

**Smith College Smithsonian Institution Internship Program****Research Project Proposal**

Name of Mentor(s): **Steve Velasquez**

Department or Office: **Div. of Cultural and Community Life**

Museum/Unit: **NMAH**

Phone Number: **202-633-3601**

Email Address: **velasquezs@si.edu**

1. Please provide information on your own 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 specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):

*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 or refine object level records, descriptions, and content for items in Julia Child's kitchen.

This research will fall in line with the recently updated *Food: Transforming the American Table, 1950-*

2000 exhibit refresh/remodel (bringing the date up to 2019) and an upcoming book on Julia Child's kitchen. 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.

- 1) The intern will develop short script/narrative to help contextualize the objects and stories. Using primary and secondary research and sources the student will write short case studies on the objects, keeping in mind a use for web labels as well as and "objects out of storage" program. The student would write a short 100 word text on the history of various kitchen tools and appliances to help contextualize items in the kitchen.

3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:

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 report.
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 professional objectives.

3. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:

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.

# Smith College Smithsonian Institution Internship Program

## Research Project Proposal

Name of Mentor(s): Diana Baird N'Diaye, Senior Curator and Cultural Heritage Specialist

Department or Office: Research and Education/ Cultural Sustainability  
Museum/Unit: CFCH

Phone Number: 202-633-6472

Email Address: ndiaye@si.edu

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

The Crafts of African Fashion (CAF) initiative is aligned with the Cultural Sustainability Division of the CFCH. The project, conceived and led by Diana N'Diaye, was launched at the 2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival Marketplace in partnership with the National Museum of African Art and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The success of the project launch (and evidence from other folklife festival initiatives) suggests that museums in local and international locations can provide support in their communities for both the artisans and for vitality of the heritage-based cultural arts in Africa; these supports in turn can contribute to creating locally diverse and distinctive African fashion design identities as well as the development of thriving and sustainable local cultural industries. This pilot project focuses on Senegal and Niger, however we expect that the strategies that we engage and the networks that we create will be a valuable precursor to similar efforts to support artisans in other African countries working with artisan-centered museum-based partnerships

The Project aims to provide this support to local artisans through focused research-based, artisan-centered action projects that foreground the role of traditional artisans and their work in fashion related crafts in the following ways:

- Creating opportunities in roundtables for exchange between artisans and artisan associations coordinators, designers, craft educators, museum professionals, cultural tourism experts, and government officials, cultural entrepreneurs.
- Assisting in planning for increased participation in museums by artisans and artisan/designer collaborations
- Local training and support for cultural documentation and content for web-platforms that showcase local artisans and artisan-centered design collaborations.

The pilot project for the project will focus on artisans and designers in Senegal, West Africa and will involve production of a symposium, workshop, and documentation of artisan and designers in Dakar between April and June 2018 preceded and followed by features produced for Folklife Magazine and other social media outlets on the intersection of heritage crafts and design.

### 2. Describe the specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):

The intern will work as a research assistant and content production assistant, learning both research, arts coordination, and subject matter skills relating to the field of cultural heritage craft research, cultural

content production, and practice in writing about folklife, cultural sustainability, crafts, and fashion for a general audience.

3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:

In addition to the research and curatorial work above, the intern will choose an independent research and online project in consultation with mentor Diana N'Diaye and other members of the Crafts of African Fashion working group. The project will draw on resources from the project and may involve either digital and/or in person presentations

3. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:

Bilingual French fluency or competency, along with visual, photo/video editing and writing skills and familiarity of social media would be highly prized. Anthropology, Folklore, African Studies, Art/Craft coursework would be helpful.

## Research Project Proposal

Name of Supervisor(s): Katherine Ott, PhD

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

Phone Number: 202.633.3416

Email Address: ottk@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your own 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, LGBTQ+, 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 specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):

*This internship is with Katherine Ott. The intern will work on topics and artifacts in the history of medicine collections related to queer and/or disability topics, depending upon the student's career goals/background/inclination. The supervising curator will direct the student's research and material culture study, including collections support, creating object entries and descriptions, and gathering materials for posting on the web, and similar. 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 history and material culture framework. 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.*

*One of my research projects still in the early stages of development is a small exhibition on the history of dermatology. Research for this includes delving into "lookism," skin marks, melanin/race/pigment, and the relationship of science to culture.*

3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:

*The final product may take of the form of a collection group, a series of original object descriptions, an*

*annotated bibliography, or a backgrounder (white paper) on objects and issues related to the subject under examination.*

4. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:

*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 and women's studies are equally encouraged to apply.*

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## Research Project Proposal

Name of Mentor(s): Fath Davis Ruffins

Department or Office: Office of Curatorial Affairs    Museum/Unit: NMAH  
Division of Cultural and Community Life

Phone Number: 202 633-3730

Email Address: ruffinsf@si.edu

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

Within NMAH, the Division of Cultural and Community Life has two distinct set of collections: one focus is on the material culture of music, sports, and entertainment. The second focus is on the architecture and material culture of the foodways and lifeways of ordinary Americans throughout U.S. history. 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 also 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 (2020), 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 small exhibition on South Carolina and Georgia Lowcountry cultural objects in NMAH's collections, including coiled grass (or "sweet grass") baskets.

### 2. Describe the specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):

#### 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.

3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:

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 collection

4. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:

This is a great way for an undergraduate student in American Studies, American History, Anthropology or Ethnic Studies (or related fields) to see these fields are used professionally outside the university setting or high school teaching. For students with a minor in Museum Studies or Library/Archival Studies, this is a great introduction to museum work from the perspective of a curator.



# Smith College Smithsonian Institution Internship Program Research Project Proposal

Name of Mentor(s): **Debbie Schaefer-Jacobs**

Department or Office: **Curatorial Affairs, Division of Cultural and Community Life**  
Museum/Unit: **National Museum of American History**

Phone Number: **202-633-3782**

Email Address: **schaeferjacobsd@si.edu**

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

I am a curator in the Division of Cultural and Community Life, a division that hold collections pertaining to popular culture, home life, gender identity, leisure including sports and entertainment, community institutions such as education, religion, and scouts. I curate the History of American Education and the artwork in the domestic collections, including the Harry T. Peters America on Stone collection of 19<sup>th</sup> Century prints. Most recently I have been cataloguing and researching a large collection of school artifacts, and smaller collections pertaining to desegregation of the schools, Americanization in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the education of girls in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and early childhood education from the past 150 years, and the history of the American School Desk. My research is usually material culture based, centering around museum artifacts and their role in the American experience. My most recent "products" have been as a result of being an exhibit team member for *Many Voices, One Nation*, co-writing an article for the Many Voices book, being an author for *Smithsonian American Women*, and providing objects and research background for our upcoming exhibit *Girlhood, It's Complicated* and continuing to work on providing digital access to the collections thorough research, cataloging and web labels.

2. Describe the specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):

My intern project next fall requires research on the role of females in teaching in America using a sub-collection in the history of American Education, other museum resources, and the obvious source material available at the National Archives and the Library of Congress. The 90 or so artifacts include a group teacher certifications, letters, diplomas and licenses, images of teachers in classrooms in prints and photographs, teacher manuals and teacher souvenir cards, This would also entail accompanying the curator to study the not so obvious but very rich sources available in professional journals from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century that are found at professional teaching organization headquarters in nearby Alexandria and the district of Columbia and using contemporary professional journals such as *The History of Education Quarterly* for background and contextual research. As the intern's schedule permits, they would also be exposed to the usual curatorial duties of collections management and cataloguing, attending museums lectures and colloquium, and assisting with exhibit work and public programs. If the student is interested, they can receive basic training in our collections information system to aide in more detailed research.

3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:

**I have several products in mind.**

- A. A well written one-page draft of the object group and the research findings would be expected to introduce the topic to the online public.

- B. The intern would also be expected to create an expanded web label (generally 2 paragraphs) for a selection of teacher artifacts. These could be for both male and female teachers - for the complete picture. These objects have basic catalog descriptions but like an exhibit label, adding contextual information is desired to provide a richer online experience. To get complete the project, the intern would set a goal of drafting 8 web labels a week after the second week with the idea of revisions occurring in the final 2 weeks.**
- C. The intern is encouraged to submit a proposal to the NMAH blog on a related topic of her/his choice. This is optional, however if chosen the intern would have the opportunity to have something of theirs published by Smithsonian and be able to include the link for their resume. Several of my former interns have succeeded with this and their work can be viewed still on the blog.**
- D. I also encourage interns to use their research as a basis for broader academic assignments or papers and assist with source suggestions when needed. This would be completely optional; however, students have found it useful to demonstrate their understanding of material culture as source material. For example, they could choose to write on a theme such as discipline and punishment of the 19<sup>th</sup> versus the 20<sup>th</sup> Century child, or about a particular object group such a teacher souvenir cards as a rural school precursor to yearbooks, or something related to a time, place or culture group such as African American female teachers in segregated schools.**

4. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:

**I believe this topic is best suited for an American Studies student who has had coursework or at the very least a strong interest in women/gender studies, and/or an interest in education and childhood studies. Depending on the student's background I would provide them with a short summer reading list which may include a general history of education or viewing the PBS documentary 'School' which is available on U-Tube, chapters from *The Work of Teachers in America: A Social History Through Stories* edited by Smith professors Rosetta Cohen and Samuel Scheer, and a visit to the Smith Library to choose something of interest from your available sources on the history of women teachers.**

**Research Project Proposal**

Name of Mentor(s): Pamela M Henson

Department or Office: Institutional History

Museum/Unit: Smithsonian Institution Archives

Phone Number: 202-633-5907

Email Address: hensonp@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your own 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 2020, 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 specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):

The intern will be assigned specific oral history interviews of Smithsonian women to prepare for online access. 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. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:

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, women's history, 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, focusing on 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>

3. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:

History or American Studies majors are most appropriate. Interest in women's history, history of museums and study of primary source materials would be very helpful.

**Smith College Smithsonian Institution Internship Program****Research Project Proposal**

Name of Mentor(s): Debra Diamond

Department or Office:

Museum/Unit: Curatorial, South Asia

Phone Number:

Email Address: [diamode@si.edu](mailto:diamode@si.edu)

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

I am a curator of South Asian art; my current research focuses on temporality in Indian painting as well as, more theoretically, the role of religion of museums.

2. Describe the specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):

Interns duties include guided research, creating ppts, tracking documents.

In fall 2020, we will be focused on finishing a catalogue and designing an exhibition on 18<sup>th</sup> century Udaipur, Rajasthan painting (on the themes of place, temporality and emotions in Indian painting). The intern will assist with guided research, tracking author essays, copy editing, locating images, as well as creating ppts related to the exhibition.

There are related projects for an intern who has skills in basic computer animation or GIS mapping.

Similarly, if an intern has background in environmental studies, we would assign research related to the development of programs on water conservation in South Asia.

In addition,

A Mughal exhibition on the Mughal Emperor Babur opens in September, and the intern will be invited to attend the press review and docent trainings, and, if opportunity arises, to attend some of installation.

3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:

3. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:

Art history and at least one of the following

South Asian studies or coursework or Hindi language skills

Basic animation

GIS mapping

Environmental studies

**Research Project Proposal**

**Name of Mentor(s):** Dr. Samir Meghelli

**Department or Office:** Research & Curatorial Department    **Museum/Unit:** Anacostia Community Museum

**Phone Number:** 202-633-4807

**Email Address:** meghellis@si.edu

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

As the Senior Curator, I oversee the development of the museum's exhibitions and research projects. Our museum's focus is urban history and culture, with an emphasis on the Washington, DC area. My own background of research, teaching, and curatorial work have focused on American and international social movements, cultural/musical history, urban history, and community history. Most recently, I led a research project exploring the history and contemporary dynamics of neighborhood change (i.e. "gentrification") and neighborhood activism in Washington, DC, and curated the culminating exhibition at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum: "[A Right to the City](http://anacostia.si.edu/resources/ACM_Brochure_4_4_18_final_R.pdf)" (exhibition booklet: [http://anacostia.si.edu/resources/ACM\\_Brochure\\_4\\_4\\_18\\_final\\_R.pdf](http://anacostia.si.edu/resources/ACM_Brochure_4_4_18_final_R.pdf)).

**2. Describe the specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):**

The intern would work directly with me (Senior Curator) and the Curatorial Research Assistant on a forthcoming exhibition project tentatively titled "**DC Eats: Food Culture, Food Justice**" that explores the deep food history of Washington, DC and its many communities, but also highlights how issues of equity and justice inform the city's food landscape today. Building on the strong neighborhood focus of the Anacostia Community Museum's "A Right to the City" exhibition and the environmental justice focus of the ongoing "Urban Waterways Initiative," the "DC Eats" project/exhibit will illuminate how the everyday experience of eating in Washington is shaped by the city's rich histories of (im)migration and complicated routes of food distribution/access. Ultimately, the exhibition hopes to bring attention to the evermore urgent issues of sustainable cities and sustainable food systems.

Potential learning objectives:

- 1) Develop an understanding of the work of community-based museums and of the role of community engagement in museums.
- 2) Learn how to conduct community-engaged museum research.
- 3) Gain an understanding of the exhibition development process.

**3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:**

The intern will work on one or more facets of the research and development of the exhibition, likely conducting some research and working with the curatorial staff on the exhibition script.

