

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News Release

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Washington County Historical Society Names Students to Summer Internships

Stillwater, Minn. – Three Minnesota college students have been appointed to paid summer internship positions with the Washington County Historical Society (WCHS).

“The internships enable students to get first-hand knowledge of an established historical society, by giving guided tours of National Historic Register properties, conducting historical research, working at the WCHS county fair booth, and gaining a fuller understanding of why history matters today and into the future,” said WCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson.

The internships are made possible by an annual grant donated by the DeLonais Foundation.

All three 2008 summer interns desire careers in an historical field.

Woodbury resident Allison Drtina, who was a WCHS scholarship winner in 2006, is a history major, with an anthropology minor, at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. She spent a semester studying at the University College Cork in Cork, Ireland last fall. Drtina also received the City of Woodbury Chamber of Commerce Scholarship in 2005, and has been a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma Honors Societies. This summer, Drtina is writing a biography of Stillwater photographer John Runk. Her work involves in-depth analysis of Runk’s collections at WCHS, the Stillwater Public Library and the Minnesota Historical Society.

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Jacob Haugen, a Hutchinson resident, attends the University of Minnesota – Duluth where he is pursuing studies in history, international studies and German. He studied for a year in Germany and Greece and received a German Language Training Certificate from the University of Goettingen. After he graduates in December 2008, Jacob plans to attain a museum studies graduate degree. He seeks a career in a museum, with a focus on research initiatives. During his internship, Haugen is cataloging recently donated World War Two letters, and creating a small display showcasing the letters and photographs found in the scrapbooks.

Aaron Oseland, a lifelong resident of Stillwater, attends St. Olaf College in Northfield. He's majoring in Social Studies Education and American Studies, and hopes to graduate in 2010. He has fond memories of visiting the Warden's House and the Hay Lake School museums while attending elementary school. At St. Olaf, he is involved in the campus theatre and the Norwegian Department. Oseland is researching and writing the history of the Washington County Historical Society which, in 2009, will celebrate its' 75th anniversary of preserving the heritage of Washington County.

“If you are near the Warden's House or Hay Lake School museums, stop in and visit with our select group of quality interns. Welcome them to the fabulous career of history and take a tour of the museums. They will be eager to show you around,” Peterson added.

Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a private, donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 700 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships, earned income, and foundation grants. For more information, please visit www.wchsmn.org