



Undergraduate Student Profiles

Vivian Phan

Ong Center for Digital Humanities

Undergraduate student Vivian Phan has been working as an intern with Dr. Torrie Hester and the Ong Center for Digital Humanities by researching immigration history. Vivian, a junior majoring in History and minoring in Asian Studies, says that the project undertaken with Dr. Hester “was very fitting for me, as immigration and law are major interests of mine.” While assisting with research on Japanese immigrants for Dr. Hester’s forthcoming monograph on immigration history, Vivian has conducted research such as finding important primary source documents and citing legal sources, as well as maintaining the History Department’s alumni database. Through these experiences, she “became more familiar with research databases, such as knowing which ones are appropriate for certain sources, and overall navigating them. Research can be a really difficult process, so when you finally find a document or a paper trail that has led you to where you need to go, it can be immensely satisfying.”



In addition to researching alongside Dr. Hester, Vivian is currently in the early stages of a digital humanities project through SLU’s Ong Center for Digital Humanities that seeks to visualize and digitize immigration history. She plans to take a gap year to look at law schools and study for the LSAT, with the goal of beginning law school in 2022. As a History major, Vivian says that working and studying in the History Department has helped “consolidate my major and focus of study. I’ve never met a History teacher at SLU that I’ve disliked. They’re so competent, understanding, and accomplished. And its size actually makes the History Department, as a whole, more close-knit.”

We’re so proud of all that you have done with us, Vivian, and we can’t wait to see what your future holds in law school and beyond!