

# Careers in History

(Source: Barbara J. Howe, *Careers for Students of History*)

History is one of the core disciplines of the liberal arts. The wide range of career possibilities makes it difficult for students to make the most appropriate choices. Therefore, in pursuing a career in history, the following are important considerations:

- ✓ The range of career possibilities is so large that it is difficult to make appropriate choices if you believe that studying history is merely accumulating facts about the past.
- ✓ Focus on the skills that history majors develop while considering career choices:
  - Critical thinking
  - Logical argumentation
  - Assessing values
  - Research & analysis of data
  - Effective writing and oral skills
  - Solving historical problems
  - Understanding how the present is shaped by the past
- ✓ Historians rarely draw only on their history background and should take courses that complement their career interests (e.g. computer technology, photography, journalism, archeology, architecture, business, geology, public speaking, management, etc.).
- ✓ No matter your career choice, be prepared to have to start at an entry level that will provide you with additional opportunities.
- ✓ Take advantage of internship opportunities or volunteer work that provide experience and help to define interests.
- ✓ Articulate your skills in meaningful ways that potential employers can understand without being familiar with historical studies.
- ✓ Develop resumes and letters of application that explain the skills and advantages that you will bring to a job.