

The Herbert Shapiro Scholarship in African American History

The History Department is pleased to announce a new scholarship, endowed by the family of the late Herbert Shapiro, a specialist in African American History and a member of the UC faculty for thirty-five years. Professor Shapiro passed away in 2012, and his wife, Judy, and children endowed the scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences in January 2017.

Professor Shapiro was born in Queens, New York, and earned three degrees: a BA from Queens College, an MA from Columbia University, and a PhD from the University of Rochester. Before joining the faculty at UC, he taught at Morehouse College from 1962 to 1966, where he promoted black liberation and social justice at an institution that was still segregated. He was an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, accompanying Dr. Martin Luther King in his march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, along with and his own family. At UC, he became a dedicated teacher and an established interpreter of African American history.

The Herbert Shapiro Scholarship in African American History was established to support graduate students in the Department of History, either at the MA or PhD level, doing research in this field, especially whose topics focus on the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality for African Americans. This scholarship ensures that they can continue this important work as a legacy of Professor Shapiro's productive career.