

## Events Calendar

Hang it up as a reminder to attend great upcoming programs!

## Getting Grants Page 3

Museum scientists' research

## Museum's Endowment Page 4

Learn how the Endowment helps the Museum's mission and how you can help!

## When Memories are Transformed in Art

Page 6

Melanie Yazzie's new monotypes exhibition is on display on the Second Floor Gallery.

## Planning for the 21st Century Page 7

An update on Strategic Planning



## Navajo Weaving, the Next Selection

This past May, the Museum celebrated one of our most important collections – the Joe Ben Wheat Southwestern Textile collection – with the opening of the exhibition *Navajo Weaving: Diamonds, Dreams, Landscapes*. The exhibition is unique, in that it features the breadth and depth of the collection, using many textiles that have never been on exhibit before. The exhibition is curated by Judy Newland, faculty associate in museum anthropology at Arizona State University and Curator of Exhibitions for the ASU Museum of Anthropology, and a former student from our Museum and Field Studies Graduate program. Judy is a practicing tapestry weaver and has a special interest in weaving in the Southwest.

The first rotation of 27 Navajo textiles, focusing on diamonds and other geometric patterns and designs, is on exhibit now. The opening event featured Ann Lane Hedlund, Director of the Gloria F. Ross Center for Tapestry Studies at the University of Arizona, and was attended by over 200 people.

Coming this October, the Museum will replace the current textiles on exhibit with approximately 30 more that focus on pictorial designs that often tell a story. As Newland states: "Pictorial rugs were prominent during the last half of the 19th century. The establishment of Trading Posts in the 1870s and the coming of the railroads to the Southwest region brought new ideas and materials to Navajo weavers. Although we do not know the specific history of many of these pictorial textiles, all demonstrate the artistic ability and adaptability of Navajo weavers." The opening event, scheduled for Friday, October 2nd will feature CU Fine Arts Associate Professor Melanie Yazzie. Yazzie, a master printmaker, grew up on the Navajo reservation and watched her grandmother weave. This influence bears strongly in her own work, which is featured in the Museum's Second Floor Gallery during the run of the textile exhibition.

The Museum has a long history of celebrating Navajo textiles – most recently with *Three Cultures of Master Weaving* – but this exhibition is a special opportunity to see the breadth and depth of a collection that is considered one of the top collections of textiles in the world. Come experience the art and creativity of Navajo weavers.



Can museum professionals experiment with exhibitions and better serve audiences all at the same time? We believe we can, and one place where we have been experimenting in the Museum is with the renovation of the old Biology Hall and the introduction of the new Bio Lounge. Though we are on the CU campus, and have a long history of serving the people of the City and County of Boulder (and beyond), the Museum had not been overly successful in serving students on campus. Before the Bio Lounge we served a total of about 50 students per week at the Museum. And that is not as surprising as it sounds, since the 18-25 age demographic is a hard one to reach for almost all museums around the country and further afield. Still, we do have nearly 30,000 students all around us. So, we decided to redo the Biology Hall, creating the look and feel of a cabinet of curiosities. Immersed within the gallery, we have spaces for students to hang out, check their email, connect with friends and/or just relax between classes.

After opening the Bio Lounge with little fanfare (though we did get two nice articles in the Daily Camera, check out the story at: <http://www.dailycamera.com/news/2009/jan/28/university-colorado-museum-biounge-cu/>), by word of mouth we started to get a larger and loyal following, and began serving nearly 75 students per day (about a 10-fold increase in attendance), whose average stay was over an hour (as compared to an average stay of only 15 minutes or so when there was no Bio Lounge). The exhibition space also flexes to serve as an event space, lecture hall (a recent lecture on declining amphibian populations saw over 125 people in attendance in the Bio Lounge), informal meeting space (university staff are frequently seen there in small groups having meetings in the cool space), and education space for school groups.

The Bio Lounge also offers tea and coffee free of charge. In some ways it is like an "Anti-Exhibition." Instead of drawing you to the exhibition and then suggesting you rest, to only then have you leave, the Bio Lounge invites you to come in, sit down, have a cup of coffee, and relax. Only afterwards (maybe minutes, but perhaps after 2 or 3 visits) do the exhibitions of museum specimens, digital presentations, books, internet science sites, and curiosities beckon visitors to check them out. It is more about forming a community of folks who gather in the Bio Lounge, to hang out with each other, meet new folks, and be immersed in a totally unique environment on the CU campus.

While the numbers of students and their length of stay are encouraging, another unique aspect of the Bio Lounge is that it is always changing. Students in the Museum and Field Studies Program have developed exhibits for this gallery, and students from across campus want to participate as well. We want to continue to experiment in the Bio Lounge, with topics, approaches to exhibitions, and with engaging and building communities of visitors. We are in the midst of analyzing data from our first evaluation of the new space, and the summer will be a time to try some new things in the Bio Lounge. Be sure to stop by, relax, and enjoy the Bio Lounge.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Kociolek



**OBJECT OF THE MONTH** Discover a new and amazing object every month from the Museum's collections! Visit <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/>





## Museum Researchers are Keeping Themselves Busy and Successfully Getting Grants

Externally funded research is an important component of the Museum's research mission, and the National Science Foundation (NSF) has long been a major funder of our work. NSF's research grants are hard to come by (only 10-15% of proposals are funded), and this support has the imprimatur of support from reviewing colleagues nationally and internationally.

Drs. Cesar Nufio, Deane Bowers and Robert Guralnick study grasshoppers along a transect from eastern Colorado through the Front Range to sub-alpine systems in the Rocky Mountains, investigating the species as well as emergence and developmental timing of their different life stages. Grasshoppers offer an interesting window into the effects of climate change because species and their life forms are temperature dependent. These researchers use as their baseline data collected 50 years ago by Prof. Gordon Alexander, former chair in the (now) Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Over 30 species of grasshoppers have been tracked in the study. To learn more about the historical and current projects, please visit their website at <http://ghopclimate.colorado.edu/>.

Further from home, in the Canadian Arctic, Dr. Jaelyn Eberle and colleagues Hope Jahren at the University of Hawaii, Roger Summons at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Leo Sternberg at the University of Miami are studying early Eocene (approximately 53 million years old) fossil mammalian faunas. Species composition, abundance patterns and resource utilization by the mammals can tell us how ecosystems were structured in the past, especially during the time when temperatures in the Arctic were much warmer than today. Eberle and her colleagues begin their Arctic fieldwork in Summer 2010.

And in Hawaii, a team of researchers including Dr. Patrick Kociolek are funded for three years to study the species composition and distribution of freshwater algae across the island archipelago. Preliminary data suggest that contrary to past interpretations of algal diversity, many species from Hawaii are endemic to those islands. Kociolek and his colleagues have posted images, movies and commentary from the first field session, to a blog on the CU Museum of Natural History's website (<http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/>).



From left to right: Jaelyn Eberle, Joe Kudlack, and Brendan Postnikoff. Photo by Donna Lindsay

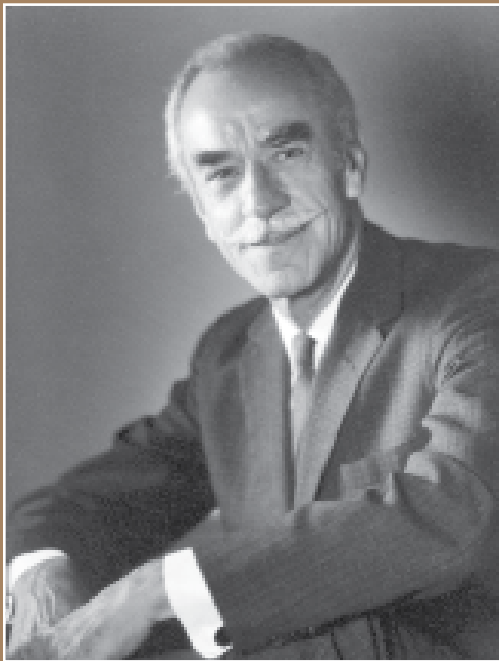


From left to right: Elizabeth Thurston, Cesar Nufio, Thomas Gabel, Jeff McClenaha. Photo by Johanna Zeh

A MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP IS A WONDERFUL GIFT Call 303-492-3396 for more information.



## Hugo G. Rodeck Museum Endowment



Hugo G. Rodeck

Through the years, the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History has received invaluable help from philanthropic individuals who have supported endowment funds for specific Museum's collections and projects. These funds are used for the purchase of scholarly journals, the acquisition of supplies and equipment used in collections, and student fellowships. However, until the establishment in 2002 of the Hugo G. Rodeck Museum Endowment, the Museum did not have an endowment that could be used for Museum-wide programs. Named in honor of former Museum director, Hugo G. Rodeck, this Endowment was established through the generosity of the Rodeck family. This Endowment makes possible activities not supported by any other monies and enables the Museum to obtain matching funds for projects that benefit the Museum as a whole and better serve our constituents. The Hugo G. Rodeck Museum Endowment is key to support the Museum's mission in research, teaching, and public education.

We need your support to keep this Endowment growing. Your contribution at any level is helpful. Your gift will be acknowledged with a certificate of appreciation, and gifts of \$100.00 or more will also be recognized on the CU Museum's permanent Honor Roll. To learn more about how to contribute, please visit the Museum's website at <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/Involved/donations.html>.

## Spring Tour 2010



Museum members visiting the Blue Mosque (Istanbul, Turkey) during the Educational Tour in 2008.

Plans are currently being made for the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History Members Association Educational Tour to visit the southern Peloponnese, Crete and the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea for 22-23 days in the summer of 2010. The cost of the tour will be 2700 euros for double occupancy (an additional 300 euros for single occupancy). Breakfast in Greece is included in the cost, while both breakfast and dinner are included in the cost for the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea. Transportation within the regions is also included in the cost.

This is the seventh tour in the series to follow in the footsteps of the ancient Greeks led by Professor Emerita Hara Tzavella-Evjen. Please contact Randall T. Nishiyama, Tour Liaison, at 303-497-4492 or [randy\\_nishiyama@yahoo.com](mailto:randy_nishiyama@yahoo.com) if you have an interest in the tour.

**GIFT STORE** Members always receive a 10% discount!



## Museum & Field Studies Program News

The Museum and Field Studies Program (MFS) is just getting better and better. Recently the grant proposal "Training Museum Professionals for the 21st Century" was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to upgrade the program's curriculum. "The idea is to make sure that the curriculum we offer is tracking with the needs of museums," said Museum and Field Studies Program Director, Dr. Patrick Kocielek. Many of the skill sets museums are seeking in their new employees relate to understanding their visitors and the use of technology in a museum setting. "We found that only 15% of museum studies programs in North America offer classes in these areas" said Kocielek, "but at CU, our program has specific courses in both areas. The goal is to strengthen our existing core curriculum." Word from IMLS on the grant proposal is due in September 2009. With this boost to our curriculum, the possibilities would be endless! Check out the current undertakings of our students and meet our incoming class!

### *Incoming Class (Class of 2011)*

**Crystal Boyd** Undergraduate Degree: English and Spanish from the University of Minnesota, Cognate Interest: Biology and Entomology

**Irina Fartushnikova** Undergraduate Degree: Anthropology from Metro State, Cognate Interest: Education

**Jessica Holm** Undergraduate Degree: English and Biology from the University of Minnesota, Cognate Interest: Biology

**Samantha Pettigrew** Undergraduate Degree: Anthropology from Southern Oregon University, Cognate Interest: History and Anthropology

**Michael Poltenovage** Undergraduate Degree: Computer Informatics from Regis University, Cognate Interest: Paleontology

**Jenell Thoene** Undergraduate Degree: Communications from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Cognate Interest: Paleontology

**Rebecca Wahlberg** Undergraduate Degree: Studio Arts from the University of Texas, Cognate Interest: Fine Arts

**Rhonda Wright** Undergraduate Degree: Anthropology from the University of Wyoming, Cognate Interest: Anthropology

### *Incoming Certificate Students*

**Jordan Steininger** Undergraduate Degree: Anthropology from the University of Minnesota, Cognate Interest: Anthropology

**Sarah Manor** Undergraduate Degree: Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University, Cognate Interest: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

### *Continuing Students (Class of 2010) Internships*

**Jessica Brunecky** is interning at the Denver Art Museum within the Modern & Contemporary Curatorial Department. She has been working on a major deaccessioning project for the department, in addition to other collections related projects.

