

Internship Journal

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HIS 4944 Credits _____ Semester _____ Year _____

HIS 6942 Credits 3 Semester Spring Year 2007

Site Location Plantation Historical Museum

What do you do? What do you learn?

Date Activity (use as much space as you need)

10/11/06 Today, I continued working on my research project.

10/18/06 When I first arrived, museum Curator Shirley Schuler told me about a golf tournament fundraiser that she was involved with over the previous weekend. She told me that the proceeds from the golf tournament were to support the Plantation Historical Museum's building fund. Afterwards, I continued work on my research project. After lunch, there was a tour of about 20 people coming into the museum, but Shirley Schuler had to attend to business outside of the museum. Consequently, one of the other women who works in the museum, along with a woman Ms. Schuler called in to help, directed the tours. I was put into Ms. Schuler's office to answer the phone while the two women led the tours. In between answering phone calls, I tried to listen to the tour guides when they came near the office. This allowed me to see how the description of items inside the museum differed from one guide to another. It was also interesting to learn that the Seminoles remaining in Florida were the only Indian group never to sign a peace treaty with the American government. One of the tour guides said that they were never conquered.

- 10/25/06 Today, I finished writing the text of the research paper and I started to format all of my footnotes. Some of them are hard to format because they are based on papers that I was given to work with that do not have authors or even the name of the newspaper the article is from. Additionally, I was involved in moving tables and setting up chairs for a function on 26 October 2006 with a guest lecturer on the Seminole Indians. I tried to help out in other small ways, as well.
- 11/01/06 Today, I worked on “fluffing” Christmas trees for the Plantation Historical Museum’s annual holiday exhibit “Winter Wonderland.” This exhibit includes over thirty decorated artificial Christmas trees with each tree having its own theme. Fluffing Christmas trees means that I had to untangle and straighten out branches on the trees. I had never done anything like this before, so it was a learning experience. While it was tiring job, I enjoyed seeing the beginning of another exhibit.
- 11/08/06 Today, I put up several Christmas trees. This was a new experience for me since I have never put up trees before. I also helped to fluff a couple of other trees and assisted in fluffing ornaments and putting them on the trees.
- 11/15/06 Today, I put ornaments on some of the Christmas trees for the upcoming Winter Wonderland exhibit. I also moved boxes and helped to organize them within a small space. Additionally, I put tree skirts underneath a couple of trees and I helped other volunteers who were decorating some of the Christmas trees.
- 11/29/06 For most of the day today, I worked on setting up a display for the upcoming exhibit. This display is in an enclosed/screened-in patio outside the museum. It is supposed to resemble penguins skating on ice with snow all around them. Next to the ice rink, is an upside down Christmas tree and a few other trees. The exhibit can be seen from outside, but it is meant to be seen from an inside window. This was a very exhausting job. I also did a few other odds and ends.

12/13/06

When I came in today, the Winter Wonderland set-up was already finished. Before a group came in for a tour at 10:00 a.m., I looked around to see all of the different trees and what some of their main features were. Once the tour group came in I helped out in the gift shop. From that position, I observed the process of leading a tour based on the tours given by the curator and another woman who works in the museum. While there was only one tour, people came into the museum at various times throughout the day. Many of them were sent over to the museum after they visited the Plantation Library that is adjacent to the museum. In the afternoon, I accompanied the tour leaders as they led people around the museum. I learned more about the trees and some of the stories and elements that should be emphasized about the trees.

12/27/06

By today, I felt more comfortable in leading people around the museum. Additionally, I helped out in the gift shop when people wanted to buy something.

01/03/07

It is a New Year, but the Winter Wonderland exhibit continues. I continued to give tours around the museum. Sometimes it felt odd to lead people around on a tour of Christmas trees, but that made me realize that the tour operator (or teacher) always has to believe (to a degree) in what they are doing (or teaching). I realized that I had to be more assertive in pointing things out to visitors, as I will have to do when I begin teaching.

01/10/07

Today, I continued to give tours and I worked hard to make sure that I was assertive (in a nice way) while leading people around the museum. By this time, I had seen all of the trees repeatedly and I felt that I had improved my skills as a tour guide. During this time, I tried to lead the tours as if I were a teacher in a classroom who was pointing things out to my students. I feel that this work has helped me out greatly in being more assertive. I received many compliments from the visitors I led around the museum. It makes me believe that with a little bit of time, I could show people around this or any other museum regardless of the exhibit that is being promoted.

- 01/24/07 Today, I helped to take down lights and decorations from the Christmas trees that were a part of the Winter Wonderland exhibit. I was also asked to untangle several sets of lights before they were put into a box. Additionally, I picked-up a large amount of “snow” from the set-design that I helped to put together over a month ago. This area is a screened-in patio with a window, so that people can look out from the inside. Cleaning up this part of the exhibit was exhausting, especially since it was very hot inside the screened-in patio.
- 01/25/07 Today, I finished editing the narrative part of the research report on the Tequesta Indians that I was nearly finished with before the museum started preparations for its Winter Wonderland exhibit.
- 01/26/07 Today, I finished editing the endnotes for the paper. Now the research report is finished.
- 01/29/07 Today, I worked on creating a Tequesta timeline.
- 01/31/07 Today, I helped with taping and writing labels on the Christmas tree boxes that are going into storage. I also helped with a little bit of cleanup around the museum and moved boxes around for them. I also turned in the Tequesta report and timeline to Ms. Schuler and asked her for a letter of recommendation.
- 02/06/07 This evening, I searched for a detailed answer to a question that Ms. Schuler asked me about the timeline I prepared. She wanted to know why the Tequesta began migrating to Cuba in 1711. In the process, I found an in depth government report on the Tequesta that I thought she might like to have.
- 02/07/07 Today, I went to Florida Atlantic University in Davie to print out the 113-page National Historic Landmark / National Register of Historic Places report on the Tequesta Indians. Then, I had to get a three-ring binder and put holes in the report’s pages in order to put them in the binder.

02/08/07 Today, I went to the museum to give Ms. Schuler a copy of the government report that I put into a binder yesterday. Additionally, I gave her a CD with pictures that I had taken from the Winter Wonderland exhibit. At the same time, she gave me the letter of recommendation that I asked her for. Ms. Schuler then thanked me for working with her and she told me to thank Dr. Norman for sending me to her museum. I thanked Ms. Schuler for the opportunity that she gave me to work at the Plantation Historical Museum over an eight-month period and we said goodbye to each other.