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Fall 2012

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Public History Concentration

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Public History Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

A SEMPER-FLY SUMMER

Noel Rihm worked on her capstone project this summer in the exhibits division of the National Museum of the United States Marine Corps. Located in Quantico, Virginia, the museum was constructed in 2004 and celebrates 200 years of Marine Corps history.

Noel's first task was to design a Marine Aviation children's activity book. The book featured, "Chesty," a lovable bulldog and Marine mascot that led the children through a variety of activities that explored the history and development of Marine Aviation.

Her next task was the assembly of the six month temporary exhibit, "Semper-Fly." This exhibit featured large images of Marine aviators and aircraft.



Semper-Fly Exhibit

It also included one case that focused on the Blue Angels. Noel painted, designed, and installed the exhibit with members of the exhibit division. She stated, "It was really awesome to feel like part of the team, even though I was a summer intern,

The permanent staff routinely asked my opinion and we made design choices together. It was great."

Finally, Noel worked on the design of seven cases in Breckinridge Hall on Quantico's base.

The cases were important because the building hosts national and international high-class personnel as well as ceremonies for graduating Marine Officers. The design was approved in a briefing with the museum's director, Lin Ezell, and a leading General of the base.

Noel said of her experience, "I grew so much as a designer this summer. I used new software programs and got some hands on wood-working and painting experience. I even got to use a laser engraving machine! Besides these skills, my ability to articulate design concepts has grown by leaps and bounds. I'm ready to take the museum design world by storm, Hoo-Rah!"

Noel will be graduating in the spring of 2013.

INTERNING AT KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



Keweenaw History Center

Over the 2012 summer break, Seanne Finley traveled to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, to intern as an archives technician at the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

While there, Seanne accessioned new material into the park's collections, processed collections, created finding aids down to the item level, and observe acquisition meetings. Also as part of her role in the park, Seanne created deeds of gift, donor letters, and other reports specific to the National Park Service.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE ...

Daniel Schlegel, Jr.

SCURRY COUNTY MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Howdy from West Texas! As a "Yankee" living in West Texas, I'm often asked why I chose to move out here. The answer is simple: I love museums. Born and raised in Ohio, I graduated from Wright State University in March of 2009. Six months later, I took a position in Texas as the Director of The Scurry County Museum with nearly a total of a decade of experience, most of it from concurrent projects and work. I use what I learned from my professors nearly every day in my position. My favorite professors were the ones who worked in the field and loved what they did. I learned a considerable amount from them. At the same time I was working full time at a Dayton institution for history, so they treated me with respect. I have never forgotten how I was treated and I use that when I deal with other institutions and people today.

Many people who work in small museums complain about how many "hats" we have to wear. I think that is something we should be proud of, not upset about. My days are filled with



Daniel Schlegel, Jr. is a 2009 graduate of the Public History program.

everyone's favorite thing - meetings. Currently I am working on getting our three local history institutions corralled together, and getting a new board "educated" on proper museum procedures. When I am not doing those things, I help lead tours for our local school groups, visit with our guests, discuss donation options with people that walk in the door, and field requests ranging from taxes to etiquette in schools and why we can't display every artifact we have ever been

given, and of course, keeping tabs on the staff. I truly enjoy the uncertainty of what each day will bring.

I have found that bringing a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to a job can be a great thing, but at the same time it means people continually ask you to get more things done. By the numbers, the museum has changed significantly since I've been on board. In less than three years, our visitorship has increased from

less than 50 people a month to over 650. We regularly have anywhere from ten to twelve exhibits per year. A year after I began, our new logo, newsletter, and website were all unveiled. Our basement under my predecessor made the people on the show "Hoarders" look normal, and we've made great strides in clearing out the unnecessary and preparing reaccreditation. We are also involved in a local paleontological dig conducted by Texas Tech. The museum regularly hosts workshops and conferences.

As you might imagine, this kind of success attracts attention. I recently accepted the position as a founding board member of the Quannah Parker Trail (if the name sounds familiar the NYT best seller *Empire of the Summer Moon* was about him). I have also accepted the co-chair of the Texas Association of Museum Small Museums Roundtable and look forward to that this coming spring. Earlier this year, I accepted the award for "Exemplary Service" from the Snyder Chamber of Commerce.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR: DAWNE DEWEY

Our first semester at WSU is now history. Congratulations to all of the students and adjunct faculty who worked hard to make it a success. I know it was long and sometimes seemed it would never end, but we made it! Public History adjunct faculty met in October and re-evaluated course schedules, made plans to resurrect the Pub-

lic History advisory committee, and began developing new practices that will be offered on Saturdays for students that will also be appealing to working professionals for continuing education. The annual Public History Symposium will be held on March 22 in the WSU Student Union. Tom Crouch, Senior Curator of Aeronautics at the National Air and

Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, will be the plenary speaker. Finally, I want to say how proud I am of all of our students. Their enthusiasm, creativity and dedication to public history makes my job as director very rewarding. And to all of the adjunct faculty, thank you for your time and expertise. The program is great because of you. I wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for the New Year.

ALUMNI NEWS

Angela Vanderbilt (2011) was hired in October by the University of Cincinnati Archives & Rare Books Library to coordinate a grant-funded project to digitize and make accessible online the photographic collection of Cincinnati's subway and street improvements projects from the 1920s-1950s, highlighting a major period in Cincinnati's urban development. The 1-year grant is funded through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the State Library of Ohio, and will culminate in the digitization and online access of over 8,000 negatives and prints. The negatives, which are both silver nitrate and acetate based and include 8x10 and 4x5 formats, are in various stages of deterioration and will be destroyed at the end of the project. As part of this project, I will be building online collection repositories in both the UC instance of the OhioLINK Digital Resource Commons and UC's Luna Insight platform, making the collections accessible online and developing exhibits to showcase the collections. The project will be completed in October, 2013.

Collette (Hill) McDonough (2007) passed the CA exam in August.

Daniel Schlegel, Jr. (2009) Director of the Scurry County Museum, has been appointed Texas State Representative for American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

Lisa (Pasquinelli) Rickey (2008) started in her new position as Archivist for Digital Initiatives & Outreach at Wright State University Special Collections & Archives in November 2012

Steve Germann Germann & Associates is doing interpretive planning, design and fabrication of an exhibit of the work of local sculptor Robert Koepnick (1907-1995.) Mr. Koepnick created public art for churches, schools, libraries and other institutions around the United States. He was born in Dayton, attended and later taught at the Dayton Art Institute. His most prominent work here includes the sculptures on the facade of the downtown Dayton Metro Library and on the entrance gate at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. The Roesch Library, on the UD campus, will host the exhibit from March to November, 2014.

A Day in the Life Continued:

Most recently, I have accepted the position of Texas state representative for the American State and Local History. I was also inducted as president of our local Kiwanis chapter. In my free time, I have started a Facebook group called "Small Museum Forum" which was started after a small museum roundtable with many questions dealing with social media as a way to help answer questions and has evolved into asking about budgets, advertising, and other matters related to small museums. We also help to promote and congratulate each other on accomplishments and exhibits.



There is always something coming up or going on, but I wouldn't change that for anything!

-Daniel Schlegel, Jr.

MICHIGAN ADVENTURES

(Continued from page 1)

One of the most challenging duties for Seanne during her internship was converting all of the parks collections from item count to linear feet in their database. She had to locate all of the 600 collections, measure them, and then enter her findings into the database.

She had to locate all of the 600 collections, measure them, and then enter her findings into the database. Seanne was fortunate to have great coworkers and four great roommates, who were also interning at the park. On their weekends off, they went camping, kayaking, and swimming in Lake Superior. During the week they would go bowling, have movie nights, and



play trivia at a local restaurant.

Seanne will graduate in the spring of 2013.

Students, Seanne Finley (second from left) and Sarah Staples (second from right).



Doing Public History the
"Wright" Way since 1974.

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.

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Directors, History Graduate Programs

Sarah Mikell
Public History Graduate Assistant, Newsletter Editor

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

Sarah Aisenbrey – Wright State University

Kyle Pitzer – Wilmington College

Rajib Chaudhuri – Wright State University

Sarah Deffinger – Wilmington College

Christopher Erb – Wright State University

Timothy Goins – Wright State University

Kaitlyn Goss – Wright State University

Caroline Ibbotson – University of Dayton

Marcus Manchester– Cedarville University

Seth Marshall – Wabash College

Emily McAlhany – University of South Carolina

Zachary Moore – Wright State University

Rebekkah Mulholland – Wright State University; MA Humanities Wright State University

Victoria Penno–The Ohio State University

Karis Raeburn – York St. John, United Kingdom

MA Medieval Studies Aberdeen , United Kingdom

Jason Swiatkowski–Kent State

Kyle Yoho–Marietta College

WELCOME TO THE PROGRAM!