

# Brian J. Failing

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Education

*Eastern Illinois University*

M.A. in History with Historical Administration, 3.9 GPA, Expected May 2016.

- History Department Technology Graduate Assistant

*North Central College*

B.A. in Urban and Suburban Studies and History, *Cum Laude*, June 2014.

- **Study Abroad:** *Canterbury Christ Church University, Fall 2011.*
- Honor Societies: Phi Alpha Theta, Alpha Kappa Delta, Blue Key

### Awards and Honors

- *Award of Merit in Exhibits* from the Illinois Association of Museums for *Mission, Method, Memory: The Lab School at EIU*, Eastern Illinois University, 2015.
- *Joy Matthiessen Memorial Scholarship*, Historical Administration Program Association, Eastern Illinois University, June 2015.
- *Williams Travel Grant*, Eastern Illinois University, Spring 2015.
- *2015 Distinguished Graduate Student – Historical Administration*, Eastern Illinois University, Spring 2015.
- *Graduate School Research/ Creative Activity Award*, Eastern Illinois University, Fall 2014.
- *Promising Leadership Award*, Association of Midwest Museums, July 14, 2014.
- *Outstanding Student in Human Thought and Behavior Division*, North Central College, May 2014.
- *Award of Merit in Exhibits* from the Illinois Association of Museums for the exhibit *Sustaining Lisle's Heritage: The Story of Lisle's Incorporation*, Museums at Lisle Station Park, 2013.
- *Award of Excellence in Educational Programming* from the Illinois Association of Museums for the First Annual Chicago History Author Series, Museums at Lisle Station Park, 2011.

### Related Work Experience

DuPage County Historical Museum

October 2014 – Present

*Collections Intern (Since August 2015)*

- Collaborating on project, *Postcards of DuPage County: A Digital Collection of the Past* by cataloging and digitizing a collection of postcards.
- Developing a volunteer/intern guide and docent guides for the museum.

West Chicago City Museum (Contracted by Phalen Consulting)

May 2015 – Present

*Project Assistant*

- Develop and implement countywide oral history initiative, "Voices of DuPage: Keeping Our History Alive".

Visitor Studies Contractor

July 2015 – Present

- Contracted by Ashlan Falletta-Cowden, Audience Researcher, for work at the Field Museum of Natural History collecting surveys as part of their Attendance Tracking Study.

DuPage County Forest Preserve

May 2015 – July 2015

*Heritage Interpreter*

- Assist education department with outreach programs, including special events, leading walking tours, and developing a lecture on the organization's early history.

- Eastern Illinois University August 2014 – May 2015  
*Historical Administration Exhibit Team*
- Served on the Audience Research and Marketing Teams during the creation of the permanent exhibit, *Mission, Method, Memory: The Lab School at EIU*.
  - Created, collected, and analyzed needs of target audiences for exhibit through quantitative and qualitative analysis of surveys.
- Collections Committee Member* January 2015- May 2015
- Member of the Collections Committee for the EIU Lab School Museum.
- Museums at Lisle Station Park June 2009 – August 2014  
*Museum Curator*
- Developed, implemented, and evaluated over 60 programs and 5 exhibits, several of which have received awards. All of these efforts resulted in increased attendance at the site.
  - Increased visibility of museum by outreach to Chicago media outlets including: WGN Morning News, *Daily Herald*, *Suburban Life*, and *Chicago Tribune*, WBEZ, and WGN Radio, among others.
  - Developed and implemented a volunteer manual for our site and created historical themed birthday parties for facility.
  - Recruited, trained, and oversaw interns and volunteers to the museum site.
  - Researched and recreated interpretive signage to unify facility brand.

