

“And the Tammy award goes to...”

This was just one of the many amazing quotes and events that I had the opportunity to hear and learn at the 2017 TAM conference. Between the spoons in the pants challenge during the dinner show, to the insightful session's one learns new and exciting ways to engage those who enter the wild and wonderful world that Museums and Organizations have to offer.

I first want to thank those who support TAM in any capacity. THANK YOU! Your support gave this recent Masters of Archeology graduate the opportunity to attend the conference, network and learn from all the trials tribulations and successions from those who attended and gave different talks on a multitude of topics. I also want to thank the TAM board and committees, as a volunteer at the 2013 conference I have an appreciation for all that you do. Keeping the conference on track and creating an atmosphere of fun and learning is not an easy one, in addition to keeping the hospitality room stocked and ready for anything.

Now on to the conference!

The sessions were some of the most insightful learning opportunities. One of the most impactful sessions that I attended was given by an artist/ businessman/ jack-of-all-trades who wanted to bring those with visual impairments the ability to enjoy the beauty that is art. The title was called Best Practices for Hands-on, Tactile Experiences, and Multimedia Creation. During my undergraduate career, one of my observations and student teaching experiences was in the special needs classrooms. Learning from these students' new ways to bring to life the materials that we were studying. I learned to take a step back a figure a way to engage all those who were in the classroom. I take these experiences with me wherever I go and remember those students who I meet. Among the many facets of the Museum Industry, one thing I am passionate about in the Museum world has the ability to create new programming for everyone. Sitting in this session, I learned new ways to create and update programs to meet the needs and expectations of those who have special requirements. Using modern technology such as 3-D printing to create tangible objects for those who are tactical learners, will be able to get the most out of a program, is one of the ways that we can incorporate the modern technology in an old history. Reaching to those who have these special requirements is something that I strive for in any position that I am at.

Another session that I attended was that of those who are emerging professionals. I learned a lot from the speaker and those who are also developing professionals. I came home and immediately got to work on some of the ideas and suggestions made during the session. The first was completely overhauling my outdated resume. The other is getting back to volunteering and working in the industry that I love. These are two of the examples that I learned from this session in addition to just talking and asking the questions to those who attended the conference.

The biggest impact I felt during the conference, was the ability to meet those who are in the History and Museum field. Getting to know the Tammers and picking the brains of those who are in the field that I love and learning from those in the field of what to expect from not only the general public but, learning that political and social

impact of the world today directly affects museums. By attending the sessions, I have gained a better understating of some of the challenges that one in the museum field may encounter. I met so many wonderful people who want to help each other succeed

In closing, I have learned a lot during the 2017 TAM Conference in the mountains of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. For those who are reading this wondering if you should apply for the scholarship YES! Take the time and meet the amazing people that make up the TAM family. Learn from the sessions as they give great insight and help to those who are seeking to get into the Museum, history field. Take the time to ask the question you want to know. I can honestly say there are no redundant questions. The folks who go to the conference only want to see each other succeed. You can never have too many or take to many business cards. You can never stop learning and networking. Even if you do not see a session about a topic still ask those at the conference, they may have or know of someone who would be able to answer the questions. The other big thing to remember when attending the TAM conference is to talk to the vendors. While I am not currently working for a museum, I spoke with vendors and took their business cards and now have a network or group that once I am employed. I know I have a Rolodex of vendors to work with whether it is looking for a had from Dorfman's for a display to working with an outside exhibit that I would like to bring in to the organization. The vendors that attend this conference are just as important, and you never know you may even find that the vendors are looking for your skills set and you may get a job that way. Take the time to fill out the scholarship information it was defiantly one of the best decisions that I ever made.

Thank you again for your time and generosity, the only thing left to say is... See you in PickWick!