Explore Maya Cosmology through Visits to the Hudson Museum and The Emera Astronomy Center

The Emera Astronomy Center houses Maine’s largest planetarium and features the state’s only digital full-dome facility, with a 10-meter dome and seating for 50. In addition to the planetarium, the center has a multipurpose room for hands-on activities, a gift shop with a variety of educational items, and two observatories.

Fieldtrips are tailored to school curriculum and public programs engage the whole family. From traveling through the solar system to exploring chemical elements and inside the human body, the planetarium provides children and adults with an inspirational educational experience.

For information or to schedule a field trip, visit astro.umaine.edu or call 207.581.1341.

T his spring, the Emera Astronomy Center will be featuring a new star show, Mayan Archaeoastronomy: Observers of the Universe and the Hudson Museum will feature its Maya holdings for a special Maya tour for students in grades 5 and up.

Among the collections of the Hudson Museum are an extraordinary assemblage of Maya artifacts that feature cosmic imagery. Works in the Hudson Museum’s collections include images of Balam, the jaguar’s whose spots are stars and the ciba tree which is the symbol of the universe. The tree’s roots extend into the Underworld, represented by bats, the trunk represents the world where the Maya live. The branches symbolize the thirteen levels of the heaven. On artifacts, feathered serpents depict the god of wind, sky and sun. Look for Chac, the god of rain—all important in ensuring a successful harvest and the perpetuation of life; the Sun God brings light and the Moon Goddess brings fertility to the world. Images of rulers adorn many of the works at the Hudson. Court rituals, including musicians, warriors and priests are depicted on Maya cylinder vases. Their world revolved around a complex calendar which features a 365-day solar year, a 260- day sacred calendar and twenty day names with the same date occurring once every 52 years—a Maya century.

In conjunction with a visit to the Hudson Museum, students may attend a star show at the Emera Astronomy Center. Mayan Archaeoastronomy: Observers of the Universe. Using spectacular visuals and stunning sound, audiences tour six ancient Mayan temples: San Gervasio, Chichen Itzá, Uxmal, Edzna, Palenque, and Bonampak. Along the way they dive into Mayan knowledge of the sky exploring the movement of the Sun, the Moon and Venus. Find Balam the Jaguar constellation and explore how the Mayans’ created a calendar more accurate than the one we use in modern times. Journey back in time to explore how Through this show, students will learn how the Maya used the sky to understand their world and their place in it.

Inside this issue
Archaeology Day, March 29, 2018, p.4
Education news from the Hudson Museum

Hello again! Over the course of the fall I have had the extreme pleasure of meeting many of you and your students here at the Hudson Museum and I am looking forward to meeting more of you as we move into 2018.

In the Fall newsletter, I wrote about how my doctoral research allowed me to provide context for our collections, giving your students a greater understanding of the objects on display. What I was not expecting was how your students would ask questions and provide feedback during tours and activities that would expand my understanding and thinking about our collections and exhibits. It has been such fun interacting with them! Please keep the tours coming!

We are incredibly excited about our MARCH. Over the past three years, this event has been my introduction to bringing this fascinating field to middle school students and I am looking forward to continue to be, significant elements in the classroom exhibits.

**Hudson Museum Gallery Programs**

Hudson Museum offers guided tours and gallery programs for elementary and secondary school groups, as well as programs for university students and learners of all ages. Additionally, it offers programs that support state-mandated educational initiatives. Fees for programs are $2 per student.

**All groups visiting the museum must call in advance to confirm space and schedule availability. To arrange a visit, call 581.1906.**

**Bus Information:** Buses should arrive on campus at least 10 minutes before the tour time. Notice is given to the person in charge of transportation for the school that buses should enter campus at Rangeley Road off Route 2 and park in the Belgrade Lot. Students will not be allowed to be discharged except in Belgrade Lot.

**Maine Indians Program**

Learn about the material culture of Maine’s four tribes, focusing on birch bark work, basketry and decorative traditions. Listen to a traditional Penobscot tale, play Wolecules, a Northeastern bowl and dice game; watch artists gather and prepare materials and make art forms; and make a bookmark or traditional container.

**Prehispanic Cultures of Mesoamerica**

Learn about the civilizations that flourished in Mesoamerica before 1492, through the museum’s artifacts from the William P. Palmer III Collection. From Olmec to Aztecs, this collection is unraveled in the region and provides students with the opportunity to experience rich cultural traditions.

**World Cultures**

Learn how cultures around the world are similar and different, how they solve basic issues and how their environments impact their solutions.

