

NEWSGRAM

News in brief from the Conservation Center

Issue 3, April 2011

The Conservation Center Announces Fourth-Year Internships

Students Earn Top Placements in Conservation Laboratories

Practical training plays a vital role in conservation education. Students entering their final year of study embark on an Internship that places them in the working laboratories of some of the world's most prestigious institutions.

Domestic or international, institutional, government, or private, the choice is theirs to make when it comes to locations for a fourth-year Internship placement. During their final year of study, students complete their education at a site intended to expose them to training experiences that deepen their skills and broaden their portfolios. With that in mind, students for the academic year 2011 – 2012 have selected institutions that embody the best in each of their chosen area of concentration. Some will stay local to the New York metropolitan area, while another will be traveling halfway around the globe for specialized study.

Kristin Robinson, our paintings student in this class, decided to stay local with a placement at the [Museum of Modern Art](#). Under the supervision of James Coddington, Agnes Gund Chief Conservator, and paint-

ings conservators Anny Aviram and Michael Duffy, Kristin intends to further enhance her studies in the conservation of modern and contemporary paintings. She chose to intern at MoMA for a number of reasons, including “an interest in the museum’s collection of Abstract Expressionist paintings, the difficulties involved in preserving these works, and the encouragement interns receive to spend time in the galleries to familiarize themselves with the collection.”

Objects major Jessica Pace is thrilled to accept an offer from the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) in the Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation. Building upon previous experiences that included archaeological conservation at the [Yeronisos Island Excavation](#) in Cyprus and consolidation and cleaning of a large lacquer panel at [Villa La Pietra](#) in Florence, Italy, Jessica is primarily interested in working on Asian art, including lacquer, ivory, metals, archaeological artifacts and porcelain. Conservators Ann Heywood '87, Ellen Howe, and Donna Strahan will be some of her main supervisors, while Conservator Wendy Walker and Associate Carolyn Riccardelli will provide support.

Julia Sybalsky will be working with the staff at the [American Museum of Natural History](#), including Chief Objects Conservator, Judith Levinson '84 and Lisa Kronthal Elkin, Director, Natural Science Collections Conservation, as supervisors. Assistant Conservator Elizabeth Nunam will also be assisting in supervising Julia's work on the North American Mammal Hall



Kristin nurtured her growing interest for modern and contemporary paintings conservation during a class at [Modern Art Conservation Studio](#)



Jessica strengthened her exposure to Asian art while working on a 17th-century lacquer panel in the collection at [Villa La Pietra](#)



Julia's exposure to organic, ethnographic objects, such as this spruce root basket, will help inform her work on the [AMNH dioramas](#)

Diorama Renovation Project. The dioramas are generally not accessible, and have only rarely been opened for maintenance since their installation in the 1930s and 40s. The project involves a wide variety of materials, including small- and large-scale taxidermy, foreground materials and mural paintings, as well as the building of a database to store reports, proposals, ongoing progress, staff recollections about construction

and past treatment, light level measurements, analyses, test cleanings, digital photography, annotated images, and archival documentation. “We are using the renovation as an opportunity to learn and record as much as we can about the preparation details of the paintings and foreground materials,” says Julia. “For me, examining these materials is some of the most interesting work. The extraordinary nuance with which these preparators were able to render nature in materials like wax, paper, cotton, and monofilament, and seamlessly merge them with specimens gathered from the field, never loses its wonder.”

Specializing in stone and gravesite materials, Linsly Boyer, has decided to pursue advanced training at the **Preservation Society of Newport County** under the guidance of Chief Conservator Charles J. Moore. Linsly will be providing needed assistance in the care and maintenance of the Arnold Burying Ground, founded in 1675, as well as the marble and bronze outdoor sculptures on the grounds of the Gilded Age Mansions the Preservation Society maintains. Linsly will also continue research she began during the spring 2011 term on the conservation issues and preservation methods of slate used in headstones and monuments in colonial New England. Specifically, she is working on the consolidation of headstones found in an area called “**God’s Little Acre**,” a site within a common burying ground in Newport, Rhode Island, containing the largest number of colonial African American graves in the country.

Kristen Watson Adsit has chosen the **Indianapolis Museum of Art** as the host for her fourth-year Internship. Supervising her work in the objects and variable art conservation lab will be Asso-

ciate Conservator Richard McCoy ’04. Kristen will survey and treat the African collection during a de-installation, move, and re-installation into its new gallery, scheduled to open in mid-2012. Richard “would like for Kristen to be involved and exposed to every step of this process and become a part of the greater team of registrars, curators, and other staff responsible for making this project a success.” Collaborating with the newly formed Conservation Science Department and the curator of Asian art, Kristen and Richard will also carry out a technical examination of two 12th-century Japanese sculptors in the museum’s collection.

Traveling the farthest for her Internship experience is Justine Ellis, who will be working in Kyoto, Japan. Justine is a paper student whose primary interest is in Asian paintings conservation. “Having lived and studied in Japan for two years at Tsukuba University in Ibaraki Prefecture,” says Justine of her undergraduate education, “I feel passionate about the arts and culture of Japan, and have always hoped to bridge my interest in paper conservation with my interest in Japan.” Already working on Japanese paintings with Conservator Jennifer Perry ’93 in the East Asian Paintings Studio at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Justine will deepen her training in the conservation and mounting of traditional Japanese scrolls and screens at the renowned Oka



Linsly’s interest in stone conservation lead her to Villa La Pietra where she worked on limestone garden sculptures

Bokkodo Company under the supervision of Yasuhiro Oka.

The Conservation Center is extremely proud of its students and grateful to the vast network of expert guidance available during their fourth-year Internships. The time spent in a working laboratory is crucial to the educational and professional growth of our students. We wish them much success in the coming year. •

– Kevin Martin

Kevin is the Academic Advisor for the conservation program



Kristen’s exposure to many different media prepared her for working in the variable art conservation lab at the IMA



Justine in the East Asian Paintings Studio at the Metropolitan Museum of Art joining misu papers in preparation for mounting

Upcoming Events

ANAGPIC Student Conference 2011 at the University of Delaware, Winterthur: April 14 – 16, 2011

featuring student talks by:

Kristin Robinson “The Treatment and Technical Study of a Painted Crucifixion by Lorenzo di Bicci”

Kristen Watson Adsit “An Attractive Alternative: The Use of Magnets to Conserve ‘Homer’ by John Chamberlain”

and a poster presentation by:

Jessica Lian Pace, Julia Sybalsky, and Cybele Tom “A Tale of Two Riders: The Technical Study of a Set of Central Asian Silver and Gold Saddle Ornaments

photo credit: Briana Feston, Melissa Gardner ’10, Jennifer Perry ’93, NL Roberts, Kristen Watson Adsit