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2016 TAM Scholarship Winner

Blog Post

This past March, I was granted the opportunity to attend the Tennessee Association of Museums' Three-Part Harmony conference with the Tennessee Preservation Trust and the Society for Tennessee Archivists. As a graduate student in public history, this conference allowed me to explore different areas of historical practice while engaging with professionals in the field. Having the chance to interact with these professionals enhanced my own skills and prepared me for entering the field as an emerging young professional.

The conference was centrally located in Nashville, TN. During my time in graduate school, I have fallen in love with Tennessee's rich and diverse culture and history; the Three-Part Harmony conference presented new ways to incorporate Tennessee history in our professional practice. Learning more about my new home and the Tennessee professionals allowed me to develop a deeper connection to the state and the history community.

During the conference, I was also able to attend a unique tour of historical churches in Nashville. This tour provided a relaxed atmosphere for me to meet and engage with other conference members, outside of the conference hotel. Additionally, the tour enhanced my working knowledge of Nashville history, which has proved very useful in my tour guide work with Echoes of Nashville, a history walking tour company in the city.

Overwhelmingly, the conference was crucial in the expansion of my professional network. Every person that I met was extremely welcoming and friendly and offered great advice for working in the field. As I was in my last semester of graduate school, entering the job force was a concern of mine. Meeting all the different professionals in their different positions gave me a broader perspective on the various job opportunities available. All the advice I received was immensely helpful when I started applying and interviewing for local jobs. Besides advice, I know that the many people I met will continue to be amazing mentors and colleagues as I begin my career in Tennessee.

Overall, I am tremendously appreciative for the opportunity I had to attend this conference. I look forward to attending TAM's conference next year and hope to attend the other organizations' conferences in the future as well.