

Faculty Member Contact Information

Name	Erin Vigneau-Dimick, MFA
Contact Info	
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Department	University Museum

1 Unfunded URCA Assistant(s)

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 8-10

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- Yes, in HIST410 Independent Study or ART498 Internship in the Arts for 3 credit hours.

Location of research/creative activities:

- SIUE University Museum Archive and Operations Building, Supporting Services Drive, SIUE Edwardsville Campus

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

- The University Museum (UM) is engaged in the 4th stage of its Collections Research and Documentation project for a three-year period. This stage of the multi-year project is focused on approximately 10,000 of the museum's more than 39,000 artifacts: specifically, the museum's collections of Fossils, Decorative Arts, Numismatics, Militaria, Louis Sullivan Architectural Ornament and other small collections. The UM's Fossil collection contains more than 2,700 specimens including invertebrates, vertebrates, and fossil plants. The Decorative Arts collections include glassware, silver, furniture, and domestic items. The Numismatic collection contains historic currency from throughout the world. The Militaria collection is comprised of medals, uniforms, arms and other

military items. The Louis H. Sullivan Architectural Ornament Collection is unique to the SIUE University Museum: in addition to being the largest known collection of Sullivan's ornamental artifacts and salvaged architectural pieces the collection also includes works by William Eames and Thomas Young, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Burnham and Root. Each artifact has the potential to delineate the rich cultural heritage of people from throughout the ages and around the world. This cataloging and reconciliation project is designed to expand engagement with objects of cultural and artistic significance via increased record and location accuracy. Professional museum faculty, staff, and student research assistants are tasked with enhancing existing metadata, as well as creating new records and digital surrogates in order to reduce handling of fragile and historic materials and increase remote access for external researchers and university stakeholders.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

- Students will work with the Primary Investigator Erin Vigneau-Dimick, Executive Curator, and with museum staff and senior Research Assistants to engage in hands-on experiential learning in professional museum collections management practices. Students will learn to use museum collections management software systems and participate in cataloging, digital documentation, object research, museum archival practices, and hands-on object care and handling techniques. This assistantship provides a unique experience to combine archival research with active participation caring for historic artifacts.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals.

What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

- Become experienced with physical and digital museum records and archives systems.
- Research and synthesize information from historical documents and other archival materials.
- Become proficient with museum collections management software.
- Become proficient with the collection and verification of metadata in museum records.
- Become proficient at written object description.
- Learn to use Museum Cataloging Nomenclature 4.0 by Chenhall for classification.
- Develop appropriate skills for digital documentation of artifacts and condition reporting.
- Develop appropriate skills for the careful handling, stabilization, and labelling of museum artifacts.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- Students can work in the University Museum Archive M-F, 9-5. No nights or weekends.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- Students need to have their own transportation to the University Museum Archives and Operations building located on Supporting Services Drive on the outer edge of the Edwardsville campus. There is parking, or students can walk or bicycle to the location w

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- I request that students of any discipline be a least a Junior, or in their 5th semester.

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- This is a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to get to learn about the inner workings of museum collections research and management including object handling, documentation, archives research, and associated record management techniques.