Announcing an exciting opportunity for History majors and other interested students at the University of Michigan: The Department of History and the Bentley Historical Library will designate six Bentley Michigan in the World Fellows who will collaborate on a public history project during May-June. The program carries an award of $2500.

Working with Professor LaKisha Simmons and a graduate student supervisor, fellows will conduct historical research, write a weekly report for the project blog, and co-author a digital exhibit. Fellows will gain valuable experience in researching and interpreting history as well as in project management, teamwork, writing concisely for public audiences, presenting material on the internet, and more—all skills that employers like to see. In 2018, the topic for Michigan in the World is: The Social World of Black Women at the University of Michigan, 1920-1975.

Black female students have been attending The University of Michigan for over a century, well before many other colleges and universities began admitting black students or women. This project will explore the social world of black students—investigating their lives before, in, and after their time at University of Michigan.

• How did black students fit into Ann Arbor—where did they eat, hangout and live? Were they welcome in all spaces of the city?
• Where did black college students live before (and after) the dorms were integrated?
• What type of leisure and pleasure activities did black female students engage in? Did they start clubs? Did they enjoy new fashions?
• Where did black female students come from? Were they part of the Great Migration? What was their family and class background? Where did they go once they graduated?
• What type of jobs opportunities did black female graduates pursue given the limited career paths available to black women in the United States?
• How have black women at Michigan participated in activism on campus and in Ann Arbor?

Expectations: Bentley Michigan in the World Fellows will be expected to work 30 hours per week for eight weeks, primarily at the Bentley Historical Library. The $2500 award will be paid over the eight weeks.

Eligibility: The Bentley Michigan in the World Program is primarily an opportunity for History majors. Applications are also encouraged from undergraduates who are minoring in History or majoring in the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS), Women’s Studies, and other applicable disciplines.

Format: Interested students can view previous exhibits created by undergraduates in the Michigan in the World program.

Application Process: Please submit a brief (maximum two-page) statement that explains your interest in the program and this particular topic, describes your prior research experiences, and highlights the diverse skills and experiences that you will bring to the research team. Combine this application statement with your transcript into a PDF and submit the document to MITW-admin@umich.edu by midnight, March 23, 2018. Please ask a faculty member to send a brief endorsement of your application to MITW-admin@umich.edu by midnight, March, 23, 2018.

Michigan in the World is presented by the Department of History with support from the Bentley Historical Library and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.