

The Interdisciplinary Certificate of Graduate Study in Museum Studies and the NIU Art Museum threepat at the 2010 Illinois Association of Museums Awards.

NIU's Interdisciplinary Certificate of Graduate Study in Museum Studies continues to receive awards from the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM).

The recognition came at the annual conference of the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM) held Wednesday/Friday, Nov. 3/5, in Naperville, when the organization announced the winners of its 2010 awards for the state's museums.

An IAM Award of Excellence in the Exhibits Category went to the NIU Art Museum for *Coming of Age: The WPA/FAP Graphic Arts Division & the American Print*. The exhibition was the fourth in an ongoing annual collaborative effort between the NIU Art Museum, the NIU Museum Studies Program and Peter Van Ael's ART 656 Museum Exhibitions and Interpretation class. It is also the third year in a row that the Museum Studies/NIU Art Museum exhibition earns an IAM award.

Winners of the Award of Excellence present work of excellent quality that uses available resources well, is creative and meets professional standards. The awards committee indicated it was duly impressed with the exhibit design. Committee members also were pleased with the attention given to exhibition evaluation. The exhibition design and installation afforded several museum studies students valuable hands-on experience.

NIU's Art Museum also received an IAM Award of Merit in the Scholarly Publications Category for the exhibition catalog *Coming of Age: The WPA/FAP Graphic Arts Division & the American Print*. IAM defines the Award of Merit as recognizing a project that makes a significant contribution in its category and meets professional standards.

The exhibition catalog afforded students the opportunity to see their research published. The ambitious publication contains essays by Danielle Barton, David Malhosky, Liz Rex, Michael Rossow, Cherie Tymkiw, Peter Van Ael, Rachel Walters, and Melinda Weaver. Olson Gallery assistant Ashley Klockenga designed the catalog. The awards committee commented on the ambitious scope of the project and the innovative use of an on-demand publisher. The exhibition catalog is available through Blurb.com at:

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1621094>

These awards are the fruit of hard labor and a history of support for the NIU Museum Studies Program by many individuals who have worked tirelessly for years to make our program strong and recognized by the museum profession in the state of Illinois.”

IAM is the independent, non-profit, statewide organization of museums and historical societies. Through its awards, the association celebrates and draws attention to the highest accomplishments within the museum profession in the state of Illinois.