

Indiana Medical History Museum

Fall 2011 Newsletter

Busy Fall Season at IMHM

7th Annual Wizards Academy

Registration is now open for the Indiana Medical History Museum's 7th Annual Wizards Academy on Sunday, October 23, 2011 from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Your children can visit with wondrous creatures from Animalia, Inc. and explore the science behind your favorite boy wizard's magical world through hands-on experiments! Parents will be educated and entertained by Michael Cohen, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Science and Environmental Education at IUPUI.



Tickets are \$6 per child and \$4 per parent. Family packages are also available. For more information or to register, please visit our website at www.imhm.org/registration or call 317-635-7329.

Fall Forensics Lecture

This year's fall installment of the Forensic Science Lecture Series (FSLs) will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 4:00pm. This program is free and open to the public. Dr. John Langdon, Professor of Biology and Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Indianapolis will dis-

cuss *Reflections on Life and Death in 19th Century Indiana*.

Cemeteries and documents permit us to reconstruct the facts of life (and death)

for pioneer families and their descendants. Franklin County, Indiana, for example, was settled by a very fertile, mobile population from the eastern states combined with a wave of German immigrants. This resulted in a rural society with low population growth that enables us to observe how social modernization interacted with birth, disease, and death.

The Forensic Science Lecture Series is sponsored jointly by the Indiana Medical History Museum and the University of Indianapolis Archaeology & Forensics Laboratory. FSLs was established in 2004 to help educate the public about forensic science and related fields as well as to spotlight the fascinating stories that scientists have to tell.

Spirit & Place Festival

IMHM is partnering with the IUPUI Medical Humanities Program this year for the Spirit & Place Festival event *Imaging and Imagining the Body* on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. This



Dr. John Langdon

interactive program explores two closely related themes: the ways that medicine's view of the body has changed over time and how we need to view the body today if we are to achieve optimal health. Radiologist and humanist Richard Gunderman, MD and PhD will introduce participants to the fascinating story of medical imaging. Thanks to imaging technologies such as x-ray, ultrasound, and MRI, physicians can peer into the living human body without cutting it open, diagnosing disease and delivering therapy. He will discuss how such innovations have changed the way we see the body and how they have transformed the practice of medicine.

Anthropologist Heather Wood Ion will discuss how the rest of us tend to think about the body and its diseases today and how these views sometimes undercut the level of health we achieve. She will outline a new way of thinking about the body, one with the potential to produce an epidemic of health in our community.

Also visit the Indiana Medical History Museum's exhibit on historical perceptions of death and the body from medical, economic, and social perspectives.



For more information on these or other upcoming events at IMHM please visit our website at www.imhm.org/events.

News

New Tour Times Starting September 1, 2011

Tour Times	
10:00am	<p>With more and more visitors coming to the Indiana Medical History Museum, we are always looking for ways to improve our guests' experiences as they tour our Old Pathology Building and the Doctor's Office. As in the past, all indoor visits will be by guided tour lasting one hour. In order to better tell the unique story of our 1896 building and further explore topics in the history of the healing arts in Indiana, IMHM will introduce new tour times as follows.</p> <p>For Drop-in Visitors: The museum will remain open Thursdays through Saturdays. Beginning on September 1, 2011, tours will start every 30 minutes. The first tour will begin at 10:00am and the last tour will begin at 3:00pm.</p> <p>For Group Tours: As in the past, we will require advanced reservations for any group of 10 or more people. To schedule a group tour for Wednesday through Saturday between 10:00am and 3:00pm, please e-mail education@imhm.org or call (317) 635-7329.</p> <p>Medicinal Plant Garden: From June through September, the museum will continue to offer guided tours of its popular outdoor garden on Saturdays at 11:00am. At all other times during the growing season, the garden, with its informative signage, is available for visitation at your leisure during regular museum hours.</p>
10:30am	
11:00am	
11:30am	
12:00pm	
12:30pm	
1:00pm	
1:30pm	
2:00pm	
2:30pm	
3:00pm	

How Can You Help?

We are looking for new volunteers to join our fun and fabulous group! Whether you love history, medicine, architecture, or science, you'll find something to love about your volunteer experience here at the Indiana Medical History Museum! It's a great way to meet new and interesting people, learn new things about the history of medicine in Indiana, work with our unique collection, and help us deliver educational and entertaining experiences that our visitors will never forget in the oldest remaining pathology building in the country!

We are looking for new people to catalog artifacts and books, and give tours or greet visitors waiting for the next tour to begin. Our operating hours are Wednesday (by appt.) through Saturday from 10am to 4pm. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Indiana Medical History Museum, please visit our website at www.imhm.org/volunteerapp to fill out an application, e-mail Norma Erickson at imhmvolunteers@imhm.org, or call the museum at (317) 635-7329.

Volunteer Spotlight: Leah McConaghy

We recently interviewed Leah McConaghy, a volunteer librarian and docent at the museum. Here is what she had to say about volunteering at the Indiana Medical History Museum.

