

ABSTRACT

A Summer By the Sea – My Internship Experience

Galveston County Museum Graduate Internship

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This project explores daily comings and goings of museum professionals in museum collections setting. This internship worked around maritime objects, as well as objects that are significant to Galveston County's history and surrounding sister counties. The intern worked to housing objects in the collection, organize collections storage, prepare objects for exhibit, mentor volunteers on proper museum safety techniques and object handling, as well as curate her own exhibit on Galveston Opera history. The intern also had the opportunity to observe the director personally as she went to local Archivist meetings, met with possible donors, and made research trips throughout Galveston.

by

Approved by the Department of Museum Studies

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of
Master of Arts

Approved by the

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Final Internship Report

During my internship at the Galveston County Museum I have had the opportunity to work in a collections management role, and professionally alongside encouraging, knowledgeable, advising museum staff. I have been able to grow in many aspects of collections care and management through hands-on experience with all kinds of objects. I have learned how to accession all manner of Mardi Gras ceremonial costumes including capes, trains, crowns, scepters, gloves, childrens wear, and many many Mardi Gras masks. I have been shown how to store, protect, and preserve these objects for years to come. Most importantly, I have been able to meet the people to whom these objects belonged and connect back to the history of Galveston.

While working with the Galveston County museum, I was privileged to go meet other museums, archives, and library sciences professionals. During these trips I would take part in attending a county wide monthly Archivists of Galveston County meeting. At these meetings museum staff from the surrounding counties museums, libraries, and archives would offer suggestions for collections, ask questions, share new acquisitions/accessions, and get the opportunity to network with one another. I absolutely loved attending these meetings and have gotten to make multiple connections towards my future museum career.

My internship at the Galveston Museum gave me many opportunities to explore different facets to museum work. I work multiple times on the museum floor at the reception desk, welcoming visitors, guiding tours, and answering questions about the displays as visitors came through. As I worked in this part of the museum, I found that lots of the museums visitors were donors to the museums collection. They would stop by the see how their family heirlooms, objects, or archived documents were holding up. Most were pleasantly surprised to see the objects/documents of display. One family, the Tropeas donated several objects to the collection,

one of which was a red bicycle Mr. Tropea had ridden to deliver groceries, papers, and other good to customers of his fathers store. That same bicycle that is now on display at the Galveston County museum, had also been on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C! After speaking to Mr. Tropea and learning that fact I couldn't help but ask if he had visited the Smithsonian to see his bicycle on display there, to my luck he had. By the end of our discussion he had mentioned that he had some pictures from the Smithsonian that he would like to donate to the museum for the collection. I was so excited! This was the first time I had ever spoken to a donor and had them donate objects to the collection just by sparking up conversation. It was a great day for me, and one of my most favorite memories of my internship.

As I have said before, the one thing I wasn't prepared for when coming into this internship was how much it felt like the textbooks from my classes had left out. As I was first starting to work at the museum, I depended heavily on my textbook knowledge of collections care as well as previous experience working with photographs in an archives internship at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. However, I still felt very unsure, and in the beginning struggled to find my way about the collection. Now, with the internship complete, looking back I wish we had been able to have more hands-on experience in a collections role. It would have made the beginning of my internship go much smoother and with less stress if I had at least been versed in each of the different collections management computer software programs.

Looking back on my internship, I am very proud of the work that I completed. I accessioned over 200 items into the collection, as well as had the summer long personal project of creating, curating, and displaying a recent acquisitions case for the museum. This case was made up of any of the Galveston County Museums recent acquisitions that I thought were interesting, cool, pretty, or eye-catching and my job was to bring them together to tell a story that

