### Smith College/Smithsonian Institution Internship Program 2019

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Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Betty J. Belanus

Department or Office: Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Museum/Unit:

Phone Number: 202/633-6582

Email Address: belansub@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage produces the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, a ten-day outdoor cultural event on the National Mall. This research-based Festival features U.S. states, regions, and foreign countries each year. Preparations for the Festival include field and library research, and follow-ups on past Festivals including the creation of educational materials, exhibitions, and videos. For more information see www.festival.si.edu

The Center also administers Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections, and various cultural heritage and cultural sustainability projects. See www.folklife.si.edu for an overview of the Center and its projects.

The supervisor is a Festival curator and education specialist with over 30 years of experience at the Smithsonian Institution, and is also a Smith College graduate (Smith '77).

An intern with an interest in cultural research, plant based traditional medicine, economics, and/or the environment is sought to aid in organizing a large body of archival and oral history/folklife research for a program for the 2020 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. The program’s topic is American ginseng: its history, cultural significance, current collecting practice, international trade, and conservation. Plants in the ginseng family have been used in traditional medicine in many parts of the world for thousands of centuries.

American ginseng is particularly sought after by the Chinese, and trade in ginseng has taken place between the two countries since the mid-1700s. A forest-based plant, ginseng is collected in the wild, creating supplementary income for hundreds of families in the Appalachian region, since the best quality wild ginseng roots fetch very high prices. In recent years, circumstances such as decreased access to ginseng “hunting” grounds due to privatization or destruction of forest lands, climate change, over-gathering and illegal poaching have become factors in this traditional practice and trade. (See https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/getting-to-the-root-of-ginseng-65654374/ and https://www.loc.gov/collections/folklife-and-landscape-in-southern-west-virginia/articles-and-essays/american-ginseng-and-the-idea-of-the-commons/ginseng-and-the-future-of-the-commons/).
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): David Haberstich

Department or Office: OCA, NMAH
Museum/Unit: NMAH Archives Center

Phone Number: 202-633-3721
Email Address: haberstichd@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

The Archives Center collects documents, manuscripts, photographs, other visual materials, and audio-visual items related to many facets of American history. Archives Center collections complement the Museum’s artifacts and are used for scholarly research, exhibitions, journalism, documentary film/video productions, and other research and educational activities. As the curator of photography, I am responsible for acquiring, describing, preserving, and exhibiting photographic collections. I pursue research on the history of documentary photography.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

The proposed project is to complete the processing of the Dawn V. Rogala Circus Photographs and Papers and the finding aid for the collection. This will include writing descriptive information about the photographs, some at the item level and some at group levels. The finding aid will be available to students and scholars online (an abbreviated version is included in the appendix of a book related to the collection). Using this processing experience as a guide, she can select another small photographic collection to complete its processing, depending on the time available. I would also like the student to participate in some of the Archives Center office routine, including assisting in the reference room in order to learn museum and archival methods. As I am the coordinator for the NMAH Tuesday Colloquium, the student could assist me in details related to running this lecture series and interacting with scholarly speakers (2-4 hours/week). The student should have a broad background in American social, cultural, and entertainment history, especially of the twentieth century. Some understanding of photography, as well as courses in art history and the history of photography, would be helpful, although not essential.

3. Please describe possible research products an intern might develop, either from the project or the work of your office, to fulfill the academic requirement of the Smith College Program:

The intern could write a research paper about a feature of the Rogala collection, such as the business, social, or cultural aspects of circuses and their audiences, issues regarding animal performance, etc., or another photographic collection. I would also like the student to write one or two blogs about collections.
Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s):  
Lynn Heidelbaugh, Curator  
Susan Smith, Blount Research Chair

Department or Office:  
Curatorial  
Museum/Unit:  
National Postal Museum

Phone Number:  
202.633.5338 (Heidelbaugh)  
202.633.1519 (Smith)  
Email Address:  
heidelbaugh@si.edu  
smithsu@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

