

## Jessica Erwin, Glen Rose Alumni Class of 2002

<http://ualr.edu/news/2016/04/01/museum-ualr-graduate-student-year-arkansas-little-rock/>

### ASSOCIATION NAMES UALR STUDENT 'GRADUATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR'



The **Arkansas Museums Association** has named a University of Arkansas at Little Rock public history graduate student its "graduate student of the year."

Jessica Erwin, a graduate assistant in the **UALR Center for Arkansas History and Culture (CAHC)** since fall 2014, has been involved with a variety of projects at the center.

Erwin took the lead on digitizing and creating metadata for the recently discovered Lucious Christopher (L.C.) Bates oral history tapes, which document his years as owner of the Arkansas State Press.

She also collaborated with the center's staff to create the virtual web exhibit "As Much as the Water: How Steamboats Shaped Arkansas," a complex, multifaceted web design project containing several pages and photographic images.

Additionally, Erwin spent hours in the center's Digital Services Lab familiarizing herself with a variety of digitization equipment, including: flatbed scanners, overhead scanners, reel-to-reel tape, audio cassettes, vinyl, 16-mm film, VHS, and DVD systems.

She has archived 15 linear feet of material and processed 13 since beginning her assistantship.

Erwin also co-led the fall 2015 UALR graduate school seminar in public history, a capstone course led by Dr. Deborah J. Baldwin, associate provost of the UALR Collections and Archives Division. The course requires students to research and create a history of a noted Little Rock institution, in this case the Little Rock Zoo.

Each year the Arkansas Museums Association presents awards to celebrate and encourage excellence within the state's museums and cultural institutions.

The graduate student of the year award is given to a graduate student in fields related to museums, public history or archival management who has shown academic excellence with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a minimum of 12 hours completed in the program.

The successful nominee demonstrates initiative and leadership skills, has shown a willingness to collaborate with faculty, staff, and other graduate students and is committed to working in the museum, public history, archival management, or related field.