

Past JMU Undergraduate English Research Assistantships

Spring 2019:

Research Internship with Professor Cavanagh

Professor Cavanagh is writing a novel on her family's involvement in the textile industry in the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries. She is seeking a research assistant to research the role New England mills played in cotton cultivation in the South from 1852-1929. 3 hours per week (1 credit). Please contact Professor Cavanagh (cavanaek@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Professor Hefner

Professor Hefner is currently working on two projects: a book about African American genre fiction published in black newspapers in the mid-twentieth century, and a book of author Claude McKay's letters. He is looking for a research assistant to help with reading, summarizing, categorizing, transcribing, and other aspects of these projects. 3 hours per week (1 credit). Please contact Professor Hefner (hefnerbe@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Professor Johnson

Professor Johnson is seeking a research assistant to help with research on Early English Books Online (EEBO) on the topic of 16th and 17th texts on Renaissance travel. 3 hours per week (1 academic credit). Please contact Professor Johnson (johnsoba@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Professor Muhonja

Professor Muhonja is currently working on three book projects, including a book on scholarly and activist philosophies and theories of Nobel laureate, Professor Wangari Maathai; and two anthologies (*Gender and Sexuality in Senegalese Societies*, and *Gender and Sexuality in Kenyan Societies*) co-edited with Professor Babacar M'Baye of Kent State University. She is seeking one or two research assistants to work 3-6 hours per week each on these projects (1-2 credits). Research assistants will be trained to assist in transcribing research material; preparation of manuscripts; undertaking research work in online archives; acquisition of research materials from libraries and archives on campus; and visually organizing material for conference presentation. Please contact Professor Muhonja (muhonjbx@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Professor Pennington

Professor Pennington is seeking a research assistant to help with initial research and transcription related to a project on the life of Ethel Dickens, the cultural and rhetorical workings of her inherited celebrity status, and her professional connections and contributions as typist to London's literary elite (1880s-1930s). Professor Pennington has a PDF copy of the play that Ethel Dickens wrote based on *Great Expectations* that belonged to famous actor Sir John Martin Harvey when he performed the show in the US. There are copious notes and changes to the script in his hand. Professor Pennington needs a research assistant interested in theater, theater history, adaptation, or Charles Dickens to assist in transcribing the play and notes, and in developing an annotated bibliography on Martin Harvey and London/transatlantic

theater in the first two to three decades of the 20th century. 3-6 hours per week (1-2 credits). Please contact Professor Pennington (penninhl@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Professor Wrenn

Professor Wrenn is writing an environmental work of creative non-fiction, and seeks a research assistant to help with research on the topics of consciousness, climate change, beauty, and brain science. 6 hours per week (2 credits). Please contact Professor Wrenn (wrenngj@jmu.edu) for more information.

Fall 2018:

Africana Studies Internship

The Africana Studies program is seeking an intern with an interest in the literatures, cultures, sciences, technologies, arts, and histories of Africa and its Diaspora. The intern will be responsible for building a new social media presence for the program. In addition, the intern will help keep the Africana website up-to-date, gather and share events and notifications with faculty and students, and support Africana Studies program events. 3 hours per week (1 credit). Please contact Dr. Muhonja (muhonjbx@jmu.edu) and Dr. Godfrey (godfrema@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Dr. Bogard

Dr. Bogard is seeking a research assistant to help research two book projects. The first, titled *What Life Will Be Like*, mixes his story of becoming a father for the first time with an exploration the impact of climate change and other environment change on the well-being of our mind and spirit. It asks, how do we reconcile our joy at becoming parents with our grief and anxiety about the future of our planet? The second project, titled *Dog Star*, mixes the story of Dr. Bogard's fifteen years with his dog Luna and an exploration of the relationship between humans and dogs. For both projects, students would be looking for articles, essays, and other literature related these subjects. Everything from magazine and newspaper articles to personal essays to scientific reports to Shakespeare. The RA would be invited to be an active participant in both projects, with the opportunity to engage in discussion, offer potential routes of exploration, and gain the experience of being in on the early stages of a book's development. Dr. Bogard is the author of two previous books of creative nonfiction: *The End of Night* and *The Ground Beneath Us*, both of which explore the human relationship with the natural world. 3, 6, or 10 hours per week (1, 2, or 3 credits). Please contact Dr. Bogard (bogardpw@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Dr. Hefner

Dr. Hefner is currently working on a book about African American genre fiction published in black newspapers in the mid-twentieth century. He is seeking a research assistant to help read through, summarize, and categorize a large number of these stories and serials. 3 hours per week (1 credit). Please contact Dr. Hefner (hefnerbe@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Dr. Muhonja

Dr. Muhonja is currently working on three book projects, including one monograph on scholarly and activist philosophies and theories of Nobel laureate, Professor Wangari Maathai; and two anthologies (*Gender and Sexuality in Senegalese Societies*, and *Gender and Sexuality in Kenyan Societies*) co-edited with Dr. Babacar M'Baye of Kent State University). She is seeking one or two interns to work an average of 3-6 hours per week (1-2 credits). The interns will be trained to assist in transcribing research material; preparation of manuscripts; undertaking research work in online archives; acquisition of research materials from libraries and archives on campus; visually organizing material for conference presentation. Interns will also have the option of working with the professor to develop their own (or a collaborative) project based on this material, to be presented at a conference. Please contact Dr. Muhonja (muhonjbx@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Dr. Reborn

Dr. Reborn is working on a book project and is seeking a research assistant to conduct primary research surrounding the death of George Washington & medical documents of the period, secondary research surrounding early American medicine, and light copy-editing of manuscript material. 3 hours per week (1 credit). Please contact Dr. Reborn (rebhorne@jmu.edu) for more information.

Spring 2018:

Research Internship with Dr. Castellano

Dr. Katey Castellano is seeking an English major with an interest in social justice to conduct research in student services at JMU's peer academic institutions. Hours/academic credits earned are flexible. Please contact Dr. Castellano (castelkm@jmu.edu) for more information.

Research Internship with Dr. Kutchins

Dr. Laurie Kutchins is seeking an English major with an interest in conducting scholarly, historical, and marketing research as part of a 1-credit internship. Please contact Dr. Kutchins (kutchill@jmu.edu) for more information.

Spark Collective Internship

Spark Collective (<http://www.spark-collective.com/>) seeks an English student to serve as editor, writer, and project management assistant for Spring 2018. Responsibilities include:

- Editing existing written content across all media
- Crafting new written content for area non-profit organizations, Spark clients
- Creating and editing content for Spark website, presentations, etc.
- Collaborating with nonprofit studies minors to develop and apply project management skills
- Collaborating with JMU graphic design majors to produce imaginative marketing collateral that helps clients achieve their goals

Spark Collective is a student-led creative agency within James Madison University, serving nonprofit institutions in the Shenandoah Valley. A collaborative project between Graphic Design and Nonprofit Studies students, Spark Collective supports community engagement at JMU by fostering mutually beneficial and reciprocal partnerships that connect learning to practice, address critical societal problems in an effort to improve quality of life.

Applicants should possess strong written and oral communication skills. Editing experience and professional experience with collaboration outside of your major are pluses. Interested Spring applicants must be available on Wednesdays from 2:15 - 3:45 pm. Please contact Dr. Molly O'Donnell (odonnemc@jmu.edu) for more information.