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Community Engagement

Summer 2014

Margaret Nervig - Salisbury House & Gardens

Margaret Nervig

University of Northern Iowa

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Margaret Nervig - Salisbury House & Gardens

Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement

Instructions: Please work with your internship supervisor to fill out this form. Once completed, return to Julianne Gassman [REDACTED]

Name Margaret Nervig Agency Salisbury House & Gardens

Intern's Phone Number and E-mail Address [REDACTED]

Organization Contact Person and Phone Megan Stout Sibbel, [REDACTED]

Academic Advisor Person and Phone Barbara Cutter, [REDACTED]

Future Plans for student [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

What did you accomplish during your internship? During my internship I worked primarily on three different projects: object files reconciliation, photograph inventory, and library inventory. I worked to move object files and ensure that object files in the computer program PastPerfect had the same information as the physical object files. The photograph inventory I completed involved taking photos and identifying all of the objects currently on display in the house. This keeps a better record of where objects are as well as providing helpful information for tour guides and visitors on self-guided tours. The library inventory project will provide a record of where books are located, ensuring that the library will one day be easily accessible to researchers and scholars.

How did the internship benefit the student? This internship has been extremely beneficial as this was my first long-term experience working in an actual museum. I got to work with museum-specific software and observe and participate in the daily happenings of a house

museum. Not only does this experience help me earn credits towards my degree, it will also serve as something I can point to when looking for a PhD program or a career in this field.

How did the internship benefit the agency?

The internship benefitted Salisbury House by providing much-needed assistance in terms of reconciling physical files with PastPerfect inventories, photographing and compiling inventories of objects on display, and reconciling our library inventory with the physical books on the shelves. The time Margaret devoted to these projects was an immense help in moving these projects forward.

How does the internship benefit the community?

Our community – in the Des Moines area and beyond – benefits most markedly from the increased level of knowledge that staff, volunteers, and tour guides will be able to reference regarding the collection. Margaret created easily readable inventories, with images, that augments our existing knowledge and improves visitor experience.

(Student to complete) One quote that describes the experience gained from completing this internship (to be used for promotional materials; please specify author of quote)? “Interning at Salisbury House has given me invaluable experience in the field of public history that could not be gained in a classroom environment. This internship will help me be a more competitive candidate for a PhD program or a career in the history field.” –Margaret Nervig

(Intern supervisor to complete) One quote that describes the impact the intern had on the community (to be used for promotional materials; please specify author of quote)?

“Margaret’s work at Salisbury House in photographing and cataloging our inventory will be of immeasurable help to existing and incoming staff and volunteers. Her hard work and dedication to these projects is a credit to UNI’s history department.” –Megan Stout Sibbel

Please provide a reproducible photo of the intern in action at their internship for media purposes.