

# Fondren Fellows Project Opportunities

Fall 2018

Through the Fondren Fellows program, Rice undergraduate and graduate students develop hands-on research and teaching projects focused on library collections, spaces or services. For the spring of 2019 or summer of 2019, Fondren offers four different projects that students can apply to work on. In the application, indicate which project(s) you would like to be considered for. See <http://library.rice.edu/fondren-fellows> for information on applying.

## Project 1 Title

Run the World: Houston Women Community Activists

## Timeframe for work

summer 2019

## Project summary

Houston has a long line of community activists from the area; this project would examine women who took up the banner of community service in Houston.

The Billie Carr political papers, MS 373, document Carr's long career as a political organizer for the Democratic Party in Harris County. Beginning in the 1950's Carr fought for civil rights, protested the Vietnam War and fought for women's rights in the 1970s, and for gay rights in the 1980s. She helped organize the 1966 campaign leading to the election of Barbara Jordan, the first African-American woman elected to the Texas Senate, and was elected to the Democratic National Committee in 1972.

The Judge Clarease Yates papers, MS 123, document Clarease Yate's commitment to civic engagement as a judge with the United States Immigration and Nationalization Service in Houston, Texas, as well as board member of the Sickle Cell Association of the Gulf Coast, member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the NAACP, and board member of the Houston Symphony.

The Glenda Joe / Houston Asian American community advocacy and festival arts records, MS 667, document the activities of Glenda Joe with the Houston Asian American Festival Association, as well as with community advocacy issues concerning the Asian American communities in Houston.

Scans of the materials would be used to create an online exhibit using the Omeka platform detailing the history of these women and their impact on the Houston community. Each of these women also completed an oral history which resides in the Digital Scholarship Archive and can

be linked to the exhibit.

## Key tasks for Fellow

- Review the collection to identify a narrative of the exhibit
- Interview Houstonians that can offer context about the individuals profiled
- Train by WRC mentor in the Omeka platform
- Select items for the online exhibit that are visually compelling to scan (WRC mentor will help scan the items selected and create the appropriate metadata)
- Prepare the Omeka layout
- Write the text for the Omeka exhibit

## Qualifications needed for this position

- An interest in history/ a humanities background
- The ability to identify items in the collections that contribute to the narrative of the impact of Carr, Yates, and Joe's lives on the Houston community
- The ability to work with minimal supervision

## Learning outcomes

Using their research skills, students would learn how to analyze primary sources and develop a narrative based on these sources. Students would also learn aspects of digital humanities, including becoming familiar with the Omeka platform, scanning original materials, and learning how to prepare an online exhibit.

## Project 2 Title

Library Learning for Inquiry

## Timeframe for work

Spring 2019

## Project summary

Multiple Rice University departments are currently revising their curricula with guidance and grants from the university's Quality Enhancement Plan on Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL). This presents the library with an opportunity to both inform departmental faculty on ways to integrate information literacy into curricula, and to target our in-person and online instructional efforts to support IBL in departmental contexts. Typically, librarians communicate about instruction with departmental faculty only while planning individual library sessions. The Fondren Fellow will work to cross the communication barriers between faculty and librarians by conducting interviews, analyzing syllabi and other strategies. Using the fellow's analysis, the library will advance its strategy for teaching and learning and help empower students to learn through inquiry.

## Key tasks for Fellow

- Become familiar with relevant library skills and the library's instructional offerings, including in information literacy.
- Review material from the QEP and departments, including curriculum maps and syllabi, on efforts to reform their curricula to incorporate IBL.
- Interview faculty members on curriculum development and expectations for student learning in information literacy and other library-related skills, and communicate the library's current and potential offerings of in-person and online instruction.
- Analyze the interviews to help the library direct its instructional efforts.

## Qualifications needed for this position

- Ability to understand and represent information literacy and other instruction offered by the library, and the potential benefits of library instruction for students in various departments
- Ability to read and discuss departmental curricula and other documents on strategies for teaching and learning.
- Experience with interviewing and interview analysis as research methods
- Strong interest in teaching and learning

## Learning outcomes

The student would gain familiarity with information literacy and other library skill areas as

subjects of teaching and learning; get an inside view of the ways faculty consider their curricula and its revision, in particular in the context of a Quality Enhancement Plan for Inquiry Based Learning; and learn about the ways the library pursues its educational mission.

## Project 3 Title

Revealing History: Camp Logan in Memorial Park

## Timeframe for work

Summer 2019

## Project summary

The Woodson Research Center at Fondren Library has archival materials and objects related to Camp Logan, a World War I training camp existing from 1917-1919 on the land that is now Memorial Park. Some of these materials have been digitized and are accessible to the public in the Institutional Repository <https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/102511>. Faculty and students from the Anthropology Department have also been investigating Camp Logan archaeologically since 2015 to learn more about the history and preserve remnants of Camp Logan.

If selected, a Fondren Fellow will conduct research into the broader history of Camp Logan, the Houston Riot, and African American military history at the site. Using primary resources housed in Woodson Research Center, create a means for the public to engage with the historical site within Memorial Park. This could be via a mobile app, an interactive map utilizing Fondren's GIS services, or other formats. This project will likely require a multi-phase approach.

## Key tasks for Fellow

Phase 1: Vision and groundwork - landscape review of relevant historical resources and possible stakeholders / participants in the city, researching what it would take to develop complex interpretive sources for the public (such as a mobile app, interactive historical map, etc), resulting in a clear plan to be enacted in the phase

Phase 2: Taking action on the vision and plan created in Phase 1. Depending on the scale of this project, this phase may be for a team to bring to life.

## Qualifications needed for this position

interest in U.S. history, military history, African American history. Interest or experience with GIS software, strong research skills. Able to work with minimal supervision.

## Learning outcomes

Fellow would learn how to analyze primary sources, become familiar with GIS software to analyze spatial information to map locations mentioned in primary sources, work with community stakeholders.

## Project 4 Title

A Time of Protest at Rice

## Timeframe for work

Spring or summer 2019

## Project summary

Focusing on our university archives surrounding the tumultuous years of 1969-1970, I would like to help a student create an Omeka exhibit charting the "Masterson Crisis" and a cancelled Abbie Hoffman event that led to students occupying Allen Center. The student will have a chance to analyze Rice's unique protests that were in sympathy to, but also ran counter to the Vietnam protests held at other universities across the country. Also, Dr. Allen Matusow, who is an expert on that time period and invited Abbie Hoffman later to campus around 1980, has agreed to help review the work and meet with the student.

## Key tasks for Fellow

Researching the events, selecting media (photographs, ephemera, audio, other pertinent visual or aural materials), selecting a design for the Omeka exhibit, creating metadata for individual items, writing a narrative, meeting with Dr. Matusow 2-3 times to discuss the project

## Qualifications needed for this position

Someone with an historical background or one that focuses on Humanities research and writing would be an excellent candidate. The person should also be an independent researcher/worker.

## Learning outcomes

They would learn about how protest functioned at Rice and what that says about the university and its students. They would also understand how to create a digital humanities project from start to finish.