Great Moments in History... and We Slept Well

By Kristin Keller, Hawai‘i State Library

After the annual Hawai‘i Museum Association Conference on Friday May 21, 2010, a group of conference attendees met at the USS Missouri for a sleepover arranged by Michael Weidenbach, curator of the USS Missouri Memorial Association. (Overnight group shot above.) Somewhere in between picking up bed linens, choosing which “coffin bunk” to sleep in, and a tour of the cold water “head,” it became evident this was not going to be an average museum conference site visit.

Our stay mirrored the overnight program offered to school groups on the ship. An excellently narrated tour of the decks and exhibit areas was followed by an equally satisfying meal in the crew mess hall. Our official tour ended after sunset, at which point Michael Weidenbach handed out flashlights to anyone willing to explore the bowels of the ship further on a special “curator’s tour.”

This overnight adventure gave attendees a thorough appreciation for the historical significance of the USS Missouri, the enormous ongoing effort to care for and present it for the public… oh and also bragging rights, because, after all, how many civilians can say they’ve slept in the spot where World War II ended?

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HMA President’s Report

by Stacy Hoshino

First, on behalf of HMA’s Board of Directors, I would like to extend a warm thank you to the HMA community of members. Your support of this organization is unwavering and much appreciated, and we strive to keep you all connected to each other and to the field.

The months of April and May resulted in important accomplishments for HMA that were set-up to benefit our members both individually and institutions.

Much gratitude goes to Peter Van Dyke, who, for two terms as Board President, guided HMA to achieve our recent successes. With his calm and decisive demeanor, he along with the Board, were able to envision what HMA can and should do for its constituency.

In April, HMA was awarded an Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS) grant to fund an ambitious but much needed endeavor to connect and create a network of collections stakeholders statewide. With her expertise, Project Director, Lynn Davis, Head of the University of Hawai‘i Library’s Preservation Department, has been energizing the many collection managers and caretakers to take part in this important project. More information in the pages ahead.

Also, it was announced that Honolulu has been officially selected as the site for the Western Museums Association (WMA) site for its Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2011 to take place at the Hawai‘i Convention Center. HMA will be the Co-Sponsor with WMA; and Co-Host with Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA). This will be an opportunity to highlight the many institutions large and small, and statewide, to their colleagues of WMA and PIMA. Already in place are the Program and Host Committees to commence planning. More information about the WMA 2011 Annual Meeting can be found on HMA’s website.

The Annual Meeting this year was expanded to a full-day of informative sessions at the Pearl Harbor Historic Partners Museums which included the Pearl Harbor Museum and Visitor Center, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, USS Arizona Memorial, the Battleship Missouri Memorial, and the Pacific Aviation Museum. Board member Mike Weidenbach, coordinated the mammoth planning with his Pearl Harbor colleagues—it was truly a team effort! Read about the day in this newsletter, and view more photos on the website.

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Save the Date for a Free Lecture
The Web and Indigenous People
Tuesday, September 7, 2010
Pāki 2, Bishop Museum
6:00 to 7:30 pm
Refreshments served 5:30 pm.
Co-sponsored by HMA, Bishop Museum, and U.H. Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program

Philip Gordon, Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Australian Museum, will give a free lecture titled, The Web and Indigenous People: The Future is Here.

The innovative web-based project, in partnership with the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation, provides digital access to an important indigenous cultural collection held at the museum and a web-based platform designed to promote local intergenerational experiences of the collection. By delivering specialized new media skills (video production, web 2.0 programs), and by promoting the cultural transmission of intangible cultural heritage and supporting the development of local identities and community relations, this project hopes to facilitate social transformation in the Singleton Region. It also involves offering high school workshops where indigenous students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the online collection and engage with their culture through new media and the web.

Large Number of Attendees Makes the IMLS Connecting to Collections Workshop a Success!
Building a Culture — Collections Care in Hawai’i, was an HMA annual meeting post-conference free workshop, on May 22nd in Bishop Museum’s Pāki Hall from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

As part of the IMLS grant awarded to HMA, Project Director, Lynn Davis, and Project Facilitator, Barclay Ogden, of University of California Berkeley, conducted an interactive presentation. Through working groups made up of over 70 statewide archivists, registrars, librarians, collection managers and conservationists, they collectively identified preservation needs faced by diverse collections throughout the islands, and they all examined common issues they encounter. A post workshop survey has been emailed as a follow-up, and the next workshop will be conducted in January 2011. For more information, contact Teri Skillman at skillman@hawaii.edu or by calling (808) 956-8688.

A debt of gratitude goes out to Drew Chamberlain and Chuck Crimson, of Hawai’i Restorative / Belfor, for underwriting the workshop and Teri Skillman for her work in coordinating and managing the event.

More from the May 21, 2010 HMA Annual Meeting...

