



**History of the Federal Reserve**  
**Richard White (COL 2019)**  
**Advisor: Peter Conti-Brown**

For my project, I had the pleasure of working with Professor Peter Conti-Brown of the Legal Studies & Business Ethics Dept. of the Wharton School, as I assisted him in researching for his upcoming book on the history of the Federal Reserve. My tasks consisted mainly of researching various literature over people/events related to the Fed and putting together comprehensive reports based on this information that Professor Conti-Brown could then use while writing his book. I worked with primary and secondary sources both in-person at the library and, more commonly, online.

In performing this research, I found myself reading everything from doctoral dissertations to historic newspaper articles, and I learned a good deal about the Fed in the process. I was also given the opportunity to take a funded research trip to the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Archives in Independence, Missouri in order to study and photograph documents that would be valuable for the book. I found the visit to be extremely worthwhile, as I had never taken an official research trip before. Indeed my entire summer experience through the PURM proved to be quite meaningful.

In researching for Professor Conti-Brown's book, I learned valuable skills. Prior to this project, I had much less of an idea of how to go about researching a historical topic in its entirety; I now know where and how to look – online or in the library – in order to find what I need. Certainly, I realize now that historical research is a puzzle that takes many approaches to solve. In addition to this, I gained valuable insight into what it means to do historical work. This experience will prove to be very influential as I evaluate and make career decisions in the future.

Lastly, I consider myself extremely fortunate for being given the opportunity to work with Professor Conti-Brown. I never expected to spend my first summer at Penn working with such a foremost expert in his topic. As the "M" in "PURM" suggests, he was an excellent mentor. I truly enjoyed my time working through PURM and I look forward to continuing my research with Professor Conti-Brown this school year.