

Public History Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI VISIT THE CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER

Welcome to the new Public History newsletter! We hope you enjoy reading about current and former students and the events that have taken place in conjunction with the Public History Program at Wright State University. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to pass them along to Dawne Dewey, Director of the Public History Program. Her email address is: dawne.dewey@wright.edu.

On December 1, 2007, Public History students and alumni visited the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal. The day-trip was organized through joint efforts of the WSU chapters of Phi Alpha Theta and the Society of American Archivists. Students visited the "Real Pirates" exhibit that was featured at the Museum through January 8, 2008. They then toured the Cincinnati History Museum.

The objectives of museum trips such as this one are not

only to enjoy and support local museums but also to look at different exhibits and museums with a critical eye. Participating in this with a peer group has been very beneficial for reinforcing the content of Public History courses.

In February of 2007, students visited the Indianapolis Children's Museum. On this trip, they were able to get a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's collections area, as well as a tour of the archives at Indiana University-Purdue



Touring the collections area at the Indianapolis Children's Museum

University Indianapolis.

The WSU chapters of Phi Alpha Theta and the Society of American Archivists work hard to plan events and field trips open to all students and alumni. If you would like to participate in these trips, or be involved on the planning committee, please contact Daniel Schlegel, President of the chapters of both PAT and SAA, at schlegel.7@wright.edu.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Day in the Life of... Tiffany O'Sheal	2
Reunion Reception a Success!	2
Alumni News	3
Welcome New Students!	3
A Note from the Director	3
Department of History Information	4
Congratulations to our Graduates!	4

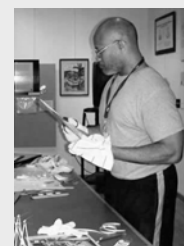


WSU Public History students and alumni gather in the Union Terminal lobby in Cincinnati.

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY EXHIBIT COMES TO WSU

Public History student Sam Ewing completed his project during the summer of 2007 in conjunction with United Theological Seminary in Dayton. The result of his project was an exhibit, *From the Shirley Collection—Cloth, Clothes, and the Yarns the Tell: The Fabrics of Sierra Leone*. The exhibit was on display at UTS from

September 21 -December 21, 2007. Then the exhibit came to the Gallery in the WSU Student Union. It was open from January 31-February 29, 2008, and gave students the chance to see textiles and other artifacts collected by the late Leslie and Grace Shirley, former United Methodist Missionaries to Sierra Leone.



Sam Ewing making preparations for the exhibit.

A DAY IN THE LIFE ...

Tiffany O'Sheal

UTAH STATE ARCHIVES

My morning starts off with my aggravating 45 to 90 minute drive from our home in Clinton, Utah, to the Utah State Archives in Salt Lake City. By the way, just because a state has mountains and gets pummeled by snow every year doesn't mean that people can drive in it any better than Ohioans! But, at least there's an amazing view!

I was hired as an archivist to administer the

new Utah Public Notice Website. Due to launch April 1st, the website is the first public notice website in the nation for both state and local government agencies to post their public notices in one centralized location. These notices are then archived permanently. After the initial workload of the website dies down, I will additionally be cataloging and processing collections in all formats, including

digital. This position puts me in between a records manager and an archivist.

I get to the Archives at around 7am. It's a fairly brand new building with a really amazing ASRS (automated storage retrieval system). Just imagine never walking up and down the isle looking for that box you know is there but you just can't find!



The Utah State Archives building, which opened in 2004.

*"While the days
are busy and
sometimes very
long, I can at
least say I truly
love my job!"*

Tiffany O'Sheal
Archivist
Utah State Archives

I usually have several messages in the morning from both the public and administrators on the upcoming website. The website has been in development for almost nine months and has created quite a bit of excitement. I spend a large portion of my morning testing the website, answering more questions via email and phone, updating and reviewing our authority lists for all aspects of the website, and updating our da-

tabase. My afternoons are usually spent working on training curriculum and processing registrations for the upcoming trainings that I am giving on the website. By the end of April, I will have trained over 500 administrators in the state on the purpose and use of the website (I'll be getting a whirlwind tour of the state!).

The experience I gained both in the classroom and from internships have greatly benefited me

already in my job, especially when it comes to processing, records management, and archival technologies. My employer has brought up several times that the education and work experiences on my resume really made it stand out, so trust me, those internships, even the volunteer ones, will benefit you more than you can imagine. While the days are busy and sometimes very long, I can at least truly say I love my job!

