

The Department of Anthropology and Sociology houses the Old Library Atrium Museum, a teaching museum currently under the direction of Dr. Michael A. Di Giovine. Along with the exhibition spaces in the Francis Harvey Green Library and Special Collections, the Old Library Atrium Museum is part of the West Chester University Museums and Special Archives (WCUMSA), whose goals are to further the research and exhibition of West Chester University collections, including archival and artifactual material, as well as to promote museological instruction. The Old Library Atrium Museum is a teaching museum that provides students with hands-on curatorial instruction. The department's array of museum studies, archaeology, heritage and tourism courses provide a solid theoretical foundation on the role that objects and exhibitions play in not only educating, but also fostering a sense of identity among visitors. The Old Library Atrium Museum acts as a working laboratory in which students, under faculty guidance, take part in all aspects of creating a museum exhibition from start to finish—from examining objects in a collection to constructing a museological narrative, from aesthetically arranging artifacts to writing exhibit labels and other interpretive markers. Past exhibits have utilized the department's rich archaeological and ethnographic collections spanning diverse time periods, as well as private collections, and frequently involves collaboration with faculty experts across disciplines and departments at West Chester University. They have addressed topics such as Native American culture, The Silk Road, foodways, enculturation through children's toys, and human rights. Faculty across disciplines are encouraged to utilize these exhibits in their classroom instruction.

## Past Exhibits

*Exhibits curated by Heather Wholey (2007–2012) and Michael A. Di Giovine (2014–present)*

- 2007 The Lenape Gamwing Ceremony: A Window into the Delaware Big House Rite
- 2008 History Recycled: The Journey of the Blue Ball (Tavern)
- 2009 Archaeology of Early Quakers in Southeastern Pennsylvania: The Robert Pyle Site
- 2010 Indigenous Andean Hats and Headdresses: The Edmundo Morales Collection
- 2011 Material Culture of the American Indian: The Carlton Thomas Collection
- 2012 Bridging Asia: Trade and Culture in the Indian Ocean
- 2014 Enculturation: Learning Our Cultural Identity as Children
- 2016 Feasting and Foodways: Creating Community through Time in the Southeastern Delaware Valley
- 2017 The Struggle for Human Rights in Latin America