

Arizona State University Graduate Students Collecting Data for Archival Project
Arizona State University Internship Program

SPARTANBURG, SC- Arizona State University has enlisted its graduates' students (on campus and online) in a internship to contribute information to an archive dedicated to documenting COVID-19 happenings. Students were responsible for selecting their own specialized topic, for which they are submitting and collecting information for. Local student, Kiersten Camby has created a collection called COVID Bride, which centers around how the pandemic has affected weddings across the nation. This collection seeks to bring solidarity to those who are struggling with changes and looking for alternatives as their events are being affected. The interns have created calls for submissions which detail how to submit your materials to the archive so that they may be preserved for generations to come.

The archive that students are submitting to is titled the Journal of the Plague Year archive or JOTPY for short. JOTPY is open to the public for submissions and is made up of a plethora of resources and topics. Topics include, but are not limited to, education, politics, healthcare, music, and more. The archive was created by a team of historians and faculty from Arizona State University. This team includes the esteemed Dr. Kole de Peralta and Dr. Tebeau. The rest of the team is comprised of a group of curatorial leads from ASU as well as, Bowling Green State University, Depaul University, and Flagler College, as well as graduate curators, graduate fellows, and interns from Arizona State and UCLA. The topic that this particular release is focusing on is intern, Kiersten Camby's COVID Bride collection. This collection is geared towards couples who have had a difficult time planning or carrying out their wedding plans due to COVID-19. The pandemic has uprooted many life events, but weddings are that which people spend a year or better planning for. The purpose of this collection is to document the changes in weddings such as postponements, limiting guest counts, losing vendors, or deciding to continue under limitations. It also seeks to document the detrimental effect that COVID-19 has had on the wedding industry as well as the vendors and businesses involved.

Submitting to this collection can help to preserve an interesting string of events in time. This may be the first-time life events such as weddings have been so grievously affected in the United States of America since the Spanish Influenza pandemic. This is also an excellent opportunity to help the students of Arizona State University complete a once in a life time project. We are in now in times that are uncharted territory, by submitting to the archive individuals are able to help preserve details surrounding life events that may not have been recorded otherwise. Whether it be centered around weddings or your submissions take a different turn (healthcare, arts, leisure, education), they will be contributing to preserving a truly historical and unprecedented time for future generations to analyze and research in the future. Let's make sure to provide them with ample material.