   The National Postal Museum’s Curatorial Department researches the history of the postal system and its relationship to America as evidenced through public policy, operations, and the personal experience. The Department grows, shapes, and interprets the museum’s collection and source material in exploration of the complexity of the ever-changing postal network, its mandate for universal service, and its influence on American history. The Department disseminates information on these subjects through a variety of media, including, exhibition content development, online publications, print publications, and presentations, for both scholarly and general audiences. The Blount Research Chair, a member of the Curatorial Department, works with internal and external researchers to define and carry out research and writing projects, organizes scholarly events and gatherings, edits and publishes philatelic scholarship and postal history, and works with scholars throughout the institution.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

   The National Postal Museum is beginning a multi-year project to improve its examination and presentation of the history of women and the post. We are interested in researching women as postal employees, women as collectors of philatelic material and postal ephemera, and women as consumers of postal services – senders of mail, readers of delivered media, and recipients of mail order, educational programs, and financial services – as well as consumers of commercial products designed for mailing and letter writing activities.

   Duties would consist of: conducting original primary research on the topic of women and the post; studying and writing about relevant objects and their accession file information in the National Postal Museum collection; identifying current scholars working in related subjects; conducting a survey of secondary sources and writing an annotated research report and bibliography on the topic; and documenting all research findings for the curatorial department’s projects to develop the topic in the museum’s collecting plan and potential future programming.

   A background in American Studies, Anthropology, History, or Women and Gender Studies is recommended. The curator will provide guidance in methodologies for researching philately, postal service, communications, and material culture, but the bulk of the research will be done independently by the intern.

   The intern will learn about the methods of museum collecting and the history of women and post, as well as improve writing skills, and become familiar with museum database software, The Museum System, and the bibliographic program, Endnotes.
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Pamela M. Henson

Department or Office: Institutional History Program       Museum/Unit: Smithsonian Inst. Archives

Phone Number: 202-633-5907       Email Address: hensonp@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

The Institutional History Program of the Smithsonian Institution Archives is the public history office responsible for research and publication on the history of the Smithsonian Institution. An Oral History Program documents the history of the Smithsonian through interviews of staff, volunteers, and others affiliated with the Institution. We are currently focusing on the American Women's History Initiative across the Smithsonian. During the Fall of 2019, we will be preparing oral history collections and other materials relating to the history of women at the Smithsonian – digital audio, transcript, finding aid, image, etc., files to be posted on our website to reach a broader audience. The Institutional History Program intern will help prepare these materials to be posted on the SI Archives website, working with digital audio, photograph, transcript and finding aid files and with our website templates.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

The intern will prepare the collection files for upload to the website, learning about care for digital audiovisual files, image files, PDF files, and word processing files to ensure their preservation and accessibility on public websites. The intern will also gain digital humanities experience by learning how to work with website templates and upload materials onto an Institution’s website. The intern can also prepare a blog for The Bigger Picture about their work on the project.

3. Please describe possible research products an intern might develop, either from the project or the work of your office, to fulfill the academic requirement of the Smith College Program:

In addition to this “hands-on” experience working with an oral history collection and website, the intern will complete readings on the history of the Smithsonian, oral history, and digital humanities. The intern supervisor will provide the intern with a bibliography of appropriate readings.

The intern can then prepare a paper on a specific topic in Smithsonian history, women’s history, or similar area, and/or prepare a website that conveys this information in online format.

For more information on SI Archives internships, see https://siarchives.si.edu/about/internsfellowsvolunteers
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Magdalena Mieri and Margaret Salazar Porzio

Department or Office: Office of Education and Impact and Office of Curatorial Affairs
Museum/Unit: National Museum of American History

Phone Number: 202-633-3704 Email Address: mierima@si.edu and salazarporzio@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

The Office of Education and Impact is part of the Office of Audience Engagement. We are concerned with creating engaging, accurate and inclusive educational products about American history. A strong emphasis is on using history to strengthen democratic participation. The work of the intern will inform a major new project on teaching a more inclusive and accurate history of migration/immigration and will support the civic engagement goals of the Museum.

The Office of Curatorial Affairs, Division of Culture and Community Life, uses scholarship and collections to educate and inspire a broad audience about cultural and social environments and the intersections between public and private life in our nation’s past. The division cares for its collections and develops them to represent the country’s diverse peoples. Through collecting and research, division staff produce and contribute to publications, exhibitions, and other forms of public history. Staff of the division collect, research, and disseminate information in the areas of immigration, race and ethnicity, gender identity, home and community life, entertainment, sports, religion, and education.

