

Faculty Member Contact Information

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| Contact Info | |
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| Campus Box | Box 1777 |
| Department | Theater and Dance |

1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant(s)

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 9

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- N

Location of research/creative activities:

- Dunham Hall, Room 2025

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

- Students will participate in the early development of a digital humanities project that recovers the legacies of Black dance across Connecticut's cultural landscape, including artistry, training, and entrepreneurship. Through a range of activities, students will work with archival materials, maps, and ethnographic planning to begin documenting a regional history that has remained underrepresented. The project combines historical preservation with digital storytelling to produce a permanent and accessible record of these artistic movements. By synthesizing these records, the project highlights the enduring impact of Black dancers on the state's cultural heritage.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

- Students will serve as research assistants responsible for conducting preliminary inquiries and building a comprehensive project bibliography. Their work involves deep engagement with specialized collections at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, the New Haven Memory Lab, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, as well as books, performances, oral histories, and the ACDF Archives.
- Students will also collect geographical and cultural data and help draft the framework for upcoming ethnographic interviews with community members. The meeting schedule for the semester will follow a flexible hybrid model, dividing hours between remote investigative tasks and in-person collaborative sessions held at Dunham Hall. Students are expected to communicate effectively, demonstrate curiosity, complete nine hours per week, and maintain meticulous documentation of their findings. Formal credit will be awarded to students for their contributions.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

- By the end of the semester, students will have learned how to navigate archives and verify primary sources across a range of institutions, interlocutors, and materials. They will have gained practical skills in arts and humanities workflows and methods, including how to organize large, scattered, and incomplete datasets for historical recovery. Students will also learn the basics of ethnographic planning, with a focus on the ethics involved in recording histories in Black communities. Students will ultimately produce tangible contributions to a growing archive and build a stronger understanding of regional dance and Black history.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- I will work with the student to find an agreeable time.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- N/A

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- N/A

Other requirements or notes to applicants: