will be sampling the local flavor at the beautiful Amarante’s Restaurant located on the water in New Haven.

Unsanctioned Bar Crawl
Have we had one before? No. Why? Who knows!!! Take a casual stroll along the streets of New Haven and check out the downtown ‘scene’. We’ll make stops at local bars and pubs with special SPNHC deals.

PROGRAM
Advances in technology have lead to progress in the management of natural history collections and continue to develop new ways to manage collections data, capture digital copies of physical specimens, and develop novel techniques for conserving objects. Our meeting will emphasize the state-of-the-art approaches used by museums to complete ordinary activities in extraordinary ways. The progress science undergoes requires museums to maintain collections that are relevant and capable of answering those progressive demands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archives and Special</td>
<td>Session featuring talks about archive collections and other ancillary and special collections housed within natural history museums. Possible subjects include best practices, digitization, management and novel uses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborations</td>
<td>Session highlighting collaborative data sharing projects and cross-collection data aggregation activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collections Digitization</td>
<td>Session featuring talks concerning all aspects of specimen digitization and mobilization. Possible subjects include workflows, management of large-scale collaborative projects, funding, digital preservation, and best practices.</td>
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<td>and Mobilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cryo Collections</td>
<td>Session featuring talks about best practices for cryogenic collections. In addition to best practices, possible subjects can include issues involved in the management and operation of and unique challenges associated with the operation of cryogenic facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DemoCamp</td>
<td>DemoCamp provides a venue for creators to promote their technological solutions to advance the field of museum curation with broad applications for biology and biodiversity informatics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology in Outreach and</td>
<td>Session highlighting the role of technology in museum or collections-based education and outreach.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Dimensional Imaging</td>
<td>Session featuring talks about 3-D imaging techniques and uses for such images. Focus is on museum objects, but talks can be more general.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Sessions</td>
<td>General sessions for technical talks. These sessions are for talks that do not fit neatly into one of the other sessions.</td>
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In recognition of her significant contributions to conservation and collection management worldwide through her tireless service as a conservator, author, editor, and educator, the Council of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has voted to present the 2012 Carolyn Rose Award to Catharine (Cathy) Hawks.

It is easy to see that Cathy was a natural to receive this honor when one reads some of the accolades in the support letters that were written on her behalf.

- “Twenty-six years after first meeting Cathy, I am more in awe than ever of her professional knowledge and leadership abilities, and her amazing generosity of spirit. I would not have had the career that I have had without Cathy’s mentoring.”
- “She is one of the most considerate, ethical, and devoted people that I know in our field.”
- “To me, the real test of dedication is the unacknowledged time and effort that a person spends on something that they believe in. And Cathy is an extraordinary example of genuine dedication.”
- “Cathy was a protégé of, collaborator with, and close friend to Carolyn L. Rose. I know that Carolyn, in looking down at us making this award to Cathy, would be very proud of and happy for her, as we all can be.”

We hope that you can join us in New Haven in June when we present this award to Tim.

Rich Rabeler, Past-President
Chair, Recognition and Grants Committee

2012 Special Service Award
Recognition for a special extraordinary effort that directly and positively affects the success of SPNHC activities or events

In recognition of her significant contribution to SPNHC arising from her chairmanship of the Publicity and Outreach Sessional Committee, the Council of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has voted to present a Special Services Award to Lisa Kronthal Elkin.

In the words of her supporters:
- “Lisa "managed the committee’s work in an extremely professional manner" and she clearly was "the driving force behind P&O".”
- “P&O ended up tackling some of the biggest questions that face any professional society”; via their recommendations, the Society now has a new logo, promotional materials, conference exhibit booth, and, as many of you have likely seen, a new website.

2012 Carolyn Rose Award
For outstanding commitment to Natural History Collections Care and Management

In recognition of his extensive contributions to SPNHC since its earliest days, the Council of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections has voted to present the 2012 President’s Award to Russell D. (Tim) White.

Tim is fiercely devoted to SPNHC. Period! A look at his CV shows, besides his tenure as President, he has served on eight committees, four local committees, and has received four Special Service Awards. When one of his colleagues asked him recently about his future SPNHC activities, he noted “I’m just going to keep doing stuff until someone tells me to stop.”

In the words of his supporters:
- “Through his strong leadership and unshakable dedication [as President], he helped to guide the Society on a path towards broad influence and acknowledged professionalism beyond natural history”; indeed “the elevation of SPNHC into a truly professional and world class society.”
- “I have no hesitation in saying that Tim is one of the pillars of the SPNHC Community and epitomizes what the society stand for and strives to promote collections care and the profession in its widest sense.”
- “The unwavering commitment and devotion that Tim continues to show in his efforts and interactions on behalf of the Society are awe-inspiring”

We hope that you can join us in New Haven in June when we present this award to Lisa.

Rich Rabeler, Past-President
Chair, Recognition and Grants Committee

“Most importantly, the recommendations of the P&O Committee led to two major new initiatives of the Society, focused on professional mentorship and best practices.” These initiatives have helped define the future of the Society.

We hope that you can join us in New Haven in June when we present this award to Lisa.

