

REPORT ON THE DR. DORIS DERBY ENDOWMENT

from the Department of African American Studies, University of Illinois

The Department of African American Studies at the University of Illinois is very pleased to provide this report in recognition of support from the endowment funded created by Dr. Doris Derby. Dr. Derby received her PhD from the University of Illinois in Anthropology in 1980. She retired after a very distinguished career at Georgia State University. She was active in the arts and worked in civil rights with SNCC, the Student National Coordinating Committee. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doris_Derby

Dr. Derby received the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award, given “The LAS Alumni Achievement Award “is given to the alumnus or alumna who, by outstanding achievement, has demonstrated the values derived from a liberal arts and sciences education.” Over the decades, her life and work have been highlighted in many books, publications, exhibits, video, and public art installations. Her photographs are in *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC* (2010), to which she also contributed an essay about her experiences in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement. She is co-producer for a 2015 documentary “Dirt and Deeds in Mississippi.” She contributed \$50,000 to establish two endowed funds, one in the Department of African American Studies and one in the Bruce Nesbitt African American Cultural Center (BNAACC). The interest earned on these endowments will assure continued support for student.

Our first grant from the endowment was to support UIUC pre-med students who traveled to Philadelphia to participate in the 2019 national meeting of AMEC—the American Medical Education Conference. Support was provided using funds from the Doris A. Derby endowment.



Pictured in these photographs are Miciah Wilkerson and Mariel Galvan, who initiated the request from African American Studies;; and in the second picture, Prince Boadi, Christopher Jones, Mariel Galvan, Miciah Wilkerson, and a friend Kristyn from Howard University



Participating students were so impacted by the experiences that they produced a short video to chronicle the experience <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7dlJdlyFlc>. The video is an important resource for future work. We hear from students on the impact of such support and how it contributes to furthering their career plans. We will adopt this way of having students summarize the opportunities provided by the support from AFRO and the Derby Endowment. Derby has continued her involvement with UIUC students and faculty. In March 2016, she met the group of 50 Illinois students participating in the 2016 UIUC Civil Rights Pilgrimage. She suggested that the itinerary be revised to include at Paschal’s where she joined us for lunch. She has returned to campus on several occasions.

The Department’s plan to continue using the Endowment for support of students was postponed by the University’s decision to cancel all travel in 2020-2021 because of COVID. We have requests, one from a group of student filmmakers who have established a new student campus organization. rwb 9/13/21