



PRESS RELEASE

Public History Students Podcast African-American Oral History

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PENSACOLA -- University of West Florida public history students are using cutting-edge technology to preserve the rich social and cultural history of Pensacola's African-American community.

"Too many people overlook Pensacola's rich African-American heritage," said Patrick Moore, associate professor and director of the University of West Florida Public History Program. "Pensacola was heavily influenced by Caribbean culture – not just slavery and civil rights like many other Southern cities. Once the people pass away, the history will be gone forever, so it's very important to capture it now."

Working with Pensacola's African-American Heritage Society and West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc., public history graduate students Christy Hurt and Valerie Hollinger, along with 25 students in Moore's African-American Community History class, will interview hundreds of people and document the changes to more than 30 historical buildings, mostly in the downtown Pensacola area.

Students will videotape the interviews, and Hurt will edit the footage and combine it into a podcast that can be downloaded from the Internet and watched via personal iPods or burned onto compact discs. The podcasts should be available by December and will be free for people from all over the world to download.

"We're looking into new ways of reaching people," Moore said. "People today want to interact with history and have immediate access to decades of preserved memories."

For more information, visit uwf.edu/history or contact Moore at (850) 474-2680 or e-mail pmoore@uwf.edu.



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