Rich Rabeler, Past-President
Chair, Recognition and Grants Committee

Publications of Interest
This section is from the Citations Sub-committee of the Conservation Committee and is chaired by Margaret Landis. Citations were submitted by Diana Dicus (DD), Margaret Landis (ML), Barbara Moore (BM), Ann Pinol (AP), Rebecca Peters (RP), Cindy Ramotnik (CR), John Simmons (JS), and Janet Waddington (JW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Margaret Landis: Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave, Norman, OK 73072, USA; (405) 325-8266 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); paleocasst@ou.edu (e-mail).


- Article from a new digital magazine on Venezuelan museums that is available as a free download from the Museos.VE website (http://issuu.com/museos.ve). Maczul Arboretum: Ecology of arborization and plastic expression.

- Article from a new digital magazine on Venezuelan museums that is available as a free download from the Museos.VE website (http://issuu.com/museos.ve). Mérida Botanical Garden celebrates its anniversary with the “festival of gardens.”

- Article from a new digital magazine on Venezuelan museums that is available as a free download from the Museos.VE website (http://issuu.com/museos.ve). Topotepuy ecological gardens: A living museum dedicated to conservation, fun, and promotion of ecological awareness.

- The Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (TNSR) provides a web service to standardize biological taxon names, beginning with plant names. TNSR builds on work done by Tropicos at Missouri Botanical Garden as well as work by D. Mocztherin (Marine Biology) and T. Rees (TaxaMatch).
Calender of Events

The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandele of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposia relevant to collection management, conservation and education of natural collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Pulman Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 2207, chandele@pulman.org or dinoceres@juno.com.

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February 2012


February 1, 2012. Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries and

March 2012

21-23/T. (AP)


- Not: Potentially limited in circulation due to being "published" on CDs and possibly only given to attendees.


- Article from a new digital magazine on Venezuelan museums that is available as a free download from the Museo.VIE website (http://issuu.com/museo.vie) with museum with heart: The Cardiovascular Pathology Museum


- Not: Potentially limited in circulation due to being "published" on CDs and possibly only given to attendees.

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March 2012


March 27-29, 2012. The 7th International IPM Symposium, Memphis, Tennessee, USA. Contact: margaret.appleby@canada.on.ca.

March 27-30, 2012. 2012 Annual Meeting Texas Association of Museums (TAM), Museums in the Currents: Navigat ing a River of Change, San Antonio, Texas, USA. Call (512) 328-6812, email admin@texasmuseums.org or visit http://www.primenet.com/mw2012 for more information.

April 2012

April 11-14, 2012. Museums and the Web 2012 16th Annual Conference, San Diego, California, USA. For more information, please call 204-839-1114, email info@mw.net andtheweb.com or visit http://www.museumandtheweb.com/mw2012.


September 2012
September 8-13, 2012. Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Annual National Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. For more information, call (301) 562-0777, email rdupepen@aza.org or visit http://www.aza.org/.

October 2012


November 2012

December 2012


August 2013
August 8-14, 2013. 7th World Congress of Herpetology (WCH)/Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Conference information is available at http://www.wwcongress@herpetology.org.

August 14-18, 2013. The 130th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU), to be held in conjunction with the 5th North American Ornithological Conference, organized jointly by the American Ornithologists’ Union, Society of Canadian Ornithologists / Société des Ornithologues du Canada, Bird Studies Canada, Association of Field Ornithologists, Sección Mexicana del Consejo Internacional para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, Colorado, USA. For more information, visit http://www.aou.org.

Heath and safety issues were of primary importance in planning and completing the conservation treatment of a 14-foot-diameter WPA-era painted plaster topographical map of the State of Louisiana exhibited in a 4-foot-deep floor well at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, Shreveport, Louisiana. The purpose of the treatment was to remove multiple layers of overpaint and then to inpaint areas of loss and abrasion. The treatment was completed as a work-study project, with four to five conservation interns* trained by conservators Richard Wolbers, James Bernstein, and myself over two summer seasons. To perform the treatment, staff had to sit or lie directly on the map, making health and safety concerns an integral part of the treatment protocol.

(Continued pages 28–29. Interns who worked on the project were Jennifer Lis, Erin Falbaum, Dave Turnbull, Hillary Ellis, Kate Moomaw, Emily Nomura, and Marie-Catherine Cyr.)

AIC and SPNHC are happy to announce the publication of Health & Safety for Museum Professionals, edited by Catharine Hawks, Michael McCann, Kathryn Makos, Lisa Goldberg, David Hinkamp, Dennis Ertel, and Patricia Silence. This nineteen chapter book covers health and safety concerns, precautions, and remedies for all areas of museum work. This up-to-date reference is the ideal go-to book for conservators, exhibit producers, collection managers, curators, and administrators in all disciplines.

**Principles of Safety and Health**—safety and health programs and emergency management, facility design and construction, fire protection, occupational medicine and exposure, occupational hazard control, environmental protection, and international safety regulations impacting acquisition, transport and use of specimens

**Specific Hazards**—particulates, chemical hazards, biohazards, physical, mechanical, and electrical hazards, and radiation

**Museum Work**—facilities management, emergency salvage, collections management, fieldwork, conservation, exhibit production and maintenance, and interpretive and interactive programs.