

ANAGPIC 2012

Each year, the North American graduate programs in conservation convene for a three-day student conference. The event, consisting of area lab tours, a reception and banquet, student presentations and professional talks, rotates hosting duties among the partner programs. This year, NYU played master of ceremonies from April 12 – 14, 2012.

The seeds for the annual student conference were planted in 1974 during a five-day meeting of lectures and discussions, “Conservation Seminar on Glass and Library Materials,” at the Corning Museum of Glass in response to a disastrous flood that damaged the museum’s artifact and library collections. The Association of North American Graduate Programs in the Conservation of Cultural Property (ANAGPIC) was then created as a way to continue this tradition of camaraderie and to allow students from all programs the opportunity to present and share their current research and projects. Presently, the member programs include: The Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University (CC); Buffalo State College, Art Conservation Department, State University of New York; Harvard University Art Museums, Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies; Queen’s University, Art Conservation Program; Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC); and the University of California, Los Angeles/Getty Program in Archaeological and Ethnographic Conservation.

The CC students, faculty and staff welcomed 153 participants to New York City on the first day of the 38th Annual ANAGPIC conference. The day featured visits to local area conservation laboratories. Alumni and fourth-year students escorted event guests through their labs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA), Museum of Modern Art, American Museum of Natural History and the Brooklyn Museum. Following these visits, students, staff and faculty of the Center received conference participants at the Stephen Chan House where current students provided group tours and shared their spring semester treatment projects and ongoing research.

The evening continued with registration, poster session and recep-

tion at the Institute of Fine Arts’ Fifth Avenue Beaux-Arts mansion, the James B. Duke House. Party goers received tote bags designed by our students, overflowing with conservation materials and samples generously donated by Artifex Equipment, College Art Association, deART folio Design, Digital Scriptorium, Golden Artist Colors, Tru Vue, University Products, Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors, The Frick Collection, The New Museum, FAIC, Heritage Preservation and ICOM. Amy Hughes, Emily Lynch and Margaret Wessling, second year paper, book and photo students respectively, discussed their poster, “A Technical Investigation of 20th Century Watermarks.” Additionally, a collaborative poster, “The American Institute of Conservation: Emergency Committee and Collections Emergency Response Team 101”, was presented by our own Rita Berg, a first-year paintings student, and Queen’s University student Anna Weiss.

The second day of the conference consisted of a full day of student presentations. Thanks to William Griswold, Director of **The Morgan Library & Museum**, these were held at the museum’s magnificent Gilder Lehrman Hall auditorium on Friday, April 13. Each ANAGPIC program was represented by two student presentations, resulting in an impressive and diverse day of research and projects, punctuated by a Tru Vue -sponsored coffee break. The CC showcased three of its current students. Kristin Bradley and Sophie Scully, both third-year paintings students, presented



Student presenters assemble to answer questions following their session in Gilder Lehrman Hall



Conference participants gather during a coffee break at the Morgan Library & Museum: Henry Lie (left), Director and Senior Conservator of Objects and Sculpture, Straus Center for Conservation & Technical Studies, Harvard Art Museums; Lois Olcott Price, Adjunct Assistant Professor, WUDPAC; conference speaker Dr. Patricia Hill; and Bruno Pouliot, Adjunct Assistant Professor, WUDPAC

Alumni Spotlight

On April 25, 2012, Margaret Holben Ellis '79 received the **25 Year Service Award** from New York University's President John Sexton. We warmly congratulate her on this professional achievement.

“Preserving a Palimpsest: The History and Treatment of the *Saletta delle Rovine*,” which illustrated the history and conservation treatment of an 18th-century frescoed room at Villa La Pietra, New York University’s Florentine campus. Margaret Wessling shared her research on historic printing technologies in her paper, “Characterizing United Press International’s *Unifax* Facsimile Prints.” This research arose from the study of images, and their little-known facsimile process, from the *Daily Worker* image archive at NYU’s Tamiment Library & Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives.

