9:00 AM ⋅ The Three Most Important Buildings in the World: The Parthenon, the Dome of the Rock and Hagia Sophia

Dr. Naomi Pitamber, Department of Visual and Literary Arts, University of Wyoming

The Parthenon in Athens, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, and the Church/Mosque of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul are three of the most highly visited buildings in the world. Dr. Naomi Pitamber will share the intriguing and often contentious histories of these three works of architecture, including little known stories about their “darker” periods of history, their roles in wartime and peacetime, and why they are so important today. Dr. Pitamber has conducted field-work in each of these buildings in connection to her research on them as part of her new book project, “Conquering the Sacred East.”

10:15 AM ⋅ Ritual and Political Structure in the Andes of Ancient Peru

Dr. Jason Toohey, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Director of the George C. Frison Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Wyoming

Archaeological excavations by the University of Wyoming in the Andes mountains of Peru have unveiled a civilization older than the Incas—the Cajamarca Culture. The recent discovery of a monumental circular plaza at the 600-acre site of Callacpuma is not only the first feature of its kind in northern Peru, but may constitute the earliest ritual and political architecture in the region. Join Dr. Toohey as he describes this exciting find and mines it for information about public and political organization of the Cajamarca Culture.

11:30 AM ⋅ Stealing Culture: The Intersection of Criminal Law and Museums

Darrell D. Jackson, Professor of Law, University of Wyoming
Nicole M. Crawford, Chief Curator, UW Art Museum, University of Wyoming

When we visit a museum, we rarely think about the role of the law with regard to the objects and art works we view. But perhaps we should. What happens when a museum finds artifacts in their collection that may result from theft or looting? This question can be approached from a legal angle: Who from the acquiring museum, if anyone, should be held accountable and, potentially, criminally charged? Or it could be approached from a cultural angle: How does society place a value on (these) cultural objects, and how does that value change when the object is placed within a museum? Join Jackson and Crawford as they wrestle with questions of law, ethics, and culture relevant to museum collections.

PRESENTATIONS FOLLOWED BY A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKERS OVER FREE LUNCH.