### Research and Teaching Experience

- **Research Assistant** on the project “Fair Housing in Naperville” with Professor of History, Ann Durkin Keating and Research team, North Central College, March 2014 – June 2014.
- **Preceptor** for HST 120, Chicago History with Professor of History, Ann Durkin Keating, North Central College, January 2014 – March 2014.
- **Research Assistant** on the project “Chicago Media: Newsreels, Movies and Censorship” with Associate Professor of Speech Communication Steve Macek, North Central College. Worked together doing archival research and coauthoring a paper, August 2013 – November 2013.
- **Research Assistant** on the project “Privilege and School Choice”. Assisted Associate Professor of Sociology Kristin Geraty with her new project about why parents chose to send their children to private schools, North Central College, June 2013 – August 2013.
- **Preceptor** for SOA190, Urban Problems with Associate Professor of Sociology Kristin Geraty, North Central College, January 2013 – March 2013.
- **Research Assistant** on the project “Public Perceptions of Primary and Elementary School Teachers”. Assisted Associate Professor of Sociology Kristin Geraty in compiling data and creating, conducting, and analyzing interviews with teacher education students at NCC and with teachers from schools within the community, North Central College, March 2012 – May 2013.
- **Research Assistant** on the project “Phasing In: The Process of Adjusting to College”. Assisted Associate Professor of Speech Communication, Mara Berkland and Associate Professor of Sociology, Jennifer Keys with collection and analysis of data related to their study, North Central College, August 2012 – December 2012.
- **Research Assistant** on the project “News for a Divided Metropolis: A Short, Critical History of Chicago Journalism. The Daily News/ The Daily Times/ The Sun-Times Chapter (s)”. Worked in archives with Associate Professor of Speech Communication Steve Macek, North Central College, June 2011 – August 2011.

### Publications and Exhibits

- *Mission, Method, Memory: The Lab School at EIU*. Permanent Exhibition, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL (April 9, 2015).
- *Mementos of the Fest*. Temporary Exhibit, Museums at Lisle Station Park, Lisle, IL (July 4 – 19, 2014).
- *Banned in Chicago: Eight Decades of Film Censorship in the Windy City*. Temporary Exhibit in conjunction with Steve Macek, Museums at Lisle Station Park, Lisle, IL (May 17, 2014 – August 16, 2014).
- *Hidden in the Archives*. Temporary Exhibit at Lisle Library District, Lisle, IL (March 2014).
- *English China in a Midwestern Farmhouse*. Permanent Exhibit at the Museums at Lisle Station Park, Lisle, IL (January 2014).

- *Sustaining Lisle's Heritage: The Story of Lisle's Incorporation*. Temporary Exhibit, Museums at Lisle Station Park, Lisle, IL (June 22, 2013 – October 6, 2013), Virtual Exhibit, (active, <http://sustaining-lisles-heritage.weebly.com/>).
- “Changing Functions: The Use of Old Main During the 1870s.” *Undergraduate Archives Research Publication*, North Central College (May 2013).

### Discussant

- *Public History as Digital History as Public History*, (Discussant), National Council on Public History, Nashville, TN, April 15-18, 2015.

### Conference Presentations

- *Educational Programming for Today*, Oral Presentation, Illinois Association of Museums Conference, Springfield, IL, September 24-25, 2015.
- *Connecting the Dots of Your Community*, Oral Presentation, Illinois Association of Museums Conference, Springfield, IL, September 24-25, 2015.
- *From Culture to Classroom: The History, Use, and Application of Postcards in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Oral Presentation, Conference on Illinois History, Springfield, IL, September 24-25, 2015.
- *Postcards as Historical Evidence: History, Use, and Application*, Paper Presentation, Phi Alpha Theta Wisconsin Regional Conference, Kenosha, WI, April 23-24, 2015.
- *Postcards as Historical Evidence: History, Use, and Application*, Poster Presentation, First Annual History Symposium, Museums at Lisle Station Park, Lisle, IL, April 18, 2015.
- *Mission, Method, Memory: The Lab School at EIU*, Poster Presentation, First Annual History Symposium, Museums at Lisle Station Park, Lisle, IL, April 18, 2015.
- *Postcards as Historical Evidence: History, Use, and Application*, Poster Presentation, Graduate Expo, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL, April 9, 2015.
- *Mission, Method, Memory: The Lab School at EIU*, Poster Presentation, Graduate Expo, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL, April 9, 2015.
- *The Heart of the Campus: Old Main During the 1870s*, Poster Presentation, Rall Symposium for Undergraduate Research, North Central College, Naperville, IL, May 13, 2014.
- *Incorporating Lisle: A Story of How the Village of Lisle Developed*, Paper Presentation, Phi Alpha Theta Wisconsin Regional Conference, Milwaukee, WI, April 25-26, 2014.
- *The Teaching Profession: Public Perceptions and Teacher Experiences* (in conjunction with research team), Undergraduate Poster Presentation, Midwest Sociological Society Conference, Omaha, NE, April 3-6, 2014.
- *A Tale of Two Places: A Chicago Neighborhood* (in conjunction with Maci Mitchell and Patrick Foley), Paper Presentation, Midwest Sociological Society Conference, Omaha, NE, April 3-6, 2014.
- *City Hall and the Silver Screen: Film Censorship in Chicago and the Politics of Urban Imagery* (with Professor Steve Macek, North Central College), Paper Presentation, Union for Democratic Communication/Project Censored Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 1-3, 2013.
- *Inspiring Sustainable Living*, Oral Presentation, Illinois Association of Museums Conference, Peoria, IL, October 16-18, 2013.
- *Municipal Government: The Story of the Village of Lisle's Incorporation*, Paper Presentation, Conference on Illinois History, Springfield, IL, September 26-27, 2013.
- *Utilizing the Past to Create a Greener Community* (with Alison Costanzo), Poster Presentation, Association of Midwest Museums Conference, Madison, WI, July 14-17, 2013.
- *Reconnecting with History through Historic Environment Education*, Poster Presentation, Rall Symposium for Undergraduate Research, North Central College, Naperville, IL, May 14, 2013.
- *Teacher Unions: Public Perceptions and Teacher Experiences* (in conjunction with research team), Oral Presentation, Rall Symposium for Undergraduate Research, North Central College, Naperville, IL, May 14, 2013.
- *Reconnecting with History: The Natural Environment and HEE's Place within Suburban Illinois Museums*, Paper Presentation, Bridging Ages Conference, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, April 15-19, 2013.
- *Pullman, IL: An Ethnic Salad Bowl*, Poster Presentation, Rall Symposium for Undergraduate Research, North Central College, Naperville, IL, May 15, 2012.

