

**History Internships**  
**Last Updated April 22, 2009**

Here are just a few of the internship opportunities for this summer. Please note the application deadlines and plan accordingly if you are interested in applying. Course credit for HIST 340 History Internship can be arranged through Dr. Borg for any of these internships. For details on HIST 340 and info on other internships, see:  
<http://web.jmu.edu/history/jobs.html>

**National Park Service Annapolis Office Seeking Site Documentation Intern**

The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office in Annapolis, Maryland is seeking a Student Conservation Association Intern to complete detailed field surveys at sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay along Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, and in the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office administers the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. From our offices on Spa Creek in Annapolis, we work with hundreds of sites and trails that connect people with the Chesapeake Bay and its natural and cultural heritage. The Chesapeake region is comprised of an incredible diversity of regional natural and cultural ecosystems that have supported peoples from different cultures for centuries, witnessed pioneers, leaders and events that have changed the course of history, and become home to over 16 million people as well as our national capital and three state capitals. The eastern and western shores of the Chesapeake contain an array of outdoor environments for hiking, biking, swimming, boating, and exploring.

Two principal activities will include:

- 1) Complete detailed field surveys at sites along the Trails and in the Network, including detailed inventory sheets, GPS coordinates and extensive photographs/ video documentation of built and landscape characteristics and viewsheds. Sites may include some or all of the following: existing or proposed museums, visitor centers, refuges, parks; landscapes; interpretive waysides; public boat ramps and other water access facilities; and other sites related to the Trails and the Gateways. Some site data may be collected by water craft. (60-80%)
- 2) At the Annapolis office, create and maintain a database of site inventory data; enter and manipulate GPS data in GIS software; and organize photo and video documentation into an image library. (20-40%)

The ideal candidate has some familiarity with natural and cultural landscape characteristics; experience surveying the natural and built environment, including viewsheds; familiarity with interpretive media; and enjoys digital photography. Candidates should also be familiar with compiling and manipulating databases and a familiarity with or a willingness to learn how to manipulate GIS data.

Ideal candidates are self-motivated, enthusiastic, have a keen eye for detail, and like to explore and document places from traditional and new angles. The candidate should enjoy interacting with people at the sites they visit and within an office environment.

Candidates must have reliable personal transportation. Travel expenses while on duty will be reimbursed.

This is a 16-week position from June 1 to September 18; however, start and end dates are flexible. A stipend of \$3200 will be provided. A housing stipend of \$700/month will be provided. Summer housing options are plentiful in the Annapolis area.

A writing sample may be requested as part of the application process.

To apply for this position, please complete the online application through the Student Conservation Association website at [www.theSCA.org](http://www.theSCA.org) (position #9198)

Questions may be directed to Suzanne Copping, 410-295-3149,  
[Suzanne\\_copping@nps.gov](mailto:Suzanne_copping@nps.gov)

Suzanne E. Copping Project Manager Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail  
National Park Service, NER Chesapeake Bay Program Office 410 Severn Avenue, Suite  
109 Annapolis, MD 21403 t. 410.295.3149 || f. 410.267.5777 c. 443.534.9541  
[suzanne\\_copping@nps.gov](mailto:suzanne_copping@nps.gov)

### **The Smithsonian Institution**

The Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex including the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of African Art, the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Air and Space Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and many others. The Smithsonian Museums and Departments are always looking for the brightest and most talented people to help produce world-class programs, exhibits, and research and a number of JMU history majors have successfully completed Smithsonian internships. Smithsonian interns have opportunities to make an impact, develop personally and professionally, and learn from people who are experts in their fields. Find descriptions of all the Smithsonian internships, listed by subject, here:

[http://intern.si.edu/internship\\_types\\_subject.html](http://intern.si.edu/internship_types_subject.html)

History students should also look at the additional links listed on the above link under the heading "Administrative, Business, and more" for further opportunities in Development, Equal Employment and Minority Affairs, Exhibits Central, the Office of Fellowships, and Smithsonian Magazine.

Some museums/departments have application deadlines for summer internships as early as February 1 each year, but others, such as the National Postal Museum have no specific deadlines.

