The HistoryMakers and University of Illinois Summer Internship
Internship Dates: June 1-July 31, 2008

The HistoryMakers and University of Illinois Summer Internship (HMUI-SI) represents a unique partnership between the three University of Illinois campuses and The HistoryMakers, Inc. It presents an extraordinary opportunity for qualified undergraduate and graduate University of Illinois students from a variety of disciplines to contribute to the building of the nation’s largest African American video oral history archive; to hone the students’ research skills, to provide access to this collection of primary source materials and to learn about the interdisciplinary methods associated with oral and life history projects.

The HistoryMakers, Inc. is an independent non-profit organization and video oral history archive that chronicles the lives of African Americans. It represents the largest archival project on this subject in the world, larger than the oral history collections of New York’s Schomburg Library and the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum. Like other oral history collections, The HistoryMakers is an effort to capture the voice of a people. It introduces state-of-the-art technology to provide access not only to the voices but the visual images of history-making black Americans. The HistoryMakers provides living proof that African American history did not begin or end with the Civil Rights Movement. Black HistoryMakers number in the thousands and they are both well-known and unsung men and women.

The University of Illinois is a national and global leader in education and research. It attracts the best undergraduate and graduate students from the United States and around the world. Its faculty are among the leaders in education, service to communities, and scholarship. The purpose of the collaboration between The University of Illinois and The HistoryMakers is to assist The HistoryMakers in building this collection by providing research assistance, scholarly analysis, thoughtful critique and evaluation, and to advance an awareness of African American achievements – on campus, in Illinois, in the nation, and around the world.

The HMUI-SI

The purpose of the HMUI-SI is to assist The HistoryMakers while providing a learning environment for qualified undergraduate and graduate students. These students must be interested in learning first hand about life and oral history skills and other methods of approaching and understanding their knowledge of the African American experience. The Internship is open to undergraduate- and graduate-level students in the humanities, language arts and social and behavioral sciences. Interns will experience firsthand the everyday operation of a living collection by working directly with The HistoryMakers staff and within The HistoryMakers facilities in downtown Chicago, IL. Interns will:

- Conduct preparatory interview research for identified HistoryMakers and subject matters
- Develop geographic and subject matter timelines as well as other appropriate reference materials
- Review and evaluate completed archived interviews
- Research using traditional sources and The HistoryMakers test digital archive
- Be given a true practicum experience
- Learn of the work of other scholars who incorporate life history, oral history, public history, biography, ethnography, archival research and other methodological tools in their studies
- Learn how to evaluate one’s own interviewing and data collection method
- Graduate-level students may be asked to lead identified research projects using The HistoryMakers archives

HMUI-SI Application Criteria

Students must be currently enrolled (Spring 2008) full-time on one of the University of Illinois campuses (i.e. Urbana, Springfield, or Chicago) and must currently be in good academic standing. Students must be available full-time, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm for the duration of the awarded 9-week Internship.
Hourly Pay/Stipend
Interns will be provided a room on the University of Illinois at Chicago campus. Undergraduate Interns will be paid $13.88 per hour for nine 40-hour work weeks ($5,000.00 total). Graduate Interns will be paid $20.83 per hour for nine 40-hour work weeks ($7,500.00 total).

Application Packet
All applicants must submit the following to be considered for HMUI-SI:
1. Two letters of reference
2. Official transcript
3. Resume or curriculum vita
4. Completed application form
5. Writing sample

DEADLINE for ALL application materials: May 9, 2008. Letters of Reference must be received by May 12, 2008. Selected applicants will be contacted by May 16, 2008.

Please direct all questions and electronic materials to the identified HMUI faculty on your respective campus:

URBANA
Clarence E. Lang
Assistant Professor
African American Studies
E-mail: celang@uiuc.edu
Phone: 217-333-7781

SPRINGFIELD
Kamau Kemayo
Assistant Professor
African American Studies
E-mail: kkema2@uis.edu
Phone: 217-206-8248

CHICAGO
Cynthia Blair
Assistant Professor
African American Studies
E-mail: cmblair@uic.edu
Phone: 312-996-9471

General questions may be directed to Jennifer Hamer, 217-333-7781 (jhamer@uiuc.edu).

UIUC is an equal opportunity employer.
Women and members of underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.
HMUI-SI Application

Name ____________________________________________________________

___ I am applying for the Undergraduate-level HMUI-SI.
___ I am applying for Graduate level HMUI-SI.

___ I will require campus residence.
___ I will not require campus residence.

I am available from June 1-July 31, 2008, M-F, 8AM – 5PM.
___ Yes
___ No
___ Don’t know

I am currently enrolled full-time on the following campus:
___ Urbana
___ Springfield
___ Chicago

I am currently employed on the above campus.
___ Yes
___ No

_____ Current G.P.A.  Major or Primary Field of Study______________________________________________________________

Current Status
___ Freshman    ___ Sophomore
___ Junior      ___ Senior      ___ A.B.D.

Highest Completed Degree________________________________________
Year/Institution Degree Received________________________________________

Using only the space below please provide a brief description of your current scholarly interests and relevance of oral, public, and life history training, and/or access to The HistoryMakers archives, to your academic goals.