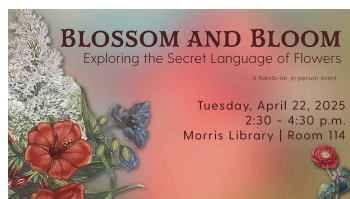




DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



WINTER INTERNSHIPS

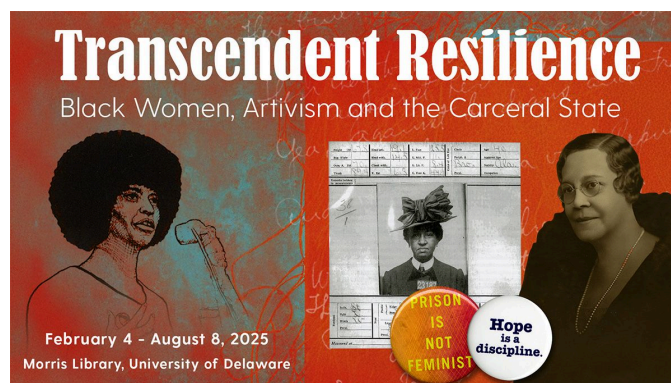


COURSE HIGHLIGHTS



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

MUSEUM STUDIES *IN MOTION*



Director's Message



Greetings from Newark and UD's Museum Studies and Public Engagement Program!

Dear Friends,

I trust that you and yours are enjoying a healthy and happy year. This Has been a year of continuity coupled with some new directions for our program.

Our minor and graduate certificate programs continue to attract outstanding students. We celebrate their impressive accomplishments! We have expanded and diversified our institutional partnerships for student internships and I thank all our partners for the enthusiasm and professionalism of their staff. We continued our internship funding campaign to ensure that financial barriers do not prevent students from building core skills and

pursuing their passion for MSPE.

Program alumni have also demonstrated their commitment to MSPE by hosting interns and offering guidance and tips during our Fall Career Panel and beyond. The legacy of more than a half century of alumni is a 'network of renown' that welcomes and nurtures each new class of alumni. Thank you!

I am awed and humbled by our program's service to the field through [MuseWeekly](#) – which has added more than 1,000 new subscribers in the past year, to more 11,500 subscribers!

Our most compelling and collaborative project this year is *Transcendent Resilience: Black Women, Artivism and the Carceral State*. Expanding on Dr. Felicia Henry's (Ph.D. UD) 2023 exhibition, *I'm Literally Taking It Out The Mud*, this new installation delves deeper into the voices of Black women impacted by the criminal legal system during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Transcendent Resilience* is a collaboration involving MSPE, the UD Disaster Research Center (DRC), UD alumna, MSPE and other graduate students, UD Library Special Collections, and the Delaware Historical Society. It began as an artivism project Dr. Henry created with the Delaware Historical Society to reflect on the experiences of these Black women. Our Fall 2024 Exhibition course, taught by alumna Benet Burton (WPAMC MA), created the new exhibit, adding works from Special Collections and the DRC. Dr. Curtis Small of Special Collections installed *Transcendent Resilience* in the main library room February through May 2025 and developed a [web version of the exhibit](#). DRC's Valerie Marlowe collaborated with Felicia and MSPE to program the exhibition.

In March, Jeanelle Austin of Rise and Remember (formerly George Floyd Memorial) gave an inspirational talk on campus about the importance of diverse means and media of memorialization and community activism. In April our team hosted Dr. Henry and her research collaborators at the Center for Black Culture to share their experiences and celebrate their resilience. This summer, the History Department is sponsoring Mia Buckley to intern with Ms. Burton to prepare a new and more expansive exhibition website. Our Digital Exhibitions and Engagement class in Fall 2025, taught by guest professor Dr. Lauren Rever, will create the new website. This multifaceted project exemplifies the best of MSPE's public engagement with contemporary communities – about which I know you will hear more in the coming year.

