

SUMMER 2019

DAVIS MUSEUM SUMMER INTERNSHIP NEWSLETTER

The Davis Museum at Wellesley College



the Davis.
DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE DAVIS,

Reflecting back on the internship, I am amazed by the richness and depth of the program and how much each of us has grown. Each week has been its own adventure, with workshops, events, field trips, and networking opportunities which encourage us to broaden our horizons, build new skills, and experience art from a different perspective.



At the Davis, we've gotten to know staff members at weekly lunches and received advice and encouragement about our careers. While each of us has individual projects, we've also worked together on Portraits of Women at the Davis, a Google Arts and Culture story.

Our on-campus collaborations have included paper making with Professor Katherine Ruffin and creating natural dyes with the Paulson interns in preparation for this fall's Fatimah Tuggar: Time and Technology symposium. On our field trips, we've been fortunate to meet with many Wellesley alumnae, and to learn about careers in all areas of the art world, from conservation to development. In New York City, we visited both old favorites and new-to-us museums. Many thanks to Friends of Art for the kind welcome to NYC, and for making this incredible program possible.

As for my own experience, I've developed skills in leadership, communication, and organization which I know I will use for the rest of my career. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have been the Internship Coordinator, and would like to thank Davis staff for all of their work and support, as well as the intern cohort for being such a great team!

Megan McNally '20, Intern Coordinator



I took up the digital marketing and administration intern position because it was an opportunity to try out a career path that I knew I was interested in and had the skills for. During my time at the Davis Museum I was able to work with the other digital marketing and administration intern, Aviv, on many projects. A few of the things we worked on were updating the student section of the Davis Website, made the marketing material for the fall events and exhibitions, input the events to calendars and created the new Year in Review page for the year 2019. Additionally, we worked on researching and writing labels for portraits of women with the other interns. Aviv and I then made a Google Arts and Cultures story of the portraits of Women in the Davis Museum. I have really enjoyed working on these projects and being able to visit so many other museums. I've been able to do a lot of things that I wouldn't have been able to do without this internship.

Karina Alvarado
'20, Digital
Marketing and
Administration
Intern



AVIV SHIMONI '21, DIGITAL MARKETING AND ADMINISTRATION INTERN

I first applied to the Digital Marketing and Administration internship because marketing has always been something I've been interested in exploring and as a media arts and sciences major at Wellesley, the growing intersection between technology and art is something that's fascinating to me. I've always been curious as to how museums operate behind the scenes, and definitely got a chance to explore that while here at the Davis.

Despite not being an art history major, throughout our meetings with people working in museum positions and having our weekly lunches with Davis staff members, I've learned a lot about different areas of museum work, as well as advice about how to achieve our career goals, and how to apply skills I've learned towards other careers and academic pursuits. My favorite field trips this summer have been visiting the Gropius house, the galleries in SoWa, and having tea with Mee-Seen Loong '72!



The main projects that Karina, the other Digital Marketing intern, and I, worked on this summer were designing the 2019 Davis Year in Review website, updating the official Davis Museum site, designing and creating spam for all fall events at the Davis, and entering these events into online calendars. One of my favorite projects we worked on this summer was the Portraits of Women Google Arts & Culture story. All the summer interns were tasked to do research on portraits of women in the Davis collection, with guidance from Davis curators, to create an online exhibition hosted by the Google Cultural Institute. In addition to this research, the Digital Marketing interns were in charge of uploading these images and their finalized labels to create the full Google Arts and Culture online story.

It was incredibly fulfilling to see our hard work come together and to be able to share our projects this summer with each other! I have learned a lot throughout my time at the Davis this summer about possible career paths as well as seen improvement in my writing and research skills, and feel proud of the work we've all done.

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JUNA LEE '21, COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT INTERN

Going into the Davis internship program, I never imagined that ten weeks could go by so quickly. Through my main project of digitizing photos from the Peter Cohen collection, I was given the opportunity to handle art and use my photography skills. Being a Media Arts and Sciences major, I was especially excited to apply my background in photography in a setting outside of my own school work. Going through such a vast collection of snapshot photographs and photo albums was fascinating, and working on photographing every individual piece was an exhilarating experience. I came into the Davis internship knowing little about museum work, but my experiences at the Davis and visits to other museums and galleries further enriched my views of the art world.

One of my favorite aspects of the Peter Cohen collection is the fact that the photos are of everyday life. While most photos of everyday scenes are now digital, I was able to get close to everyday scenes from the early twentieth century in the form of prints. Looking at how people used photography in their daily lives made me think about how I approach both my own photography work and the everyday use of cameras today. Besides photographing the Peter Cohen collection, I was also responsible for formatting and organizing these photos for the Davis Museum's use. Through this process, I learned about how digital files of recent acquisitions are organized for different purposes, such as exhibitions and the museum's database.



While I thoroughly enjoyed all of the weekly field trips throughout the internship, the three-day trip to New York was definitely a highlight for me. Each visit we made during our stay in New York was an amazing and eye-opening experience. Two museum visits that stood out to me were the Met Breuer and the Whitney Museum, primarily because of my interest in modern and contemporary art. The tours for both museums were eye-opening, as I learned a lot about what kinds of topics artists are interested in today, and how museums go about organizing and exhibiting these ideas. I also enjoyed learning about the for-profit side of the art world through our visits to several commercial galleries and Sotheby's.

These past ten weeks at the Davis have provided me with countless opportunities and allowed me to grow professionally. I have learned so much about the diversity of the museum field through this internship, and hope to encourage others around me to connect and feel welcome to art and the Davis.

SARAH KAIN '20, CURATORIAL INTERN

At Wellesley College, I am an English and American Studies double major. I chose the Davis Summer Internship program because I appreciate the work ethic and environment of smaller institutions, but also because I knew that my work and voice would be appreciated and heard here. I am extremely happy to report that my instinct was correct: this internship gave me everything I was hoping for, and more.

As a curatorial intern working under Alica LaTores, I had three main projects this summer: designing three new exhibition cycles for the Northern Baroque print case, creating a label for a Friends of Art donated work, Lamp, and writing highlights for recent acquisitions to be posted on the website. These projects all required several hours of planning and research (mostly scouring the internet and art library for answers to the most obscure questions--like, why did photographers not use color until the 1970's even though the technology had existed since the nineteenth century?). Coming into this internship, I definitely didn't expect to publish or display my own work, and for the opportunity to do so I am extremely grateful.



My goals this summer were mentorship, collaboration, and advocacy. My meetings with Alicia, her countless suggestions for feedback, and our weekly field trips to various institutions to meet professionals in the field certainly met my goal for mentorship. I've learned extensively about opportunities that await me in and outside the Museum world (did someone say grant writing? Or publishing?). With the Google Arts and Culture story and workshop opportunities, I have collaborated not only with my fellow interns to produce something we are all incredibly proud of, but also learned from other groups on and off campus, like the Paulson interns! Lastly, in getting to ask questions of curators and other specialists throughout the summer, I have become better acquainted with the ethics of museums and educational institutions, making me a better advocate in my work. This summer, I additionally (and unexpectedly) challenged myself with new material and questions. I learned through this experience that the more you surround yourself with the uncomfortable, the unfamiliar, the difficult, the better prepared you are to understand and respond to it.

There have been so many highlights this summer, but I'll never forget the conversation we had with the owner of Gallery Kayafas or the trip to the Hood Museum. Both of these experiences expanded my definition of what a collection can look like and demonstrated to me what responsible and empowering collecting, display, and education look like. I hope to return to both of these locations in the future. I am very excited to resume my work with the Davis Museum as a member of DMSAC (the Davis Museum Student Advisory Committee) this fall!



My experience this summer was ripe with learning opportunities. As a curatorial intern I reveled in the opportunity to give tours to the public. I enjoyed engaging with our visitors of all ages to discuss artwork. I prepared several points I wanted to highlight about each object, and I was pleasantly surprised to discover something new after a visitor noted something that they took away from an object. This aspect of my job was one of the most rewarding because it integrated my love of art, teaching and communication. It sharpened my communication skills as I had to sift through abundant amounts of research to craft a 10 to 15-minute tour.

The Davis summer internship was also an exciting opportunity to get to know museums and museum staff in the New England area. Meeting with people at different museum institutions throughout different departments offered informative career and educational advice. It is a truly unique experience that exposed all of the interns to new careers, ones we had never considered. Thank you all for supporting an amazing summer experience and such a wonderful internship program, one full of opportunities to discover our passions and build skills for the future.

**Elana Bridges
'20,
Curatorial
Intern**



IRENE GALARNEAU '19, CURATORIAL INTERN

I began my curatorial internship excited to experience museum curation, but ended up learning about all kinds of art and other arts careers as well. In addition, I had the opportunity to learn about art from around the globe and across time that I had not formally studied before. I was surprised to be assigned to work with our director herself, Dr. Fischman. A highlight was certainly interviewing the South African sculptor Claudette Schreuders (over FaceTime), and hearing first-hand the story of her sculpture *Burning Secret*, which the Davis has just acquired. Then I wrote a label for the piece, and prepared an object file for it. Another project with Dr. Fischman has been doing research on both contemporary Indian art and the Rastafarian term “I and I” for the fall show *Kanishka Raja: I and I*. In addition, I wrote a label for the 18th-century Deccan miniature *Ladies with Ascetic* for display in the Friends of Art gallery. Finally, my contribution to the interns’ group Google Arts and Culture story was writing about a 5th century Buddhist sculpture from Afghanistan, and a miniature of *Alice Van Vechten Brown* by Artemis Tavshanjian. I also had the opportunity to work with the public in different ways, including giving Bark and Metal tours with some of the other interns, both privately to President Johnson, and as part of the Summer Staff Series. Additionally, I worked with the other interns on designing and running art activities for children as part of the Summer Film Series and Free Fun Friday.

Of course, the weekly local field trips and the New York trip were the other highlights of the internship. They exposed me to a diverse spectrum of careers in the art world, as well as serving as a networking opportunity, which was especially helpful to me as a fresh graduate. I particularly enjoyed the day we went to the Worcester Art Museum and met with Elle Friedberg '17, and then headed to the Museum of Russian Icons and met with the registrar, Laura Garrity-Arquitt, who gave us a tour of the storage area. The highlights of the New York trip for me were meeting with Mee-Seen Loong '72, recently retired from Sotheby’s, and visiting the textile conservation lab at the Cooper-Hewitt. I have also really appreciated the weekly lunches with staff members here at the Davis. I am truly grateful for this internship, where I have had the opportunity make real contributions to the Davis that the public will see, but have also received so much advice, and had so many wonderful learning experiences. I feel that I now have many tools to use as I work on beginning a career in the art world.



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STEPHANIE FAN '22, CURATORIAL INTERN

I began the summer excited to learn through experiences that would take me beyond the classroom; the Davis Museum was an amazing academic resource during the school year, but I looked forward to gaining insight into the behind-the-scenes of an art museum, especially in regards to curating and exhibition planning. I worked with Carrie Cushman, the Linda Wyatt Gruber '66 Curatorial Fellow in Photography, and my main individual project was to research themes in photographs that the Davis had recently acquired from the Peter Cohen collection for a Spring 2020 exhibition. I was able to learn so much about the research process, and I grew from being uncertain about where to even begin research to becoming more confident in collecting sources and diving deeper into existing literature. I also wrote a wall label for our Friends of Art gallery at the Davis; I researched Parviz Tanavoli's Purple Lion, and was fascinated by his artistic philosophy and inspirations.

This invaluable experience of working in an art museum taught me so much more about the art world than a classroom ever could. I was mainly interested in the curatorial aspect of museums; however, our staff lunch series and our field trips to institutions around New England revealed to me so many other roles and that I had not been exposed to before. Learning about collections management through talking with the registrars and conservators at institutions such as the Worcester Art Museum and the Cooper Hewitt showed me the work that allows the exhibits to run smoothly while protecting the collection.



One of the highlights this internship was our trip to New York, where we visited 12 institutions in 3 days. We were able to meet so many accomplished Friends of Art, and even visit Wellesley alumna Mee-Seen Loong '72 for tea. Hearing her speak about working at Sotheby's for 40 years, becoming Vice-Chairman for Chinese Works of Art, and now directing the INK gallery in Beijing, I was amazed at her accomplishments and interests that stemmed from her time at Wellesley. As an intended double major in Art History and Economics, I found the work at Sotheby's to be extremely interesting, and I am so grateful that we were able to meet someone who had such great influence in the institution.

Moving forward from this internship, I hope to take the research and writing skills I've learned in museum work to pursue my interests in the intersection of Art History and Economics. I am so grateful for all the mentorship, opportunities, and insight I received during this internship, and I look forward to working with the Davis Museum again as a member of DMSAC this upcoming year!

As I reflect on the opportunity I received this summer at the Davis, I am nothing but grateful. My position as the Special Exhibitions Technology intern was created this summer specifically for the purpose of involvement in the development and production of Fatimah Tuggar's Home's Horizons, the special exhibition at the Davis this fall. By working closely with Amanda Gilvan (Sonja Novak Koerner '51 Senior Curator) and Jordan Tynes at the Knapp Media & Technology center, I have gained a new understanding of the amount of work that is put into exhibitions, especially those which incorporate technology. I learned an immense amount this summer through completing a variety of projects including developing augmented reality content, participating in hands-on workshops, and researching portraits from the collection. The summer internship program at the Davis is built to provide interns with resources, support, and connections in order to pursue individual interests this summer and far into the future.



Maddy Allan-
Rahill '20,
Special
Exhibitions
Technology
Intern



NANCY CHU '21, EDUCATION INTERN

I took on the position as an education intern at the Davis Museum. Through this position, I have not only gained insights in the behind-the-scenes operations in an art museum, but also broadly explored the connections among art, public practice, and education, fields I have long found great passions in. For this and all the wonderful field trips and great connections I developed with people, I feel deeply grateful to be part of this internship program.

Throughout the summer I learned how to develop programs and services for a wide range of audiences. I compiled the content for a just-for-student section on the museum website, researched and consulted museum professionals on how to conduct access programs for people with disabilities, led kids-friendly art activities and gallery tours during special events, developed a k-12 curriculum based on the upcoming exhibition, and probed new ways to enhance the accessibility of the Davis museum to everyone. I also enjoy doing object-based research and getting trained in museum writing while compiling a Google Arts and Culture article on female portraits in the museum's collection with my fellow interns. I feel profoundly rewarded to see my efforts being valued by the museum staff and visitors, and can't wait to see some of the programs I worked on being implemented during the next school year.

Undoubtedly, the highlights of this internship are the Friday and New York field trips. We visited so many different museums, galleries, and auction houses, which really opened my mind to the various possible career paths in the art world. I especially appreciate learning about the differences among founding, academic, and civic art museums, about how they serve different audiences but still try to tackle issues of accessibility in similar ways. Among things we saw during the field trips, I especially like the centerpiece titled Drill in Park Avenue Armory, which takes the form of a three-channel video installation with documentary footage of a historian, activists, and a marching band. The video addresses gun violence in America and really speaks to my love of the stream of contemporary art that attempt interventions into politics and human consciousness.



Upon completion of this internship, I also realized my interest in contemporary art and, within it, the topic of institutional critique. It is only one of the many ways this experience has helped me find my direction as a rising junior majoring in art history and economics, and it sure will continue to inform many of my later decisions developing a career in the art world.

KATE DAVIES '19, DELORME FELLOW



For me, the final role of DeLorme Intern marks the end of four years at the Davis Museum; the job feels like a labor of love and this newsletter more like a final goodbye. I began as a work as a Student Guide my first semester first year, then became a Summer Curatorial Intern, followed by roles as Student Curatorial Assistant, general member of the Davis Museum Student Advisory Board and, ultimately, Co-Coordinator of the Davis Museum Student Advisory Board. This internship marks the end of four years in which I have grown professionally and personally and am now able to move into the art world with all the necessary skills.

The most significant part of this experience is the staff at the Davis. Throughout my time they have mentored and supported me in every way possible, helping with everything from resume writing to graduate school. They were always available, regardless of their schedules or the importance of my questions. On some level, I became an adult at the Davis. I can now write a resume, and as a result will begin my first full time job at an art gallery in Boston bringing with me all the experience I have gathered at the Davis. Though perhaps the result of working at the Davis consistently throughout my late teens and early twenties, the Davis Museum certainly provides the opportunity for mentorship and growth to any Wellesley Student willing to take it. They have done everything and then some to help me develop as a professional over four years, and for that I am eternally grateful.

The work I conducted this summer actually began in the Spring on 2019. As the DeLorme intern, I was Co-Curator of the exhibition Hidden Histories. We began research in the spring and spent this summer writing and editing the material for the physical show and online exhibition. This work was completely different from any curatorial work I had done before, as requiring holistic consideration of the space, writing, and information provided. While I don't want to give too much away before the exhibit is up, I learned a great deal about creating a cohesive, informative exhibition. This year's New York trip was also particularly significant to me, as I was able to see all the possibilities open to Wellesley Alumnae within the art world. Occurring just two months after my own graduation, it inspirational and provided me with new goals and aspirations for my life following Wellesley. Saying goodbye to the entire staff at the end of this summer that will not be easily done, but I am ever grateful for my time at the Davis and know my experiences will continue to benefit me as I move forward in the world.