

Joint Press Release:

NIU Museum Studies Graduate Certificate, The Anthropology Museum, The NIU Art Museum, The Jack Olson Gallery

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Museum Profession honors NIU Museums, Gallery, and Museum Studies Certificate of Graduate Study.

Northern Illinois University Museums, Gallery, and Museum Studies Certificate of Graduate Study continue to receive critical acclaim and recognition from the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM).

This year marks the fourth year the association honors a Museum Studies Graduate Student with the Student of the Year Award, and all four years, a student from the NIU Interdisciplinary Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program is the recipient. Michelle Stewart joins 2014 museum studies and MA Art History alumna Alison Bastian, 2013 Museum Studies and MA Anthropology alumna Ashlee Craig, and 2012 Museum Studies / 2015 MFA Metals alumna Agnes Ma.

Michelle Stewart is currently serving a 1-year internship at the Weir Farm National Historic Site in Ridgefield, Connecticut as Centennial Volunteer Ambassador. Allison Bastian is a collections assistant at the Field Museum in Chicago, Ashlee Craig is the Museum Supervisor at the Downers Grove Park District Museum, and Agnes Ma currently serves as curatorial assistant at the Ellwood House Museum in DeKalb.

Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program

The Museum Studies exhibition "Brewing Identity: The Art of Craft Beer" has been recognized with an Award of Merit in the Exhibit category. The reviewers, comprised of museum professionals around the state, liked the uniqueness of the topic and its interpretation in exhibit form. The use of the laser cut

state shapes and the in-house construction of the wall mounts for the objects was a fine use of talent and available resources. The reviewers also appreciated the use of pre and post exhibition evaluation methods which provided valuable feedback for the students to react to and learn from.

The Anthropology Museum

The Anthropology Museum will be recognized with a Gold Award for its 50th Anniversary and with an Award of Excellence for the exhibition *Curated By DeKalb: 50 Years of the Anthropology Museum*.

IAM applauds The Anthropology Museum for opening its collection doors and allowing students, university staff, the community and others to choose the objects and stories to tell. This unique experience gave them a wonderful opportunity to engage firsthand with an institution they may not be all that familiar with or at least the collection. The reviewers also liked that the community curators were trained in object handling which in turn gave them a better perspective on the role and obligation of the museum as caretakers. All were in agreement that this exhibit certainly "inspired university administration to recognize our important role as a bridge between the campus and community."

NIU Art Museum

The Northern Illinois University Art Museum's *Local Visions: Selections from Area Collections*, has been recognized with an Award of Excellence in the Exhibit category.

"The reviewers applaud the concept of engaging the community to share their diverse art collections in a public forum in which the art all told one unified story. The addition of programming such as a field trip to the Conservation Center and Salvage One in Chicago; a lecture and workshop with a visiting artist; and the DeKalb premiere of Chicago's hit "That Belongs in a Museum," an open-mic show-and-tell, further brought the exhibit to life and encouraged visitors to learn more about art through a variety of means."

Jack Olson Gallery

Jack Olson Gallery's "Graffiti Imagery in Contemporary Art" exhibition has been recognized with an Award of Merit in the Printed Materials category. "The reviewers felt the publication was very nicely designed with good font selections and bold, graphics. It was a strong visual statement in tune with a strong subject and one that requires an "assertive" presentation. The reviewers liked the green factor of an on demand printer." The exhibition was co-curated by 2014 NIU Museum Studies and Art History alumna Alison Bastian and Alyssa Yaracz. The exhibition catalog contains essays by the curators as well as interviews with the artists.

The Illinois Association of Museums will present the awards during its Annual Fall Conference, September 24-25, 2015.

Images



Centennial Volunteer Ambassador, Michelle Stewart currently serving a 1-year internship at the Weir Farm National Historic Site in Ridgefield, Connecticut.



Brewing Identity exhibition title wall.



Jennifer Kirker-Priest, Laura McDowell Hopper, and student volunteers for *Curated By DeKalb: 50 Years of the Anthropology Museum*.



Co-curators Peter Olson and Michael Bennett give a Curator's Tour during *Local Visions: Selections from Area Collections*.