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*Five years ago, I was new to Indianapolis. Home in Wisconsin seemed very far away, as did my son there and my daughter in Tennessee. I had grown up in Terre Haute many years ago, but that was a long time ago, and I was eager to find new ways to belong. Before long I read an article in the Star about this unusual museum of medical history, and I wanted to learn more.*

**How were you first introduced to the Indiana Medical History Museum and why did you choose to become a volunteer?**

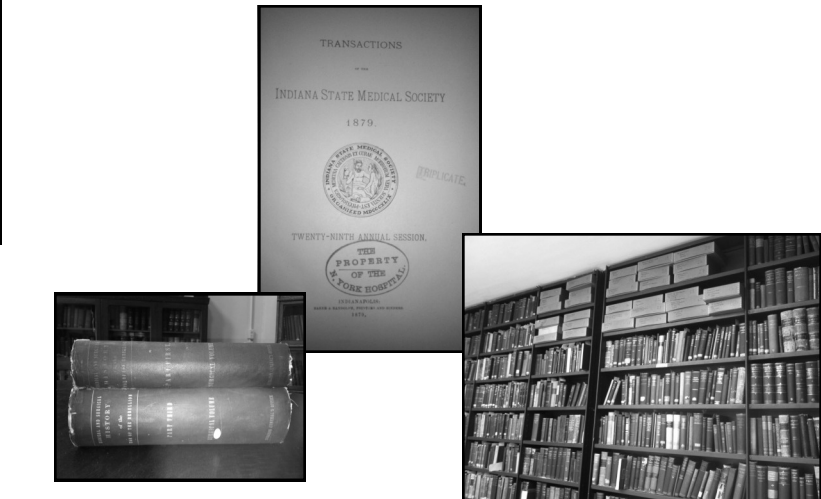
*I had recently moved here from Wisconsin when I saw an article about the museum in the Star. At the same time, [museum staff member], Jerry Wheeler, ran an online ad for volunteers in the Indianapolis Not-For-Profit News. He asked for people interested in research in historical items and for docents who would enjoy guiding visitors through the building. I had spent 15 years teaching social studies to teenagers and was intrigued by both.*

**What is your favorite room, artifact or historical theme in the building?**

*I work in both roles, probably most often as a docent. It's great fun to see and hear peoples' reactions to the history that has been preserved. But I think I enjoy even more learning about the ongoing work of continuing that preservation. It's a pleasure to know the people dedicated to this work and to do what I can to help with the process. My focus is the Auxiliary Library in which we store books that have been donated to the museum. There I see things like medical notes from medical school from early years and catalogs of many instruments. These volumes are used for background information on new acquisitions, and I find their organization fascinating.*



Volunteer Leah McConaghy works to organize and catalog the library collection.



# Research

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## History Has Changed!

By Norma Erickson

History has not changed, but the subjects and themes historians study seem much different than history I recall from high school. It seemed we read about war after war after war. In the short periods between wars, there was discussion of economic history—depression, recession, or panic—or science history with lists of discoveries, inventions, and “the first this” and “the first that.”

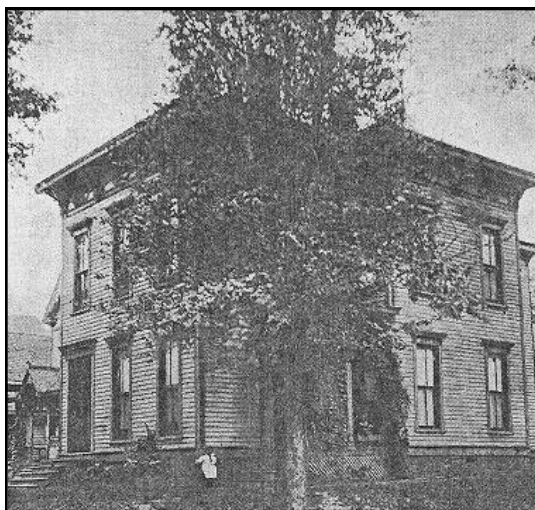
As an academic “late bloomer” in graduate school, I know that today historians emphasize other important influences on American history. By studying the effect of gender, class, and race on the history of the American experience, we gain a more complete understanding of ourselves as a community or even as a nation. I learned how this works when I decided to investigate a story briefly mentioned in a biography of Carl Fisher, an important person in Indianapolis’ history. I found a relatively untouched area to research.

Fisher’s major accomplishments are well documented. He developed Miami Beach, spearheaded the building of the Lincoln Highway, and created the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. But a 1909 incident involving an injured black laborer at the Speedway and a local hospital that refused to treat the dying man, took me beyond the main reasons for Fisher’s fame to discover a person who took a personal interest in the health, education, and wellbeing of African Americans. Along the way, I learned a great deal about healthcare for blacks in Indianapolis at the beginning of the twentieth century. Chiefly, I learned that there was not a great deal of it.

