



BLACK METROPOLIS
BMRC
RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

NEWS

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BMRC Archie Motley Spring 2016 interns Kellee Warren (l) and Alexandra McGee (r) at Chicago State University Archives working on the Provident Hospital Collection

Working under the guidance of Aaisha Haykal, the Chicago State University Archivist, Alex McGee and Kellee Warren have processed photos, financial records and correspondence, and student records from the Provident Hospital collection. The newly processed archives, valuable Chicago historic records, will be available to researchers this summer. Ms. McGee and Ms. Warren will complete their work on the Provident project at the CSU Archives and Special Collections in June.



BMRC Member Institutions

Bronzeville Historical Society,
Chicago

Columbia College Chicago,
Archives & Special Collections

Columbia College Chicago,
Center for Black Music
Research

Chicago History Museum,
Research Center

Chicago Public Library, Harold
Washington Library Center and
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Chicago State University,
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Dominican University, Rebecca
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Shorefront Legacy Center

University of Chicago, Special
Collections Research Center

University of Illinois, Library of
Health Sciences, Chicago
Special Collections &
University Archives, Richard J.
Daley Library, Special
Collections & University
Archives

Executive Director's Letter

In this issue of the BMRC newsletter, we are happy to announce the 2016 Summer Short-term Fellows with information on their research topics. Generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Fellows' research will focus on the areas of politics and the medical arts/public health. This summer we are looking forward to working with new partners for the Fellows final presentations, the International Museum of Surgical Science, the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago, and the Union League Club. Dates for some of the upcoming Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program events are noted in this newsletter.

This spring BMRC's Board of Directors amended the BMRC's by-laws to expand the organization's purpose to include advocacy: "The BMRC shall act as an advocate for the perseveration and enhancement of our member's holdings, the field of archival management, and the professional development of professionals and para-professionals working in fields of librarianship, and archival and museum management." In addition to making archival collections about Black life, history, and culture accessible to researchers, this expanded purpose positions the BMRC as an advocate for the archival management field in general and for the diversification of the archival record and professionals in the field.

The spring 2016 Archie Motley Archival Interns are close to finishing their work on the Provident Hospital records. With news of the collection becoming available for research, we understand that several scholars have scheduled time later this summer to begin using the Chicago State collection for producing original scholarship.

This summer the BMRC Archie Motley Archival Internship Program will partner with the University of Chicago's Odyssey Scholarship Program. Through this partnership, the BMRC will place one summer intern, Olivia Malone, at the Northwestern University to arrange African newspapers in preparation for a major digitization project. Two additional Odyssey scholars, Ariella Brotherson and Sabina Nau, will work with the staff at the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature, Chicago Public Library processing photo-based collections.

In closing, we hope to see you at one of the Fellowship programs this summer. Event dates and time will be posted on the BMRC's social media outlets and the website calendar. The Fellows' topics are timely and the new scholarship adds to the rich texture of Chicago's history.

Thank you for your continued support,
Camille Ann Brewer

2016 Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program

Through an international competition, the BMRC offers 1-month residential fellowships in the City of Chicago for its Summer Short-term Fellowship Program. Generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation since 2009, the Summer Short-term Fellowship Program has engaged scholars, artists, writers, and public historians from the United States and Europe to better formulate new historical narratives of Chicago's past. The new, original research and art developed through this program is significant as it illuminates the national and international importance of Chicago's African American community.

The purpose of the Summer Short-term Research Fellowship is:

- * To create research opportunities for scholars and artists to conduct primary research in Chicago-based archival repositories;
- * To generate new knowledge in the field of African American history;
- * To engage the local Chicago community in the history of their city.

The BMRC has introduced a new cohort model in which scholars, researchers, and artists will be selected based on their work in broad, yet defined, subject areas.

The subject areas slated for 2016 are: Politics; Medical Arts and Public Health

2016 marks the final year of President Barack Obama's tenure in the White House. The City of Chicago's political matrix, grassroots organizing, and rich political histories provided the foundation and context for Mr. Obama's rise to Illinois State Senator, US Senator and the President of the United States. The BMRC will solicit research proposals that address the political history of the Black Metropolis.

In 1891, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams started Provident Hospital and a training school for nurses to serve the health needs of the African American citizens in Chicago. Provident Hospital was the first Black-owned and operated hospital in the United States. Today, the University of Illinois College of Medicine, the largest medical school in the United States, continues to matriculate large numbers of African American students through its programs. Given the importance of this 125-year history in both medical education of African American healthcare providers and delivery of healthcare to African American communities in Chicago, the BMRC will select research proposals that investigate the many facets of the medical arts as they pertain to the lives of African Americans and public health issues in their communities.

2016 Fellowship Program: Meet Our Fellows!



William Adams, a Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies at University of Kansas will be working on a topic related to Politics titled, "Windy City Heroines: Black Women's Activism During the Harold Washington Campaign in 1983" from June 1 to August 1.



Misty De Berry, a Doctoral Student in Performance Studies at Northwestern University will be working on a topic related to Politics titled, "The Black Feminist Avant-Garde and Socially Engaged Art in Chicago, 1930s-1950s" from June 20-July.



Ayinde Jean-Baptiste, an independent audio documentarian will be working on a project titled "DuSable City." This project will focus on the existing connections across histories of Haitians and US African Americans in Chicago and Haiti in service of multi-generational dialogue.



Dr. Rami Gabriel, an Associate Professor of Psychology in the Department of Humanities, History, and Social Science at Columbia College Chicago will be working on a topic titled, "The Sounds of Chicago, Black Metropolis" from July-August.

2016 Fellowship Program: Meet Our Fellows!



Nathan Kuehnl, a Ph.D. Candidate in African American History from Wayne State University will be working on a topic related to Medical Arts/Public Health titled, "Health and the Color Line in Postwar America" from May 29-June 28.



Dr. Naa Oyo A. Kwate, an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and of Human Ecology at Rutgers University will be working on a topic related to Medical Arts/Public Health titled, "The Cost of the Burger: Fast Food in Black Urban Neighborhoods, 1955-1995" from June 1-30.



Dr. Gordon K. Mantler, an Assistant Professor of Writing and of History at George Washington University will be working on a topic related to Politics titled, "We Have Won: Harold Washington and Multiracial Politics in the Age of Reagan" from May 31-July 1.



David Miguel Molina, a Ph.D. Candidate in Communication, Rhetoric and Public Culture at Northwestern University will be working on a topic related to Politics titled, "A Complex Unity: Chicago Social Movements and the Uses of 'Coalition,' 1965-1975" from June 27-July 28.



Nichole Nelson, a Doctoral Student in History at Yale University will be working on a topic related to Politics titled, "Critical Crossroads: Three Suburbs' Journeys to Intentionally Racially Integrate" from June 20-July 20.

2016 Fellowship Program: Meet Our Fellows!



Melanie Newport, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of History at Temple University will be working on a topic related to Politics titled, "Cook County Jail: Racism, Violence, and the Dangerous History of Jail Reform" from end of June to early July.



C. Kevin Taber, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University will be working on a topic related to Politics titled, "Politics of the 'New' African Diaspora: The Evolution of Political Activities and Activism among Chicago's African Migrant Associations" from June to July.



Lisa Young, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of American Studies at Purdue University will be working on a topic related to Medical Arts/Public Health titled, "Mapping Black Women's Grassroots Health Activism in Chicago, 1930-1980" from June 27-August 1.

NEWS & KUDOS

BMRC Member Shorefront Legacy Center was awarded a **National Leadership Grant for Libraries**, in collaboration with the Amistad Research Center, the South Asian American Digital Archive, Mukurtu, and the Inland Empire Memories Project of the University of California-Riverside, will use a National Forum grant to host a series of meetings that will focus on integrating community archives in the National Digital Platform. The four meetings will convene a diverse group of community archives curators and practitioners, community members, scholars, and digital collections leaders, to discuss broader inclusion of these materials in national digital collections. Outcomes of the project will include a summary white paper providing recommendations for increased representation of marginalized communities and people in our digital cultural heritage.

2015 BMRC Fellow **Anita Mixon** received the **Distinguished Women Teacher's Award, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Award for Teaching Excellence Award**, based on student nominations. She has been selected as an **Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH)** Fellow for 2016-2017. The theme for the year is "Publics" and we will participate in year-long activities and Fellow Seminars. As a research fellow, which carries a stipend and tuition waiver, her primary focus will be her dissertation project. Ms. Mixon thanks the BMRC and its generous financial support, for firming up her dissertation project!

2015 BMRC Fellow **Carlos Javier Ortiz** received a **Guggenheim Fellowship in Film / Video**. Carlos plans to use the Guggenheim Fellowship to develop his next project, which is series of short films chronicling the contemporary stories of Black Americans who came to the North during the Great Migration. Beginning with his mother-in-law's story, Carlos is exploring the legacy of the Great Migration a century after it began. For Carlos, who moved back and forth between Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland as a child, the story of a displaced people in search of stability and economic opportunity resonates with his own.

2015 BMRC Fellow **Katrina Greene Wood** received acceptance for her dissertation proposal and candidacy to the **Art History Department at the University of Delaware**.

2015 BMRC Fellow **Kim Bobier** received a **Helena Rubinstein Fellowship in Critical Studies** for the 2015-16 Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program and for future publication of her article "Soundsuit Redux: Nick Cave as Emerging Artist and Forward-Thinking Racial Theorist" in the *International Review of African American Art*, Spring 2016.

2015 BMRC Fellow **Megan Rigsby Klein** passed her last qualifying exam on the Sociology of Race and Ethnicity in October, **successfully defending her dissertation proposal** in January and being awarded an **Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship** for next year from Loyola University. She is also writing a chapter for an upcoming book on the costs and consequences of school closures.

2015 BMRC Fellow **Diane Jones Allen** was featured in the November 2015 issue of ***Landscape Architecture Magazine*** and was asked to be a speaker at the Landscape Architecture 50th Anniversary Event "The New Landscape Declaration: Summit on Landscape and the Future" at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on June 10 and 11, 2016.

2015 BMRC Fellow **Jennifer Scism Ash** was awarded the **UIC Chancellor's Graduate Research Award** for her project titled: "No Longer "Swept Under the Rug": A History of Gender, Sexuality, and Political Organizing at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 1950s-1980s." Her research findings on Ebony's coverage of HBCUs will be included in this work.

2015 BMRC Fellow **Amani Morrison** won first prize in the National Council for Black Studies 2016 Graduate Student Essay Contest and also recently received University of California Berkeley's Bancroft Library Study Award. Her research with BMRC helped to hone ideas for a dissertation project; she is now undertaking a cultural history project focused solely on Chicago's South Side in the mid-twentieth century. She successfully completed her dissertation prospectus and had it approved by committee at the end of the fall semester. She is underway with researching and writing her first chapter and will return to Chicago's archives in the fall for more focused research.

Save the Dates!

June 27, 2016, 5:30pm-8:30pm: **Fellows Final Presentations at the International Museum of Surgical Science** featuring Dr. Naa Oyo Kwate and Nathan A. Kuehnl (see below for more information)

July 13, 2016, 4:00pm-6:00pm: **Fellows Final Presentations at the Institute of Politics, University of Chicago** featuring Misty De Berry, Nichole Nelson, and Melanie Newport

July 21, 2016, 1:00pm-4:00pm: **BMRC Annual Meeting**

2016 Black Metropolis Research Consortium Summer Short-Term Fellow Final Presentations

Dr. Naa Oyo A. Kwate is an Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Human Ecology, Associate Director of the Center for Race & Ethnicity at Rutgers University. Her project is titled: *The Cost of the Burger: Fast Food in Black Urban Neighborhoods, 1955-1995.*



Nathan A. Kuehnl is a Ph.D. Candidate in African American History at Wayne State University. His project is titled *Health and the Color Line in Postwar America.*

Please join us for an evening of research & refreshments.

Through an international competition, the BMRC offers 1-month residential fellowships in the City of Chicago for its Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program. Generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation since 2009, the Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program has engaged scholars, artists, writers, and public historians from all around the world to better formulate new historical narratives of Chicago's past. The new, original research and art developed through this program is significant as it illuminates the national and international importance of Chicago's African American community.

June 27, 2016, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

International Museum of Surgical Science

1524 N. Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60610

Register here: tinyurl.com/bmrcimsspres

Free and open to the public.



International Museum of Surgical Science
A Division of the International College of Surgeons

Background photo courtesy of the Provident Hospital and Nursing Training School Collection at Chicago State University