For the last few years, these two Museum divisions have been working with the Kettering Foundation to bring deliberation as a civic practice to classrooms across the country. The Kettering Foundation, a research organization that studies what it takes for democracy to work as it should, has examined public practices of politics for more than 30 years. Their research suggests that, when issues are named and framed in ways that are rooted in what people hold deeply valuable, citizens are more likely to work together in addressing shared problems. Deliberating together, people work through disagreements, make sound choices, and reclaim their voice as citizens.

The current project, described below, will lead to the development of historic issue guides that provide opportunities for communities across the country to engage with significant moments in American immigration history through the process of deliberation.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

The intern will work with both supervisors to research, write and identify primary sources for a new set of deliberation guides that will be part of a major new curricula project on the history of immigration and migration. The goal is to create new deliberation guides on the Hart-Celler National Immigration Act of 1965, the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, and school desegregation efforts in the 1950s.
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Katherine Ott

Department or Office: Div. of History of Medicine and Science   Museum/Unit:NMAH

Phone Number: 202.633.3416   Email Address: ottk@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

Katherine Ott, PhD, is an historian and curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in the Division of Medicine and Science. She works on the history of medicine, including the body, disability and bodily difference, sexuality and LGBTQ history, among other things. She has curated exhibitions on the history of disability, HIV and AIDS, polio, acupuncture, and medical devices for altering the human body. Ott also teaches graduate courses in material culture at The George Washington University and tweets @amhistcurator.

The Division of Medicine and Science manages the largest and most significant collection of health-related artifacts in the Western Hemisphere. The Collection now includes more than 60,000 objects encompassing the fields of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, public health, nutrition, disability, and alternative health care. These objects range from the unique and rare to the commonplace and familiar.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

This internship is with Katherine Ott. The intern will work on topics and artifacts related to the history of medicine in one or more of the following areas, depending upon the student’s career goals/background/incidence: history of disability, history of hematology, history of EEG’s and brain scanning, LGBTQ history. The supervising curator will direct the student’s research and material culture study, including such work as collections support in creating object entries and descriptions, gathering materials for posting on the web related to the selected topic. Research will involve work with primary materials from archival collections, special collections, accessioned objects and images and the subsequent interpretation of these materials using a material culture orientation. In addition to research, the intern will help with fact checking, answering public inquiries, attend a range of museum meetings, and generally participate in the life of a large and busy national museum and Washington, D.C.

The only prerequisites are one course in American history and boundless curiosity about the world and museums. Students majoring in STEM areas, history and humanities, and gender
Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

Department or Office: Office of Curatorial Affairs Museum/Unit: Archives Center/NMAH

Phone Number: 202-633-3729 Email Address: robinsonf@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

I am currently co-authoring with curator Katherine Ott a book for Smithsonian Institution Press entitled, We Dared To Be Ourselves: Selections from the LGBT Collections of the National Museum of American History Smithsonian. The book will highlight materials from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Collections housed here at the Archives Center and is intended for a broad audience. The Archives Center supports the mission of the National Museum of American History by preserving and providing access to documentary evidence of American’s past. The Archives Center’s collection complement the museum’s artifacts and are used for scholarly research, exhibitions, journalism, documentary productions, school programs, and other research and education activities.

Over 1,400 Archives Center collections occupy more than 19,000 feet of shelving. In addition to paper-based textual records, many collections contain photographs, motion picture films, videotapes, and sound recordings. The broad topics of technology, advertising, and music offer one way to categorize the Archives Center’s varied holdings. The collections are also rich in material that cuts across these subjects.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

The project will involve assisting in research, selection of images/objects, and preparation of the manuscript for We Dared. Using selected images, the intern will research the organizations, persons, and events relating to those images/objects chosen for the book. The intern will prepare data on each image/object, including citations following the Chicago Manual of Style relating to where the information was found. Depending workflow and progress with the manuscript, the intern may also process that new material into existing LGBT collections. The intern will also assist as needed by the Processing Team of the Archives Center with the processing of large archival collections.