**Heidi Buhr** is interning in Deer Lodge, Montana working at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch for the National Park Service. She is working in the archives, processing paperwork related to the Ranch.

**Audrey Gayou** is completing an internship at the Longmont Museum and Cultural Center. She is working in their textile storage facility, re-housing a large variety of costumes; from military uniforms to Victorian dresses, shoes, and hats.

**Heather Robeson** is completing her internship at the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON). She is currently compiling a spreadsheet/database of DNA barcode information available from the Barcode of Life Data Systems and GenBank websites on mosquitoes, aquatic invertebrates and carabid beetles of the United States for the Fundamental Sentinel Unit (FSU) of NEON.

**Chrissy Spence** is taking a five-week long intensive Marine Invertebrate Zoology course at Friday Harbor Laboratories, a world-recognized marine research station located in the San Juan Islands, Washington.



*Crystal Boyd*



*Rhonda Wright*



*Jessica Brunecky*



*Heidi Buhr*

**DO YOU WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER EDUCATOR?** Contact the Education Coordinator at 303-492-4843.





## Vivid Memories in the Museum

Thanks to Melanie Yazzie's childhood memories, the Museum's Second Floor Gallery has been transformed into a very special place. The exhibition *Weaving Memory: Monotypes by Melanie Yazzie*, opened to the public on May 29, 2009, and has been organized in conjunction with the exhibition *Navajo Weaving: Diamonds, Dreams, Landscapes*, which showcases Navajo textiles from the Museum's Joe Ben Wheat Southwestern Textile Collection.

Yazzie, a professor in the University of Colorado Department of Art and Art History, works in a wide range of media: painting, art installation, ceramics, printmaking, and sculpture. She has presented her work in national and international exhibitions. For her exhibition *Weaving Memory*, she decided to use monotypes because the special characteristic of this printmaking technique. As Yazzie explains: "I make monotypes because they are a one of a kind unique print not from an edition. The works are simple and clean and speak of times from my childhood that were quiet and fun with my grandmother. She wove her rugs and I sat by her side, sleeping or helping. The sound of her tapping the wool down and moving her tools in the process was always so wonderful, calming."

Every monotype in *Weaving Memory* contains a world in and of itself. Each monotype tells a story, and makes memory come alive. "There are stories behind each one," Yazzie says, "not so much a particular story but memories and times of being in Wide Ruins with my grandparents. Many happy, some sad, but always filled with color and sounds of the Navajo Radio in the background. Weaving was my grandmother's art form, and it makes me think this is something she handed down to me -she taught me about studio time, quiet and solitary at times, and it was always special to see her works in progress. I often think that it is this time in my life that helped shape my current studio practice."

The colors used in Yazzie's monotypes were inspired by the Museum's Navajo textile collection. Professor Yazzie's collaboration with the Museum started with her willingness to help with the exhibition *Navajo Weaving* and work with the Navajo textile collection: "I learned about the textile collection by this exhibition coming into being," Yazzie states, "I guess I knew it was here, but being asked to help in some way, helped me make the time to come over and really see the beautiful rugs that CU has. It is quite an amazing collection. And I am honored to have been a small part in its newest reintroduction to the public. Everyone in the area should see each round of exhibitions this year. It will be special each time -seeing new pieces that are examples of all of our histories!"

On Friday, October 2, 2009, Yazzie herself will offer a lecture: "Images from My American Indian Experience." Her talk will coincide with the opening of the second installation of the *Navajo Weaving* exhibition: *Dreams, Schemes and Stories*. For more information on Yazzie's talk and other programs, please check the Events Calendar in this issue, or visit the Museum's website at <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/>.



