

**Camille Buckley is a junior majoring in History. We interviewed Camille about her summer intern work in Washington, D.C. We also found out that she is involved in another history-related pursuit.**

**Tell me about your experience interning this past summer at the Smithsonian.**

Well, I interned at the National Postal Library and the Archives of American Art. I was accepted to the Behind the Scenes Volunteer Program. You apply to the program, and once you are accepted, they place you in an internship somewhere in the Washington, DC area. Sometimes they give you a choice of internships – I was given a choice – but sometimes they don't. While interning, I organized archival collections, cataloged artifacts, assisted microfilm users with their research and with the machines, and transcribed oral history interviews.

I did to get some experience in the field and to try to figure out what direction I wanted to go once I graduate. I really enjoyed it – I plan on doing some sort of conservation or curatorial work after college.

**Do you have any recommendations for other History majors?**

Don't be afraid of being a History major. I was worried that I could only get a teaching job if I majored in History, but that's not true. A lot of jobs require a History major; you just need to look around. History is important. You can love it but not necessarily have to teach it.

**I've heard that you are involved in Civil War Reenactments. How did you get involved in reenacting?**

It's kind of a funny story. It's kind of embarrassing. One day two girls who were involved in reenacting wore their dresses to church. The dresses were so beautiful – white and pink, lacy and fluffy. I have always remembered those dresses! So when I was a sophomore in high school and was trying to find a costume for Halloween – I wanted something different, something out-there, something that would cause a stir – I decided to borrow one of those dresses. After that, my mom and I made a deal: she would make me a similar dress, as long as I would wear it more than once. It took us about nine months to research and sew – we made *everything*, even the hoop skirt and corset – and once it was completed, I joined the Washington Civil War Association's 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



### **What is it like to be a reenactor?**

It's very intimidating – I didn't want to be wearing something inauthentic or weird. A lot of these people have been doing this for years, and they really live the life. At one point during my first reenactment, I tried to enter the soldiers' campsite. The sentry insisted on escorting me in, and I thought he was being so chivalrous – my heart even fluttered a bit. In reality, however, only harlots would try to enter a campsite all alone. He *had* to escort me, or I would have been playing the part of the harlot!

I enjoy wearing my dress. It is really amazing how much of you changes by what you are wearing. Wearing antebellum dresses gives you a calming, settling feeling. You feel older, you feel the need to be more calm and collected. The dresses are very constricting, but they give you such a sense of being a woman. It's so different, so distinct. During the Civil War, you didn't have all the privilege men had, but you were a mother, a wife, a daughter, and there was value in being a female. I really feel this when I wear my dress.



### **You are an RA? How is that?**

Yes, I'm an RA in McManis-Evans, an upperclassmen dorm. We have a lot of athletes on the floor; it's a fun atmosphere!