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Public History Newsletter

Public History

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Spring 2012

## Public History Newsletter Spring 2012

Public History Concentration

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### Repository Citation

Public History Concentration (2012). *Public History Newsletter Spring 2012*. .

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# Public History Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

## CIVIL WAR VOICES

This spring, Public History students in the HST 713 Historical Interpretation and Exhibits class designed and installed, *Civil War Voices* at the Carillon Historical Park. They held an opening reception on Friday, June 1.

Throughout the quarter, the thirteen students in the course planned, researched, and designed the exhibit. The Instructor, Mary Oliver, provided the opportunity for the students to choose what function they would perform throughout the process. Functions included: a project manager, the photograph/artifact team, the exhibit research/label copy team, the invitation/graphics



Left to Right—back row: Linda Collins, Allison Drerup, Taylor Hoffman, Paul Ciaravolo, Noel Rihm, Casey Huegel. Front Row: Stephanie Keen, Sandy Bialik, Sarah Mikell, Jenifer Baker, Leona Sargent, and Michelle Anthony.

team, the media relations/reception team, and the educational content/evaluation team.

Although students were assigned specific duties, tasks overlapped and individuals collaborated with one another. This provided students with an understanding of the requirements for each position and instilled teamwork. Sandy Bialik explained how working on the exhibit was a great experience which further

developed her skills in team work. "During this course, I learned the many aspects of exhibit design and interpretation and the class further enhanced my skills in collaboration."

The exhibit documents the lives of Dayton soldiers, their families, and the local community during the Civil War. Local politics, the Ninety-Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and the 1867 construction of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers are just some of the few subjects (Continued on Page 4)



The exhibit space

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## WILBUR WRIGHT: A LIFE OF CONSEQUENCE...

This year, the Dayton community is celebrating Wilbur Wright's life (1867–1912). Throughout the region, exhibits and programs are being dedicated to this remarkable Daytonian.

The opening reception of the

exhibit, *Wilbur Wright: A Life of Consequence...* occurred on Friday, May 27 at the Carillon Historical Park. The exhibit opening had a wonderful turnout and included Dayton community members, aviation enthusiasts, Wright family members, (Continued on Pg 4)



One of the many stimulating cases of the exhibit

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ... MARY ANNE KIRK

I'm a Public Historian. Through my work at Think TV –Greater Dayton Public Television, I am also a producer, project and program manager, department and budget manager, grant developer, writer, and more. A typical day at the station is as varied as the many hats I wear, and, I love it.

How does a Public History major end up working for Public Television? The connections might not seem obvious at first, but are present, and go beyond the word 'public.' They also go beyond Ken Burns and historical documentaries. And it's through the word public where we can find that connection. The mission of PBS is to educate and enrich, to expose all of us to places and events we otherwise couldn't visit –to provide a trusted window to the world. I would say Public Historians are in the same business. Public Historians preserve, organize, and interpret the physical artifacts of our lives. Through a number of avenues: traditional exhibits, outreach programs, innovative web collections, and historical re-enactments, they transform these records into stories about our

past; stories that the public can connect with. At the end of the day, it's about making our past, our stories, our experiences and our world available to discover; it's about education.

So, how did I get here? During my time as a student at WSU's Public History program I took advantage of a number of opportunities to see where my interests would take me. I worked for several months at the National Museum of the United States Air Force and interned at the Dayton Art Institute. I also had the opportunity to work as a graduate assistant.

Through my work as a G.A., I became involved with supporting a Teaching American History Grant on which Think TV, WSU, and the Dayton Public Schools were partners. This is where I learned that I really loved working on outreach and educational programs.

Through this connection, I was encouraged to apply for an opening at Think TV for a position which would primarily support the Teaching American History project efforts, as well as coordination for a number of projects delivered by



**Mary Anne Kirk and daughter Nora hard at work at Think TV. Mary Anne Kirk is a 2004 graduate of the Public History Program.**

our educational services department. I got the job, and the rest, as they say, is history. I soon became Manager of our Educational Services Department and continue in that position today.

So a typical day in my work life might find me producing a short historical documentary on the glass industry in Ohio, sketching out a wire frame for a project website, slogging through emails, making connections to the arts, or working on outreach projects around things that matter to our community –like educational programs that use PBS videos to help get young children ready for Kindergarten. I also teach a graduate video production course for Public

History students which is coming up this fall. Whatever I am working on, whether its history, the arts, or even around STEM, I use something from my Public History education every day.