**PUBLIC HISTORY REUNION RECEPTION
IS A SUCCESS!**

On November 16, 2007, the Public History Department held its first Reunion Reception. The purpose of the evening was to welcome Dawne Dewey as the new Director of the Public History program, as well as to give students and alumni a chance to reconnect with their classmates and professors.

The reception was held on the fourth floor of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Library. Guests enjoyed refreshments and had the opportunity to hear such speakers as Dawne Dewey, Stephen Foster (University Librarian), Chuck Taylor (Dean of the College of Liberal Arts), and Edward Haas (Chair of the History

Department). Also in attendance were Carl Becker and Charles Berry, two of the founders of the Public History program at Wright State.

If you would like to see more photos from the Reunion Reception, please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at WSU: (937)775-3162.



Director Dawne Dewey with current Public History students and alumni at the reception.

ALUMNI NEWS

Kimberly Richards (2004) recently accepted a position as an Educational Grant Writing Specialist at GST (Greater Southern Tier) BOCES in Elmira, NY. **Lucy Putnam** (2004) has been working since graduation as the Archivist for the Glenmary Home Missioners in Cincinnati, OH. **Tony Wright** (1999) has worked as the Archivist for the City of Kalamazoo Department of Records Management, Research, and Archives since April 2000. In December 2007, Tony was hired by Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, MI, as a part-time history instructor.

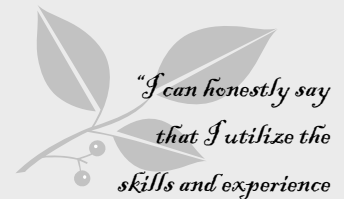
Lonna McKinley (1996), **Brett Stolle** (2004), and **Christina Douglass** (2006) work as Manuscript Curators at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, where they care for 2-dimensional items donated to the museum, which can then be used for research and exhibits. **Jessie Robinson** (2004) passed the Certified Archivist exam in 2005. In 2007, she was promoted to Senior State Records Archivist at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. **Tiffany O'Sheal** (2007) started in January 2008 as an archivist at the Utah State Archives in Salt

Lake City. She is also the Utah Public Notice Website Administrator. **Collette Hill** (2007) is an American History instructor at Sinclair Community College in Englewood, as well as an archivist for the Kettering Foundation in Kettering, OH. **Natalie Fritz** (2007) is the Curatorial Assistant at the Clark County Historical Society in Springfield, OH. **Alumni: Please send your updated information to be included in future newsletters and on the Public History website! Email Andrea Green, green.143@wright.edu.**

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

Leigh Burnham (Franciscan University)
 Kylee Conant (Kent State University)
 Allyson Copper (Shawnee State University)
 Kasey Eichensehr (Wittenberg University)
 Rachael Hudson (Wilmington College)
 Emily Huelskamp (Wright State University)
 Jacob Kallgren (Wittenberg University)

Steve Knapp (Wright State University)
 Lauren Schaubhut (East Texas Baptist University)
 Lee Steiner (Bryan College)
 Nathan Troup (Kent State University)
 Wendy Wagener
 Erica Wainwright (Ohio State University)



*"I can honestly say
 that I utilize the
 skills and experience*

*I gained as a student
 in the Public
 History program
 every day."*

Jessie Robinson
 Library of Virginia
 2004 WSU Graduate

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dawne Dewey

PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAM

The students are the very best thing about being Director of Public History at WSU. Getting to know the students, seeing how enthusiastic they are about history, their chosen profession and their excitement about the future, makes this job worth every effort. I recently held the first of what I hope will be many "Dialogue with the Director" sessions. About a dozen of the current students met with me to talk about the program. They shared ideas and suggestions

for classes, internships, and projects. I'm also planning a retreat for Public History adjunct faculty to meet, discuss curriculum and share ideas about how we can continue to provide the best professional training for our students. Input from alumni will be very important as well. I'm looking forward to getting to know our students even better in the months ahead and appreciate all of the ideas, support and

encouragement they have given me.



<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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Graduate Assistant/Newsletter Editor

**C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S T O O U R
2 0 0 7
G R A D U A T E S !**

Winter 2007

Vicki Lipski (Certificate)

Spring 2007

Sherri Ayers (Certificate)

Chris Burton

Natalie Fritz

Collette Hill

Carla Lachecki

Garret Kremer-Wright

Summer 2007

Kathryn Miller

Fall 2007

Alaina Carroll

Ashley Conkle

Lorrie Monteiro

Tiffany O'Sheal

Tracey Stivers (Certificate)



Spring 2007 Commencement, L to R: Sherri (Derringer) Ayers, Collette Hill, Chris Burton, Natalie Fritz, Garret Kremer-Wright