

## 2009 Legion de Lafayette

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Membership in the National Guard Educational Foundation's Legion de Lafayette is reserved for the foundation's largest benefactors. All have provided gifts of at least \$10,000 toward telling the Guard story. Those in the George Washington Presidential Order have provided more than \$50,000.



## College Interns Help Robust Foundation Staff, Museum Programs

Since March, the National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) has gotten a much-needed manpower boost from three George Mason University students.

Maj. Carl Young and Maj. Dan Snowden, both Guardsmen assigned to the National Guard Bureau, approached Jonathan Bernstein, NGEF director, with a mutually beneficial proposal.

They had to write a notional grant for a class in their history graduate program and asked if they could write an actual grant to benefit NGEF that would also satisfy their class assignment.

A face-to-face meeting established objectives and also introduced a third volunteer, Zayna Bizri.

Compiling a grant package requires

about 20 pages of meticulous paperwork.

Nonetheless, they compiled three grant packages, which Bernstein hopes will fund the oral history program, the digitization of the NGEF archives and the construction of a new paper and textile conservation lab in the library.

Since the end of May, Bizri has been a constant presence at the museum, serving as its first intern. She has cataloged, identified and processed collection objects and is consolidating the artifact database.

She spent about six weeks going through the entire collection, compiling what Bernstein now considers a correct and complete list of the museum's collection. This will prove invaluable when the foundation begins the American

Association of Museums accreditation process in 2012.

In addition to her collections work, she and Bernstein worked together to write a concise and informative tour script that has been implemented on all museum guided tours.

Since the official end of her internship in June, Bizri, although still a student with a busy class schedule, has been in the museum twice a week working with the collection. She has also helped plan two programs for 2010.

With her help, NGEF plans to host a program early next year on the history of women in the Guard. The foundation also anticipates holding a three-day seminar later in the year that will look at the entire history of the Guard.