Thank you to the MSPE staff and adjunct faculty. Doug Tobias, business administrator; Amy Dolbow and Diane Clark, undergraduate and graduate academic program coordinators; Lois Stoehr, undergraduate internship coordinator; Tracy Jentsch, program manager, Arts and Sciences Centers and Programs; and this year's graduate assistants Samantha Hertel and Mariana Gralak keep the program growing and improving! The professional community makes our program possible as members join our adjunct faculty. We owe our gratitude to Abby

Harting, Lois Stoeher, Benet Burton, and Ryan Grover for sharing their expertise and their passion with our students this year. Their courses offered experiential learning with partners including Rockwood Museum, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the Delaware Historical Society, New Castle Historical Society, First State National Historical Park, and University of Delaware Special Collections. And this is only the start, as all our courses have benefited from the generosity of many guest professionals who shared their experiences and helped our students build their professional networks. Thank you all!

I am pleased to serve as Interim Director until 1 September 2025, when [Dr. Zara Anishanslin](#), Associate Professor History and Art History, will become Director.

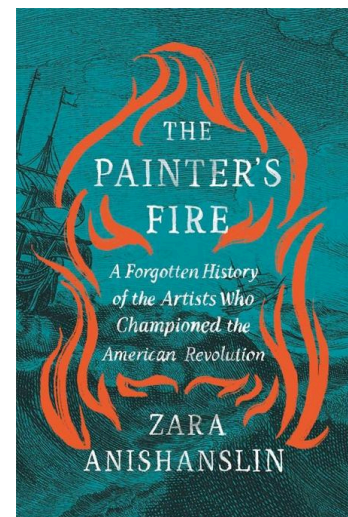
We are already brainstorming about the program's future under her leadership, and I look forward to supporting her efforts. And now, to Zara -

Message from Incoming Director



I'm honored to follow in the amazing Lu Ann DeCunzo's footsteps and take on the role of Director in Fall 2025. I've been thinking a lot about museums past and present, not least as they play an integral role in my new book *The Painter's Fire: A Forgotten History of the American Revolution* (Harvard University Press), released July 1, 2025. Before I was a professor, I had a career in museums and historic preservation, and before coming to UD to teach in the History and Art History programs I helped spearhead the creation of CUNY's first public history graduate program. I'm excited to

return to these roots by leading the MSPE program and minor. I'm passionate about building connections, whether that's between programs and departments on campus or between the academy and the public. There's never been a more important time to train future leaders of our museums and cultural institutions and I can't wait to work with and learn from our current students, MSPE faculty, and our esteemed alumni.



Winter Internships 2025

The MSPE Program did not hold Collection Aid, the yearly service-project, over winter break this year. Instead, students completed their internship hours on their own in museums, archives, and other public humanities institutions throughout the state. The topics of the internships varied widely, and the MSPE students were able to hone their grant writing, archival, curatorial, and research and writing skills.

Samantha Hertel is a graduate student pursuing the MSPE certificate. She interned at Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation in Wilmington, DE this past winter. She writes:

“My internship at [Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation \(QHHPF\)](#), overseen by foundation president, Bayard Marin, was a crash course in Delaware history and development in a small public history institution. I was quickly apprised of the site’s incredible significance, both in Delaware history and in the history of the Underground Railroad. Excited to support the institution and its public facing endeavors, I quickly got to work researching the Delaware historical marker program, writing a grant prospectus of viable funding sources for the institution, and crafting the first draft of a Delaware 250th grant application. This was the first grant application I had ever written, so I was thankful I could do it for a smaller institution whose mission aligned so closely with the goals of the semiquincentennial grant program.”

Course Highlights: Fall-Spring 2024-2025

MSPE 203.010/600.010: INTRODUCTION TO MUSEUM AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT taught by Cindy Ott (Fall) and Lois Stoehr (undergrads, Spring) and Abby Harting (graduate, Spring). This course served as an introduction to museums and other organizations that interpret evidence with and for the non-academic public. The course covered issues in collecting and exhibition practice, education and audience engagement, finance, and governance, and evolving professional ethics.

