MAST Alum Rob Hadaway
Creative Director of Duluth Children’s Museum

Rob Hadaway, a MAST graduate (summer of 2015,) is the creative director of the Duluth Children's Museum in Duluth Minnesota. Rob's long history working with children as a clown for Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus, and for the Big Apple Circus’ Clown Care Unit at Children’s Health Care of Atlanta, along with his Masters degree in American Studies, makes this position a perfect match! The Duluth Children's Museum is the fifth oldest children's museum in the country and unlike most children's museums today it is a collection-based museum. When the founder and original collector of the Chisholm Museum in Duluth passed, she willed the collection to become a children's museum. The museum in Duluth tries to balance the curation of the large collection within the public's expectations of play, education and fun. Rob is leading the museum to display more of the collection in an interactive play-centric manner and encouraging the current staff at the museum to focus on regional exhibits and learning through local cultural organizations, artist, universities and historical societies.

In September, the museum received a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council to host an artist to build a permanent installation for the museum. At the helm, Rob worked with local multi-media artist Mary Plaster, who constructed a 13-foot Monarch Butterfly puppet to be used in parades and other events. When not in use, it will be presented on display in the museum. To complement the art project, educational programming included sessions on the lifecycle of the Monarch, which migrates from Minnesota to Mexico every year, the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations in which the Monarch plays a pivotal role, puppet making and construction among others. Rob directed a puppet show using child puppeteers, manipulating Plaster’s larger than life puppets and the children participated in Duluth’s version of Dia de los Muertos, the “All Souls Night Parade.”

Rob is currently working with the University of Minnesota-Duluth’s Department of Native American Studies, along with educators and leaders of the Ojibwa tribe (Chippewa) in Northern Minnesota, to present a permanent exhibit for the museum, that an immersive experience in the Ojibwa language using a birch bark waginogan (wigwam), with traditional Ojibwa games and stories told thru Ojibwa language and animation. This exhibit will hopefully be completed in Spring/Summer 2016.

Spring Courses

AMST 7100 American Studies Methods
Dr. Rebecca Hill, Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:15pm
The methods course introduces students to current methods in American Studies research and public practice. The course focuses on core concepts, objects of analysis, and evolving research practices used for working in American Studies. In this class, students will grapple with the concept of interdisciplinarity, examine the values of a variety of disciplinary methods and think consciously about which methods make the most sense for their own particular areas of interest in American Studies

AMST 7300 Environmental History
Dr. Bert Way, Wednesdays 5:00 - 7:45pm
Environmental history is the study of the interaction between humans and nonhuman nature over time. Environmental historians assume that in order to understand the past and the present we must also understand how people have interacted with the natural world – how they have shaped the nature around them and how they have been shaped by it.

AMST 7310 Sex, Death, and the Border
Dr. Linda Neimann, Thursdays 6:00- 9:15pm
This course will enable students to become better informed about border issues that have a national impact, such as immigration, the drug wars, English-only laws, education, and national identity. We will also examine the literary possibilities of a merger of Native American, Mexican and Anglo deep history and traditional stories.

AMST 7450  Visual Culture: Art and Architecture
Dr. Joe Thomas, Mondays 6:30 - 9:15pm
This course will introduce students to the variety of cultural expression in American art and architecture from the colonial era to the present. Simultaneously, through selected readings students will critically analyze a variety of methodological approaches to visual culture, from formalism and connoisseurship to Marxism and post-structuralism.

Final Registration January 6 -7, 2016
MAST Students in Action

Lynne Tipton is currently undergoing her docent training to be a qualified guide for the Root House, located just off the square of Marietta, Georgia. The Root House is operated through the Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society. Its official mission is to, “Preserve, Protect and Promote the irreplaceable historic places and cultural heritage unique to Cobb County for the economic welfare, education and pleasure of current and future generations of residents and visitors.” Lynne is especially interested in regional and cultural preservation, and social and environmental history. She encourages everyone to stop in and take a tour, sign up as a volunteer, or attend one of the many educational events that are offered throughout the year.

Anna Tussey is now working as a Bilingual Data Collector for the Franklin Porter Graham Child Development Institute out of University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The FPG Institute is managing a longitudinal survey, which follows students’ progress from Pre-K through 3rd grade. For her position, she travels around the state and conducts a standardized assessment on each student. She specifically works with bilingual students, so the assessment she uses is completely in Spanish. Anna says, “My focus in American Studies is Spanish-speaking students and the education system, so this position allows me to gain first-hand observations directly related to my research.”

David Galban recently obtained a position with the Atlanta Public School system as a Bilingual Community Liaison. Earlier this year, David presented “Shame and Fear and Guilt! Oh My! Bareback as a form of Subversion,” at the conference Navigating Normativities: Queering Institutions and Challenging Inequalities at the University of North Carolina Asheville.

Stefanos Milkidis attend the UCLA conference Curing the Queer: From Pathology to Resistance. His paper, entitled “Two Weddings, a Lawsuit, and a Funeral: Contextualizing Transnational Homophobic Culture,” provided a comparative examination of current and past U.S. policy and three events that took place in Greece in 2008: the first same-sex marriage in the history of the country, a lawsuit against Greece’s largest gay rights organization, and a hate crime. Stefanos said, “It was a great experience, mostly because I met other graduate students that focus on queer studies from universities all over the country.”

Camile Kleidysz is now developing a website for the historical Bethel A.M.E church located in Acworth, Georgia. The church has been in existence for 155 years; it was built and established by freed slaves after the Civil War. The website is being designed as a historical museum online, so that church members and residents of the community have easy access to their history. The unveiling of the new website will take place on December 13th at the historic Rosenwald School established by Booker T. Washington in Acworth, Georgia.

Paola Garcia Silvetti conducted an internship in Montevideo, Uruguay over the summer of 2015 at the Museo del Carnaval. She worked on an ethnographic project to collect oral histories from neighborhood committee members about their experiences with carnival and the local tablados. The tablado is an open stage constructed and decorated by members of a neighborhood for carnival performances that last 40 days in the summer. The program seeks to decentralize carnival from its current commercialized spaces back to local neighborhoods in order to instill a communal identity among different sectors of Montevideo.