The intern should have solid research and writing skills and have completed courses with components in 20th century United States and gender, LGBT, women’s, and/or political and social history. Courses with a focus or segment in civil rights and social movements would most likely be helpful.

3. Please describe possible research products an intern might develop, either from the project or the work of your office, to fulfill the academic requirement of the Smith College Program:

There is a wealth of primary sources within the Archives Center/NMAH. Building on their knowledge skills and research interests the intern may develop a paper based on material discovered and available in the LGBT Collection, from their assigned project or from any of the collections available in the Archives Center. Research products that may be created from this internship and
Smith Internship Proposal for 2019 from Fath Davis Ruffins

Internship: Junior Curator

Division of Home and Community Life

Within NMAH, the Division of Home and Community Life focuses on the architecture, foodways, and lifeways of Americans. This newly created division incorporates collections such as Ceramics and Glass, Costume, Textiles, Domestic Life (home furniture and furnishings; toys, games, and dolls; kitchenware; architecture, etc.). In addition, this Division holds collections on various American racial and ethnic groups, immigration, religion, folk music, and other materials. Within this division, I have a particular specialty in African American History and Culture as well as in immigration and ethnic history.

During this upcoming year (2019), principally I will also be working with donors to add new objects to the Smithsonian collections and processing new African American objects that I have added over the last year, including collections from Charleston, Montana, and New Orleans. I will also be conducting research and doing interviews for an emerging book project that analyzes how the Smithsonian Institution became a much more diverse and inclusive institution in the last fifty years of its history, especially focusing on the history of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum and the history of the Folklife Festival. Finally, I am working on a proposal for a small exhibition on Gullah cultural objects in NMAH's collections, including South Carolina coiled grass (or "sweetgrass") baskets.

Serving as a "Junior Curator"

Serving as a "junior curator" under my direction on one or more of these projects would allow the intern to participate in the extensive graphics, artifactual, audio-visual and bibliographic research processes necessary for the interpretive development of the audiovisual and educational aspects of a museum book and public project (which will include on-line components and possibly musical components); to participate in the intellectual process for acquiring and selecting objects, and other project related tasks. The student will learn a great deal about how the museum selects and prepares collections; about the research and interpretive elements of curatorial work; and about the preparation and development of small exhibitions.

Learning Objectives

This is an excellent opportunity for an undergraduate student in American Studies, American History, Anthropology or Ethnic Studies (or related fields) to utilize her prior training and apply this knowledge to the particular situation of producing a book project on a very general topic or a small exhibition. In order to do this, the student will need to analyze historical and contemporary texts, prepare interpretive strategies based on those texts, conduct independent object research, and formulate component ideas and design strategies for the interpretive and visual elements of the book and for a variety of different kinds of exhibition and educational programming.

In addition, I make a concerted effort to visit local exhibitions and installations with my students in order to aid in the development of critical interpretive skills in analyzing and assessing "informal" educational zones such as museum exhibitions. Depending upon their interests, for the final project, I work with the student to produce any of a variety of different kinds of research products from annotated bibliographies, highly detailed research reports, or collections surveys for example, based her work within NMAH or related collections, and/or a traditional essay or paper for her final project.
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program
Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Debbie Schaefer-Jacobs

Department or Office: Cultural and Community Life
Museum/Unit: NMAH

Phone Number: 202-633-3782
Email Address: schaeferjacobbsd@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:
   I am a curator in the Division of Home and Community Life at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. I curate the History of Education Collections and the Harry T. Peters America on Stone Lithographs as well as assist where needed with other collections in my division. I perform research relating to our collections, accession and catalog, develop exhibitions, and present a public presence for the collections both in terms of public programs such as objects out of storage events and at professional conferences. Please see my staff profile on the NMAH Web Site for additional information about the division, the museum and my role.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

Project Objectives
The primary project consists of assisting with in-depth cataloging research on a group objects for the history of education collections. This entails research in use and manufacture, augmenting the records, and drafting web descriptions or on-line exhibit labels for a particular group of objects. This most likely it will be for a group of educational toys and instructional manipulatives that are being prepared for a web object group and a possible exhibit, but it could pertain to another potential web group such as education artifacts pertaining to segregated schooling, or artifacts associated with kindergarten and early childhood. The student will also likely participate in some minor collections management projects such as moving/rehousing collections or assisting with object photography, so previous museum experience is desirable.