MSPE 401.010/601.010: CURATORSHIP & COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT taught by Ryan Grover. Curatorship and Collections Management introduced students to the ethical, legal and practical considerations associated with developing, recording, maintaining and displaying collections in museums, archives and related collecting institutions. History, art, ethnographic, science and Natural history collections were discussed. Students received hands-on experience in collection management and care.

MSPE 407.010: MUSEUM EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION taught by Verti Lee. This course introduced students to theory, practices, evaluation methods and administration of learning activities in museum environments. This course consisted of both class discussions and field trips to area museums and historic sites leading into group projects developing lessons and programs for both school-age and adult visitors.

MSPE 463.010/663.010/ANTH/HIST 463/663: ARCHAEOLOGY, ENGAGEMENT AND HERITAGE taught by Lu Ann DeCunzo. This course examined the relevance of archaeology to the fields of cultural resource management, museum and historic site interpretation, and public history. Students considered the philosophy and practice of how societies preserve and value the past, as well as the ways in which archaeology, heritage, and museums are contested. This course involved practical project experience, where students had an opportunity to participate and learn at an agency, research center, museum, or community organization.

MSPE 610.010: EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT taught by Benét Burton. This course discussed practices in planning, scripting, designing, fabricating, and evaluating exhibitions in museums, libraries, and related venues. The students in this course spent the entire semester planning, writing, editing, and curating "Transcendent Resilience: Black Women, Artivism and the Carceral State". This exhibit tied together the work done by Dr. Felicia Henry in her dissertation on Black women in the carceral state during the Covid-19 Pandemic and UD's Special Collections. "Transcendent Resilience: Black Women, Artivism and the Carceral State" was on display at Morris Library from February until August of 2025.

MSPE 667.016/ARTC 667-016: SEMINAR – PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION: RESEARCH & APPLICATION taught by Anisha Gupta and William Donelly. This course provided a structure within which students built a research community and carried out independent projects focused either on preventive conservation focused research or the application of preventive conservation principles in an environment new to them.

MuseWeekly: Changing and Growing

A word from Samantha Hertel, our Museum Studies Program Graduate Assistant

MuseWeekly, the UD Museum Studies Program's weekly digital job newsletter, continues to serve as a valuable resource for students and professionals seeking information about internships and job openings in museums and cultural institutions across the country. Some key facts about the publication today:

- *MuseWeekly* has over **11,500** subscribers
- We receive internship, fellowship, and job postings from institutions throughout the country, ranging from Delaware and Pennsylvania to Alaska and Hawaii; we are nationally known!

MuseWeekly remains deeply committed to providing subscribers with quality postings each week. Because of our growing reputation throughout the country as a consistent, useful resource, we try to include listings from all regions of the country.



Summer Internship Highlights

Most MSPE students fulfil the majority of their required internship hours over the summer. This year was no exception as we had students placed in public history, art, and academic institutions throughout the region. Undergraduate and graduate students received funding to spend their hours learning new skills, accruing new knowledge, and making more connections within the GLAM field.

Sasha Thompson is a graduate student pursuing the MSPE certificate. She interned with Professor Colette Gaiter in UD's Department of Africana Studies, and Art & Design this past summer. She writes:

"In the summer of 2024, I participated in a research-based internship project centered on the historical legacy of the Black Panther Party. Working under the guidance of Professor Colette Gaiter, a Professor in the Departments of Africana Studies, and Art & Design at the University of Delaware. I contributed to curatorial and interpretive efforts for the exhibition titled [Former Black Panther Party Artist Preserves History](#) at the Rowan University Art Gallery in New Jersey. The project emphasized the BPP's impact on civil rights, community empowerment, and political liberation. This experience deepened my understanding of marginalized histories and strengthened my ability to critically engage with socially driven art and historical narratives."

