



Details for NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers

NEH Timeline for Application, Selection Process, and Seminar:

- March 1: Application Deadline (Note that all materials must be sent to Shepherd, including the downloaded NEH cover sheet); Selection Committee meets in March
- March 28: Announcement of Awards and Alternates
- April 6: Acceptance Deadline and Award Letters
- June 2018: Submission of all NEH and WV State Required Forms; Assignments Posted on Sakai
- July 8-28: NEH Summer Institute for Teachers, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV

Stipend, Seminar Expenses, Travel and Accommodations:

- The NEH Summer Seminar for School Teachers stipend of \$2700.00 will be dispensed in two checks, according to NEH guidelines: July 8 and July 29;
- Graduate credit for the seminar can be obtained through the University [Graduate Studies](#) Program, at \$890.00 with special NEH waivers for the 3-Cr. course;
- Accommodations during the institute will be provided in the [Dunlop and Printz Apartment Complex](#), at \$31.50 per night = \$630.00. Each apartment has a kitchen, two-three private bedrooms with shared bath and common area; free laundry facilities are available (accommodations' cost deducted from second NEH stipend);
- Meals can be purchased at several venues on campus and a list of those venues and their hours will be furnished upon arrival. However, Dunlop and Printz suites have kitchen facilities and Shepherdstown has an array of [exquisite restaurants](#);
- [Shepherd University Wellness Center](#), with its full range of classes and modern facilities and equipment is available to participants for \$21 for the month of July;

- Flights to and from [Dulles International Airport](#) are convenient to Shepherdstown, a 50-minute drive from campus (as scholars begin to make plans, every attempt will be made to coordinate airport travel if possible);
- Transportation will be provided for tours of [Antietam Battlefield](#), [Harpers Ferry and Storer College](#), and [the Appalachian Road-trip to the Culture Center](#), [Hawks Nest State Park](#), [New River Gorge area](#), [Thurmond Ghost Town and RR Depot National Park](#), and the [Beckley Coal Mine Exhibit](#). Shepherdstown is small enough to get around without an automobile, with fine restaurants and amenities within a short walk. An optional weekend Smithsonian museum trip associated with seminar topics is available for those scholars who are interested, with transportation furnished by the Appalachian Studies program: [National Museum of the American Indian](#), [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#), and [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#).

Application Process:

Applications must include the official NEH application cover sheet, submitted online at the NEH website and downloaded for the Misty Mountains application: <http://www.neh.gov/>.

Hardcopies or pdf electronic file of **all required materials** must also be mailed directly to

Brenda Feltner
Shepherd University
PO Box 5000
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
BFeltner@shepherd.edu

The required submission materials (mail in hardcopy or a scanned PDF emailed) must include the following: 1) copy of NEH Application Cover Sheet; 2) 2-3 page application essay which includes how the *Voices from the Misty Mountains* Summer Seminar for Teachers will specifically benefit the work of the applicant; 3) Resumé; 4) two letters of recommendation.

Seminar Staff, Artists, and Scholars:



Denise Giardina

Denise Giardina is a novelist and playwright who grew up in a coal camp in McDowell County, West Virginia. After receiving her B.A. in history from West Virginia Wesleyan College and M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary (Episcopal) in Alexandria, Virginia, she published her first novel in 1984, *Good King Harry* (Harper and Row 1984), followed by *Storming Heaven* (W.W. Norton, 1987), *The Unquiet Earth* (W.W. Norton, 1992), *Saints and Villains* (W.W. Norton, 1998), and *Emily's Ghost* (W.W. Norton, 2009). She is also the author of a play, "Robert and Ted" (2012). *Storming Heaven* was a Discovery selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, and a New Voices selection of the Quality Paperback Book Club, as well as winner of the 1987 Weatherford Award for the best published

work about the Appalachian South. *The Unquiet Earth* received an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation, and the Lillian Smith Award for fiction, while *Saints and Villains* was awarded the 1999 Boston Book Review Fisk Fiction Prize and was a semifinalist for the International Dublin Literary Award. Giardina's op-ed pieces have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Charleston (WV) Gazette and Daily Mail*. She has published in *The Nation*, *Southern Exposure*, *Emmy*, and the *Village Voice*. She is also the author of an original half-hour screenplay, *The Gift Horse*, filmed by West Virginia Public Television in 1996. Giardina was the 2005 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence at Shepherd University and recipient of the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award. Giardina received Creative Writing Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1988 and 1996. In March of 2007 she received the Hillsdale Prize for Fiction for her contributions to Southern literature from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. She now lives in Charleston, West Virginia, is retired from West Virginia State University, and is an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church.