The Smithsonian's Office of Fellowships and Grants also maintains a listing of SI internships and contact information here:

<http://www.si.edu/ofg/intern.htm#iofg>

### **George Washington's Mount Vernon Estates**

Mount Vernon annually accepts a select number of applicants for summer internships at the Pioneer Farm site and the Distillery and Gristmill site. JMU History majors have successfully competed for these selective internships. These internships are excellent opportunities for undergraduate students interested in American and agricultural history as well as the museum education field. Please note that while these internships include a research project, they are principally working internships. Interns will become immersed in 18th century history, agriculture, and industry as they actively interpret George Washington's farming and business operations at Mount Vernon. After the completion of a short training program, interns will develop their interpretive, teaching, and public speaking skills by working on site in period dress under the direction of the Trades staff. Interns live on the grounds of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate during the internship. In addition, interns participate in special field trips to other historic sites and museums in the region. Six internships will be awarded, four at the Pioneer Farm site and two at the Distillery and Gristmill.

Candidates interested in Pioneer Farm and Distillery/Gristmill internships should have a background in history or agriculture, be comfortable with public speaking, and be available during the entire internship period, which runs from June 1 through August 7, 2009. Interns will be expected to work a five-day, forty-hour work week that will include some weekends. Interns receive travel expenses, a stipend of \$200 per week (pre-tax), and complimentary lodging on the Estate.

For more information see:

[http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/teachers\\_students/index.cfm/ss/111/](http://www.mountvernon.org/learn/teachers_students/index.cfm/ss/111/)

### **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**

The Education department at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, has several internship opportunities including:

Education Internships: <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/supportyourpark/edinternships.htm>

Living History Internships: <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/supportyourpark/living-history-internships.htm>

Visitor Services Internships: <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/supportyourpark/visitor-services-internships.htm>

Archeology Internships: <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/supportyourpark/archeology-internships.htm>

Curatorial Services Internships: <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/supportyourpark/curatorial-services-internships.htm>

These are great opportunities and experience for JMU History majors. All provide on-site dorm housing at no cost and weekly stipends ranging from \$80-100 per week. The Education internship has a summer application deadline of March 15, while the others have flexible dates and deadlines.

### **The Loudoun Museum, Leesburg, VA**

The Loudoun Museum is an official repository of Loudoun County history. The museum's mission is to collect and care for materials that illustrate the history of Loudoun County and its inhabitants; to interpret history through exhibits of permanent and changing collections; to educate the public about Loudoun history through programs, resource materials, and events; and to foster heritage tourism.

The Museum offers intern opportunities at the graduate, college, and high school level in Collections Management and Stewardship, Research, Education, Marketing and Public Relations, and Curatorial Support. An application deadline for summer is not specified, but the sooner the better. Contact Dr. Borg for more details and an application form.

### **US Marine Corps History Division Internship Program, Quantico, VA**

The History Division offers opportunities for college students to participate on a professional level in its historical activities. The intent of the program is to give promising and talented student interns a chance to gain meaningful experience, and earn college credit if available, in fields in which they might choose to seek employment after school.

Applicants must be matriculating students at a college or university. While there are no restrictions on individuals applying for intern positions, it has been found that mature and academically superior students are most successful. If academic credit is to be earned, the agreement of the institution to the internship is essential.

#### **Areas of Internship**

The History Division has a narrow range of historical-related responsibilities. Opportunities exist for qualified students to work as reference historians (servicing information requests from public and official sources); research historians (performing research, largely in primary source collections); historical writers' assistants (researching material to support on-going writing projects); and oral historians (interviewing, collection management, editing and podcasting).

In general, students who have served successfully as interns with the History Division have had major or minor fields of study in history, American studies, political science, and data processing. The nature of the intern program, however, and the variety of opportunities provided by the division, allow the structuring of an internship which may draw upon academic and non-academic credentials not usually associated with the historical field. Each internship is the product of an agreement between the student, the History Division, and the sponsoring institution if credit is to be earned, as to what work is entailed, what supervision and instruction will be provided, and how work will be evaluated.