Despite the inauspicious Friday the 13th date, the day concluded with an unforgettable New York City event—an evening of food, drinks and dancing at the Bryant Park Grill! It was a perfect night for the location, situated directly behind the landmark New York Public Library and with Bryant Park as its stunning backdrop. The April night was unseasonably mild and agreeable for revelry both inside and out.

“Conservation Education—The Global Reach of Education” was the theme for the conference’s final day of professional talks. Once again, the Morgan Library & Museum’s state-of-the-art Gilder Lehrman Hall served as the venue. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation sponsored the four-hour professional session on Saturday, which was organized by Andrew W. Mellon Fellows in Conservation Education Margo Delidow (CC) and Caitlin O’Grady ‘04 (WUDPAC). The session aimed to explore the evolving role of education in conservation with a focus on the worldwide reach of the profession, and examined the many challenges and opportunities graduate students and institutions will face in the future.

The first Mellon-sponsored speaker was Dr. Christopher Caple, Senior Lecturer in Archaeological Conservation and

Archaeological Science and Programme Director for the MA Conservation of Archaeological & Museum Objects at Durham University, UK. His presentation, “The View from the Ivory Tower,” addressed the difficult subject of the shuttering of a number of European conservation programs. In addressing this sensitive issue, Caple believes that we need to be aware of the history of conservation education while also understanding the changing nature of higher education if we wish to retain our curricula within universities.

Jessica S. Johnson, archaeological/ethnographic objects conservator, spoke about her role as Academic Director for the University of Delaware Program, Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage in Erbil, Iraq. In her presentation, “Imagine That: Teaching Conservation in Iraq,” she discussed how the Institute unites a team of international experts to train Iraqi museum and heritage professionals in the preservation and conservation of their national treasures.

Dr. Patricia Miller, Professor of Organic Chemistry at Millersville University of Pennsylvania, spoke about collaborations between scientists, conservators and art historians in her presentation “Building a Community of Chemistry and Art Scholars.” Dr. Miller presented the audience with examples from her own workshops and courses promoting science teaching among elementary and secondary school educators. In addition, she offered examples from her own summer education workshops that integrate the teaching of science and art.

The Saturday session was augmented by three special guest speakers from Mexico who were able to share a brief overview of their programs. Thanks to generous funding provided by the **Samuel H. Kress Foundation**, North America was represented in

its entirety at the student conference as program directors from Mexico were flown in to attend the conference. Presentations were made by Alejandro Canales Daroca, Director General, *Escuela de Conservación y Restauración de Occidente*; Lilita Giorguli Chávez, Director, *Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía Manuel del Castillo Negrete (ENCRyM)*; and Francisco Javier Quiroz Vicente, Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, *Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí*.

Following the professional presentations, the speakers were joined by George Wheeler ‘81, Director of Conservation for the graduate program in Historic Preservation at Columbia University, and Lisa Piloni ‘88, Objects Conservator, Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation, MMA, and Elected Chair of the ICOM-CC Directory Board, for a question and answer session. This arrangement gave the students the opportunity to ask questions concerning curriculum, job opportunities and funding.

The success of the conference is owed in large part to Oliver Luisi, Assistant to the Chairman for Administration and Public Affairs, for his tireless efforts in organization and execution. And to our student body whose commitment to design, marketing and event planning were instrumental in making the 38th Annual ANAGPIC student conference an exciting and unforgettable affair.

We look forward to next year’s ANAGPIC presentations, hosted by the UCLA/Getty program on April 25 – 27, 2013. •

—Margo Delidow

Margo is the 2010 – 2012 Andrew W. Mellon Teaching Fellow



One of several handmade centerpieces created by NYU students depicting both historic and current vistas of NYC



It was a perfect April evening to be outside in NYC



Mexican program directors Lilita Giorguli Chávez, Alejandro Canales Daroca and Francisco Javier Quiroz Vicente

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