**3. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:**

Useful (but not totally necessary) preparation/experience:

- experience with—or interest in—social justice work
- ability to conduct historical research (databases and/or archives)
- courses in history, sociology, and/or anthropology



## Research Project Proposal

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

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

Phone Number: 202-633-3729

Email Address: robinsonf@si.edu

1. Please provide information on your own research and/or the work of your office: My current research focuses on a work in progress entitled, *The Home Place: A Southern Maryland Family and Their Farm, 1843-1975*, to be published by Smithsonian Press. The book at its core centers on the Robinson family and the tobacco farm they owned for 132 years in Prince George's County, Maryland exploring family, farming, and labor during the stated time period. I am employed as an Archives Specialist in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History. 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 compliment the museum's artifacts and are used for scholarly research, exhibitions, journalism, documentary productions, school programs, and other research and education activities. Over 1,430 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 specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work): The project will involve reading, extracting relevant information, documenting findings, and writing research reports with particular focus on the tenant farming/sharecropping families living on the Robinson farm between 1872-1975. The intern will primarily research in one specific collection: The Robinson and Via Family Papers, 1845-2010 (bulk 1872-2000) (AC/NMAH AC0475) especially working with the addendum to the papers covering the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With regard to the tenant/sharecroppers, the intern will compile a listing of those family whose names appear within the documents, particularly the Gross and Savoy families. The intern will research family groups with regard to finding specific instances of the names within the Maryland state records (federal census, birth, death, wills, inventories, and land transactions death – many available on-line through the Maryland State Archives website). Research focusing on tenant/sharecropping farming in Maryland will be complimented with focused search in journals on JSTOR, Ancestry.com and other on-line databases available through the museum's subscription, and newspapers on microfilm at the Library of Congress and relevant records at the National Archives.

3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate: There is a wealth of primary sources within the 165 year time span of the Robinson and Via Family Papers: ledgers, correspondence (personal and business), financial records, business and personal ephemera, product cookbooks, farm journals and diaries – all of these may yield fertile ground for an interesting and informative research product. Building on their knowledge skills and research interests the intern may develop a paper based on material discovered and available in this collection or from their assigned project or from other collections within the Archives Center. Research products that may be created from this internship and project are: teaching guides, gender studies papers, possible articles for publication or research papers centering on gender roles and women's studies, labor, agriculture, food preparation and production, family, photography, home movies, and costume to name but a few. The intern will also be given time to explore the full range of collections at the Archives Center and as time permits within the museum and other repositories with an eye to complimenting their end product.

4. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation: The intern should have solid research and writing skills and have completed some courses with components in 20<sup>th</sup> century studies, labor, agriculture, social history and general United States history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Courses with a focus or segment in mid-Atlantic agriculture, labor, African-American history, women's history would be especially helpful.

**Research Project Proposal**

Name of Mentor(s): Matt Shindell

Department or Office: Space History Department      Museum/Unit: National Air and Space Museum

Phone Number: 202-633-5897

Email Address: shindellm@si.edu

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

The Space History Department is responsible for curating all of the museum's artifacts related to rocketry, spaceflight, and space science and exploration, and for conducting and publishing original historical research related to these areas. Matt Shindell is the curator of planetary science and exploration. His research focuses on the development of planetary science in the space age, how we have explored the objects of our solar system, and how humans have imagined planetary exploration in fiction, popular culture, and other forms. Shindell is currently running two initiatives within the Smithsonian on the topics of Afrofuturism and Latino Futurism. He is also developing a book about the history of Mars exploration. He is the lead curator on a new gallery in the museum, The Future of Spaceflight.

2. Describe the specific internship project (include duties, nature and scope of the work):

The intern would assist with the Future of Spaceflight gallery and the two Futurism projects described above. The main task would be researching, tracking, and organizing content for the gallery and helping to develop concepts for incorporating different images and ideas of the future into the gallery's narrative. The intern will also help to develop public programming ideas related specifically to the topic of Afrofuturism – mainly, a scholarly workshop on Afrofuturism to be held in the next year. The intern may also be assigned tasks for other related projects.

3. If you have a particular research product in mind or have ideas for potential independent projects, please indicate:

The intern's project will reflect their own interests and academic background. I would like the project to be related to these Future/Futurism projects if appropriate.

4. Indicate any particular academic background or specific courses desired as preparation:

A background in history, cultural studies, American studies, literature, or other related field would be appropriate for these projects. Someone with a background or interest in the arts would also be appropriate.