Idaho Museum of Natural History

Director: Dr. Leif Tapanila

Mission Statement

The mission of the Idaho Museum of Natural History is to acquire, preserve, study, interpret, and display objects relating to the natural history of Idaho and the Northern Intermountain West for research and education. The Museum seeks to enhance in the citizens of Idaho and visitors an understanding of Idaho’s natural and cultural heritage. Specific areas of interest encompass the anthropology, botany, geology, paleontology, and zoology of Idaho and the Northern Intermountain West. Audiences served include citizens of Idaho, visitors, and the national and international community of students and scholars. Information is disseminated through exhibitions, public and professional presentations, publications, formal and informal education, telecommunications, and other interpretive programs.

Curators in Anthropology, Earth Science and Life Science lead national and international research. Our active research profile supports acquisition and use of collections for all areas of natural history research and education. ISU faculty and students have access to Museum collections for instruction, training, and graduate theses and dissertations.

Our Public Programs Division develops and implements programs and exhibitions on a wide range of science topics, emphasizing current Museum research and environmental and ecological themes. These programs are both university level and for K-12 education.

The Museum offers undergraduate and graduate students educational credits under the Museum subject code and through courses in Anthropology, Biology, Education, Geosciences, History, and other affiliate Idaho State University departments. See Museum course descriptions (http://coursecat.isu.edu/previouscatalogs/2018-19/undergraduate/allcourses/muse) in the All Courses section of the catalog.

For more information, please visit the Idaho Museum of Natural History’s website at: imnh.isu.edu.

Faculty

Director

Tapanila, Leif,* Director and Earth Sciences Division Head, Idaho Museum of Natural History; Professor, Geosciences. Honors B.Sc. 1999, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada; M.S. 2000, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada; Ph.D. 2005, University of Utah. (2005)

Research Curator

Dr. Leif Tapanila, Earth Science Division


Williams, Charles F. (Rick),* Research Curator, Ray J. Davis Herbarium and Life Science Division Head, Idaho Museum of Natural History; Associate Professor, Biological Sciences. B.S. 1979, University of Oklahoma; M.S. 1985, University of Miami; Ph.D. 1991, University of Wisconsin, Madison. (1999)

Professors Emeriti

Akersten, William A., Associate Professor, Biological Sciences and Geosciences; Curator, Vertebrate Paleontology, Idaho Museum of Natural History. 1985-2009

Holte, Karl E., Professor, Botany; Curator, Museum. 1965-1997

Trost, Charles H., Professor, Biological Sciences; Curator, Museum. 1968-2000

Museum Staff

Faith Tan, Gallery Manager and Administrative Assistant to the Director

Lindy Warden, Financial Technician

Curt Schnitz, Registrar

Amber Tews, Anthropology Collections Manager

Amy Commendador-Dudgeon, Earl R. Swanson Archaeological Repository Manager

Janet Bala, Life Sciences & Ray J. Davis Herbarium Collections Manager

Dr. Mary Thompson, Earth Science Senior Collections Manager

Idaho Virtualization Laboratory

Dr. Leif Tapanila, Director

Robert Schlader, Manager

Nicholas Clement, Assistant Manager

Jesse Pruitt, Technical Specialist

Courses

MUSE 4411 Introduction to Museum Studies: 2 semester hours. History, philosophy, purposes, organization and administration of museums. Practical work in collections management and museum interpretation. D

MUSE 4412 Advanced Topics in Museum Studies: 3 semester hours. Study and analysis of selected, varying advanced topics in museum studies. Emerging issues in museum professional practice. Students will explore the chosen topics through current research, theory, and best practice in museums. Potential topics include: conservation and preservation, documentation, funding sources, legal and ethical issues, security, standards, education, or technology. May be repeated with different content for a total of 6 credits. PREREQ: MUSE 4411. F, S, Su

MUSE 4450 Independent Study in Museum Methods: 1-3 semester hours. Individual projects based on student's background and interests. Could include, but not limited to, advanced work in collections management, exhibit design and construction, museum education, or administration. May be repeated up to 6 credits. PREREQ: MUSE 4411 or permission of instructor. D
MUSE 4451 Internship in Museum Studies: 3-6 semester hours.
Supervised internship in museum studies where students work with faculty and museum staff on a specific set of museum activities. The internship potential encompasses, but is not limited to: practica in anthropology/archaeology, paleontology, geology, biology, and education. The internship would include investigation of best practice in museum documentation, collections care, archival care, database development, conservation of objects, educational practice in the museum setting, exhibition practice in museum setting, and the development of specific faculty and student-selected practicum experiences. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits. F, S, Su

MUSE 4460 Museum Field Research: 3-6 semester hours.
Supervised fieldwork in museum field studies in a given museum research field setting where students and faculty work on a specific set of field problems. Research potential encompasses, but is not limited to: field research in anthropology, at specific archaeological, paleontological, geological, or biological sites, or in an interdisciplinary field setting. May also include investigation of best practice in museum documentation, collections care, archival care, database development, conservation of objects, education in the museum setting, exhibition practice in museum setting, and research into specific faculty and student-selected research topics. May be repeated with different content for a total of 12 credits. PREREQ: Permission of instructor. F, S, Su

MUSE 4499 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
This course is not described in the catalog. The course title and number of credits are announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times.