Making Progress in 2016

2016 has been a great year so far. We're reintroducing the printed newsletter. We're on track to beat last year's record attendance. We created some amazing new partnerships and are offering fantastic new programs. And we're excited about some important changes coming to the former grounds of Central State Hospital. Stay tuned for more information!

Most importantly, though, we made incredible progress in our efforts to Save the Old Pathology Building! In April of last year, Indiana Landmarks added the Old Pathology Building to its 2015 Ten Most Endangered List. Thanks to generous support from donors and members like you, we've accomplished a great deal since that time, and the building was moved to the Watch List this year. Thank you!

- Last fall, we replaced the worn and damaged roof, repaired the gutters and chimneys, and repointed the masonry above the roofline of the building, all with the help of a $50,000 matching grant from Indiana DNR's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology* DHPA.
- Last spring, many individual donations and a $5,000 grant from the Marion County Historic Preservation allowed us to begin the exterior masonry project. We completed the north and east facades of the building. We received a second matching grant from DHPA this year and, as we enter the fall season, we are preparing to start work on the south and west facades.
- We have plans to complete the most critical electrical work on our list, and then we will turn our attention to repairing exterior windows and doors and replacing the building's three skylights, which leak, cause condensation to drip on furnishings and artifacts below, and do not protect the building's original woodwork, the books, or the artifacts from damaging UV light.

We've done so much, but we have a long way to go, with many important (and expensive) repairs yet to make. Our goal is to raise the $2.2 million dollars needed to complete all of the work needed to save the Old Pathology Building and ensure its long-term survival. We're more than a third of the way there, but we have two-thirds to go. We still need your help to Save the Old Pathology Building! To make a donation, please visit our website at www.imhm.org/capital_campaign.

*This project has been funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. The project received federal financial assistance for the identification, protection, and/or rehabilitation of historic properties and cultural resources in the State of Indiana, however, the contents and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior.
Then There Is No Need to Speak

The Voices From Central State series kicked off on August 26 and 27 with two sold-out performances of Then There Is No Need to Speak. Directed by IUPUI English professor Terri Bourus, founder of Hoosier Bard Productions, this one-woman theatrical performance was presented in the museum’s amphitheater. The space was transformed through lighting and sound design by Ben Dobler of Discover Near West Indys.

Thomas Hummel’s contemporary script was adapted from Anna Agnew’s 1886 memoir From Under the Cloud, in which Agnew described her seven-year stay as a patient at the Indiana Hospital for the Insane (later known as Central State Hospital).

Actor Denise Jaeckel was dynamic and fearless as Agnew (right), a woman who, in a deep depression, had committed an unspeakable act. Jaeckel’s Agnew was both pitiful and heroic, describing her attempts at suicide, lamenting strained relations with her husband, and exposing the dehumanizing conditions she endured at the institution.

Each performance was followed by a provocative presentation by historian Kathleen Brian, who suggested that Anna Agnew should not be taken at face value. Brian proposed that Agnew’s 1886 memoir was a manipulative attempt to elicit sympathy from the public and avoid responsibility for the violent act that led to her institutionalization. Especially disturbing, Brian asserted, is Anna’s reasoning about the relationships among destructive behavior, inherited traits, and mental illness—drawn directly from contemporary eugenics.

Brian, Bourus, Jaeckel, and Hummel fielded questions from the audience, and all participants explored questions such as: Did exposés like Agnew’s memoir inspire reform within mental hospitals? Is it manipulative to elicit emotional responses from an audience—of nineteenth century readers, or theater spectators in 2016? What treatments were available for Anna then, and how would she be diagnosed today? Was she, despite her illness, rational? Responsible? Should we try to sympathize with Anna Agnew?
Many thanks to our Sponsors!

*Voices from Central State* is made possible by a grant from the New Frontiers program, which assists in the development of innovative works of scholarship and creative activities in the arts and humanities.

Indiana Humanities, in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities, provided a matching grant for this project.

The IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute also gave funding support for the *Voices from Central State* series.

“Leaving Home” exhibit to examine how patients experienced deinstitutionalization.