In 1909, there were nineteen black physicians in Indianapolis. One hospital (City Hospital) accepted black patients, but black physicians were not allowed to practice there. The doctor turned the care and treatment of his patient over to a white physician. In June of that year, a group of Indianapolis’ African American practitioners took a step to honor a patient’s right to choose a doctor and a physician’s right to treat patients in a modern facility. They formed an association with the goal of founding a hospital where they could attend to their own patients. The Lincoln Hospital opened on December 16, 1909 in an already existing structure that could accommodate seventeen patients on the corner of 11th and Senate. A donation by Carl Fisher paid for a new addition that housed a surgical suite. Any reputable physician could admit patients there.

Sparse documentation of the activities of the Lincoln Hospital exists. The Indiana Historical Society’s collection holds only the first annual report, published in 1911. For that reason, some historians state the hospital lasted only one year. New research challenges that claim, as newspaper accounts of incidents and death notices show that it operated until at least December of 1914.

By studying the Lincoln Hospital, we can look closer at African American life in Indianapolis at the turn of the twentieth century. While historians have documented racial and ethnic segregation in the city at that time, tracking the response of the black community to these practices in specific areas—healthcare, for example—needs more work.



Lincoln Hospital, established in 1909 for black physicians to treat their patients, stood at the corner of 11th Street and Senate Avenue.

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## Roll Up for the Medical History Tour – Step Right This Way

By Lois Naughton Allis

The first time I stepped into the Indiana Medical History Museum almost two years ago as a new graduate student, a sense of intrigue overcame me. Stories seemed to fill the air, and the desire to find and tell them began to crystallize. Fortunately, last September I received a research internship at the Museum for the 2010-2011 academic year. Finally – a chance to explore the building’s secrets!

The Museum’s Director, Mary Ellen Nottage, and I wandered through the century-old rooms as we discussed stories that would benefit museum patrons. We determined that my research should focus on the daily routine of hospital physicians and medical students who worked and studied there when the facility first opened in 1896. The goal is to produce a tour for medical students -- or anyone with an interest in the field of medicine -- that will illustrate the methods of learning, coursework, and research conducted circa 1900 and to allow better comparisons with today’s more advanced technology.

My initial research results puzzled me. While one of the stated purposes for building the facility was the education of medical students and working physicians, no record of teaching in the building emerged until the 20th century began. The journey for answers led me from Annual Reports of Central State Hospital and the Pathology Department to studies of nineteenth century medical history and student records and faculty meeting minutes of the nineteenth century proprietary medical schools that operated in Indianapolis.

In addition to the excellent resources at the Medical History Museum, I’ve utilized original records found in the Indiana State, Ruth Lilly and University Library archives, at the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indiana State Library. The tour will include a PowerPoint Presentation and specific information on each room in the building culled from the various resources. For example, while in the Bacteriology Laboratory, we will discuss a research project conducted in 1901 for the purpose of examining the dysentery problems which plagued the hospital patients. During the research process, answers found always led me to further questions. Thus, in addition to the Museum tour, I began research on the facility for my Master’s Thesis in Public History. Even the ‘completed’ new tour will not be a finished product because more information will be periodically added as it becomes available. The building and its stories continue to fascinate me, and hopefully, the medical history tour will add a new dimension of understanding for our future visitors.

**Stay tuned for more...**



Lois Allis is one of our 2010-2011 Graduate interns from the Public History Program at IUPUI.

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Return Service Requested

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Director of Public Programs:  
Sarah Cole Halter

Officers, Board of Directors  
President: Jeffrey Kellams, MD  
Vice President: Guy Hansen  
Secretary: Missy Lewis  
Treasurer: Steven K. Stucky, CPA

Museum Hours  
Wednesday - By appointment only  
Thursday-Saturday - 10am - 4pm; last  
tour starts at 3pm

Website: [www.imhm.org](http://www.imhm.org)  
Email: [Edenharter@imhm.org](mailto:Edenharter@imhm.org)  
Telephone: 317-635-7329

## *Upcoming Events...*

Wednesday, October 26, 2011 4-5:15pm

### **Fall Forensic Science Lecture**

*Reflections on Life and Death in 19th Century Indiana*  
presented by Dr. John Langdon of the University of Indianapolis

Sunday, October 23, 2011 2-4pm

### **7th Annual Wizards Academy**

Cost: \$6 for children; \$4 for parents  
Register at [www.imhm.org/registration](http://www.imhm.org/registration)

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 6-8:30pm

**Imaging and Imagining the Body**, part of the Spirit & Place Festival  
Presented by the Indiana Medical History Museum and  
the IUPUI Medical Humanities Program

Saturday, December 17, 2011 10am-3pm

### **Annual Christmas Open House**

Here's your opportunity to browse the Old Pathology Building  
and the 1950s Doctor's Office and speak with  
museum staff and volunteers for FREE!