

# **Center for Material Culture Studies:**

## **Spring 2025 Affiliated Meeting**

Date: April 30, 2025

In Attendance:

- CMCS Team
  - Carla Guerrón Montero
  - Mónica Domínguez Torres
  - Dakota H. Stevens
- CMCS Advisory Committee
  - Kedron Thomas
  - Jennifer Van Horn
  - Petra Clark
- CMCS Affiliates
  - Jessica Horton
  - Joelle Wickens
  - Joyce Hill Stoner
  - Julian Yates
  - Kelly Cobb
  - Laura Helton
  - Lu Ann DeCunzo
  - Margaret Stetz
  - Martin Brückner
  - Neri de Kramer
  - Nina Owczarek

### **Meeting Minutes:**

- Introductions – The CMCS is always interested in knowing what its affiliates are up to.
  - What affiliates have going on over the summer
    - Projects, reading, teaching, leisure
- General CMCS Updates
  - The CMCS has produced an advertising slide with a social media QR code that can be included in orientation decks.
    - Slide attached to email along with this document.
  - Spring 2025 Award Cycle

- 29 awards/subventions given to students and faculty for the spring and fall cycles (most awards given in the spring)
- The Faculty Field Trip Subvention Fund is the most common award.
  - This is not application-based but merit-based on a first-come, first-served basis. Let us know where you want to take your students, and we can provide some funding!
- Thing Tank: The First Three Years
  - Held Feb 27, 2025, in the Morris Library
  - Speakers from the previous three years of Thing Tank, and an introduction to the 2025-2026 theme “Making” from the incoming director, Jennifer Van Horn
  - Event concluded with a tour of the Library’s Special Collections exhibition “What they Saved: Souvenirs and Mementos in Special Collections.”
- I Heart UD Campaign
  - CMCS is participating in I Heart UD for the second time.
  - Donations go towards funding the CMCS Interdisciplinary Material Culture Studies Cohort.
    - The IMCSC is an undergraduate scholarly mentorship program in partnership with the Undergraduate Research Program, designed to engage students in material culture research with direct one-on-one mentorship from affiliate faculty members and the support of a cohort.
- Graduate Assistant Call
  - The new call for CMCS graduate Assistants went out in April with an application close date of April 30th. A new CMCS GA will be selected in May.
- Upcoming Activities for the 2025-2026 academic year
  - Summer 2025
    - 17<sup>th</sup> Annual DELPHI
    - Dates: May 27-June 6
    - 12 fellows; 21 presentations/workshops; visit to Eastern State Penitentiary
  - As noted above, the second CMCS URP Interdisciplinary Material Culture Studies Cohort will meet in summer 2025
    - It was piloted last year 2024-2025

- Undergrads work individually with faculty members and meet with the faculty and students who are part of the cohort during the summer to talk about material culture process and research methods
- Opportunity open only to undergrad students
- Dates: June-August 2025
- Five faculty and six students
- Research project on process
- Thing Tank 2025-2026 Topic “Making”
  - Three faculty and five students selected from among a robust application pool
  - Theme is Making
    - The focus will be on the sensorial and the revolutionary potential of making
- CMCS Social Media Strategy
  - CMCS is looking to grow its social media presence
  - Starting a LinkedIn page to engage more with alumni
    - We are in the process of developing the page with University Communications
    - Page will go live in Summer 2025
  - Increase followers on Instagram
    - To increase our Instagram reach, we are overhauling our grant reporting system. Grant recipients will prepare an Instagram post along with their report to learn better how to share their research with the public, as well as allow the CMCS GA to create more compelling narratives
  - CMCS-Public group
    - This is a new email group that will extend to people outside of UD’s direct sphere of influence, including alumni and community members
- 25<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration
  - Dates: Week of November 10
    - Six workshops
    - Celebration on Nov 13 with student posters, faculty book exhibit, conversation with second CMCS Director Deborah Andrews, followed by a reception

- Celebration will be open to the public with the community invited
  - CMCS is conducting outreach with OLLI to encourage more of the public community to come out and celebrate
- Spring 2026
  - Emerging Scholars Symposium (three-year cycle)
    - Dates: April 24-25, 2026 [Winterthur and UD]
    - Topic: *Dynamic Objects: Material Connections Across the Globe*
    - An interdisciplinary grad student committee is steering the process
    - Call for Papers will be distributed soon.
- Open Floor
  - CMCS Brainstorming document
    - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YbCsCn9x8-KbHkm2rtp3ixpkVt2F0rKcNYxwjupT8WQ/edit?tab=t.0>
  - Question: Can CMCS provide a venue for workshopping and talking through the trials of doing this kind of work in the current world?
    - What are the challenges?
      - Could start a working group
    - More practical working groups for faculty and students
    - Working group call is always open
  - Question: Is there anything we could do with the Delaware Art Museum?
    - Other Museums in the area we could partner with?
    - Work with Museum Studies to enhance partnerships
  - Question: We would like to know more about your projects.
    - Creation of a forum for disseminating Affiliates' work
    - Begin a blog series on the website.