



Robert Frederick Smith Fund Summer 2018 Internships

The Robert Frederick Smith Fund

ORAL HISTORY (2 POSITIONS)

The National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University Montgomery, Alabama

The mission of the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University is two-fold: to serve as a clearinghouse for information concerning Montgomery, Alabama's pivotal role in the shaping and development of the modern civil rights movement, and to preserve and disseminate information reflective of socio-economic conditions, political culture, and history of African-Americans in Montgomery. The facility is a place for scholars, students, lay historians, and all people interested in studying the modern civil rights movement and Montgomery's place in it.

Position Description: Uncover the hopes, feelings, aspirations, disappointments, family histories, and personal experiences of interviewees through an oral history internship with the Center's Civil Rights Voices Speak project. Oral histories provide the opportunity to dig deeper into historical events and capture information which may not be available through traditional media, speeches, and government documents.

Conduct videotaped interviews of a fading generation, providing firsthand accounts of historic events pertaining to the civil rights movement. Actively make connections regarding historical events important to Alabama State University, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-1956, the student sit-in movement of 1960, and the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965. Selected interns will be an integrated part of program planning for the project launch.

Sample of Intern Duties:

- Assist with outlining the purpose and focus of the entire project
- Solidify correct contact information and determine willingness of narrators to participate in project
- Prepare outlines of interview topics and questions
- Develop a working list of possible oral history subjects and write rationales for including them in the project
- Arrange interview appointments and conduct interviews
- Transcribe and transfer interviews to DVDs and copy files to computer server
- Write biographical sketches of narrators based on research and content
- Write metadata to accompany oral history records
- Develop Google Site for project
- Input oral histories into PastPerfect and contentDM
- Provide a workshop on website use to Alabama State University community

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Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the purpose of oral histories and ways to widely disseminate information, utilizing oral histories, library media tools, and digital curation techniques
- Utilizing Google for Education tools
- Record-keeping through PastPerfect and contentDM
- Developing Google Sites
- Increasing professional presentation skills
- Acquiring public relations and marketing experience for cultural spaces
- Obtain a holistic understanding of oral history interviews, from preparation of questions and goals through digitization of resulting interviews and associated research materials

Time Frame (flexible): May or June start date

Prerequisites:

- Detail oriented
- Research experience
- Academic coursework in history, public history, museum studies, political science, communications, or related field
- Interest or background in African American history and cultural studies
- Beginner's experience with Google applications and contentDM are a plus