A second project if there is time, consists of completing research on both the depicted subject matter and artist research for about 20 portrait prints from the Harry T. Peters "America on Stone" Collection and preparing the web labels for publishing this group on the museum's website under Collections and the Smithsonian's Collections site. The prints have been catalogued, photographed, and preliminary identification of people and events depicted, but in-depth contextual research needs to occur and labels written. The student would also be examining images and following up if additional photography is required at higher resolution. As these are of historical figures, the student should have a good background in American History, be able to conduct historical research, and most importantly have a talent in writing. A class in 19th Century American studies and a class or previous museum work is desirable but not required.
Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Cathleen Lewis and Jennifer Levasseur

Department or Office: Space History Division         Museum/Unit: NASM

Phone Number: 202-633-2423                      Email Address: lewiscs@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

The Space History Department is one of two curatorial departments and one of three research departments of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum currently housed a few blocks from the museum’s National Mall building. Scholars in the Space History Department research and write on space exploration and other historically significant space-related developments and achievements. Staff members conduct historical research leading toward scholarly and popular publications, exhibitions, lectures, seminars, and other forms of public presentation.

The museum is currently undergoing revitalization of its physical infrastructure. Over the next several years, we will be renovating all of our exhibitions and welcoming a bold new future. The research and curatorial teams’ primary efforts will focus on creating transformational galleries for our visitors.

The intern’s work will be performed in an office environment with frequent group meetings that also rely on electronic video conferencing systems. The intern will often access electronic files, Smithsonian branch and main libraries, the Smithsonian and National Air and Space Museum Archives and various libraries and archives in the Washington, D.C. region.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

This project will take place within the Space History Department of the National Air and Space Museum, and the intern will work with all exhibition teams in that department and report to two of the curatorial team leaders of these galleries.

The intern will attend all weekly meetings with the core teams which includes curators, representatives from Education, the Digital Content unit, Collections, Conservation, and a Design Manager.

Research component for internship duties:

Initial background research:

- Review the exhibit content documents and additional preparatory documents for the five Space History East End Gallery teams - Exploring the Universe (112), Moving Beyond Earth (113), Space Age (112), the Innovation Gallery (105), and Future of Spaceflight (111) paying
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Joyce Bedi

Department or Office: Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation

Museum/Unit: NMAH

Phone Number: 202.633.3439 Email Address: bedij@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

The Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center engages, educates, and empowers the public to participate in technological, economic, and social change. We undertake historical research, develop educational initiatives, create exhibitions, and host public programming to advance new perspectives on invention and innovation and to foster interactions between the public and inventors. More information about the Center’s work may be found on our website at https://invention.si.edu.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

Recovering Diverse Voices in the History of Invention: A Research and Outreach Strategy

Although the word “inventor” may conjure images of men like Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell, in reality inventors have and continue to come from every segment of society. Yet the stories of women, people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, and others often have been overlooked, undervalued, and sometimes lost. With Recovering Diverse Voices in the History of Invention, the Lemelson Center is embarking on a multi-year research and outreach program to document, research, and disseminate information on these “hidden figures” in the history of invention, combining scholarly research and collecting with public outreach through exhibitions, programming, and publications to increase understanding of the work of diverse and underrepresented inventors. The first phase of Recovering Diverse Voices will focus on women inventors.

