



Thomas J. Morain, Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa

Thomas Morain, Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa began his museum career at Living History Farms in 1981 and has continued to serve the cause of Iowa museums and Iowa history at both the State Historical Society of Iowa and Graceland University. One of his most wide-reaching contributions is the establishment of the undergraduate internship program at Living History Farms, which began in 1982

and continues to this day. Hundreds of students have come through this program, which has produced museum leaders and professionals in Iowa and across the country. The program trains interns to understand the role of public history in inspiring the public to seek a more complete understanding of the past while providing exceptional public programs.

After fourteen years at Living History Farms, Tom Morain accepted the call to serve as administrator of the State Historical Society of Iowa for six years, following which he accepted a position at Graceland University. Throughout his career he has continued to advocate for history education and excellence in public programming, serving as a consultant and speaker, as well as co-authoring the award winning *Iowa Past to Present: The People and the Prairie*, with Lynn Nielsen and Dorothy Schwieder. In 2015 he served on the "Teaching Iowa History" committee of the Iowa Department of Education, a review of current educational standards and goal setting.

"Tom's leadership at Living History Farms established its current historical program that still makes it an exceptional outdoor museum. His work in Iowa history earned him the State Historical Society of Iowa's Harlan-Peterson Award in 2009, but it will be his work with interns that will arguably persist and cause waves at Iowa museums for generations."

-Leo E. Landis, State Curator, State Historical Society of Iowa

Cynthia Sweet, Executive Director of the Iowa Museum Association said, "Honoring Lynette Pohlman and Thomas J. Morain with the Iowa Museum Association's Leadership Award is meaningful not only for those of us in the field today who know them, but for hundreds of individuals who have been touched by their mentorship and leadership over the past several decades."

The mission of the Iowa Museum Association is "Working in the interests of Iowa museums, the Iowa Museum Association builds organizational capacity, advocates to heighten awareness of the field, and fosters community."

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"The internship at Living History Farms gave me college credit for gaining skills in the museum industry, and it also gave me a sense of personal belonging in the museum community. Years later I remember the beginnings of an important museum network that I developed that began right there at Living History Farms between the staff and interns." -Edith Blanchard, Director, Charles H. MacNider Museum

"My experience as an intern at Living History Farms almost singlehandedly steered me toward my work in the museum field and it has continued to inspire the choices that I make today. Additionally, it opened up many doors for me by introducing me to a whole new world of lifelong friendships and providing me with experiences that I continue to benefit from, even outside the museum field." -Nathan Buman, Manager, Shelby County Historical Museum

"Tom's guidance and mentorship allowed me to see that museum work could be more than my summer job. I could see his passion for sharing Iowa's story in his training methods for interpreters, his public program planning and research and the work being done by every staff member Tom supervised. ... His inspiration changed my life course." -Janet Clair Dennis, Director of Interpretation, Living History Farms