- *Sparkling the Interest of Volunteers and Beginning a Volunteer Program*. Oral Presentation, Illinois Association of Museums and Association of Midwest Museums Conference, Chicago, IL, July 24-27, 2011.

### Invited Speaker

- A Snapshot of History: The Importance of Postcards in our Lives, Glen Ellyn Historical Society, Glen Ellyn, IL, May 21, 2015.
- *Our History on Paper: The Importance of Postcards in our Lives*, DuPage County Historical Museum, Wheaton, IL, March 21, 2015.
- *Banned in Chicago: Eight Decades of Film Censorship in the Windy City*, DuPage Coffee House, Wheaton, IL, July 2, 2014.
- A Journey Through Lisle: From Settlement to Establishment, Lisle Rotary Club Meeting, Lisle, IL, June, 24, 2014.
- *Banned in Chicago: Eight Decades of Film Censorship in the Windy City*, Lisle Rotary Club Meeting, Lisle, IL, May 27, 2014.
- *From Settlement to Establishment: Lisle in the Post-War Period*, Lisle Heritage Society Meeting, Lisle, IL, April 24, 2014.
- *Banned in the Windy City: The Tumultuous History of Film Censorship in Chicago*, (presenter with Dr. Steve Macek) Cultural Studies Colloquium, Columbia College, Chicago, IL, April 17, 2014.
- *Research in the Urban and Suburban Scene*, North Central College Urban Problems Class, Naperville, IL, October 9, 2013.

### Campus Involvement

Eastern Illinois University <i>Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC)</i>	August 2014 – May 2015
North Central College <i>First-Year-Mentor</i>	June 2012 – June 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Served as a mentor to first-year students during their transition into college during their First-Year Experience course and throughout their first year of college.</li> </ul>	
North Central College Sociology and Anthropology Club <i>Treasurer</i>	June 2013- June 2014
North Central College History Association <i>Treasurer, Founding Member</i>	March 2013- June 2014
North Central College: Cultural Events Committee <i>Student Committee Member</i>	September 2010 – June 2014
North Central College: Legacy Program <i>Legacy Ambassador</i> <i>Membership Chair (March 2013- June 2014)</i>	January 2012 – June 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This volunteer position included speaking with alumni and potential donors about giving back to the college.</li> </ul>	

### Community Involvement

National Council on Public History New Professional and Graduate Student Committee	July 2015 - Present
Historical Administration Program Association <i>Board Member - Webmaster</i>	April 2015 – Present
National EMS Museum <i>Social Media Volunteer – Google Plus</i>	April 2015 – Present
Lisle Memorial Day Parade & Community Picnic Committee <i>Committee Member</i>	January 2011 – August 2014
Naper Settlement Museum Board <i>Student Board Member</i>	August 2009 – June 2010
Museums at Lisle Station Park <i>Tour Guide</i>	September 2007- June 2009
Lisle Library Youth Advisory Board	August 2003 – June 2010

**Professional Memberships**

- American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)
- National Council on Public History (NCPH)
- American Alliance of Museums (AAM)
- Association of Midwest Museums (AMM)
- Illinois Association of Museums (IAM)
- Historical Administration Program Association (HAPA)