The Museum Studies Program at SFSU: Creating a Student-Focused Campus Museum from the Ground Up

Museum Studies Programs are gateways to museum careers in caring for collections, exhibiting irreplaceable cultural and natural resources, and in educating and serving communities. In the Master’s degree program at San Francisco State University (SFSU), the Museum Studies Program is also a place of research, hands-on learning, and mentorship. In this presentation, I will outline recent efforts to create a student-focused museum at SFSU, the Global Museum, which will open in Fall, 2017. Last year, San Francisco State University funded the development of a state-of-the-art gallery and preservation facility—the Global Museum—which is operated through the Museum Studies Program. The Museum will be student-focused and graduate students will work in caring for objects, developing exhibits, implementing programs, and in mentoring undergraduates as part of our new undergraduate Minor in Museum Studies. I will discuss how the Global Museum will be a vehicle for professional training and the kinds of careers those with the proper training can have in museums. Finally, I will discuss research opportunities in Museum Studies, and some of the challenges facing the new Global Museum and the museum world today.

Prof. Edward M. Luby is Director of the Museum Studies Program and Professor of Museum Studies at San Francisco State University (SFSU). In January 2015, Prof. Luby was appointed Director and Chief Curator of The Global Museum, the new University Museum at SFSU, to open in 2017.