*Small Animals and a Tall Bird* ©Melanie Yazzie, 2009

**MUSEUM TOURS** Contact the Education Coordinator at 303-492-4843 for information.



# Membership Application

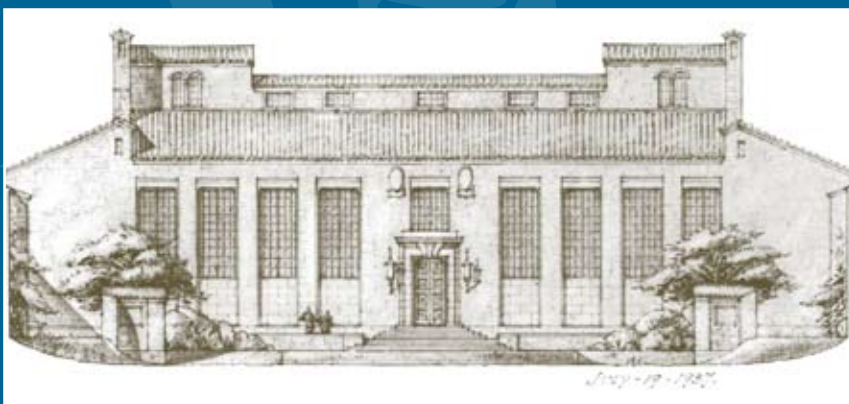
- New  Renewal

## Planning for the Future

“It is hard to know where you are going if you don’t know where you are” is a famous maxim in strategic planning circles. Over the past 8 months, the Museum has been engaged in strategic planning as we attempt to redefine what it means to be a natural history museum in the context of a large, public university in the 21st century.

The entire staff has been part of the process, and we have reached out across the CU campus, around Boulder, the state and beyond to explore the possibilities and challenges of the roles for natural history museums. The Museum is partnering with Corona Research, a Denver-based consulting group. Having a consulting partner with us allows the staff to focus on contributing ideas and expertise, while the planning consultants offer support, direction and a wealth of experience with the planning process. Staff and others have offered many great ideas about potential ways to move forward, while also addressing some of the issues that have persisted around the Museum for some time. A former director of the Museum, Dr. David Armstrong brought into my office some Museum papers and archives from his tenure at the helm, and many of the issues staff had raised more than two decades ago are still with us, including quality and quantity of space, and the need to revitalize the Museum exhibitions. Task forces composed of CU Museum staff and students have been convened on topics such as Research & Collections, Public Section, Museum & Field Studies, and Management & Administration. They have developed strategies and suggestions for the Museum to become one of the best in the country in each of these areas.

The strategic planning process will proceed through the summer and into the fall, developing short-, mid- and long-terms plans and goals for the Museum. We look forward to sharing the fruits of our labors with you in forthcoming issues.



Museum architectural drawing, 1937

### CATEGORIES

#### Regular Membership

- Individual \$25
- Family \$45
- Student \$10
- Educator \$20
- Sponsoring \$100
- Sustaining \$250
- Curator's Circle \$500
- Director's Circle \$1000

#### Corporate Membership

- Subscriber \$250
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000
- Mentor \$3000

- I am interested in volunteer opportunities

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to start receiving *Museum Insights* (biannual Newsletter ) via e-mail.

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

Please make your check payable to:  
**The University of Colorado Museum  
of Natural History**

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Credit Card Payment

Charge my credit card for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Visa  Mastercard

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required for all credit card processing) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mail to:

University of Colorado Museum of Natural History  
218 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309-0218

**NOW YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE!** Go to the Museum website and click on “Get Involved.”





MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

218 UCB, Boulder, Colorado 80309-0218

*On the Boulder Campus in the Henderson Building at 15th and Broadway. Visitor parking is available at Euclid and 18th at the AutoPark. An RTD bus stop is located at 14th and Broadway.*

**Museum Hours:**

Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Colorado

University of Colorado at Boulder™



# MUSEUM INSIGHTS

## COME SEE WHAT'S INSIDE

Look inside to learn about the second rotation of the exhibit, *Navajo Weaving: Diamonds, Dreams, Landscapes*, and the new and innovative space for students *Bio Lounge*.