All inquiries regarding the intern program should be directed to: Marine Corps History Division, Attn: Coordinator, Grants and Fellowships, 3079 Moreell Avenue, Quantico, Virginia 22134. Phone inquiries may be made to 703-432-4884; email [charles.r.smith9@usmc.mil](mailto:charles.r.smith9@usmc.mil)

General information regarding the division may be obtained by visiting the website at [www.history.usmc.mil](http://www.history.usmc.mil)

### **The Valentine Richmond History Center**

The History Center offers funded and non-funded summer internships in their Archives/Photograph Collection, Development Department, Finance Department, General Collections, Historic Richmond Tours, Public Programs and Education Department, Public Relations and Marketing Department, and Registrar's Office. JMU history majors have enjoyed their internships at the Valentine and made helpful professional connections. Funded internships require a minimum commitment of 150 hours. A \$500 honorarium will be provided upon completion of the internship. The application deadline for summer 2009 funded internships is March 15, 2009.

For more information see:

<http://www.richmondhistorycenter.com/interns.asp>

### **Virginia Foundation for the Humanities**

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (<http://www.virginiafoundation.org/>), in Charlottesville, VA, occasionally has internship opportunities in its various programs, such as the African American Heritage Program, Virginia Festival of the Book, and the Virginia Folklife Program. For more information on specific internships for the summer of 2009, contact Dr. Borg.

### **The Army Historical Foundation**

The Army Historical Foundation, Arlington, VA, was founded in 1983 for the purpose of preserving the history and heritage of the American Soldier. (<http://www.armyhistory.org/>) Its projects include refurbishing historic Army buildings, acquiring and conserving Army artifacts, supporting the study of Army History through research and educational programs, preparing traveling exhibitions, and awarding annual scholarships and book prizes. In recent summers, JMU undergraduate history majors have landed paid internships at the AHF and published their own research in the foundation's magazine, *On Point*. See Dr. Borg for more information.

### **The Center for the Study of the Presidency**

The Center for the Study of the Presidency, a non-partisan, non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C., offers unpaid internships for undergraduate and graduate students during the spring, summer and fall terms. Center internships offer motivated students the opportunity to learn first-hand about the international and domestic issues confronting the American Presidency in a small, fast-moving D.C. think tank.

While interns are assigned a primary project to work on during their time at the Center based on their experience and qualifications, they also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of Center activities and operations during their internship. Professional responsibilities may include:

- Working with experienced policymakers and former government officials
- Conducting research and writing to support policy analyses and other Center projects

- Helping organize meetings with Presidential scholars, former White House staff, and former National Security Council officials
- Assisting with conferences, publications and public relations outreach

Applications are accepted at any time; however, interviews are not conducted after the deadline has passed. Due to the volume of applications received, the Center will only contact those whom we have selected for interviews.

Application deadlines:

Spring - November 1

Summer - March 15

Fall - July 15

For more information see:

<http://www.thepresidency.org/About/interns.html>

### **Office of the Curator at the Supreme Court of the United States**

Each summer the Office of the Curator at the Supreme Court of the United States recruits undergraduate and graduate students for our paid summer internship program. For the summer of 2009, they are seeking paid interns interested in history, art history, education, archives, and museum studies. The Curator's Office promotes a greater public understanding of the nation's highest court by collecting the Court's history and sharing it with a diverse audience of visitors. For over 30 years, interns in the Curator's Office have contributed their skills and enthusiasm for the nation's highest court in fulfilling this mission.

All positions are full-time, 90-day appointments paid at the rate of \$12.71 per hour. In addition to working on one of the specific projects in photography cataloging, visitor programs, or graphic arts collection, all interns will be trained to conduct tours and lectures on the functions of the Supreme Court and the architecture of the Court building. Finally, interns will assist in staffing a public information desk and performing some office administrative tasks.

The deadline for 2009 summer internship applications is February 13, 2009. All applications must be postmarked or faxed before 5:00 P.M. EST on this date.

For more information contact Dr. Borg.

### **The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum**

[www.nixonlibrary.gov](http://www.nixonlibrary.gov)

The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, a nonpartisan federal institution operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, is seeking talented and energetic undergraduate students to work as paid interns from June 1, 2009, to August 7, 2009.

