

## MCI Weekly Highlight – 18 June 2010

**Fellows and Interns** are an important part of the Museum Conservation Institute's (MCI) professional training mission. Each year the conservation and scientific research programs at MCI host many fellows and interns. Whether they are at the Smithsonian for a few weeks or a few years, these fellows and interns significantly increase research and conservation treatment productivity.



- For the third year, MCI has hosted a one-day symposium the **Annual SI-Conservation Conference**; on 10 June 2010. The conference, sponsored by the Smithsonian Conservation community, features fellows and advanced interns in conservation and conservation science from around the Smithsonian presenting their research topics and preliminary results. This year's conference had eight presentations from six Smithsonian museums or research centers, with topics ranging from the conservation of the letterpress copying books of Spencer Fullerton Baird to studies of pre-Columbian gold from Panama. Keynote speaker Catherine Harris, Director of the Office of Fellowships (OF), opened the conference with a warm welcome to the fellows and interns. During Ms. Harris's career at OF, we estimate that half the practicing conservators in the United States have benefited from an internship or fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution.
- This summer MCI is hosting nine interns working on a range of topics under the supervision of both conservators and scientists. The interns include **Stephanie Spence** working with textile conservator Mary Ballard; **Genevieve Bieniosek** with objects conservator Carol Grissom; **Rebecca Giesecking**, and **Laurie King** with paintings conservator Jia-sun Tsang; **Elizabeth Keats Webb** with conservator Melvin Wachowiak; **Sara Mills** with scientist Christine France; **Naoko Araki** and **Ben Martinez** with research scientist Mehdi Moini; and, **Amy Marquardt** with research scientist Ed Vicenzi. Projects range from treatment of shoes and hats in the Black Fashion Museum collection at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) to analytical study of bronze patinas. For the summer program 109 applications were initiated and 39 completed; from this group, the nine interns were selected.
- This year MCI has hosted nine fellows, two year-long interns, 12 short-term interns (including the summer interns above), three research associates and four volunteers.
- External funding sources include the **Samuel H. Kress Foundation** (two), the **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation** (two), and a **Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship** (to Javier Iñáñez); Smithsonian funding sources include a Scholarly Studies grant for the study of Panamanian goldwork, NMAAHC funding for training in textile conservation on the Black Fashion Museum collection, and internal funds. One intern, Amy Marquardt working with Ed Vicenzi, is part of a joint collaboration between the Smithsonian and the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP).
- The **Smithsonian Postgraduate Fellowships in Conservation of Museum Collections** program had a total of 24 applications for which MCI staff members were listed as primary advisors or co-advisors and four applicants for which MCI staff members were listed as consultants. **Smithsonian Fellowships in Anthropology** received nine applications and the new **Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Area of Stable Isotope Biogeochemistry** received four applications in which MCI staff members were listed as primary advisors, co-advisors or consultants.