Fall 2010

Public History Newsletter Fall 2010

Public History Concentration

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new permanent exhibits in only nine months. The main goal of both exhibits was to fill a gap in our interpretive story and to meet educational standards not just for our visiting students, but for all audiences. For our first exhibit on prehistoric archaeological sites, we built off of a temporary display that had been in the lobby for the past several years. Our second exhibit, involved a complete redesign of our second floor galleries. This exhibit "From Clark County to Washington, D.C.: Service in the Nation's Capital" focuses on local politicians who served in Congress, and explains how the government functions, how it affects our daily lives, and how the public can get involved.

For nine months the curatorial staff (composed of other Public History grads Virginia Weygandt, Mel Glover and Kasey Eichensehr) worked tirelessly researching, writing, cleaning, restoring, building, painting, and mounting to get everything done on a deadline. Along the way we learned a lot as we took a new approach at how we presented ideas and our artifacts in the hopes of making history more hands on, relatable and accessible.
It can be said of my job that you never know what the day is going to bring or who is going to walk in the front door. As Assistant Director of Reference, I oversee all reference services, including assisting researchers in our reading room and answering email and telephone inquiries. WHMC is located on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus and collects materials (letters, diaries, personal papers, photographs, etc…) related to the history and people of Missouri. Our patrons are as diverse as our collections and include shy undergrads doing research for the first time, veteran scholars examining congressional papers, genealogists searching for that Missouri connection, History Day students, journalists (who always seem to call an hour before deadline), local historians, and on and on.

My two reference colleagues and I like to refer to ourselves as “jacks of all archival trades” due to all the additional duties we juggle. We regularly host classes and civic groups, answer history related questions over the phone, and even execute the 2010 Public History Welcome Party.

Bill Stolz is a 1998 graduate of the Public History program. He currently works for the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

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Tuesday, November 16: Reading room is filled with more English students, a Civil War historian, and two donors looking at their family photos. Also field a call from a genealogist in California trying to figure out why her family moved from Missouri back to Kentucky in the 1850s. After work I give a 45 minute presentation entitled “What’s For Dinner, Missouri?” to a packed room at the Columbia Public Library. The talk focuses on how Missourians have produced, prepared and enjoy food since 1821 and was part of the University of Missouri’s “Food and Society” series.

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Alumni News

Tamara (Wait) Dallenbach (2002) wrote Ridgewood in the Country Club District, available in January. The book tells the fascinating story of one of the first fully planned suburban neighborhoods in the United States. She provides an in-depth exploration of the story of Ridgewood's development, the lives of its early residents, its picturesque architecture, and the tales of, developer, Harry S. Kissell's most ardent competitors for the local, high-grade real estate market. Stacy B. Gould (1991), University Archivist, University of Hong Kong, is currently planning activities for the celebration of the university’s 100th anniversary in 2011. Activities include a major exhibition that will run for about 4 months from the end of October until after Chinese New Year in 2012. Tiffany O’Sheal (2007) When Tiffany’s husband transferred from the Active Duty Air Force in January and joined the South Carolina National Guard, she resigned from her position at the Utah State Archives and they moved to Havre de Grace, MD, in March. Tiffany started a new position as an Archivist/Document Control Specialist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense on Aberdeen Proving Ground in October. She is responsible for formulating archival and records management procedures and processes and establishing the Institute-wide Research Archives.

