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Public History Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

TOM CROUCH SPEAKS TO PUBLIC HISTORY STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

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On June 2, 2009, Tom Crouch visited the Dayton area for a book-signing event and was gracious enough to stop by Wright State to speak with Public History students and alumni.

Dr. Crouch is Senior Curator of the Division of Aeronautics at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. Since 1974, he has worked at both the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of American History in a variety of curatorial and administrative positions. Dr. Crouch has a Ph.D. in American History from Ohio State University and an honorary degree in Doctor of Humane Letters from Wright State University. He has won several major writing awards during his career and in the fall of 2000, President Clinton appointed him chairman of the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board.

Dr. Crouch is the author or editor of many books and even more articles. His leading books include "The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright" (1989); "Dream of

Airships" (2008).

Dr. Crouch spoke candidly and openly about his work and experiences in the public history field. He spoke of controversial exhibits he has curated, such as *Enola Gay* and *A More Perfect Union*. He told of the problems faced in exhibiting such delicate subjects and how these problems were handled. Dr. Crouch also discussed how the field has changed, challenges within the field, and offered advice for those entering the field.



Public History students with Tom Crouch during his visit to WSU.

The students and alumni who attended the event thoroughly enjoyed the open forum and utilized the opportunity to ask questions about the field and his work.

Wings: American and the Airplane, 1875-1905" (1981); "Eagle Aloft: Two Centuries of the Balloon in America" (1983); "Wings: A History of Aviation from Kites to the Space Age" (2003); "Lighter Than Air: An Illustrated History of Balloons and

The Public History students and alumni would like to thank Dr. Crouch for taking the time during his brief visit to the area to speak with them.

TOSSED AND FOUND: WHAT OUTHOUSES REVEAL ABOUT OUR PAST



The Exhibits class at the opening reception at Sun-Watch Indian Village.

Tossed and Found: What Outhouses Reveal About Our Past, explores the discarded items of a bygone era. This new exhibit highlights what the garbage thrown into privies and out-

houses during the 19th and early 20th centuries tells archaeologists about the daily life of Ohioans during that era. Transform yourself into an archaeologist and unlock the story within broken

plates, empty liquor bottles, and toys discarded long ago. Venture with us down into the outhouse to uncover secrets about the past and how it compares to the present day. Dig deeper into the lost spaces and forgotten realms of local culture with *Tossed and Found: What Outhouses Reveal About Our Past*. Come see an exhibit created, developed, and executed by the curators of tomorrow.

Tossed and Found is a product of Wright State University Public History graduate students of the HST 713 Historical Interpretation and Exhibits class. The exhibit is sponsored by the Wright State University College of Liberal Arts, the Wright State University Department of History, and the Dayton Society of Natural History.

THE DAY IN THE LIFE OF... *Stacy Belcher Gould* UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Today I'm up about 7:00, in my flat in the Senior Staff Quarters provided by the University. My flat is right above the playing fields of HKU at the edge of the sea in Sandy Bay so I have a wonderful sea view of Lamma, Cheung Chau, and Lantau islands from my balcony. I will be going out to Cheung Chau for the annual Bun Festival in a couple of weeks. We will be cheering on our favorites as the men try to climb 60 foot, cone shaped towers made out of sweet, rice flour buns stuffed with sweet, red bean paste.

Our workday generally runs from 8:45 to 5:45 Monday through Friday, however we were still on a 6 day work

week when I came here, which meant 9-5 during the week and 9-1 on Saturdays for just about everyone. The first thing we do when we come in is dump the de-humidifiers (5 independent units in a 91 sq. meter space) because the battle in Hong Kong is against the never ending damp. Then I spend about two hours on my e-mail, trying to catch up with everyone.

At 11:30 my assistant, Hemans Cheng, comes in with a small stack of purchase orders and petty cash vouchers for me to sign and chop (stamp). We must put our departmental chop on all of our official documents, just as I put my personal chop on my corre-

spondence. I had my chop carved from stone by a local "seal maker". My name in Chinese sounds like Gwu Da Si and means ancient, open minded seeking, poetry. I am very flattered by this name my colleagues gave me but most people here just call me Daisy Gwu.

I spend one hour on writing yet another letter to the Finance Office about our need to order a large amount of archival supplies from Australia because they are not available here in Hong Kong. The shipping alone will be well over \$10,000 Hong Kong but there is no other way to get what we need.



Stacy with Asst Archivist, Mo Ching in the courtyard of Yu Yeun, a famous garden in Shanghai Old Town

Stacy Gould is a 1991 graduate of the Public History program. Stacy is the University Archivist for the University of Hong Kong in Pokfulam on Hong Kong Island.



Bruce McNamara and Stacy giving our certificates for the Witness to War Project 2009

At 1:00 p.m. I go to lunch in the Senior Common Room with a friend from the History Department to talk over the transfer of the documentation of the Hong Kong History project that they ran for about 30 years. My goal is to make sure that we all get what we would like and that nothing is thrown away prematurely.

After lunch the President of the Hong Kong Archives Society, Danny Chin, drops by with a small but juicy, pre-war collection of documents and photographs that he has been given but that he thinks should belong to us because of the fact that there are HKU matriculation materials in them. We joyfully accept them and he puts us in contact with the lady who gave them to him so that we can do a proper Deed of Gift.

This is followed by several phone calls

from various members of the Hong Kong Association of University Women because we have our annual business meeting coming up and the Executive Committee has much to discuss beforehand so the meeting itself doesn't drag on too long. We raise scholarship money which we award to winning applicants, young women who need financial assistance and who show great promise in their academic pursuits. Every year we give away about HK\$ 300,000 in scholarship money to support women's education.

It is now about 4:30 and I must spend some time wrestling with the final spreadsheet for the proposal for the University Archive's Budget Request for 2009-10 fiscal year, and the triennium until 2012, which begins in July.

Finally it is about 5:30 and we are winding up. We have dumped all the dehumidifiers again before we leave, a reminder of the prosaic nature of much of our work. I am off to the Central District/ Cheung Wan for a meeting of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch. I am the Honorary Archivist and tonight I am presenting the draft of a Deed of Gift for a collection that is to be donated to HKU's Libraries.

8:00 p.m. and back out into the downtown traffic to catch a cab home to my kitty, Billie Holiday, who is complaining vociferously about my long absence and wants to know "Did I bring home tuna?" I do my yoga in front of the T.V., cat snuggling, and then bed. I drift off to sleep listening to the fog horns of the big container ships as they push towards the Fragarant Harbour.

NEW COURSE: PUBLIC HISTORY FIELD STUDY

Students were offered a new course this spring—Public History Field Study taught by Dr. John Sherman. This new course offers students an opportunity to evaluate historical sites and museums outside of the Dayton area. This spring students visited five sites in the Lexington area: the Hunt-Morgan House, Ashland: the Henry Clay Estate, the Aviation Museum of Kentucky, Old Fort

Harrod State Park, and Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.

The course required the enrollees to evaluate all aspects of the site: effectiveness of the exhibits, conservation/display issues, effectiveness of the tour guides or interpreters, and evaluation of the brochures and site websites. Students were challenged to look beyond the site and to think about

what sort of acquisitions the curator might consider for the future.

This course offers the students an opportunity to go beyond the Dayton area and see what other states and regions are doing with museums and historical sites. The course is offered again in the fall and will focus on Civil War museums and sites in the Lexington area.



The group in front of the Main Family Dwelling Center at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.

ALUMNI

Catherine Wilson (2008) is the Executive Director of the Greene County Ohio Historical Society. Greene County Historical Society is celebrating its 80th anniversary and is planning to have its 1799 log house restored later this summer, plus they're having a quilt show in October. Catherine is working with the Greene County Convention and Visitors Bureau on a cemetery driving/bicycling tour brochure. She also provides the Xenia and Fairborn newspapers with information for a section of the paper dedicated to past events from 35 to 50 years ago. **Collette Hill-McDonough (2007)** is teaching History at Sinclair Community College and National College. She developed an Ohio History class for seniors at SCC and at National and also taught a course on the Vietnam War. She volunteers at Carillon Park in her free time. **Daniel Schlegel (2009)** is currently a Lead Interpreter for Dayton History. Most of his

time is spent at Carillon Park and leading tours at Hawthorn Hill (Orville Wright's success mansion). He is helping to prepare the Paul Laurence Dunbar House for opening under Dayton History custody and also with the preparations for the reopening of Old River Park (owned by NCR) to the public. **Andrea Spence Pudas (2004)** is an Archivist with Target Corporation in Minneapolis, MN and serves on the Archives and Heritage Services team. While with Target, Andrea has expanded into the broader information management field and currently works on the Information Protection team. **Jeffrey Landis (2006)** was hired by Kansas City Books to perform the biographical research on the Rev. George C. Warvel for the book, *The Circuit Rider's Quilt: An Album Quilt Honoring a Beloved Minister*. The book was published in October 2008. In the summer of 2008, Mr. Landis began Landis Historical Consulting, a historical consult-

