First Graduate of Public History Program Lands Job

Paul Archambault’s experience with UNCC has come full circle. When he arrived in 2003 from Tennessee, he was one of the first students to enroll in the newly established public history program. In August 2005, he became the program’s first graduate and within weeks landed a job...in Tennessee! He began his job as a Preservation Planner in Chattanooga on October, 8th 2005. Paul did everything right. He focused on an area of interest – historic preservation; he completed two internships; and he created a web portfolio of his public history projects. Amazingly, he also got married and is now the proud father of a little girl named Riley. (Read about Paul’s experience in the program beginning on page two.) Congratulations to Paul and best wishes to his family.

Internship Experiences of Public History Students

Abbey Coker is currently working as a development intern at the Charlotte Museum of History. She is assisting the Director of Development with donor relations, fundraising projects and special events planning. Abbey is also examining the ways in which other history museums use marketing and development in order to raise funds.

Over the summer, she worked as a collections intern for the Culture and Heritage Museums in York County, South Carolina. While there she researched and examined various pieces of eighteenth and nineteenth century furniture located in The Homestead at Historic Brattonsville.

This research will be used to create a virtual tour of The Homestead’s decorative arts pieces to be hosted on the Culture and Heritage Museums’ website.

Neil Cottrell spent the summer in the North Carolina Internship Program. Neil researched, designed, and created a WWI virtual exhibit for the North Carolina State Archives. The archives, North Carolina Museum of History, and the North Carolina State library received a grant to catalogue, digitize, and combine their resources to create a WWI virtual collection. The exhibit Neil designed is called “The Old North State and
My Experience in the Public History Program
by Paul Archambault

I entered the Public History Program at UNC Charlotte with the goals of earning a Master’s Degree and pursuing a professional career in the field. Two years later I have accomplished both. As I begin my new job as a Preservation Planner with the Southeast Tennessee Development District in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I would like to share my experiences in the graduate program, which assisted me greatly in obtaining a job in historic preservation.

My first internship was with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. I performed a walking survey of Pineville, North Carolina, photographed potentially historic structures, conducted historical research, interviewed long-time residents, and wrote architectural descriptions and a historical essay. In November of 2004, Dr. Morrill and I presented the final report to the Pineville Town Board, and members expressed interest in moving forward and taking the necessary steps to preserve the Main Street commercial buildings, notable town homes, and the mill village.

In the fall of 2003, I enrolled in the Historic Preservation course taught by Dr. Dan Morrill. The class gave me the opportunity to learn and explore the fundamentals of the profession. In addition to learning about National Register criteria, guidelines, and the benefits and consequences of local and federal designation, I became familiar with website design to display my survey and research report, which each student prepared on historic homes in Charlotte.

My second internship was with Dr. Alan May at the Schiele Museum in Gastonia. I wrote a thematic essay which conveyed the historical significance of seven iron furnaces in Lincoln County, North Carolina and Gaston County, North Carolina from 1790 until the 1870s. The documented research contributed towards Multiple Property Listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

For my final public history project, I continued with my research on Pineville and the development of the town as a textile community in the twentieth century. I became involved in assisting the Town of Pineville with a preservation strategy that...

“The diversity in courses presents public history students with a plethora of choices, and as a result, makes them more marketable in the professional world”

Paul Archambault with Professor Dan Morrill after his thesis presentation.
My Experience (cont’d from pg. 2)

would protect its individuality, significant historic buildings and mill village. I felt it was important that Pineville’s built environment be saved, because today it serves as a physical reminder of Mecklenburg County’s textile growth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also is a reminder of a New South mill heritage that is quickly disappearing from memory in twenty-first century America.

When I look back on all that I have accomplished, I am truly amazed. Entering the program, I was not at all computer savvy. When I left the program, I had my own website, which contained a portfolio of my professional projects. The Public History Program at UNCC presented more opportunities to me than I could ever have imagined. The diversity in courses presents public history students with a plethora of choices, and as a result, makes them more marketable in the professional world. I found my niche and passion in historic preservation my first semester and became determined to make it a career.

I was recently hired as the Preservation Planner with the Southeast Tennessee Development District in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I will work with municipal and county governments, non-profit organizations, and the general public in a ten county area in Southeast Tennessee. My responsibilities include coordination of Section 106 Review procedures for federally funded projects in southeast Tennessee, preparation of and assistance in the preparation of National Register nominations and determinations of eligibility, providing technical assistance in the establishment and implementation of local historic zoning programs, preparation of grants for preservation projects, and informing interested parties on historic preservation programs and initiatives. I am excited about facing the new challenges with this position and building on my strengths in the field of historic preservation.

Internships (cont’d from pg. 1)

the Kaiser Bill.” It will soon be posted on the State Archives’ web site.

One of the highlights of his summer was the opportunity to view North Carolina’s copy of the Bill of Rights, recently recovered through an FBI undercover operation.

The archives allowed all of its employees to view that parchment document in the environmentally controlled archive basement. “I thoroughly enjoyed the internship and the friendships I made at the archives and the museum,” Neil recounts. He encourages anyone looking for a PAID internship to apply to the North Carolina State Internship Program. There are several public history internships available each year. For more information and to apply go to:
http://www.doa.state.nc.us/yaio/intern.htm
**New Courses Offered – Spring 2005**

Dr. John David Smith is offering a new course entitled **Historical Editing**. This class will introduce the broad field of documentary editing and historical publication. It also delves into the theory of historical editing, the practice of identifying and editing an edition, and the development of a critical sense of a modern scholarly edition.

Early in the seminar the course will discuss the variety of genres of historical publication, the various media, and their place in critical historical scholarship. As the semester unfolds, students will evaluate published editorial projects and then prepare a complete critical edition of their own.

**Collections Management** is also being offered next semester. The class will be team-taught by Anne Lane, Collections Manager at the Charlotte Museum of History and Katherine Stocker, Assistant Register at Mint Museum.

The class will deal with why and how museums acquire objects, and the policies that shape what they collect. The class will teach the nuts and bolts of acquisitions and loans, risk management, numbering, keeping track of collections held, paper catalogues databases, as well as photography and digitization.

The public aspect of collections management, outreach, and public education will also be covered.

---

**About Public History at UNC Charlotte**

The Public History Program at UNCC has two functions: to prepare students for jobs in public history, and to serve the surrounding public history community while simultaneously giving students hands-on experience. If you are interested in hosting a student intern or interested in applying to the program please visit our website.

---

**UNC Charlotte**

Public History Program

119 Garinger Hall  
Department of History  
Charlotte, NC 28223  

PHONE:  
(704) 687-6231  

FAX:  
(704) 687-3218  

E-MAIL:  
publichistory@email.uncc.edu  

We’re on the Web!  
Visit us at:  
www.history.uncc.edu/publichistory