**Explore Archaeology**

Excavate the only indoor archaeological site in Maine in the comfort of the Hudson Museum. In the museum’s Arch Box, students learn about techniques that archaeologists use to understand the past. They’ll record and identify artifacts, map their locations, understand their context and determine what types of activities took place at the site. This is designed for 8 to 10 students and requires at least an hour. Appropriate for students in grades 3 and above.

**Hudson Museum Classroom Exhibits**

Resource-rich classroom exhibits from the Hudson Museum of all ages; ignite the study of fine arts, language arts and social studies through mini-exhibits, cultural artifacts and resource materials. For a rental fee, classroom exhibits are available for two-week loan periods. The fee includes one-way shipping. Borrowers are responsible for return UPS shipping expenses. To book these exhibits, call 581.1906.

Exhibits include:

- **Cedar and Sea**
  Based on the museum’s former exhibit, “Cedar and Sea: Peoples of the Northwest Coast,” this kit includes a three-panel display highlighting the environment, traditions and people of the Native Northwest, from Washington state to Alaska. Educational materials include videos, books, games and activities that illustrate traditional life. A teacher’s manual is included. It has background information, an explanation of materials, lesson extension ideas and information on how it helps meet the Maine State Learning Results. Fee: $35

- **People of the Dawn: Past and Present**
  Native peoples in Maine were, and continue to be, significant elements in the state’s multicultural population. The display panels showcase drawings, as well as historic and contemporary photographs, that illustrate life from A.D. 1680 to the present. The exhibit includes hands-on materials, examples of Maine Indian basketry, birchbark work and other art forms, reference books, videos and tapes. Fee: $45

- **Three Arctic Visits**
  Based on the museum’s former exhibit, “Arctic Visits: Three Journeys of Discovery to Native Communities,” this kit includes a three-panel mini-exhibit and a wide range of educational materials. There are a library of Arctic books appropriate for school use, videos and hands-on materials, including an inukshuk kit. A notebook of projects and resource materials to meet Maine State Learning Results goals is included for educators. Fee: $45

**Penobscot Images: Early 20th-Century Photographs by Frank G. Speck**

Anthropologist Frank Speck studied Native North Americans and his photography collections document the lifeways of Penobscot people in the early 20th century. This exhibit consists of 13 black-and-white photographs. Fee: $25

**In Beauty and Harmony: The Navajo and Their Textiles**

This exhibit showcases Navajo weaving and material about other aspects of Navajo culture and traditions. Books, videos and reference materials, as well as Navajo textiles and weaving tools, are included. Fee: $45

**The Maya**

The Classic Period of ancient Maya civilization saw the establishment of extensive settlements and the development of astronomy, art, architecture and writing. Artifacts include a dance mask, textiles and weaving tools, are included. Fee: $45

**Seeds of Change**

This exhibit, based on the original Smithsonian exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of European contact with the New World, includes 50 posters detailing consequences of contact. A video and resource materials are included. Fee: $35

**Charles C. Mann Lecture**

Tuesday, March 27 at 7 p.m.

Hutchins Hall, Collins Center for the Arts

Charles C. Mann is the author of 1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus, which won the U.S. National Academy of Sciences’ Keck Award for best book of the year and 1493: Uncovering the World That Columbus Created, a New York Times bestseller. 1497 combines science, history, and archaeology to radically transform our understanding of the Americas before European contact. Mann challenges the view that the New World was sparsely populated and technologically undeveloped. The civilizations of Mesoamerica lived in cities larger in population and scale than those of Europe; had running water and sewage systems, and genetically modified corn to improve yields as well as create species that thrived in a variety of ecosystems. 1493 looks at the aftermath of exchange—plants, animals and microbes—and the impact of contact on Europe, China and Africa. New crops, like the potato and corn, travelled to fields around the world and allowed for rapid population increase. In some cases, dependence on this new crop as a staple resulted in famines, such as the Irish potato famine. Mann’s works are thought provoking and inform not just the past, but the future. Mann’s books 1491; 1493 and his latest book, The Wizard and the Prophet (2018) will be available for sale and autographing following the lecture.
4th Annual Archaeology Day
Thursday, March 29, 2018. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

The Hudson Museum in collaboration with the Anthropology Department will host an Archaeology Day on Wednesday, March 28th. During their visit to campus, students will rotate through 4 stations, which will be located in either the Collins Center for the Arts, home to the Hudson Museum or in South Stevens Hall, home to the Anthropology Department. Due to overwhelming interest last year, we are happy to announce we have expanded our event to accommodate more participants! Students will rotate through 4 stations in one of two available programs: Archaeological Objects and Images or Archaeology: Field and Lab. We will try to honor requests for a specific program on a first-come, first-served basis as long as space allows, so register early!

To attend, you must preregister by calling 581-1904. The program is limited to 200 Middle School students in 8 groups of 25 each.

