

Library Welcomes Junior Fellows — From a Distance

The 2020 class will collaborate across four time zones and 22 states.

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Junior fellows began their summer internships at the Library this Tuesday by logging in from home.

Junior fellows logging on from home on Tuesday included Randi Proescholdt (from left), Digital Collections and Management Services; Lupita Partida, Hispanic Division; Patty Templeton, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division; and Selena Qian, Office of the Chief Information Officer. Photo By: Internship and Fellowship Programs

For nearly 30 years, the Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program has given college undergraduate and graduate students a one-of-a-kind opportunity: the chance to do hands-on work at the world's largest library and to experience everything the nation's capital has to offer.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic that has forced the Library of Congress to close to the public, the Library this summer offered the positions in a new way — as virtual internships, a first for the program.

So, on Tuesday, this year's cohort of 40 fellows began their internships not with the usual early morning trip to the Madison Building for orientation but instead by waking up, making breakfast, staying home and logging on.

For the next 10 weeks, they will toil away at workstations that have been socially distanced in the extreme, scattered across four time zones and 22 states from Connecticut to California.

On July 22, the term will culminate with another program first: a virtual display day, transforming what has been a one-day public exhibition of the fellows' work into an online presentation of videos illustrating their efforts. The internship concludes July 31.

"There is always a high level of interest and excitement found in both the Library staff and incoming class of junior fellows," said Kimberly Powell, chief of Internship and Fellowship Programs (IFP). "This summer, we are looking forward to the opportunities to welcome our first virtual cohort. We will bring forward traditions that are part of the signature experience and will innovate together as we pilot new aspects."

"Colleagues from the Human Capital Directorate, the Office of the Chief Information Officer and so many others have been working for months to prepare, and we are all eager to meet the class of 2020 and welcome them to the Library."

The fellows will work in 19 divisions located in the Congressional Research Service, the Copyright Office, the Law Library, Library Services, the Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Office of the Librarian.

There, they'll participate in a wide range of library activities, such as preservation, indexing, digital initiatives, program development, information management and outreach to targeted audiences.

The 27 projects they collectively are undertaking explore Library collections and programs and help make them more accessible to the public — among other endeavors, expanding access for early motion pictures, measuring the effects of light sources on collection materials, digitizing braille music scores, surveying African American business history and testing experimental ways to share digital collections.

To facilitate this work, the Library provided each intern with a Citrix virtual desktop to access a standard workstation with Microsoft Word 2016, Skype for Business and Webex accounts.

In addition to the opportunity to work with Library collections, the internship in years past also offered programs that foster professional development, encourage social interaction and provide a deeper knowledge of the institution — a goal that this year required some out-of-the-box thinking.

This year, IFP is offering a series of interactive Webex sessions that allow the interns to get to know each other and chat about their work. They also will have opportunities to meet virtually with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress Mark Sweeney, Chief of Staff Ryan Ramsey and other Library leaders.

In addition, IFP also is hosting a regular professional-development series on Tuesdays to foster knowledge of Library departments and services and another on Fridays to further develop work skills.

"The collaboration this year has been amazing," program manager Eric Eldritch said. "Each of the participating departments has carefully considered designing and redesigning projects to make inroads to our collections and enhance access remotely."

The Junior Fellows program has been a signature initiative of the Library since 1991. It is made possible by a gift from James Madison Council member Nancy Glanville Jewell through the Glanville Family Foundation and from the Knowledge Navigators Trust Fund, which was established with a lead gift from the late H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest, chairman emeritus of the Madison Council, and with major support provided by members of the council. The program originally was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Jefferson Patterson.

The members of the 2020 class of junior fellows (with hometown, school and assignment) are:

Meredith Atkinson; Manassas, Virginia; University of South Carolina; Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division (MBRS).

Allison Booher; Canal Winchester, Ohio; Vanderbilt University; Hispanic Division (HISP).

Matthew Bova; Arlington, Virginia; University of Mary Washington; HISP.

Chelsey Brown; Lee's Summit, Missouri; University of Missouri; African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED).

Herman Luis Chavez; Fort Collins, Colorado; Colorado State University; HISP.

Paige Collins; Austell, Georgia; University of Georgia; Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE).

Jessica Craig; Camarillo, California; UCLA; Law Library.

Saraya Flaig; Lewiston, Idaho; University of Idaho; CLLE.

Briana Gausland; Barrington, Rhode Island; Wheaton College; AMED.

Madeline Goebel; Jensen Beach, Florida; University of Texas at Austin; African, Latin American and Western European Division (ALAWE).

Tracee Haupt; Hyattsville, Maryland; University of Maryland; Kluge Center.

Mallory Haselberger; Waldorf, Maryland; University of Maryland; CLLE.

Katherine Howell; Kernersville, North Carolina; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Researcher and Reference Services.

Sally Johnson; Montgomery, Texas; University of Oklahoma; CLLE.

August Kahn; Barrington, Rhode Island; Pitzer College; AMED.

Hibba Khan; Sterling, Virginia; George Mason University; Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).

Nina Milica Kostic; Groton, Connecticut; University of Rhode Island; OCIO.

Sophie Lefebvre; Buffalo, Minnesota; Carleton College; Science, Technology and Business Division (ST&B).
Ethan McFerren; Ashburn, Virginia; University of Virginia; CLLE.
Franky Moore; Norfolk, Virginia; Carnegie Mellon University; Preservation Research and Testing Division (PRTD).
Jake Newman; Guilford, Connecticut; American University; CLLE.
Lupita Partida; Laredo, Texas; St. Mary's University of San Antonio; HISP.
Sarah Patrick; Jarrettsville, Maryland; University of Maryland; Congressional Research Service.
Randi Proescholdt; Marshalltown, Iowa; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Digital Collections and Management Services.
Selena Qian; Carmel, Indiana; Duke University; OCIO.
Quade Robinson; Midland, North Carolina; Harvard University; Asian Division.
Keely Shaw; San Angelo, Texas; Angelo State University; CLLE.
Emily Sienkiewicz; Westfield, Massachusetts; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; OCIO.
Zoe Ruthe Singleton; Bethesda, Maryland; University of Maryland; OCIO.
Lily Smith; Alexandria, Virginia; University of Pennsylvania; National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS).
Sophia Southard; Cleveland, Missouri; University of Kansas; ST&B.
Michael Steffen; Ankeny, Iowa; University of Iowa; Kluge Center.
Katarina Stiller; Los Alamitos, California; Fullerton College; PRTD.
Patty Templeton; Chicago; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; MBRS.
Jeremy Thompson; Goodyear, Arizona; University of Arizona; ALAWE.
Vivian Teresa Tompkins; Greenville, South Carolina; Syracuse University; NLS.
Bailey Isabella Ward; Carmel, Indiana; William & Mary College; ST&B.
Liza Whitfield; Carmel, Indiana; Loyola University, New Orleans; CLLE.
Crystal Williams; Brooklyn, New York; Virginia State University; Copyright Office.
Tyler Youngman; Oswego, New York; Syracuse University; OCIO.