

# Public History Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

## WSU'S PUBLIC HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

On March 2nd, 2012 at Wright State University, the Public History Graduate Program sponsored its first symposium. Ten WSU Public History graduate students including: Misti Spillman, Robin Heise, Elise Kelly, Maggie Zakri, Nicki Williams, Linda Collins, Noel Rihm, Jeri Kniess, Casey Huegel, and Jeremy Katz presented their research and shared their experiences of their internships, projects, and classes.

The Symposium was a great opportunity for WSU's Public History graduate students to showcase and explain what the field of Public History entails. Audience members

learned about the many facets of public history, including: the hands-on experiences and challenges of working in a museum, an archive, or an historical building; the skills needed to perform valuable research and how to utilize that research; and how public history can develop and transform local communities.

The symposium had a wonderful turn out and several Public History alumni were in attendance. Lisa Rickey, fellow alum and a session moderator during the symposium, stated that, "the symposium had the right balance of professionalism and casualness—it was structured enough to be



Some of the symposium presenters (L to R): Jeri Kniess, Misti Spillman, Maggie Zakri, Elise Kelly

appropriately professional and gave the students a good experience of being presenters, but it was also... well, fun. I never cease to be amazed at all the cool things that public historians can do and are doing." Symposium presenter, Maggie Zakri said, "it was such a pleasure being part of our very successful

first symposium! The diversity of the topics and the obvious enthusiasm of the presenters really displayed a strong picture of what our program is all about. I especially loved talking with all of the alumni and the super-supportive local public history community... and I'm really looking forward to coming back as an alum next year!"

We look forward to next year's symposium where current students and fellow alums will have the opportunity to present.

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## STATEHOOD DAY

On March 1, 2012, 8 Public History students accompanied Dawne Dewey in attending the Annual Statehood Day at the Ohio History Center in Columbus. Statehood day celebrates Ohio's founding, the state's history, and its 2011 legislative advocacy achievements

for Ohio history.

In 2011, the OHS income tax check-off was approved. The state's 2011 income tax form will allow taxpayers receiving a refund on their state taxes to contribute a portion of their return to the Society. OHS will,

in turn, use these contributions to create a new competitive matching grants program for history-related projects throughout Ohio.

Other legislative success stories were discussed by several Ohio legislators. (Continue Pg 5)