Left to right, top to bottom: Jill Sommer and Tory Laitila in the USS Missouri barber shop; Tom Fake from the National Park Service leads the HMA tour of the USS Arizona Memorial; Malia Van Heukelem and Kippen de Alba Chu picking up their dinners at the USS Missouri; USS Missouri Education Director Dan Parsons introduces the HMA sleepover group to the Might Mo.; Nanette Napoleon awaits her turn to check out the equipment on the USS Bowfin; USS Bowfin Education Director Charles Hinman and Mary Cooke; Celeste Ota gives transport instructions to the Ford Island Conference Center; HMA tour of the new Visitor Center at the USS Arizona; Peter and Shannon Van Dyke enjoy meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and salad aboard the USS Missouri; our plush sleeping quarters.
Hawai‘i Museums Association Recipient of Groundbreaking IMLS Grant

Hawai‘i has a rich cultural heritage that is cared for by museums, arboretums, archives, libraries and other institutions. The significance of these diverse collections and the challenges associated with caring for them was recognized by a grant from the Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS) awarded to the Hawai‘i Museums Association (HMA).

The project director, Lynn Davis, Head of the University of Hawai‘i Library’s Preservation Department, sees this grant as an important step in creating a sustainable and collaborative culture to care for irreplaceable cultural heritage collections statewide. The Hawai‘i grant has been cited as being groundbreaking for bringing together people responsible for caring for cultural heritage collections from diverse institutions on all islands. This is an innovative model for building a sustainable response to collection care issues. A survey will be conducted as part of the grant, and a report of the findings will be made at a second workshop in January 2011.

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. For more information, contact Teri Skillman at skillman@hawaii.edu or by calling (808) 956-8688.

2011 WMA Meeting in Honolulu

September 23-26, 2011
Hawai‘i Convention Center, Honolulu, HI
Co-sponsored by Western Museum Association; Hawai‘i Museums Association; and Pacific Islands Museums Association with major assistance from the Hawai‘i Convention Center / SMG and Hawai‘i Tourism Authority.

It’s official — the Western Museums Association’s 2011 Annual Meeting will be an international event. The WMA will be joined by the Hawai‘i Museums Association and Pacific Islands Museums Association in co-hosting WMA’s 2011 Annual Meeting. This will be a unique opportunity for WMA and fellow museum professionals to meet and exchange ideas and best practices with colleagues near and far, and to see Hawai‘i in a whole different light!

The 2011 WMA Annual Meeting is being held two months prior to the convening of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Honolulu, which brings together the leaders of the 21 economies in the Asia – Pacific region. WMA is taking advantage of this exceptional occasion to gather the diverse museum community and their associations from throughout this important and expansive geographic area to meet face to face, network, and foster greater collaboration across national borders.

According to Kippen de Alba Chu, executive director of ‘Iolani Palace (Honolulu), and WMA board member, “WMA is mirroring APEC with the specific purpose of encouraging greater cooperation in arts, culture, and indigenous issues while at the same time highlighting the economic benefits of cultural and heritage tourism and the role that museums can play in this fast growing segment of the global economy.”

To learn more about the WMA 2011 Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawai‘i visit www.westmuse.org.

AASLH and OMA Annual Meeting

September 22-25, 2010
in Oklahoma City, OK

Choose from over 80 sessions and workshops that will show you the latest in developing, delivering, and marketing history.

Four days in Oklahoma City with insightful and thoughtful programming given by leaders in the history field. This year, we’re focusing on how changes in direction can refresh and reinvigorate your institution. Learn new and innovative ways to tackle:

- Financial sustainability during tough economic times
- Creative fundraising ideas
- Visitor experience and value
- Effective Web presence
- Cutting-edge digitization projects
- Family and school programming
- Special collections care... and more!

http://www.aaslh.org for information on registering and to download the preliminary program with the full list of sessions, speakers, and workshops. Register by August 6 to receive the Early Bird Rate!!

Sessions Include:

- Sept 23 — Getting a Second Wind: Making the Most of Community Outreach
- Sept 24 — Advocacy for History Organizations

President’s Report

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Finally, I would like to welcome two new Board Directors, representing the Big Island is Barbara Moir, Curator of Education and Operations at Lyman Museum and Mission House; and Michael Thomas, Manager, Joseph F. Rock Herbarium, Botany Department, University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa. They both bring experience and knowledge that will move HMA forward.

In the months ahead, we will build on the momentum of these projects and future events. The power lies in our reach into our community and beyond.
Niihou is the quarterly newsletter of the Hawai‘i Museums Association which carries articles of professional interest to HMA members. Submissions to Niihou are welcome, subject to editing, and should be received c/o HMA at the above address by January 20, April 20, July 20, and October 20. Photos and artwork are welcome and encouraged. HMA reserves the right to accept, reject and edit all submissions.