

From: Amanda Biles abt19a@acu.edu
Subject: Re: WACU Museum house update
Date: September 26, 2022 at 11:30 AM

AB

To: Jama Cadle fryj@acu.edu

Cc: Craig Fisher cdf11a@acu.edu, Kelly Elliott kelly.elliott@acu.edu, Mac Ice mxi13a@acu.edu, Jama Cadle jama.cadle@acu.edu, James Wiser jaw20b@acu.edu, Mark McCallon mccallonm@acu.edu, Amanda Dietz afa07a@acu.edu, Erica Pye exp10a@acu.edu

Thank you, Mac! I am so excited to hear how well the process is going and I have heard directly from many of our students about how much they are enjoying this hands-on experience.

I think the steps you have laid out will make for a smooth path forward and I will be happy to assist in that process as well.

All the best,
Amanda

Amanda B. Biles, Ph.D.

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On Sep 26, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Jama Cadle <fryj@acu.edu> wrote:

This is wonderful, Mac. Thank you for your leadership on this project. We appreciate each one of you.

Blessings,
Jama



Jama Cadle

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On Sun, Sep 25, 2022 at 9:54 PM Craig Fisher <cdf11a@acu.edu> wrote:
Mac,

Thank you. The work you all are doing is awesome and we are thankful for this partnership.

We will be glad to help figure out a plan for the items you all will have left at the end. When the time is right we can come and begin looking through those items.

Thank you all!

CF

On Sun, Sep 25, 2022 at 8:45 PM Kelly Elliott <kelly.elliott@acu.edu> wrote:

Thank you, Mac. The students are enjoying the process so much this semester, and many of them have been very excited to find items that connect to their own clubs and even their grandparents! It has really been a fantastic experience that the students (and Mac and I, I believe!) look forward to every Thursday.

We've taken some photos as we go, so I have those and am happy to share them with any who are interested. It might be nice to see if ACU Today or another publication would like to do a story about this at some point.

Many thanks to Mac for all of the legwork he is doing to make this possible!

best,
Kelly

On Sun, Sep 25, 2022 at 4:42 PM Mac Ice <mxi13a@acu.edu> wrote:

Good afternoon all,

Here is an update on the WACU museum house.

Dr. Elliott and I are three weeks into the semester and a process to verify the inventoried holdings is underway. We are beginning with the good work begun by WACU many years ago as captured by them in the series of spreadsheets Jeri Orr passed along to me.

The students in Kelly's Historical Methods class are starting with what is boxed and numbered, checking the contents of the boxes against the spreadsheets to verify the presence or absence of the items. In most cases what is said we have, we have. In a few other cases what we say we have, we have...somewhere in the house. We have been able to re-home a few items back into the boxes. As you can imagine, there is another category of what we say we have, we have, somewhere in the house...maybe...and these have not been identified. I suspect in time I will be able to either find them or write them off. For now, we are putting these boxes aside to deal with later.

I suspect we will have two or three more weeks of this stage of the process. I thought maybe this would take us through the semester, but the kids are working so quickly that we will certainly finish this first stage.

We will then shift gears and begin boxing and inventorying materials that are certainly (at least plainly obvious to me) ACU-centric but are not, so far as I can tell, already inventoried.

And we will weed out printed materials (books, yearbooks, ACU cookbooks, etc.) that are not already inventoried, and bring them over to the library to be dealt with or added to our print collection if/as needed.

We are transferring the cataloged and inventoried items from the second floor of the garage and the house, as we complete the verification process, into the first floor of the garage. That way when we need to get something, we will not have to climb stairs to get it, and it should be in the box the spreadsheet says it is in. In time I expect the overall footprint of 'stuff' to shrink when boxed appropriately, and that will give us more room to store items that are currently in the library. That might be too far down the road to think of just now, though. But when it happens it will receive us of some space crunch in the library and get all the artifacts under one roof and therefore available for display. I still think the garage is sufficient to store what we have.

What this will leave behind is (I hope) a mass of objects that are not otherwise inventoried, not clearly or obviously ACU-centric, and therefore likely unneeded for purposes of furnishing the house or useful for exhibits. But...I don't know and feel like I cannot say whether they will or will not be needed in the future WACU house.

I would like to leave the decision about the retention of those items to you Craig and Jama, or Craig-Jama-Amanda-Kelly. I'm happy to advise, but I feel like once the historic ACU materials are off the table, then you will have a clean slate so to speak to work with to evaluate just what you want to keep and what you don't. Expect a lot of tablecloths, dishes of all kinds (even some that were owned by ACU people but are not *per se* ACU-centric...such as dishes gifted from Don Morris family. Expect also in this category the old furniture (such as the nice antique bedroom sets and large pieces, including display cases) and the newer functional furniture (folding tables, chairs). How all of that figures into the renovated space is a good question, and I believe should be under the purview of your depts as you think about how a renovated space will look and function.

Well, that is the news so far. Not that any of this is incorrigible. I'm happy to think aloud what next steps might look like, but thought you would want an update as we are nearing homecoming and folks get nostalgic in the fall. I have not heard about any plans for the home to be open for tours as (I think) has been in the past, but I would like to suggest that not happen this year. We have tables spread throughout the house and it is very much a work in progress.

Hope this makes sense, please let me know how I can assist further. Thanks very much.

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Mac Ice
Director of Special Collections and Archives
Assistant Professor of Library Science
Abilene Christian University

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Kelly Elliott, PhD
Associate Professor, Department Chair
History and Global Studies
Abilene Christian University
(she/her)