Interns will assist with substantial and meaningful projects, such as researching the Nixon administration, participating in the organization and release of an extensive video oral history program, and creating content for our Web site and museum exhibitions. Interns will participate in discussions with experts in fields such as the Cold War, espionage, presidential

history, and museum administration and take part in seminars and other learning opportunities throughout the summer. Interns will contribute to the work of a major national center for the study of the presidency, American history, and the life and times of Richard Nixon.

We are seeking driven candidates with a demonstrated record of accomplishment. In choosing interns, we are not guided by an applicants' major field of study but by their commitment to serious and impartial inquiry, their passion for public service, and their interest in the work of a nonpartisan institution. We welcome applications from students majoring not only in history, political science, and international relations but also in other fields such as business, marketing, public history, museum studies, Asian studies, African-American studies, economics, journalism, and communications (particularly new media). Familiarity with research using electronic databases such as ProQuest, JSTOR, and EBSCOHost is welcome. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

To apply, please send a current resume, one or two letters of recommendation, a current transcript (a photocopy or other informal version is acceptable), and a cover letter explaining why you would like to be an intern at the Nixon Library to:

Internship Program c/o Dr. Timothy Naftali  
Director, Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum  
18001 Yorba Linda Blvd.  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

You may also email the application to [nixon@nara.gov](mailto:nixon@nara.gov). Applications must be postmarked or emailed no later than March 20. Interns will be hired on a rolling basis beginning on March 1. Late applications will not be considered. Finalists will be interviewed in person or by telephone. Please direct any questions to Paul Musgrave, internship coordinator, at [paul.musgrave@nara.gov](mailto:paul.musgrave@nara.gov)

### **Martha's Vineyard Museum (Massachusetts, U.S.)**

The Martha's Vineyard Museum has a well developed summer intern program, in place since 1993. This year, the MVM is offering five internship opportunities for the summer of 2009. Internships are available in the curatorial, administration/development, oral history, education, and library/archive departments. Interns will enjoy a variety of museum experience, including exhibits, programs, special events, interaction with visitors, and working with a professional staff. Hours and schedules are to be arranged with individual interns and departments, but typically range from 15 - 40 hours per week from May through Labor Day. MVM has access to a limited number of discounted summer housing arrangements through local landlords. MVM interns will be provided with contact information and some limited assistance in finding housing. However, the MVM does not assume responsibility for making the actual housing arrangements for the summer interns. For more details, including information about the specific internship positions, go to: <http://www.mvmuseum.org/internship.php>

### **Old York Historical Society/Museums of Old York (Maine, U.S.)**

Graduate and undergraduate student fellowships at Old York Historical Society/Museums of Old York (Maine, U.S.)

Elizabeth Perkins Fellowship in Museum Practice & Research (May 26-August 19 2009). Four graduate or senior level undergraduate resident fellowships include riverfront living quarters and stipend for directed summer study in one of southern Maine's largest history museums. Application deadline: March 4, 2009.

For more information see:

<http://www.oldyork.org/programs/fellowship.html>

### **New Market Historical Society, New Market, Virginia**

Undergraduate internships available year-round with the New Market Historical Society, 20 minutes north of JMU campus. Internship opportunities include

- Research for an upcoming book about New Market History.
- Assist in archival work at the New Market Library.
- Research and create a museum display about the medicines used at Dr. Solomon Henkel's 1802 Apothecary in New Market.
- Train for and conduct guided walking tours of historic New Market. The New Market Walking Tours ([www.new-market-virginia-walking-tours.com](http://www.new-market-virginia-walking-tours.com)) present two tours of historic, downtown New Market: one featuring the colonial history and one featuring daily life during the Civil War. The "Boys, Bugles, and Skirts" tour focuses on the stories of the nineteenth-century women of New Market. Tours are based on Dr. Betty Karol Wilson's research at the Handley Library in Winchester, UVA Special Collections, JMU Special Collections, and primary materials, such as diaries, letters, receipts, etc. Interns will have the opportunity to conduct new primary source research to add to the tour.