is a part of Galveston's history. I had such a good time working on this solo project. As I said previously, my family and I have a background in music. My family all sings (has sung) professionally, we all play instruments, and in some way we have all been immersed in music since we were born. A couple weeks back, I was told to accession a pair of opera glasses from the To Be Processed shelf. These Opera Glasses were from the year 1890, and made by a man who owned a Jewelry shop, his name was Michael H. Shaw. He sold these opera glasses and had them made in France.(Shaw was a general jeweler, but he catered to the upper class, rich, wealthy, and elite of Galveston. He was wonderful at his trade and sold items nationally and internationally.) After having accessioned these opera glasses and knowing that they were my favorite thing I had accessioned in the internship, I decided to make them the “main” idea of my display. In order to get the whole idea of the opera glasses in mind I researched Galveston's operatic history and discovered tons about the Grand 1894 Opera House (Galveston's opera house) and used that knowledge to tie everything together. For the other items, I pulled two programs from the collections that were used at the Grand Opera house, a ticket from one of the shows that debuted at the opera house, and a commemorative pewter plate showcasing the Grand opera house. I absolutely loved working on this exhibit case, and found that even the research, writing, and technicalities of it were incredibly appealing to me. Completing this solo project was the perfect way for me to wrap up my internship, showcase what I had learned, and display it proudly for all visitors to see. I hope in my career I have the chance to work on projects similar to the Recent Acquisitions Case, and I am able to feel just as proud of my work as I had then.

Word Count - 1028

A SUMMER BY THE SEA – MY INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Bailey McAnulty

INTRODUCTION

- Galveston County Museum
 - Located in downtown Galveston in the County Courthouse
 - Collection contains over 2500 objects, items, and other historically significant documentation critical to the history of Galveston island
- My Connection to Galveston, to the Museum, and Galveston's History
 - Texas A&M University at Galveston – A Field Trip to the GCM

TODAY'S TALKING POINTS

- Internship Introduction
- Today's Talking Points
- Summer Timeline
- Meet the Summer Team
- My Primary Focus Goals
- My Areas of Growth During the Summer
- Major Projects Completed
- Experience Summary



MY SUMMER TIMELINE

MAY 2022

JUN 2022

JUL 2022

AUG 2022

SEPT 2022

Beginning of my
internship May 23rd

Start of work in Library
Learning the Collection &
Past Perfect

Mardi Gras Donations

Discovering “TBP”
shelves

Handling Incoming
Donations

Creating my own Display!

Prepping a Boat for Loan
Exploring large format
cutting!

Working Reception

Finishing up odds and
ends from “TBP”

Goodbyes,

Future Museum Updates
Maintaining Connections

MEET THIS SUMMER'S TEAM



JODI GIDLEY-WRIGHT

Director

SANDRA SIDDALL

Curator/Ed. Programming



BAILEY MCANULTY

Graduate Intern



BEVERLY DAVIS

Volunteer



PRIMARY FOCUS GOALS

Collections

Archives

Meeting the Public

AREAS OF GROWTH

- Independence
- Flexibility in the nature of my work
- 8 am to 4 pm Schedule
- Creativity within the Collection
- Time Management
- Personal Motivation – In and Outside of the Museum



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**ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHOW UP, KEEP
SHOWING UP, AND GET YOUR FOOT IN THE
DOOR. YOU WILL SUCCEED IF YOU CAN
MASTER THAT.**

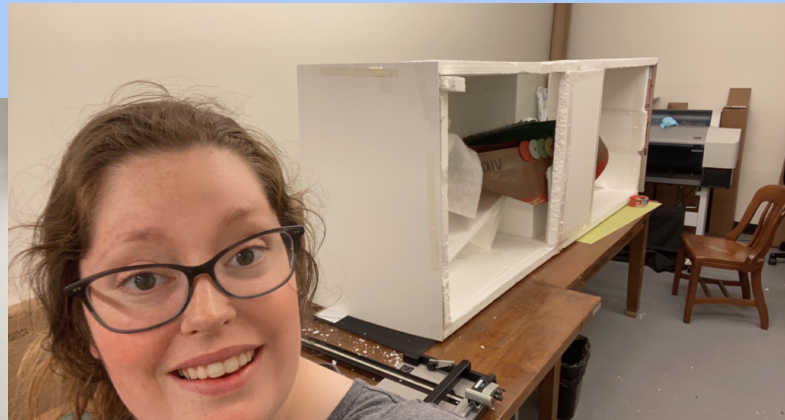
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Mrs. Jodi on my first day

