

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Humphries,

My name is Nika Cooper and I am receiving the Kenyon High Impact Practice Experience Fund for my summer research. I am a rising senior from Urbana, IL. This summer I have been working with my Professor Eliza Ablovatski on our project “Layered Traumas: The First World War Refugee Crisis and Holocaust Survivor Testimonies.” We are researching refugees from the Czernowitz and Bukowina region of Austro-Hungary and their experiences during World War I, as well as their future experiences during the Holocaust, as many were Jewish. As part of my research, I have been gathering and examining primary sources such as newspapers and governmental documents in German and Russian from these time periods for historical context and a deeper understanding of their experiences. I spent the first portion of my research finishing my study abroad program in Vienna, and so was able to look through local libraries for sources there as well as to travel to Graz to look through the Steiermärkisches Landesarchiv. This was my first time working in an archive and it was possible due to this fund and the financial assistance that has come with it. It was absolutely a dream come true to look through these hundred-year-old documents and photographs, as well as to be able to navigate them in German. I have gained many important skills through this opportunity that will be crucial in my further education and future career, as I plan to continue working within this time period and using these language and research skills. My work this summer has also inspired me for deciding on my own senior thesis in the history major at Kenyon and I now have developed the skills and experiences I need for my future, which is possible thanks to your support.

Thank you,

Nika