

Public History Newsletter

Department of History
Wright State University

ARMA Scholarship awarded to WSU Public History Student

WSU Public History student Jennifer Budzek was recently awarded the Waymon Underwood Scholarship from the Greater Dayton Chapter of ARMA International.

Congratulations Jennifer!



Public History Students Attend Statehood Day

On March 3, 2009, five Public History students accompanied Dawne in attending the 4th Annual Statehood Day at the Ohio Statehouse. Statehood Day is an event in which history advocates are given a chance to meet with state legislators and express the need for support in establishing and funding initiatives that promote the history of Ohio.

Each year, the organizers of the event create a list of legislative priorities for the participants to discuss with his/her legislator. This year, we were asked to consider six initiatives for discussion. A representative for each priority gave a brief presenta-

tion describing the legislative agenda and its importance.

The keynote speaker, OSU football coach Jim Tressel, ad-



From Left to Right: Rachael Bussert, Sara Boteler, Dawne Dewey, Melissa Dalton, Jeremy Feador, Angela Vanderbilt

ressed the attendees during lunch. He spoke of his mother, Eloise Tressel, and her passion for history and her commit-

ment to preserving Ohio's history. Next, local high school students who are taking part in the OHS Congressional Academy spoke. Each school briefly described their service project, the research involved, and what they learned from the project.

The majority of our Wright State group met with Representative Jarrod Martin, who is serving his first term as the representative for the 70th House District seat. We spoke with Rep. Martin for well over half an hour, and he was very receptive to our petition for support. According to a few of our ten-

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Note from the Director: Dawne Dewey

I would like to congratulate all of our Winter 2009 graduates. I wish you much success in your Public History careers! Once again, the Dialogue with the Director session was a success. I appreciate the suggestions, concerns, and great ideas all of you shared with me. Adjunct faculty will meet in the spring to discuss your input and also begin the planning process for

the transition to semesters. The tentative date for this change is Fall 2012.

A brand new Public History Course, the Public History Field Study is being offered this spring. Dr. Sherman, History Dept. Chair, developed this course. He and I will lead a group to Kentucky to visit, evaluate and study several

historic sites. As always, exciting things are happening in Public History at WSU!



A Day in the Life of...
Lynn Simonelli
 Dayton Society of Natural History

As the Vice President of Collections & Research, I oversee the efforts of six different departments, including: Anthropology, Biology, Geology, the Live Animal Department, the Astronomy Department, and SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park. These departments share common goals of educational programming, exhibition, use of the collections for research, and the professional advancement of science.

There is no such thing as a "typical" day in my week; neither do my weeks tend to run Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. As I sat down to write this article, someone stopped at the Front

Desk and asked a question about August Foerste. I researched the information we had on Dr. Foerste, took the papers down to the Front Desk, and while I was returning to my office fell into conversation with a visiting grandmother and her grandson who were watching Ned the groundhog in our indoor zoo.

I once set a watch to see how long I could work uninterrupted; the longest I ever made it was 10 minutes!

So, I'll use yesterday as my "typical" day, which started at 8:30 AM at Wright State University. I was giving my final exam for ATH 242, Introduction to Archaeology. I ate breakfast (a banana) while my students

were taking their exam, and had a quick cup of tea. By 10:00 AM they were all finished, so I collected their exams and headed to the Anthropology Department Office to check into the regulations for giving a student an Incomplete in the course. Once that was done, I headed for the Boonshoft.

I arrived at work at 10:30 AM, and started the day off right for our IT department of one person by telling him I had discovered that the SunWatch Web site had been hacked. There was text in the code (not visible to the viewer) that was selling various prescription medications (you know the ones I mean). We fiddled with that for



Lynn Simonelli at SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park

about 30 minutes, and I left fixing the problem up to the expert!

"I once set a watch to see how long I could work uninterrupted; the longest I ever made it was 10 minutes!"

At 11:00 AM I sat down with the Curator of Anthropology and the SunWatch Reconstruction Supervisor, and took an hour to hear their plans and progress for the summer excavation and reconstruction season.

At 12:00 PM I decided to go to Marion's Piazza for lunch, which is uncommon. I usually pack a lunch and eat while doing email, but sometimes it pays to get out of the building and clear my head for a while!

1:00 PM
I returned to the building and sat down to try to clear my email box, which took nearly three hours since several of my staff stopped in to pick up keys, discuss problems, give updates on their efforts, or just to say "hi."

4:00 PM

I attended the Executive Committee meeting of our Board of Trustees, and reported on the activities of my staff.

5:30 – 8:00 PM

Free Night at the Museum from 4:00 – 8:00 PM. We had about 800 in attendance; I worked the area at the bottom of the tower, trying to keep children that were too small from climbing up the rope ladder.

8:30 PM

I arrive home, ready to start another day in about 12 hours!

Lynn Simonelli is a 2002 graduate of the Public History program. She currently works for the Dayton Society of Natural History, which owns and operates the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery and SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park.

