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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Spurlock Museum Achieves Green Shield Recertification for its Campus Location**

*Urbana, Illinois – February 4, 2016* - The Spurlock Museum at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has re-earned Green Shield Certification for its low-risk, sustainable pest control practices. The independent nonprofit IPM Institute of North America awarded the facility the certification renewal after reconfirming compliance with its standards via a rigorous on-site reevaluation.

Formerly the World Heritage Museum, the William and Clarice V. Spurlock Museum is an ethnographic collection housed at the University of Illinois campus at Urbana-Champaign and administered through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Spurlock Museum curates anthropological and cultural artifacts from six continents and over one million years of human history and includes over 40,000 objects. As the first museum in North America to achieve Green Shield Certification, Spurlock Museum is a trailblazer for greener pest control practices in public facilities.

The delicate nature of ethnographic artifacts—including objects that may be ancient, composed primarily of organic matter and half-decayed—requires a cautious, prevention-based approach to pest management. Invading pests may damage or destroy an artifact, but so may treating it with chemical pesticides. Green Shield Certified's standards are based in the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), long-term, preventive strategies are employed to deny pests the food, water and shelter they need to survive. Inspection is always the first step, followed by intelligent measures to eliminate pest-friendly conditions. Pesticides are used rarely, and judiciously—only those pesticide products meeting strict low-risk criteria may be used, and only when applied in a way that reduces potential for exposure.

Christa Deacy-Quinn, collections manager for The Spurlock Museum, hopes the example set by her program can teach other museum professionals what is possible. “A successful IPM program stresses preventative measures by reducing pest availability and accessibility to food, water, and harborage. Steps can be taken to create an unfavorable environment for pests by reducing humidity and temperature, using physical barriers to



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prevent entry and access to artifacts, using good housekeeping to clear dirt and debris which would serve as harborage, and utilizing ‘green’ insecticides, such as plant-derived repellents,” she says. “Non-chemical methods of treatment such as heating or freezing infested articles are implemented to reduce the use of chemical methods.”

“The Spurlock Museum remains a leader in the field of effective, low-risk pest management for the collections industry,” says Dr. Thomas Green, entomologist and president of the IPM Institute. “They use heat treatment as a primary strategy to kill pests in those instances when artifacts are found to be infested. The museum has a portable chamber to apply heat safely and efficiently. The staff at the Spurlock also creates stellar teamwork at all levels.”

Ms. Deacy-Quinn agrees that staff cooperation is essential for making IPM happen. “Successful communication between the staff at the Museum is what has allowed for successful implementation of the IPM program at Spurlock. When each staff member understands the implications of pest problems and commits to taking actions against invaders, IPM becomes a partnership where everyone plays a participatory role and is dedicated to protecting the collections. The synergy generated from successful communication allows for all areas of the Museum to be easily managed.”

Green Shield Certified is a project of the IPM Institute of North America, an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its expertise and accomplishments in promoting integrated pest management.

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