New Field Trip Funds for UMaine Museums

Minsky Field Trip Fund for the Hudson Museum

The Minsky family is generously sponsoring a field trip fund, which will provide support for elementary and secondary school groups of 20 or more students, coming for guided tours and programs at the Hudson Museum. Grants are for $150 and are reimbursements for travel expenses and/or tour fees.

Funds will support museum field trips for schools in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington, Waldo, Hancock and Aroostook counties. Applications are available online (umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum).

Ploch Family Field Trip Fund for the Page Farm and Home Museum

The Ploch family, in memory of early museum volunteer Lou Ploch, is providing grant funding to support field trip experiences for elementary and secondary school groups in southern Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, Washington and Hancock counties, visiting the Page Farm and Home Museum.

Schools are eligible to receive funding to offset field trip costs, including transportation and museum program fees. Grant awards are for up to $100 and are for the current academic year. To obtain an application, or for more information, visit umaine.edu/pagefarm or call 581.4100.

Collins Center for the Arts
Student pricing and group discounts of 15 percent for parties of eight or more on select shows. For more information, visit collinscenterforthearts.com or call 581.1755.

Erth’s Dinosaur Zoo Live
Sunday, March 4, 3 p.m.

Tour Prehistoric Australia, where you will meet and interact with amazingly life-like dinosaurs and other creatures. This theatrical performance will thrill and entertain kids, while stimulating their imaginations. Special ticket price of $14 for K-12 students

Goiote
Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m.

This popular and award-winning quintet has made a name for themselves as one of the most sought after bands playing Irish traditional music. Special ticket price of $10 for K-12 students

Steep Canyon Rangers
Saturday, April 21, 8 p.m.

Steep Canyon Rangers is an American bluegrass band that is widely known for collaborating with actor/banjoist Steve Martin. The group won a 2013 Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album for Nobody Knows You. Special ticket price of $10 for K-12 students

Young People’s Concert
Monday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.

The Bangor Symphony Orchestra invites students in grades three through eight to attend this year’s annual youth concerts at the Collins Center for the Arts. The hour-long education and music program is supplemented with an instructional packet for students and teachers providing information about the orchestra and the selections that will be featured. Concerts are open to public, private, and homeschooled children. Tickets are $5 each for students and teachers.
The Page Farm and Home Museum at the University of Maine is the steward of one of the state’s most important collections representing 19th and 20th century rural life. From farming equipment and implements illustrating agricultural methods and technologies, to a stunning collection of decorative objects, art and furniture adorning Maine homesteads, the Page Museum vividly illustrates Maine’s agrarian roots and family life. In addition to its collections, the museum’s comprehensive and engaging educational and experiential learning programs offer scholars an accurate view of the state’s industry, agriculture, economy, decorative arts and homelife from the period.

Field trip experiences cost $2 per person, with one free chaperone accompanying every 10 students. Book two weeks in advance by calling 581.4100.

The Folk on the Farm — Tour the White Farm Barn, including the kitchen, parlor, bedroom, general store and folk art exhibitions. This program illustrates the roles individual members played within the family and includes examinations of division of labor by gender, family traditions, seasonal practices, cultural values, food and clothing trends. Students gain a deeper understanding of the differences in the day-to-day family life of a pre-World War II family and family life today.

Do and Discover — Students embark on an exciting journey of discovery throughout the museum, drawing on clues to locate exhibitions and access information on key concepts involving the artifacts and folkways presented. Working together, students accomplish tasks and communicate their interpretations of the exhibitions. Challenge activities are now included.

Simple Machines — Pulley, wheel, inclined plane, screw, wedge and lever. Tour simple machines in the home and on the farm before the advent of electricity. Students use artifacts to demonstrate how simple machines functioned to make life easier.

School Days, School Days, Dear Old Golden Rule Days — Seasonally, students visit the former Holden South District schoolhouse and learn what it was like to attend a one-room schoolhouse in 1867. The day includes morning and afternoon lessons, recess and recitations.

Fiber Maine-ia Outreach kit — Fiber Maine-ia is available to teachers for classroom use for up to two weeks. The kit offers lessons and materials to support investigation of fiber farming and textile techniques for braiding, handspinning, weaving, felting and other arts applications essential to Maine’s vibrant cultural influences that shaped tools and technologies, to a stunning collection of farming equipment and implements illustrating agricultural methods and technologies, to a stunning collection of decorative objects, art and furniture adorning Maine homesteads, the Page Museum vividly illustrates Maine’s agrarian roots and family life. In addition to its collections, the museum’s comprehensive and engaging educational and experiential learning programs offer scholars an accurate view of the state’s industry, agriculture, economy, decorative arts and homelife from the period.

Fiber Maine-ia Outreach kit —

(continued)