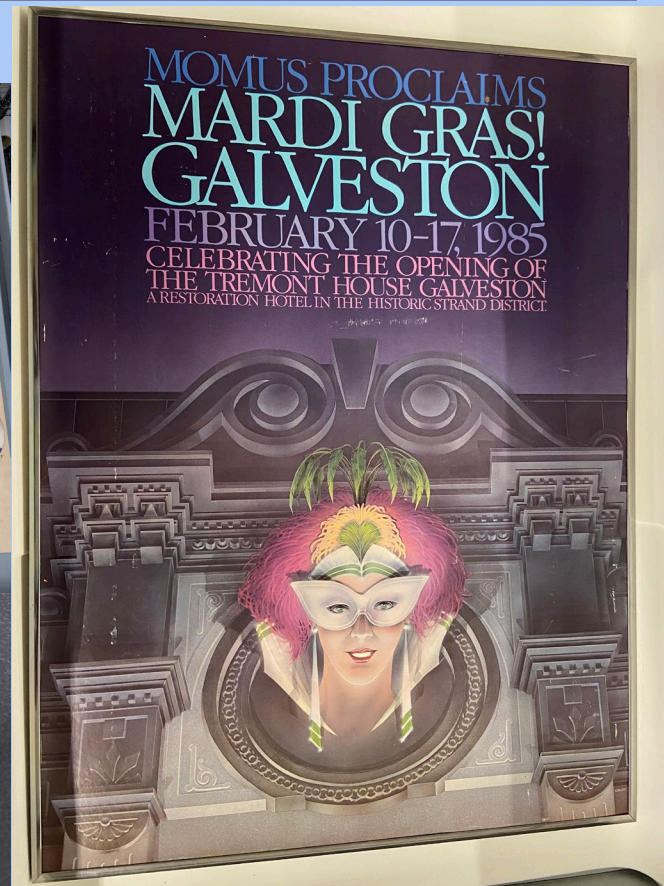
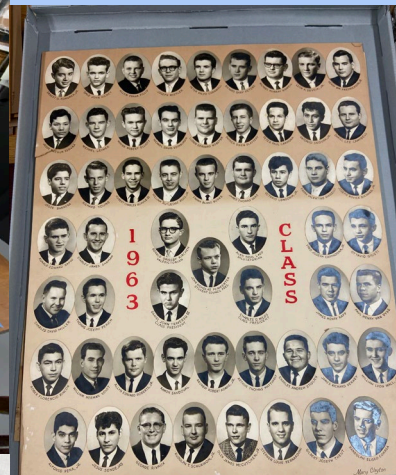
SOME OF MY PROJECTS

- Building a Protective Travel Box for a Wooden Ship
- Collections Management – Object Housing, Condition Reports, Accessioning, Storing New Donations, getting things ready for loan/short term exhibit
- Curating, Developing, and Exhibiting my own Case!
- My Favorite Object Highlights

BUILDING A VIKING SHIP BOX



COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT



MY OWN CASE!



MY FAVORITE OBJECT HIGHLIGHTS

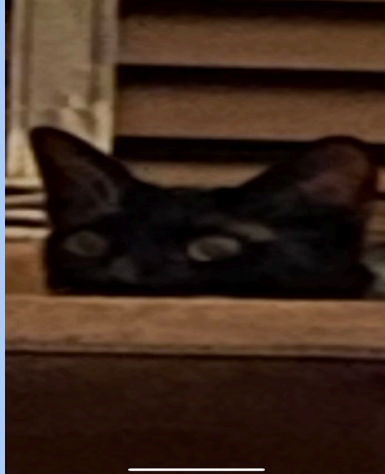


MEETING PEOPLE & SEEING GALVESTON'S MUSEUMS



SUMMARY

- Things I learned
 - I have grown! I have learned! I have the skills to do well in this profession.
 - Creativity & Flexibility goes A LONG WAY
 - Working a “8 to 4” or “9 to 5” is very different from the typical college/graduate schedule... find you own rhythm
 - Just remember to show up to begin with, get your foot in the door, and give your best effort



THANK YOU

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