The broad outline of the overall Recovering Diverse Voices project includes:

- Gathering, organizing, and interpreting research assets to
  - Produce an annotated, selective bibliography of the most important scholarship already published
  - Create an index to artifacts and archives related to women inventors held in the collections of the National Museum of American History; this database may, in time, be expanded to include the collections of other Smithsonian museums
- Analyzing the data gathered to
  - Inform outreach, including (but not limited to): scholarly and popular publications on women inventors; professional conference presentations; exhibition proposals; public programming
  - Identify gaps in existing collections
- Preparing a report and manual for replicating the research and outreach structure for use in documenting other groups of diverse inventors
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Dr. Debra Diamond

Department or Office: Curatorial
Museum/Unit: Freer/Sackler

Phone Number: 202 633 0399
Email Address: diamode@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

As the curator for South and Southeast Asian art at the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, I am responsible for South Asia-related exhibitions, publications and acquisitions. My work is divided between research, writing and meetings. There are a lot of meetings, we have a fairly collaborative system here, and I seek to invite interns to those that are interesting or relevant for the work. The work we do here is very varied. I am currently working on a 2020 exhibition on mood, emotion and place in Indian painting; getting ready to take our patrons to India; and seeking to polish a paper on the topic of yoginis.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

Indian Court Painting at the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Over the course of almost a century, The Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery have acquired Indian (Mughal, Rajput, Pahari and Deccani) paintings on paper that date from the 16th – early 19th century. New scholarship has led to new identifications, linkages and dating for these paintings, which must be reflected in our internal records and public projects. This fall, the Smith intern will learn about one of the schools (Mughal, Pahari or Rajput) through guided readings and storage visits, and work with the curator and the registrar to ensure that the basic cataloguing for each object is consistent.

The intern will be based in the museum 4.5 days per week. Strong research skills and good writing ability are required; extra-curricular reading will be given. Background in art history is necessary. Background in Indian art or culture, or experience with digital humanities would be a plus.

3. Please describe possible research products an intern might develop, either from the project or the work of your office, to fulfill the academic requirement of the Smith College Program:

A related research project another key part of the internship. According to the intern’s skill level and the painting area selected, a research project will be jointly developed with the curator for South Asian art. For example, an intern with a music interest who focuses on either the Rajput or Pahari school would identify, research and map the museum’s ragamala paintings in order to conceptualize a project designed for multi-sensory apprehension on a museum website. A student who focused on the Mughal school would collate and connect imperial artist family relationships to paintings in the F|S collection for a study of style and in order to conceptualize a project designed for a museum website.
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Ariel O’Connor, Amber Kerr

Department or Office: Lunder Conservation Center, Objects Lab
Museum/Unit: SAAM

Phone Number: (202) 633-5805
Email Address: oconnora@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

The Lunder Conservation Center’s conservators actively perform research, examination, and treatment on works of art in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery. The Objects Conservation Lab is responsible for the care and research of three-dimensional artworks ranging from traditional 19th-century sculpture to unusual and unique contemporary works. The museum recently purchased a work titled Monopoly (2017.33A-M) by Los Angeles based artist Kristin Morgin, an artist who works with the fragile medium of unfired clay. The artwork is a faithful replica of an entire Monopoly set made of air-dried clay, painted with ink, paint, graphite, markers, white out, and wood stain. Ms. Morgin’s work is extremely fragile, and is prone to breakage during handling and travel. Several of her other works suffered minor damages during transit to our 2016 Renwick Invitational exhibition, and Objects Conservator Ariel O’Connor was asked to repair them before exhibition. Due to the complicated nature of the material, she undertook a very brief research project to determine the appropriate material to strengthen, but not darken, the unfired clay to stabilize and repair the breaks. This project was presented at a conference in Oxford, and since the presentation, repeated requests have been fielded to expand the small study and publish a paper on the repair of unfired clay artworks. This is the genesis for this research project and the request for assistance from a Smith College student.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

The goals of this project are to characterize the breadth of unfired clay in museum collections, summarize existing methodology and materials for treatment, and scientifically examine these materials to elucidate properties and efficacy of treatment options. Under the supervision of Objects Conservator Ariel O’Connor, the intern will first perform a literature review of existing materials, and reach out to conservation colleagues to determine what materials have been and are currently being used for treatment. Then, in conjunction with conservation scientists, a testing methodology will be developed. This will include determining color, saturation, gloss, strength, and solubility parameters. Samples of clay will be prepared in conjunction with testing methodology, and the selected adhesives will be applied. Finally, tests will be carried out and results compiled for publication.

The ideal intern who can help with this project is someone interested in both science and art, who has a background in chemistry and ceramics. The intern could be interested in a profession in the museum field, but especially should be an individual who can approach a non-traditional project with creativity and problem-solving skills.