Anabella Cerrone is an undergraduate student pursuing the MSPE minor. She interned at Cooch's Bridge Historic Site this past summer. She writes:

"During the summer of 2024, I had the privilege of working as a research intern for [Delaware HCA's Cooch's Bridge Historic Site](#). Not only was it my first interning experience, but it was my first time working with genuine historical documents. While I was doing a lot of my research remotely, I still felt like I was working with the team as our weekly meetings gave us an opportunity to share what we had found and make connections between our research. Being able to discuss what we were all working on made the research process so much more interesting and enjoyable. In summary, my internship with HCA was a wonderful experience and has made me all the more excited for my future in a career related to history, whether it be in research, outreach, or preservation."

Abigail Christiansen is a graduate student pursuing the MSPE certificate. She interned at New Castle Historical Society this past summer. She writes:

"Last summer, I had the amazing opportunity to intern with the [New Castle Historical Society](#). As part of my internship, I processed a large donation from the descendents of the Amstel House in Historic New Castle and was able to research their ancestor, Elizabeth Bird Burnham, who owned and lived in the house during the nineteenth century. Through this research, I ended up tracing a long history of women who owned the home in their own right in a time when women made up only a small percentage of property owners. Ultimately, what began as a Collections Internship to process a new donation turned into a new exhibit on the Women of the Amstel House and a new approach to the historic house's interpretation."

Student Recognition

Congratulations to **Mariana Mehl Gralak** who curated a pop-up exhibition “Gardens Everywhere: Private and Public Gardens,” located on the second floor of Morris Library, in front of Special Collections. "Discover the art of crafting your own terrarium, get tips on planning a backyard garden, and explore the stunning public gardens of the Brandywine Valley."

Congratulations to **Samantha Hertel** on her job at Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site as a cultural conservation assistant!

The following students are graduating from the University of Delaware this spring and have received our program’s graduate certificate or have completed our minor:

Undergraduate Students:

Rachel Clements

Jakob Lentino

Connor Mcderby

Logan Peterson

Matthew Smith

Master’s Students:

Abigail Christiansen

Mariana Mehl Gralak

Samantha Hertel

James Hulings

Sasha Thompson

Ph.D. Students:

Demetra McBrayer

Congratulations Again to our Graduates!

A Special Thank You To Our Affiliates

Our program requires that each student complete over 200+ internship hours with a host organization. These host organizations give their time, expertise, and support as our students gain hands-on experience before they enter the workforce. These internships provide our students with an unforgettable experience, and we are so thankful to the following organizations for hosting our students during the summer of 2023 and this academic year:

Graduate MSPE Internships, 2024-2025

3rd New Jersey Grays/ United States Semiquincentennial
Delaware 250th
Delaware Historical Society
Greater Harrington Historical Society
Middletown Historical Society
New Castle Historical Society
Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation
UD Africana Studies and Art and Design/ Rowan University Art Gallery
UD Anti-Racism Initiative
UD Department of English
UD College of Arts and Sciences Development Office
UD Library Special Collections

Undergraduate MSPE Internships, 2024-2025

Air Mobility Command Museum
Cooch's Bridge Historic Site
Delaware Art Museum
Delaware Historical Society
Hagley Museum & Library
Lefferts Historic House
Middletown Historical Society
Monmouth Battlefield
NCC Public Arts Commission
Newark Arts Alliance
Newark Historical Society
Rockwood Park & Museum
Stamford Historical Society
The Delaware Contemporary
UD Botanical Garden
Walt Whitman Birthplace Museum

Want to help? As you plan your annual giving, please keep Museum Studies in mind. Especially during this challenging economic time, your gift allows us to support students' summer internships and professional development . When you give at, <https://ud.alumniq.com/giving/to/makeagift> please be sure to check "Other," enter "Museum Studies" and then note the Alexander Endowment in the comments on the next page. Thank you!