Eleven students from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) attended the Montana Heritage Commission’s (MHC) Fourth Public History Field School held in Virginia City, Montana from June 8-25, 2011.

The MHC field schools are held in partnership with Washington State University (WSU) and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall Indian Reservation Idaho. They are intended to immerse students in the history and culture of the region and introduce them to various public history sub-fields under the tutelage of practicing professionals.

This experience gives students an appreciation for studying history where it took place. To that end, participants received tours of Virginia City, Nevada City, buffalo jumps, and an ancient Indian dacite quarry. They also viewed the historic traces of the Bozeman Trail. In addition, the students journeyed to Laurin, Montana, to survey the differences between historic maps and the current landscape.

The Field School participants gathered for a group photograph on their last night in Virginia City.

The class jointly edited the previous Public History Field School was highlighted in the September 2010 Public History News.

For five interpretive panels intended to diversify Virginia City’s interpretive program. Examining standard and non-conventional sources at the library, courthouse, online, and in the surrounding environment, they prepared interpretive panels on:

--The large and evolving Chinese presence in Virginia City during the Nineteenth Century
--The Lemhi Shoshone presence in the area
--Prominent Nineteenth Century African-American businesspeople Sarah Bickford and Jack Taylor
--The 1867 Montana Militia raised in response to Red Cloud’s efforts to close the Bozeman Trail.

The MHC staff’s time and effort were repaid by the UWEC students gathering images and drafting text.

**Day Trips**

**Public History Subfields**

**Reading the Landscape**

**Interpretive Panels**

**LEMI SHOSHONE AGAI DIKA (Salmon Eater) DAYS**

**BOZEMAN TRAIL**

**Students, Staff, and Instructors**

**Background**

Photo courtesy Todd Theiste, June 14, 2011.

Photo courtesy Todd Theiste, June 9, 2011.

Photo courtesy Todd Theiste, June 18, 2011.

Photo courtesy Todd Theiste, June 15, 2011.

Photo courtesy Todd Theiste, June 9, 2011.

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Photo courtesy Todd Theiste, June 2, 2011.

PHOTO COURTESY TODD THEISTE, JUNE 24, 2011.

PHOTO COURTESY JENNA VATER, JUNE 24, 2011.

PHOTO COURTESY TODD THEISTE, JUNE 10, 2011.

PHOTO COURTESY CHARITY MOORE, JUNE 12, 2011.

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PHOTO COURTESY HEIDI ANN HEIDEMAN, JUNE 10, 2011.

PHOTO COURTESY REBECCA ROHAN, JUNE 21, 2011.

PHOTO COURTESY TODD THEISTE, JUNE 18, 2011.

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