

Susan Curtis is the Collections Manager for the Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection. After earning her master's degree in Museum Studies with a minor in historic textiles from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she worked in a variety of museums caring for art, historical, and cultural objects. In 2013, she moved to Fargo to work at NDSU. As the collections manager, Curtis is excited to support the research being done by students, faculty, and outside researchers by facilitating access to the collection. She also teaches courses in the history of fashion and museum collections management.

Who are your role models or inspiring folks?

Elizabeth Wayland Barber. From her example, I learned that to be a good textile historian, you have to understand and experience the process of how textiles are made and used.

Outside of art and design fields, what inspires you?

Walking my dog. Her absolute joy in discovering new places to explore is contagious.

What do you wish you had known when you started out as a student/in this field?

That it's okay to not know where you want to spend the rest of your career. That you should challenge yourself to take courses in areas that you know nothing about because that's where you can define your real passions.

What was your most memorable meal?

When I was in Japan, my hosts took me to an Italian restaurant where we ate spaghetti with chopsticks. It was an evening filled with laughter as I struggled to navigate my meal.

In your office, you can only have three things, one book, one tool, and one picture. What would they be and why?

The book would be my planner. I love keeping track of my schedules, to-do lists, and random thoughts in a good paper planner. The tool would be my collection database. Everything we know about the collection, from the history of each object to its location, is kept there. The picture would be a photograph of my family to remind me that there is more to life than work.