Still to come…

**September 26 and 27, 2016, 6:00**  
“I Remember Jones”: A Conversation with Nanny Vonnegut

The artist Nanny Vonnegut, daughter of the acclaimed author Kurt Vonnegut, will read her maternal grandmother Riah Cox’s brief memoir, “I Remember Jones,” about her hospitalization at Central State in the 1940s. Along with IUPUI professor of English Jane Schultz, Vonnegut will discuss her family, the history of mental health care, and the healing power of the arts. Vonnegut will share some of her own artwork (see opposite page), as well as family photographs.


**November 10, 2016, 6:00**  
Leaving Home: Exhibit Opening

This exhibit highlights patients’ perspectives on Central State’s impending 1994 closure, as revealed in patient-produced newsletters from the early 1990s, *The Local Bahr* and *The DDU Review*. The exhibit opening will feature a panel discussion, including former hospital staff and local mental health professionals, about the closure of Central State and the status of mental health care in our community today.

Free | $5 Suggested donation | Registration available soon: visit [www.imhm.org](http://www.imhm.org)
October—date and time TBA

Unveiling of Central State Hospital Indiana State Historical Marker

We’ll soon be installing a new Indiana State Historical Marker for Central State Hospital here on the former hospital grounds. Details about the unveiling ceremony to be announced. The text reads:

“People with mental illness were confined to jails and almshouses, often suffering neglect, before Dr. John Evans and local physicians advocated for their treatment; 1840s state laws established hospital here. In 1848, first patients admitted to Indiana Hospital for the Insane; treated for mental illness and addiction. Farm colony work and recreation used as therapy.

Since hospital’s opening, lack of funding and understaffing led to patient abuse and neglect; Superintendent Dr. Fletcher attempted to rectify this and burned patient restraints in a bonfire, 1883. Groundbreaking pathology lab opened 1896, served as state teaching hospital. Renamed Central State Hospital in 1927. Closed in 1994 with the goal of community-based care.”

October 12, 2016, 5:30 pm

Fall Forensics Lecture

Susan Walsh, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology at IUPUI (right), will discuss her research in the emerging field of appearance prediction. Walsh and her team are exploring how information on physical appearance can be gleaned through the analysis of DNA—left behind, for example, at crime scene. RSVP to education@imhm.org

October 23, 2015, 2:00

The 12th Annual Wizards Academy

Try hands-on experiments, visit with exotic creatures, and explore the magic of science this October at the Indiana Medical History Museum! For children grades 3-6. Registration open soon at www.imhm.org

More Upcoming Events

The IMHM’s busy fall season is upon us. We hope to see you at these exciting October events!
ISMA Members:
Be sure to stop by our table at the upcoming convention, September 24 and 25 at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel at Keystone Crossing.

IMHM Staff and Volunteers Engage the Community

IMHM staff manned tables at numerous community events this year, spreading the word about the museum’s tours, programs, and volunteer opportunities. The IMHM took part in the Brain Science Fair at the IU Health Neuroscience Center on April 23, the Indiana Association of Pathologists spring meeting April 30, Indy City Futbol (at the new state-of-the-art track and field on the former Central State Hospital grounds) on May 11, Michigan Street Community Day June 9, Hawthorne Community National Night Out August 2, German Heritage Day at the Indiana Historical Society August 13, and the IUPUI Involvement Expo August 31.

Former Executive Director Ginny Terpening presented on Civil War medicine at the Battle of Corydon Living History event July 16 and 17.

Current Executive Director Sarah Halter will discuss “Malaria Therapy for Neurosyphilis” as part of CINSO’s Café Inquiry series, at the Center for Inquiry on October 19. She will also be speaking at the Propylaeum on November 16.
Meet Andy Townsend, Our New Public History Intern

Andy is a third year graduate student at IUPUI where he is enrolled in both the Media Arts and Science and Public History programs. He received his BA in History from IUPUI in 2014. A videographer by profession, Andy intends to make historical documentaries. He has previously interned with the Indiana Historical Society and WFYI. He spent the last two Summers in Greece making videos about ancient Greek ruins. His family was among the first to migrate to Indiana and continue to operate the same farm they settled in 1818. His historical interests vary, but Andy concentrates heavily on social history and the history of Indiana.