Daniel Schlegel (2009), Director of the Scurry County Museum, former President of WSU SAA and Phi Alpha Theta, joined the Kiwanis in Scurry County. He completed recent training workshops in grant writing, customer service, and project management. Daniel was elected to serve on the Quanah Parker Trail committee, established to honor Comanche Chief, Quanah Parker. The Scurry County Museum completed an exhibit titled "They Did Not Say ‘We Have Done Enough’ An Exhibit on Scurry County Veterans." Museum attendance increased from 50 people a month to over 300 over the last four months. Last month alone, visitors totaled 1,015 people. Ashley Nittle (2010) submitted the Kiser Mansion National Register Nomination. Members of the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board voted, in November, to nominate Kiser Mansion in St. Paris to the National Register of Historic Places for consideration. A final decision will be made within 90 days. Tiffany Knapp (2010) accepted a position with the Greene County Public Library in Xenia, OH in The Greene County Room. Rachael Bussert (2010) is working on an NHPRC grant funded project to digitize three series from the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Mining Company Records at Northern Michigan University. The project will make available through the website approximately 70,000 documents from the Mining, Land, and Lumber Departments’ Agent’s Annual Reports, select maps, and blueprints. View at: http://cciarchives.wordpress.com/. Melissa Dalton (2010) is currently working as the Collections Management Consultant for the Dayton Society of Natural History. Her main duties are to aid and advise on curatorial and archival techniques/practices and convert their old collections catalogue (Microsoft Access) to PastPerfect Museum Software. Matthew Peek (2010) is currently registered for the Kent State University MLIS (Digital Preservation) program for Spring 2011. He was a Project Archivist from August to October 2010, for the United States Ombudsman Association’s archival storage center in Dayton and volunteered at WSU Special Collections and Archives. Anne Ryckboss (2010) graduated in June and accepted the position of Manuscript Processor at Northern Kentucky University. Jeremy Feador (2010) was recently hired as the Archivist/Historian at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, OH. Clay Johnson, Ph.D. (1999) WSU, 2007 Ph.D. Western Michigan was hired as the new Executive Director at the Garst Museum and The Darke County Historical Society in Greenville, OH. Carole Erich (1982) passed away on December 13. Her career included service in the Navy and re-search at WPAFB. Our sympathies to her family.

“...My ‘to do’ list grows as needed and the variety is something I really enjoy because I feel that everything I work on helps me to share, uncover, and preserve history for the benefit of the public.”

~Natalie Fritz (2007)
Curatorial Assistant at the Clark County Historical Society

Note from the Director: Dawne Dewey

It’s been a busy quarter for Public History at WSU. We welcomed 13 new students to the program in September. The field study class journeyed to Indianapolis in October and had great behind the scenes tours at the Indiana History Society, the Indiana State Museum, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. We also visited Conner Prairie Interactive History Park. Next Spring, our destination is the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Detroit, Michigan.

Liz Haeupde, Public History student and graduate assistant, designed a new WSU Public History poster to use for recruiting and special events. Stop in to the archives and take a look!

Planning continues for the conversion to semesters in the fall of 2012. Adjunct faculty have completed new course descriptions and new degree requirements have been established. Public History at WSU will continue to be a dynamic leader in public history education.

Welcome to Johnny Luchin from the Nat. Museum of the USAF who joined our adjunct faculty. Johnny will be teaching Exhibit Design Technology Winter 2011.

I hope all of you enjoy the December break and have a happy holiday season.

Public History Field Study Class at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, October 2010
The mission of the Public History program at Wright State University is to prepare professionals who are well-grounded in knowledge of historical content, professional training and hands-on experience.

Department of History
Wright State University
370 Millett Hall
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435
(937) 775-3110

Dr. Carol Herringer
Chair, History Department

Dr. Carol Herringer, Dr. Chris Oldstone-Moore
Directors, History Graduate Program

Dawne Dewey
Director, Public History Program

Liz Haeuptle
Public History Graduate Assistant, Newsletter Editor

Welcome New Students!

Paul Ciaravolo—Wright State University
Allison Drerup—Muskingum University
Phillip Elam—Miami University (B.A.), University of Kentucky (M.L.S)
Jeremy Katz—Ohio State University
Elise Kelley—University of Dayton
Jeri Kniess—Wright State University
Liz Koch—University of Dayton
Tricia McEldowney—University of Toledo
Noel Rihm—University of Dayton
Misti Spillman—University of Evansville
Jaki Wagaman—Ohio Northern University
Nicki Williams—University of Evansville
Maggie Zakri—Le Moyne College

Welcome to the Program!

Congratulations to our Fall 2010 Graduates!

Lynley Culpepper
Lauryn Bayliff

We wish you both the best of luck!