3. Please describe possible research products an intern might develop, either from the project or the work of your office, to fulfill the academic requirement of the Smith College Program:

The ultimate goal of this research project is to produce a publishable paper for a conservation journal, and this intern will be a part of the writing process and an author on the paper. The intern
will assist in organizing the final project data, which will be stored at the Lunder Conservation Center and accessible to researchers.

In addition to these physical research products, this intern will learn about materials and artwork in museum collections, will collaborate with scientists and conservators, will obtain a better understanding of the scientific method and process for designing a research project, and will learn comparative material testing and protocol development. This hands-on learning will take place in a conservation lab visible to the public, so there will be opportunities for teaching and interacting with public during the project. These research products and critical learning skills will translate to numerous related fields and majors, and ultimately the intern will be a part of writing a publishable paper that will help conservators and archaeologists care for their collections.

Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Steve Velasquez

Department or Office: Div. Cultural and Community LifeMuseum/Unit: NMAH

Phone Number: 202-633-3601 Email Address: velasquezs@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

My research within the Division of Cultural and Community Life focuses on Latin@ history and culture and how Latinos create and maintain a sense of community, home, and family. I have an interest in the intersection of food studies with culture, community and politics. I am involved in food history programing and am interested in how we can tell stories of the changing food landscape. Currently I am working on a variety of topics including an upgrade of the exhibit Food: Transforming the American Table, as well as Many Voices, One Nation, and Entertaining America exhibit development. I work on many Latinx projects in various stages.
The Division of Cultural and Community Life Collections span an exceptionally broad range of American history subjects. Holdings include houses; household furnishings; appliances; food serving and preparation items; lighting; childhood artifacts; objects and documentation related to the manufacturing and merchandizing of household items; laces and needlework tools; men's, women's, and children's clothing and accessories; patent models; photographs, prints, and trade literature associated with collections; quilts and samplers; and sewing machines and textile manufacturing equipment. Recently we merged with our entertainment and popular culture collections including subjects such as sports, movie history, stage history, and music history.

The research the Division undertakes is concerned with domestic and social environments and the intersection and tensions between public and private life. We explore changing notions of home, family, and community and how individuals and groups have reinforced or challenged accepted ideas of family, gender roles, community, age, religion, the division of labor, and social and political issues. We also look at how we tell the history of the U.S. through entertainment.

2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

Inside Julia’s Kitchen: Material Culture of Domestic Kitchens

What do kitchen appliances and gadgets tell us about the changing food landscape? What are the larger social, political, and economic stories that material culture can tell us? This project will develop object level records, descriptions, and content for items in Julia Child's kitchen. This research will fall in line with the planning of the Food: Transforming the American Table, 1950-2000 exhibit refresh/remodel (bringing the date up to 2019). The American Food and Wine History Project is one of the research and public program anchors for the museum. We hope to lay out a series of object case studies and web based blogs related to food studies and social history to develop content for other museum programs and projects in the future.

The project will consist of three main objectives:

1) Searching for primary and secondary sources such as oral histories, other museum collections, and trade catalog collections dealing with food (broadly defined) and writing short summaries of the findings. This may require trips to the Library of Congress and National Archives.

2) The intern will help to identify Museum collections in the Division and in other divisions within the museum to explore relevant objects and stories to present in relation food
history.

3) The intern will develop short script/narrative to help contextualize the objects and stories. Using primary and secondary research the student will write short case studies on the objects, keeping in mind a use for exhibit/web labels as well as and “objects out of storage” program.

Topics like social history and food studies are full of research opportunities from historical, anthropological, ethnic studies, American studies, popular culture, and museum studies perspective. An interest and knowledge in food studies and material culture studies is desirable but not necessary.