ing business. In April 2009, Mr. Landis was elected to the Board of the Patterson Memorial Committee, the advisory board to the City of Dayton on behalf of the Patterson Homestead House Museum. **Timothy Binkley (2005)** In April 2009 Scarecrow Press published *A Higher Moral and Spiritual Stand: Selected Writings of Milton Wright*, a book edited by Mr. Binkley. His paper "A Proving Time for God's Children: Defenseless Community During the First World War" is being published in the June and July issues of *Quest: A Religious Newsletter*. Since April of 2005, Tim has served as Archivist of United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Oh and Curator of the seminary's Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage. Beginning September 1, he will begin a new position as Archivist of the Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.

NEW STUDENTS SPRING 2009

Elizabeth Hathaway

University of Dayton

Melissa South

Wright State University

Welcome to the Program!

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Rachael Bussert was awarded an Ohio Humanities Council Grant to be a participant in the Summer Internship Program. She will be working with the Beavercreek Historical Society to help plan and implement a collections management policy. Rachael was also inducted into the History Honors Fraternity, Phi Alpha Theta, in May.

Melissa Dalton was awarded an Ohio Humanities Council Grant to be a participant in the Summer Internship Program. She will be working with the Dayton Society of Natural History and will co-curate an exhibit scheduled

to open in the fall.

Jeremy Feador received the Society of Ohio Archivist Stipend Scholarship to attend the SOA Conference this spring.

Ryan Qualls was inducted into the History Honors Fraternity, Phi Alpha Theta, in May.

Elizabeth Stanze was inducted into the History Honors Fraternity, Phi Alpha Theta, in May.

Congratulations to all our students!

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR: DAWNE DEWEY

WSU Public History students and faculty had a very busy Spring Quarter!

Congratulations to our HST 713 Museum Exhibits and Interpretation Class and their instructor, Lynn Simonelli, on a great exhibit and opening reception! Students Jeremy Feador, Melissa Dalton and Ryan Qualls represented the class at the COLA Spring Colloquium with a poster session on the exhibit that was very well received.

Our thanks to Dr. John Sherman, History Department Chair, for launching

the Public History Field Study class and for his support of the program during the past year.

Public History adjunct faculty met in a half day retreat on June 5 and made substantial progress on a Public History Program semester plan. My thanks to all of the faculty who support the program in so many ways.

Our students are scattered across Ohio and the country this summer completing internships and projects. Plans are underway to host a fall event

to spotlight the achievements of this year's student interns and capstone projects. This will give our students an opportunity to share their experiences and accomplishments with faculty, fellow students and alumni. Watch for more news on this event in the coming weeks.

I hope everyone is having a great summer and I look forward to seeing all of you in September!

Even Orville took a vacation! Orville Wright on vacation at Lambert Island, Ontario, Canada, 1920.





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

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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Dawne Dewey
Director, Public History Program

Dr. John Sherman
Chair, History Department

Dr. Paul Lockhart
Director, History Graduate Programs

Melissa Dalton
Public History Graduate Assistant, Newsletter Editor

STUDENT PROJECTS AND INTERNSHIPS

Spring/Summer 2009

Sarah Boteler—Internship

*New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum
Las Cruces, New Mexico*

Rachael Bussert—Internship

*University of Dayton Archives
Dayton, Ohio*

Elizabeth Morgan—Internship

*Kent State University Museum
Kent, Ohio*

Amanda Brewer—Internship

*Clark County Historical Society
Springfield, Ohio*

Rachael Bussert—Project

*Beavercreek Historical Society
Beavercreek, Ohio*

Ashley Nittle—Internship

*German Village Historical Society
Columbus, Ohio*

Veronica Buchanan—Internship

*Cincinnati Museum Center
Cincinnati, Ohio*

Melissa Dalton—Project

*Dayton Society of Natural History
Dayton, Ohio*

Matthew Peek—Internship

*Turner Foundation
Springfield, Ohio*

Veronica Buchanan—Project

*Clark County Historical Society
Springfield, Ohio*

Jeremy Feador—Internship

*Western Reserve Historical Society
Cleveland, Ohio*

Ryan Qualls—Internship

*National Parks Service
Dayton, Ohio*

Jennifer Budzek—Project/Internship

*Special Collections & Archives, WSU
Dayton, Ohio*

Tiffany Knapp—Internship

*Think TV
Dayton, Ohio*