Students Attend Statehood Day

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ured group members, it is very unusual to meet with the legislator, so we were fortunate to have the opportunity during our first Statehood Day.

For the five graduate students who attended Statehood Day, it was a great experience. The chance to meet others in the field, create net-

works, meet legislators, and promote Ohio's history all in one massive event was incredible. Public historians are entrusted with preserving our collective history and participation in such events as Statehood Day is a great way to ensure our history will be accessible to future generations.



Picture taken in the Senate Chambers while touring the Ohio Statehouse.

Alumni News

Roberta Carothers (2004), is the curator at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. She has been with the NMUSAF for almost 6 years. In her current position she accessions and inventories artifacts and provides artifacts for exhibits. Roberta's two most recent exhibits were "Warrior Airmen" and "Badge of Honor: 100 Missions Up North." **Jayna Hanson (2008)**, is working as an archivist in Washington, DC for the Archives of American Art, which is one of the research centers of the Smithsonian. She works as a processing archivist on one of the larger grants from the Terra Foundation for American Art to fully digitize the most important collections. To view her work, visit <http://aaa.si.edu/collectionsonline/>. **Natalie Fritz (2007)**, is working as a curatorial assistant for the Clark County History Society in Springfield, OH. Her main duties include assisting researchers, handling outside research requests, processing collections, and maintaining and updating the website. She also works on temporary exhibits, which

includes: conducting research, preparing artifacts for display, and mounting and striking the exhibit. Natalie and her husband live in Springfield and are expecting their first child in June. **Jennifer Gerth (1997)**, is an archivist for the Society of Mary, which is the archives for the American Province of the Marianist religious group. She is also the coordinator for the Miami Valley Archives Roundtable. Jennifer married Dave Unger in 2007 and they live near downtown Dayton. **Melissa Schmunk (2006)**, and her husband, Matt, just had their first child, Linden Matthew on February 8, 2009. **Lonna McKinley (1996)**, is the Museum Manuscript Curator at the National Museum of US Air Force. She is responsible for Physical and Intellectual Control of NMUASF Manuscript Collections. **Mark Benbow (1983)**, finished his Ph.D. in American History in 1999 at Ohio University. From 1987-2002, he worked doing IT consulting and training. From 2003-2006 he was the in-house histo-

rian at the Woodrow Wilson House in DC. In 2007, he started at Marymount University in Virginia as an adjunct instructor of History. He currently teaches American and Public History and his first book, on Wilson and the Mexican Revolution, will be published by Kent State University Press later this year. **Michael Arbagi (2005)**, is working as an archivist for the Winthrop Group, an archival consulting firm based in NYC and Boston. He has been working since August 2005 as a consultant at the Kraft Food Archives. Michael passed his ACA Certification in 2007, and is serving on the MAC Membership Committee. **Garrett Kremer-Wright (2007)**, has been the archivist at the Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando, FL since April 2008. His duties include processing collections, updating Past-Perfect Museum Software, organizing the backlog, answering researcher requests, and supervising the Collection's Assistant one day a week.

Welcome New Students!

- Lauryn Bayliff—Denison University
- Sandra Bialik—Chaminade University
- Christopher Bills—Bowling Green State University
- Jane Leach—University of Dayton
- Jennifer Myers—University College London
- Patrick Wolfe—Case Western Reserve University
- Angela Vanderbilt—Ohio University (started Fall Quarter)

Winter 2009 Student Internships and Projects

- Jennifer Edwards—Project**
Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton (JFGD)
Dayton, OH
- Anne Ryckbost—Internship**
Lloyd Library and Museum
Cincinnati, OH

*"A library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas—a place where history comes to life."
-Norman Cousins*

Students at Work: A Glimpse into the Project of Jennifer Edwards

Jennifer Edwards—Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton.

My project at the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton (JFGD) has been a great experience. My supervisors are Pamela Schwartz (a Wright State Public History Grad) and Marshall Weiss (editor of the Dayton Jewish Observer). My primary goal has been to work with Pam and Marshall to estab-

lish an archive for the JFGD. The initial stage of the project was to inventory the collection of the JFGD. This included artifacts such as old typewriters, vinyl records, film, and photographs. There is also a large collection of agency records and newspapers. The second stage of the project was to process the collections and convert them to stable storage containers. Since the archive was created from the ground up I not

only received experience inventorying, and processing collections, but also starting an archive. This includes everything from ordering the appropriate storage materials for artifacts and records to creating databases for records. Through this project I have learned valuable skills that I will use as a public historian. I have enjoyed my time at JFGD and hope to continue working with them.



Jennifer Edwards while working on her project at JFGD.



<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

Congratulations to our Winter
2009 Graduates!

Leigh Burnham

Kylee Conant

Jennifer Edwards

Jacob Kallgren

William McIntire

Daniel Schlegel

Erica Wainwright

We wish you all the best of luck!

SAA Student Chapter
elects Officers

President—Jeremy Feador

Vice President—Melissa Dalton

Treasurer—Rachael (Williams) Bussert

Secretary—Sara Boteler

*Congratulations to our new
officers!*