For more information contact:

Dr. Betty Karol Wilson  
9317 N. Congress St  
New Market, VA 22844  
540-740-8841  
[appleinn@shentel.net](mailto:appleinn@shentel.net)

### **National Firearms Museum, NRA, Fairfax, Virginia**

Unpaid internship in the National Firearms Museum, a historical museum dedicated to the preservation and heritage of the firearm as an object of American material culture. Length of Internship: Summer 2009 semester (May/June – August/September). Work Schedule: 7 ½ -15 hours/week, somewhat flexible within Monday-Friday 8:30-5 timeframe. Specific tasks would be:

Handling and preserving historic firearms, rifles, ammunition, and non-firearms objects and artifacts.

Assisting in archiving, categorizing, and organizing existing inventory and updating new artifact arrivals.

Maintaining and archiving library materials, documents, records, reference items and numerous books and newsletters as well as upkeep and maintenance of an extensive periodical collection.

General upkeep in galleries: Organizing display cases, organizing visitor surveys, log sheets, museum correspondence.

Light office duties: Copying, filing

As always, maintaining an enthusiasm for learning about the subject matter!!

The ideal candidate: a student (21 years or older) trustworthy, professional, career-oriented who possesses a keen interest in American history- military history, sporting and hunting, American political figures, or the general interest in learning about the upkeep of a historical establishment.

For more information about the National Firearms Museum, see their Website:

<http://www.nationalfirearmsmuseum.org/tour/default.asp>

For more information about the internship contact:

Matt Sharpe, Assistant Curator

National Firearms Museum

National Rifle Association

703-267-1604

[msharpe@nrahq.org](mailto:msharpe@nrahq.org)

### **The Newseum, Washington, DC and Laurel, Maryland**

Two Collections Internships:

Collections internship (Washington, DC): Assists Registrars/Collections Specialists with the following tasks:

- Monitor and record environmental conditions (temperature, relative humidity, lighting, etc.) in gallery spaces through daily monitoring/walk-through. Requires some weekend work
- Monitor/report on exhibition conditions as they pertain to exhibited collections
- Assist with the cleaning of exhibits and artifacts on display. Requires some early morning/pre-opening work
- Aid in installation and de-installation of exhibited artifacts
- Work on compiling information for the new Standard Facilities report particularly regarding the environmental conditions/calculations for each of the galleries
- When applicable, help Registrars coordinate and process donations and incoming and outgoing loans

Collections internship (Laurel, MD): Assists Registrars/Collections Specialists with the following tasks:

- Maintain current and accurate collection management files (both on the computer and on hard copy). Catalog and process artifacts.
- Aid in installation and de-installation of exhibited artifacts
- Responsibilities will also include assisting with the handling and unpacking of incoming and outgoing artifacts and supervising collection access.
- If time and interest permits, it will be possible to establish a short-term, independent research project related to the collection.
- When applicable, help Registrars coordinate and process donations and incoming and outgoing loans

For both internship opportunities, candidates should possess basic computer skills, an interest in collections/registration work, and the ability to lift 30 pounds. Internships last for a minimum of 12 weeks and may be part or full time. These internship positions are for college credit only.

Application Process: Please email cover letter and resume to [sprichard@newseum.org](mailto:sprichard@newseum.org)

Applications Contact person: Stephanie Prichard at [sprichard@newseum.org](mailto:sprichard@newseum.org)

Application due date: April 3, 2009

Salary range: college credit only

Web Address: [www.newseum.org](http://www.newseum.org)

### **The Edinburg Mill Museum, Edinburg, VA (40 minutes north of JMU on I-81)**

The Edinburg Mill was built in 1848 by and was in continuous operation as a grist mill until 1978. It will soon be the home of a new history museum due to open in late September. They still have several projects that may be of interest to JMU students. They would like an intern to help research and write the exhibit script for the history of the Mill itself, and another to do a series of oral histories about the construction of I-81. The building is an example of the early agrarian industry of the Shenandoah Valley, and is one of the few valley mills that escaped burning by Sheridan during the Civil War. It was set on fire by his orders, but at a request from the granddaughters of Major George, the soldiers were ordered to put out the fire. The soldiers and the townspeople formed a bucket brigade, finally quenching the fire. The charred beams are still visible inside the mill.

For more information on this internship, contact Dr. Borg ([borgkl@jmu.edu](mailto:borgkl@jmu.edu))