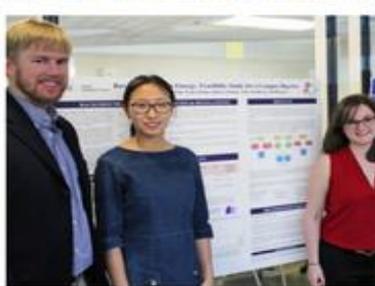


Duke

UNIVERSITY

BASS CONNECTIONS



WHAT IS BASS CONNECTIONS?

Bass Connections is a university-wide program that supports interdisciplinary, collaborative research around societal challenges through:

- Year-long **project teams**
- Summer **research programs**: Data+, Story+ (*on pause for Summer 2024*), Summer Neuroscience Program, Global Health Student Research Training
- Semester-long **courses**
- Student **research grants**

WHY BASS CONNECTIONS?

Complex, multidimensional problems require collaboration and an interdisciplinary approach.

- Climate change
- Democracy and governance
- Human rights
- Energy access
- Infectious disease
- Social inequality
- Gun violence
- And many, many more!

WHY BASS CONNECTIONS?

Employers are looking for students with problem solving skills and experience working on teams.



Figure 1: Attributes Employers Seek on a Candidate's Resume

ATTRIBUTE	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS
Ability to work in a team	81.0%
Problem-solving skills	79.0%
Analytical/quantitative skills	76.1%
Communication skills (verbal)	73.2%
Communication skills (written)	72.7%
Initiative	67.8%
Leadership	67.8%
Technical skills	67.8%
Flexibility/adaptability	65.9%
Strong work ethic	65.4%

Source: *Job Outlook 2021 Spring Update*, National Association of Colleges and Employers

HOW DO PROJECT TEAMS WORK?

Bass Connections project teams bring together faculty, postdocs, graduate students, undergraduates and external partners to tackle complex societal challenges on **interdisciplinary research teams**.

- Faculty propose project teams in the fall
- Bass Connections selects project teams for funding
- Approximately 60-65 new project teams are announced to students each January (*in 2024, new projects will be announced on January 16*)
- Students apply to teams, and applications are reviewed by team leaders
- Accepted students enroll for credit on their project teams for both semesters of participation; some students participate for pay or travel financing over the summer



INTERDISCIPLINARY THEMES

- **Brain & Society:** Using brain science to help solve society's most pressing problems
- **Energy & Environment:** Addressing critical energy and environmental challenges
- **Global Health:** Working creatively and collectively to address health disparities worldwide
- **Health Policy & Innovation:** Creating solutions to improve health and well-being in the U.S.
- **Information, Society & Culture:** Exploring the evolution of society and culture through the lens of data
- **Race & Society:** Investigating how race shapes society and lived experience
- **Bass Connections Open:** For areas of research that fall outside the scope of the themes listed above
- *Pop-Ups: For emergent/urgent challenges confronting society*

PROJECT TEAM EXAMPLES

Each project team page includes a detailed project description, anticipated outputs, student opportunities, timelines and a list of team leaders.

Browse the [full list of project teams](#) – filter by theme, focus area and special opportunities

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Rosetta Reitz's Musical Archive of Care (2023-2024)

Background

Rosetta Reitz was a 20th-century feminist writer, business owner, and record and concert producer. After a career in which she published two books, owned a bookstore and wrote for music and culture publications, Reitz started Rosetta Records in 1979, the first and only record label specializing in women's jazz and blues music, dedicated to rereleasing previously underappreciated recordings.

Through rigorously written liner notes, song selections, album art and concerts, she searched for the language that would do justice to the music of Black women whose work had been ignored or diminished. In the words of performance studies scholar Daphne A. Brooks, Reitz was a "multi-hyphenate wonder" whose work is a model of meticulous research, a politics of care in the archive, and intellectual humility.

Project Description

This project will use Reitz's papers housed in Duke's [David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library](#) to inform and construct a new model of creative and scholarly practice for the 21st century.

During the first phase of work, project members will work together to dig into the Rosetta Reitz archive, while also completing supplemental readings of secondary sources analyzing Reitz's rigorous process, impact and values of reciprocity and care. During this time, the entire team will meet weekly and develop their own ethic of care by doing, reading and discussing.

Students will then form several subteams to work on specific tasks aimed at adapting lessons from the archives for contemporary projects. These tasks include working with musicians from the Rosetta Circle (a group of artists dedicated to carrying forward Reitz's commitment to practices of care) to create a musical and oral storytelling project; researching possibilities for a public-facing Rosetta Records web archive; or extending Reitz's teaching, writing and advocacy work. There will be biweekly whole-team opportunities to visit the archives and meet contemporary musicians from an under-represented genre or demographic.

Anticipated Outputs

Digital or physical exhibit featuring Reitz's work; advocacy campaign around a person or issue consistent with Reitz's approach updated for the 21st century; series of contextualized public musical performances; compilation recording (or playlist) with album art and liner notes; podcast interweaving historical research with contemporary implications



Team Leaders

- Margaret (Lou) Brown, Franklin Humanities Institute
- Laura Micham, Duke Libraries

Graduate Team Members

- Cynthia Ballard, Art and Art History-PhD, Art and Art History-AM
- Anne Koppes, Music-PhD

Undergraduate Team Members

- Lindsay Frankfort
- Trisha Santanam, English (AB)
- Joyce Thomas
- Jiantong Zhang, DKU Interdisciplinary Studies (BA)

Faculty/Staff Team Contributors

- Craig Breaden, Duke Libraries
- Hannah Jacobs, Arts & Sciences-Art, Art History, and Visual Studies

Community Team Members

Student Opportunities

Ideally, this project team will include 5 graduate students and 9 undergraduate students. Students from any humanities or arts discipline would be strong candidates. Prospective applicants should have taken courses that developed understanding of any of the following topics: race and popular culture; feminisms; historical/archival methods; textual analysis; music creation, production and performance; sound/audio production and editing; and/or visual art/graphic design.

Team leaders welcome graduate students from any humanities or arts discipline and are seeking, in particular, at least one student with advanced studies in race and popular culture and/or feminist studies and race, with experience conducting archival research. Master of Fine Arts students with experience working in visual and graphic design and graduate students at any level with audio/video production experience are encouraged to apply.

Prospective applicants should be willing to embrace the collaborative, collective nature of the work. Students will gain experience in textual analysis, writing for the public, interviewing, audio recording and editing, music performance and production, event production and management, creation of digital or physical exhibits, and the development of print and digital advocacy campaigns. They will have the opportunity to collaborate with musicians and multimedia producers toward creating new music recordings and podcasts.

Three graduate students will be selected for the roles of project manager, music coordinator and visual art coordinator. The project manager will develop and demonstrate leadership and project management skills, including workflow, multimedia data management, conflict mediation and budget management. The music coordinator will take the lead in managing music and podcast production and will work closely with professional musicians in the Rosetta Circle. The visual art coordinator will manage graphic design project work.

In Fall 2023, this team will meet on Mondays from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Timing

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

- **Fall 2023:** Conduct archival research and literature review; engage with musicians; develop subgroup themes and goals; begin to define specific outputs for each subgroup
- **Spring 2024:** Continue research; finalize plans for specific subgroup outputs; implement plans for interviewing, design work, production, etc.

Crediting

[Academic credit available](#) for fall and spring semesters

- Tift Merritt, Hungry River Collective, Rosetta Circle

Theme(s):

- [Bass Connections Open](#)

KEY FEATURES OF PROJECT TEAMS

- **Leadership and intellectual diversity:** Teams are led by two or more faculty leaders from different disciplines and are designed to be intellectually diverse (i.e., including students and faculty from different disciplines and students at different stages of their academic studies)
- **Student participation:** Teams generally include 8-12 students (graduate and undergraduate); students receive credit for their work during the academic year; in the summer, students may receive travel financing or compensation for their participation
- **Applied research:** Teams often engage external partners as clients, sponsors and/or advisors
- **Project length:** Teams last for 9 to 12 months (with possibility of continuing); teams meet weekly (at minimum) and students should budget 10 hours/week for work related to their project team
- **Team structure:** Teams may operate as a full unit or may break into subteams; many teams employ project managers

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for 2024-2025 project teams will be due on February 12 by 5 p.m. ET

- **Online application:** Fill in background information, resume, contact information for two references, general short answer question and team-specific short answer questions.
- **Apply to *up to three* project teams:** You must rank your selections in order of interest (e.g., first choice, second choice, third choice).
- **Selection process:** Team leaders review applications and may contact applicants for additional information or an interview. First-round decisions will be made by mid-March; all decisions are finalized by the end of March.
- **Acceptance:** You may only participate on *one team per academic year*. You must commit for both semesters.
- **Tips for a successful application:** Read the project descriptions carefully to tailor your application responses for particular teams; include why you are interested in the project(s) and how you can contribute to the work.

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU APPLY

Join us at the Bass Connections Fair on Friday, January 26 from 2-4 p.m.

- Look for a project team focused on a **topic you are passionate about**
- Make sure you **understand the requirements** of a project before applying; attend the Bass Connections Fair on Friday, January 26 to learn more about projects from team leaders
- **Talk with your advisor** to understand how participating aligns with your degree requirements
- **Be prepared to actively participate** in all team meetings and activities over the course of the project (projects can range from nine to 12 months, and may include a summer component; some teams are funded across multiple years and include option to continue)
- Plan to commit about the same amount of time to your project as you would a course (i.e., **~12 hours/week**)
- **Be prepared to grapple with ambiguity** and a changing landscape – research on complex problems is an exploratory process that takes time and a willingness to adapt to roadblocks/challenges

BENEFITS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Undergraduate students can build foundational research skills in a small-group setting and learn how to apply coursework to a complex societal challenge. Additional benefits of participating include:

- Developing a deep understanding of an issue or area of interest
- Deepening relationships with key faculty and networking with colleagues in diverse fields
- Engaging with communities and organizations outside of Duke
- Exploring career paths and gaining valuable experience for your resume
- Enhancing honors thesis research
- Gaining skills in research translation and communication
- Co-authoring research posters and publications

LEARN MORE

- Note these dates:
 - January 16, 2024: [Project teams](#) announced
 - January 26, 2024: [Bass Connections Fair](#)
- Read our [Student FAQs](#)
- Preview our [online application](#)
- Browse [stories from students](#) and [alumni](#) about their Bass Connections experience
- View [team profiles](#) and examples of [publications and other outputs](#) resulting from project teams
- Take your research further with a [Student Research Award](#) (applications for 2024 awards open on November 13, 2023)
- Sign up for our [newsletter](#)
- Contact us: bassconnections@duke.edu