“Whatever I am working on, whether its history, the arts, or even around STEM, I use something from my Public History education every day.”

## Alumni News

**Rachael Bussert (2010)** began a two year NHPRC grant funded position as the Senior Project Archivist at Michigan Technological University in March. She is working on a project to process and catalog 92 collections that document Michigan's Copper Country. Rachael has also been accepted to the Wayne State University's School of Library and Information Science and will begin classes to obtain her MLIS this fall semester.

**Jeremy Feador (2010)** got married on April 28, 2012. As the Archivist/Historian at Baldwin-Wallace College, Jeremy was the recipient of an Ohio Archives SNAP Grant.

**Anne Ryckbost (2010)** is the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee during the 2012 MAC Fall Symposium, "Engaging with Students & Teachers: Integrating Primary Sources in K-16 Curricula." The Fall MAC Symposium will be

held in Covington, Kentucky on October 19-20. Check out the MAC website [www.midwestarchives.org](http://www.midwestarchives.org) or contact Anne at [ryckbostal@nku.edu](mailto:ryckbostal@nku.edu) for more information.

**Michael Arbagi (2005)** "In early June I will be starting a new two-year project position as Archivist for the Missionary Society of St. Columban, in the Omaha, Nebraska area."

**Jeffrey Landis (2006)** Director on the Patterson Memorial Center Board and **Lisa Kell (2010)** Collections Assistant at the Carillon Historical Park, created an exhibit entitled "Personal Stories of the Civil War: Letters from the Patterson Brothers." Landis served as the Exhibit Designer and Curator while Kell served as the Chief Researcher. The exhibit is supported with a grant from the Ohio Human-

ities Council, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit is currently at the Patterson Homestead and will be up until July 25, 2012. It will then travel August 1, to the WSU Dunbar Library through the end of the year.

**John Armstrong (2001)** will be presenting a lecture entitled "From Bull Run to Bentonville: The Patterson Brothers Civil War Experience" on June 5 and on July 10 at 7 PM at the Patterson Homestead.

**Lynda Kachurek (2005)** will be presenting her paper entitled "Voices of Change: Disability Rights Activism in 1970s Ohio" at the 2012 Oral History Association Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting is scheduled for October 10-14 in Cleveland, OH. Lynda utilized the oral histories from the WSU's Special Collections and Archives "Lest We Forget Oral History Project."

### NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR: DAWNE DEWEY



The group in front of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum



## (CONTINUED) CIVIL WAR VOICES

that are portrayed and interpreted.

Artifacts including uniforms, weapons, paintings, a print of the Andersonville Prison, letters, tintotypes, and a local Civil War flag are creatively interspersed throughout the exhibit space.



Two of the exhibit cases feature military uniforms and weapons

The house doors of Clement L. Vallandigham, a Dayton Copperhead, hang on one of the exhibit walls. Linda Collins explained that “the open doors evoke the idea of revealing the conceptions behind Vallandigham’s controversial politics.” Linda added that she “gained experience in understanding what kind of objects to include for a particular exhibit theme and how to properly interpret those objects.”

Come on down to Carillon Historical Park and discover Dayton’s rich Civil War History! The exhibit is open until Sunday January 6, 2013.

The exhibit is sponsored by Wright State University College of Liberal Arts, the Wright State University Depart-



Sandy Bialik in front of Clement L. Vallandigham’s house doors

ment of History, and Dayton History.

## (CONTINUED) WILBUR WRIGHT: A LIFE OF CONSEQUENCE...

students, and alumni.

Dawne Dewey and five Public History students (Michelle Anthony, Allison Drerup, Lauren Hamer, Noel Rihm, and Beth Stanze) researched, planned, and designed the exhibit.

As visitors walk into the exhibit, they are taken on a journey in heroism, innovation, and



Pictured in the upper right corner is the hockey stick that knocked out Wilbur’s two front teeth when he was a teenager

steadfastness.

The exhibit chronologically portrays Wilbur’s life from his early childhood to his adolescent years. It then highlights his position as editor of the *West Side News* and co-owner of the *Wright Cycle Company*. It culminates with an emphasis on the role he played in the inven-

tion of flight.

Multilayered text panels, photographs, artifacts, a colorful painting, and a video beautifully capture and honor Wilbur’s life.

Beth Stanze states that, “working on the exhibit gave me a real world experience. There were a lot of obstacles put in our way but I learned more with having all the bumps in the road. It was an honor to be apart of a this creative and hardworking team!”

The exhibit is open at the Carillon Historical Pak until November 2, 2012. It is sponsored by Batelle Dayton Operations, Wright State University Libraries’ Special Collections & Archives, and Dayton History.



The group taking a break after installation (not pictured: Beth Stanze)

## M I D W E S T A R C H I V E S C O N F E R E N C E

On Thursday, April 19, Chris Wydman adjunct faculty professor and University Records Manager, and thirteen students (Chris Bills, Paul Ciaravolo, Phillip Elam, Adam Greaser, Seanne Finley, Jeremy Katz, Elise Kelly, Tricia McEldowney, Sarah Mikell, Noel Rihm, Misti Spillman, and Nicki Williams) traveled to Grand Rapids, MI to attend the Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting.

Thursday night the group had the chance to attend the Opening Reception at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. This was an exciting night where WSU students had the opportunity to meet with professionals in the archival and museum fields, speak with WSU alumni, and see the interesting historical collections that document the life and work of President Ford.

On Friday there were a variety of interesting sessions. Noel Rihm was one of the presenters for the session entitled "Archival Survival Kit: Getting and Keeping that Professional Job." Noel had excellent advice on how to create an efficient resume.

Tricia McEldowney, explains how impressed she was with Friday's afternoon session entitled, "Connecting Students and Primary Sources: National History Day as Outreach." "Everything about this session impressed me. The panel was composed of an excellent balance of professionals who all played a different role in helping elementary through high school students research and complete a project for National History Day (NHD).



**Chris Wydman and Public History students at the MAC Conference**

The speakers explained what NHD is and even shared an outstanding student project from several years ago. They also described the ways in which they make their archives accessible for students (extended hours, research packets by topic, instruction sessions, etc.) NHD can help teach students more about their research topic and how to use an archive."

Seanne Finley enjoyed the Friday session entitled "Collecting Chicago Crime." She appreciated hearing Jill Austin from the Chicago History Museum speak. Seanne says that Austin "discussed how she acquired the authorizations to display information collected by the Chicago Police department's Red Squad. The squad followed communist, socialist, and individuals from the LGBT community, documenting their every action, and subsequent arrest. The Red Squad destroyed over 100,000 documents after learning the records would have to be turned over due to a court decision in 1985."

Saturday followed with another day of stimulating topics and issues. In the morning, the panelists of the session titled "End Times or New Life? The Future of Religious Archives" discussed what it is like to work for a religious institution's archive and how it can be challenging to document spirituality.

During the break, students had the opportunity to showcase scholarship and projects related to archives and records management. Elise Kelly presented her poster entitled "Oral History: A Dynamic Source For Community Development." Elise's poster focused on five oral history interviews that she conducted with local community activists. The transcripts and audio recordings can be found at <http://core.libraries.wright.edu/search>.

Jeremy Katz presented his poster entitled the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton Records. Jeremy processed this MS-434 collection which can be found at the WSU's Special Collections and Archives. <http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/>. Jeremy was the recipient of the Best Poster Award at the Conference. Congratulations Jeremy!

Overall, the MAC trip was very beneficial for WSU Public History students.

## S T U D E N T A W A R D A N D A C C O M P L I S H M E N T

**Noel Rihm**—Received the School of Graduate Studies Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in the Public History Program on May 16.



**Left to Right: John Luchin, Noel Rihm, Dawne Dewey, and WSU President David R. Hopkins at the ceremony**

<http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/hst/pubhst/index.html>



WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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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**Dr. Carol Herringer**  
Chair, History Department

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

**Dawne Dewey**  
Director, Public History Program

**Elise Kelly**  
Public History Graduate Assistant, Newsletter Editor

## Congratulations 2012 Spring Graduates

Sandra Bialik

Chris Bills

Allison Drerup

Phillip Elam

Robin Heise

Jeremy Katz

Elise Kelly

Jeri Kniess

Elizabeth Koch

David Manges

Patricia McEldowney

Elizabeth Morgan

Elizabeth Stanze

Misti Spillman

Nicole Williams

Margaret Zakri

Left to Right: