Each year the UNC-Duke Consortium for Latin American & Caribbean Studies offers competitive fellowships for scholars who want to use our library resources called the College Educators Research Fellowship (CERF). Priority goes to researchers from officially recognized Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Predominately Black Institutions, Minority Serving Institutions, and community colleges. Corin Zaragoza Estrera talked with the fellows selected by the UNC Libraries for 2019-2020. Below is the interview with Instructor Renée Lindsey from Davidson County Community College.

*Tell us a little bit about yourself. Walk us through your CV.*

When I started college, I wasn't completely sure what I wanted to do with my career, but I knew that I wanted it to revolve around art. I started in the studio art program at Salem College, and as part of the program, I had to take numerous art history classes. With those classes, I was inspired. My professors were so knowledgeable about art, explaining cultures from long ago, making it relatable by providing art as visual aids and not just facts and dates of important events. I knew that my end goal was to be a professor, to help inspire future generations by teaching them about the past and themselves by using art. I completed internships in different fields, such as museum curation and museum education, in order to see if I truly wanted to work in higher education or if I wanted to work with art directly and educate people in a museum setting. I was accepted into the University of Kentucky masters program, and I was granted a teaching assistant position in my second year there. After that, I knew that I wanted to teach. While finishing my thesis, I got a job teaching in community colleges at home in North Carolina, and I was intrigued by the different assortment of people that came through the community college system. I realized that I could reach more people by teaching them in their community, and have been teaching in different counties for several years now.

*What was your research project this summer?*

My research project for this summer was to create a survey course for Latin American art history. Usually non-Western art, art that isn't European or American, is given the short straw in art history programs. Pre-Hispanic and Latin American art is barely covered in most programs, and I wanted to create a class that would satisfy this deficiency in art history education.

*How was the information you gathered at the UNC Libraries useful?*

The UNC libraries were great resources during this project. They have a huge collection of Pre-Hispanic and Latin American texts. I was almost afraid that I found too much information! The information I initially gathered was used as a base for me to start building the course and to know what material I need to get in order to keep putting together the curriculum for this class.

*What interested you most during your stay?*

What interested me the most about my stay at UNC was how helpful everyone was with this project. The people I talked to, especially Teresa Chapa, the Latin American Librarian, knew that this was an important project and went out of their way to help me find everything that I needed in order to get started.

Read more interviews with CERF Duke fellows Dr. Shearon Roberts at <https://blogs.library.duke.edu/blog/2019/08/22/a-interview-with-shearon-roberts/> and Prof. Rachel Chrane at <https://blogs.library.duke.edu/blog/2019/08/27/an-interview-with-prof-rachel-chrane/>.