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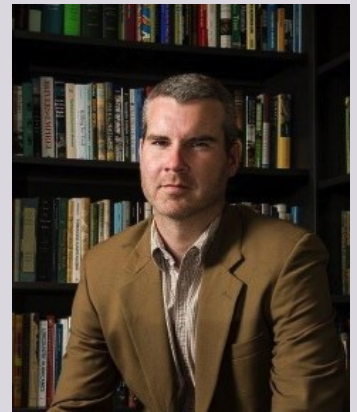
Public History Newsletter

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

FALL, 2015

Introducing Dr. Drew Swanson, New Director of Public History at Wright State University

Dr. Drew Swanson will assume the duties of Director of Public History as of January 2016. Dr. Swanson came into the field of Public History in a very round about way. After receiving his undergraduate degree in Biology from Lees-McRae College he worked as a Natural Resource Manager at a park in Western North Carolina where he did public presentations on the history of the park. Although he did not see it at the time, he was participating in Public History as an interpreter. He was presenting the history of the park to visitors and educating them on the site.



He also was a research historian for in interdisciplinary research agency. He was part of a plan to interpret the history of a historic site. In this position he worked with a variety of people such as ecologists, geologists, and archeologists. He eventually went on to write a book about the historic site called, *Remaking Wormsloe Plantation: The Environmental History of a Lowcountry Landscape*. Dr. Swanson has several favorite historical sites, archives and museums. His favorite sites include; Wormsloe State Park in Georgia, Carillon Historical Park, National Museum of the United State Air Force, and Carriage Hill Metro Park.

As Dr. Swanson takes the reigns on the Public History program he plans on sustaining the momentum the program has and building on it. He believes in maintaining relationships with community partners but would like to see larger recognition of the program to bring in more graduate students into the program as well as provide job placement on the national stage. He would like to expand the program by adding interpretation courses. "I think we do a great job with our museum track, I think we do a great job with our archival track I think there is potentially space in terms of what we do for teaching interpretation, Which is where our students go off to do interpretory things." In the future he sees the program expanding and becoming more nationally recognized. As the program moves forward the future seems bright with Dr. Swanson at the helm.

Drew Swanson is Assistant Professor of History at Wright State, where he teaches classes in American, environmental, food, and 19th century history. Born in rural Virginia, he is a graduate of the University of Georgia and worked as a farmer, zookeeper, and natural resource manager before turning to academia. Prior to accepting a position at Wright State, he taught at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, as an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation postdoctoral fellow. Swanson's research examines public history and the intersections of nature and culture in the American South. He is the author of a number of journal articles and book chapters, as well as two books: *A Golden Weed: Tobacco and Environment in the Piedmont South* (Yale University Press, 2014) and (Biography Continued on page 3)

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A Day in the Life of Garret B. Kremer-Wright

As of this writing, I am finishing up my first month of working in a new repository and new state. After seven years at the Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando, Florida, I accepted a position in Little Rock, Arkansas. I work at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture (CAHC) as the Research and Scholarly Communications Archivist. In my new position, I am being challenged to learn new repository holdings and new skills, namely Archivists' Toolkit.

So far, the transition has been good. It has been a whirlwind past few months. From wrapping up projects in Florida to the 14 hour drive to Arkansas. During my initial weeks at CAHC, I reviewed their processing manual, shadowed colleagues on the reference desk, walked the stacks and searched the online finding aids for an overall idea of their collection holdings. CAHC holds the papers of five Arkansas governors, records related to Japanese American internment, Civil War, as well as organizations and families.

One of my primary responsibilities until the end of next year, is to continue processing the James Guy Tucker, Jr., Papers, a grant funded project by NHPRC. Upon completion, approximately 600 linear feet of material will be processed. In my role as lead archivist, I will spend 40 percent of my work week on this project not only processing, but also writing articles based on the content found within the collection. This project also allows me to supervise a full time processing archivist.



Two other aspects of my job that I am looking forward to working on are assisting patrons with their research and promoting the use of CAHC's holdings through public outreach. I have always enjoyed seeing the gratitude patrons have when I have successfully helped them locate something. It is always a bright spot in my day when I have these encounters.

My skills and knowledge of the archival profession were solidified during my time at Wright State in the Public History program's museum studies and archives courses, and have allowed me to be successful in Florida and Arkansas.

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Remaking Wormsloe Plantation: The Environmental History of a Low country Landscape (University of Georgia Press, 2012). His most recent essay is "Mountain Meeting Grounds: History at the Intersection of Species," in *The Historical Animal*, edited by Susan Nance (Syracuse University Press, 2015). He is currently working on two books, one on the environmental history of Appalachia, the other focusing on the agrarian roots of Reconstruction violence.

Interest in the history of environment, science, agriculture, and the South has led Swanson to committee service for a range of professional organizations, and he currently serves as co-editor of H-Rural, an online academic community of more than 1,200 scholars. Swanson's research and teaching has won a number of awards, including prizes from the Agricultural History Society, the Southern Historical Association, the Georgia Historical Society, the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council, the Forest History Society, the Ohio Academy of History, WSU's College of Liberal Arts, the Southwestern Ohio Council on Higher Education, and the University of Georgia History Department. Most recently he received the Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Prize from the Agricultural History Society and the University's Presidential Early Career Achievement Award.

He lives in Centerville with his wife, Margaret, and two children, Ethan and Avery.

What are They up to Now? Alumni Update

David Gray (1981) retired as a Captain in October 2015 from the United States Navy, following a 27 year active duty career. Before his Navy career David worked in a variety of archival positions. In October 2015 David was appointed as Director of Library Services for the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota and leads the Welder Library.

Alan Robison (1992) recently assumed the Executive Director position at the Anniston Museum of Natural History, the Bertram Museum of World History, and the Longleaf Botanical Gardens, in Anniston, Alabama.

Lucy Putnam (2004) recently received her Digital Archives Specialist Certificate.

Garret Kremer-Wright (2007) recently began working as the Research and Scholarly Communications Archivist at the Uni-

versity of Arkansas at Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture.

Lisa Rickey (2008) and Toni Vanden Bos at Wright State University Special Collections and Archives have successfully completed the Digital Archives Specialist certification from the Society of American Archivists, passing the final examination in August 2015.

Mel Glover (2010) is the new superintendent for the Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum in Douglas, Wyoming. He also manages Ft. Fetterman and Camp Douglas.

Stephanie Keen (2013) started a job at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center as an office associate in the Division of Hematology. skills to update She **Jessica Cromer (2014)** is working as an Archives Contractor for the Kettering Foundation.

Sara Fisher (2015) recently accepted a position as Curator of Collections at Lakewood Historical Society in Cleveland.

Jennifer Edwards (2009) was recently promoted to Supervisory Technical Information Specialist. She manages the archives, library, and web functions for the USDA/APHIS National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, Colorado.

David Brownell (2011) recently became the Cultural Resources Specialist for the Jamestown Sklallam Tribe in Washington State.

Caroline Ibbotson (2014) Local Government Records Specialist at the Ohio History Connection is now a member of the Academy of Certified Archives, having passed the ACA exam earlier this year.

Sara Boteler (2010) Recently earned her MSLIS from Catholic

University of America and is now archives technician at the National Archives in College Park.

Sarah Deffinger (2014) was recently promoted to Audio-visual Archives Assistant Coordinator at the PETA Foundation.

Ashley Nittle (2010) recently opened a new business: Front Porch Personal History Services, offering family history and genealogy research services. As the business grows, she will expand the services to include house histories, community histories, corporate histories, legacy letters, and oral history interviews.

Bemba Diarra (2015) was recently appointed Financial Information Manager for the Development Bank of Mali, West Africa.



Director's Note, Dawne Dewey

After eight years as Director of Public History, I am stepping down to focus on my primary responsibilities as Head of Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University. I became director of public history in 2007 and quickly learned that the best part of the job was getting to know all of the students. I have had the privilege of helping guide over 100 students to graduation. Those students have challenged me, laughed with me, drank hot chocolate with me, worked hard with me, kept me on my toes, and generally kept me young, in spite of the gray hair. I have enjoyed working with all of the public history graduate adjunct faculty, and faculty and staff in the History Department and College of Liberal Arts. I'd like to thank all of our alumni, the staff of Special Collections and Archives, and most of all, the students, for all the support and encouragement you've given me these past eight years. I will continue to teach classes and hope to get to know many more students in the years ahead. Public History at WSU will be in excellent hands with Dr. Drew Swanson. The future is bright and our students and graduates are proving that they can succeed, get great jobs, and share history in new and innovative ways.



5th Annual Public History Graduate Symposium ***The Politics of Public History: When Stories Collide***

This year the theme for the Annual Public History Graduate Symposium pertains to how history can be a point of conflict when two parties wish to tell different stories about the same event. Our guest speaker this year will be Dr. Ari Kelman. He is a professor at Pennsylvania State University and will be speaking on his book titled *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek*. For more than a century and a half, the Sand Creek Massacre has been at the center of struggles over history and memory in the American West: from the government investigations launched in the massacre's immediate aftermath; to the controversial work of so-called Indian reformers, including Helen Hunt Jackson, writing late in the nineteenth century; to memorials erected in Colorado during the era of the Cold War; to the impact of popular histories, like Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*; to the recently opened Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. Ari Kelman, McCabe Greer Professor of History at Penn State University and recipient of the 2014 Bancroft Prize, will discuss the meaning and impact of the longstanding fight to shape and control memories of Sand Creek.

The Symposium will take place on March 25, 2016 in the Apollo Room at Wright State University. Registration and refreshments will begin at 8:15am with the Welcome at 9am. The events of the day will include our Guest Speaker, a word from Dawne and Dr. Swanson as well as several student presentations. Online registration for the Symposium will open February 1, 2016. This event is free and open to the public.



DOING HISTORY THE WRIGHT WAY SINCE 1974!

The mission of Public History 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

Dawne Dewey
Director of Public History

Dr. Carol Herringer
Chair Department of History

Dr. Kathryn Meyer
Director of Graduate Studies

Samantha Green
Public History Graduate Assistant, Newsletter Editor

[http://liberal-arts.wright.edu/
history/programs/graduate/
public-history-plan](http://liberal-arts.wright.edu/history/programs/graduate/public-history-plan)

Welcome New Students!

Sarah Allison– Transylvania University
Nichole Chrissis– Ohio State
Andrew Clinard– Wright State University
Hadley Drodge– University of Dayton
Lauren Godby– Urbana College
Kaitlyn Griffith– University of Tennessee
Samantha Martin– Wright State University
Jocelyn Robinson– Antioch University
Monica Rowe– University of Dayton
Kyle Thede– University
of Alabama
Daniel Watts– Wright
State University

Congratulations to December Graduates!



Rajib Chaudhuri and
Michael Moss
Best of luck in all your
endeavors!