3. Please describe possible research products an intern might develop, either from the project or the work of your office, to fulfill the academic requirement of the Smith College Program:

Using the knowledge gained from working in the Division, working with “hands on” collections, and incorporating primary and secondary knowledge, the intern will:

1. Write short case studies on objects which will help guide web label and blog development and objects out of storage program. This can take the form of a detailed annotated and footnoted draft script.
2. Will write a short report on the primary and secondary research findings, much like an annotated bibliography. This will serve as a guide post and map for future research on the topic and project

Should the intern require a tradition research paper, then the intern can take a topic of her own choosing based on food studies, immigration history, or the material culture of domestic food history. We will mentor the intern in producing such a paper. The American Food and Wine History Project is an interdisciplinary group that also includes curators from the Division of Work and Industry. Products and discussions will reflect that interdisciplinary nature.

These projects will be consistent with the student’s academic pursuits and should help define her/his professional objectives.
Smith College / Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Steve Velasquez

Department or Office: Div. Cultural and Community Life
Museum/Unit: NMAH

Phone Number: 202-633-3601    Email Address: velasquezs@si.edu

2. Please provide information on your research and/or the work of your office:

My research within the Division of Cultural and Community Life focuses on Latin@ history and culture and how Latinos create and maintain a sense of community, home, and family. I have an interest in the intersection of food studies with culture, community and politics. Currently I am working on a variety of topics including an upgrade of the exhibit Food: Transforming the American Table, as well as Many Voices, One Nation, and Entertaining America exhibit development. I have just begun to work on an exhibit about the community and popular culture history of lowrider car culture.

The Division of Cultural and Community Life Collections span an exceptionally broad range of American history subjects. Holdings include houses; household furnishings; appliances; food serving and preparation items; lighting; childhood artifacts; objects and documentation related to the manufacturing and merchandizing of household items; men's, women's, and children's clothing and accessories; patent models; photographs, prints, and trade literature associated with collections; quilts and samplers; and sewing machines and textile manufacturing equipment. Recently we merged with our entertainment and popular culture collections including subjects such as sports, movie history, stage history, and music history.

The research the Division undertakes is concerned with domestic and social environments and the intersection and tensions between public and private life. We explore changing notions of home, family, and community and how individuals and groups have reinforced or challenged accepted ideas of family, gender roles, community, age, religion, the division of labor, and social and political issues. We also look at how we tell the history of the U.S. through entertainment.
2. Describe the project (include duties, nature and scope of the work), and indicate any particular academic background or specific courses needed as preparation:

Lowrider: A Community History

How did the phenomena of lowriding start? What area all the cultural expressions of lowriding? What are the economic and technological impacts of lowriding? How did the culture of lowriding build community?

This project will compile research for the development of a lowrider exhibit at NMAH. This research will fall in line with the planning of a SITES exhibit and Latinx programing at NMAH. We hope to lay out a series of research topics and explore museum collections to develop content for the exhibit and other museum programs and projects in the future.

The project will consist of three main objectives:

4) Searching for primary and secondary sources such as oral histories, and other museum collections dealing with lowriding and writing short summaries of the findings. This may require trips to the Library of Congress and National Archives.
5) The intern will help to identify Museum collections at NMAH, SI, and other museum to understand the extent of existing material to present in relation lowriding and Latinx history.
6) The intern will develop short script/narrative to help contextualize the objects and stories. Using primary and secondary research the student will write short case studies on the objects, keeping in mind a use for exhibit/web labels as well as and “objects out of storage” program.

Topics like lowriding are full of research opportunities from historical, anthropological, ethnic studies, American studies, popular culture, and museum studies perspective. An interest and knowledge in Latinx history, photo history, or popular culture is desirable but not necessary.

4. Please describe possible research products an intern might develop, either from the
project or the work of your office, to fulfill the academic requirement of the Smith College Program:

Using the knowledge gained from working in the Division, working with “hands on” collections, and incorporating primary and secondary knowledge, the intern will:

3. Write a detailed annotated and footnoted topical and thematic research findings guide. The student learn research methods.
4. Will identify and annotate museum and photography collections. This will serve as a guide post and map for future research on the topic and project. The student will learn exhibit development process.

Should the intern require a tradition research paper, then the intern can take a topic of her own choosing based on any thematic topic we will explore. We will mentor the intern in producing such a paper. The Division of Cultural and Community Life is an interdisciplinary group. Products and discussions will reflect that interdisciplinary nature.

These projects will be consistent with the student’s academic pursuits and should help define her/his professional objectives.