Frank X Walker

Frank X Walker was born in Danville, Kentucky, and grew up in the "projects." He attended the University of Kentucky for his undergraduate degree and Spaulding University for his MFA degree. He was appointed the first African American Kentucky Poet Laureate in 2013, and is today Professor of Poetry at the University of Kentucky. Walker is recipient of the NAACP Image Award, the Lillian Smith Book Award for *The Journey of York*, and the Kentucky Public Librarians Choice Award nominee for *Affrilachia*. He received the Lannan Fellowship for Poetry in 2005 and the Al Smith Fellowship in 2006, as well as the Thomas D. Clark Literary Award for Excellence. In 2013, Walker received the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award, funded by the WV Humanities Council, and in 2016 he was the keynote conference speaker for the international Appalachian Studies Conference. Walker is founding member of the Affrilachian Poets and founding editor and publisher of *PLUCK*. Walker coined the word Affrilachia, and much of his work is devoted to discovering lost Affrilachian and African American heroes. For information about Frank X Walker, see the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence 2013 website at <http://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/walker/>



Silas House

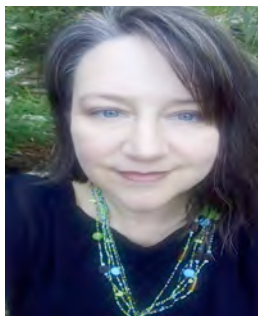
Silas House is a musician, environmentalist, poet, dramatist, and fiction writer born in 1971 and growing up in Lily, Kentucky. House graduated from Eastern Kentucky University. House has a BA in English, specializing in American literature. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Spaulding University. House's poetry, plays, and novels have been touted as products of a remarkable and profound voice in Appalachia. In 2008, he was singularly honored at the Appalachian Studies Association Conference for his body of work and has twice delivered the ASA keynote address to that organization. His trilogy—*Clay's Quilt* (2001), *A Parchment of Leaves* (2002), and *The Coal Tattoo* (2004)—have won an array of awards: two Kentucky Novel of the Year awards, the Award for Special Achievement from the Fellowship of Southern

Writers, the Appalachian Book of the Year Award, and the Chaffin Award. House's books have been singled out as finalists for the Southern Book Critics' Circle Prize, and he has received two Pushcart Prize nominations. Mentored by Lee Smith, House has written fiction that has appeared in *Oxford American*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *The Louisville Review*, and other journals and magazines. House directed the Mountain Heritage Literary Festival at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, was a contributing editor to *No Depression Magazine*, and was one of Nashville's most successful public relations writers. He co-edited with Jason Howard *Something's Rising*, a collection of oral histories on the topic of mountaintop removal, and he was selected to edit the posthumous manuscript of Appalachian writer James Still. House's *Eli the Good* was published in 2009, and his latest play is *Family of Strangers* (2016). *Same Sun Here*, co-authored with Neela Vasvani (2011) won a Nautillus Book Award. House has just completed a folk opera with Sam Cleaves called *In the Fields*, currently in preparation for production in Oxford, Mississippi. House holds an NEH Chair in Appalachian Studies at Berea College. For further details about Silas House, see <https://www.ushmm.org/> or see the Appalachian Heritage WIR website at <http://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/house/>.



Ed Herendeen

Ed Herendeen is founder and director of the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF), <http://www.catf.org>, which has introduced new works by Sam Shepard, Joyce Carol Oats, David Mamet, Richard Dresser, and Lee Blessing. Under Ed's leadership, the Contemporary American Theater Festival has produced 110 new plays, including forty-seven world premieres and nine commissions. Each summer, the Festival generates a local economic impact of over 2.1 million dollars in the Eastern Panhandle. Herendeen is proud of the fact that he is producing the newest dramatic theater pieces in the oldest town in West Virginia. Ed's work has been touted in newspapers across the region and the country, including *The Washington Post*, *The Times*, and *Playbill.com*, as "provocative," "astounding," "exceptional," "thought-provoking," "original," and "life-altering." CATF was listed in 2016 by *WorldGuide* as one of the top summer festivals in the world and as a *NY Times* Essential Summer Festival.



Rachael Meads

Rachael Meads is teacher, administrator, and an Appalachian scholar, who teaches the Appalachian Culture courses at Shepherd University; she also serves as the Performing Arts Director at Shepherd (PASS) and Director of the Appalachian Heritage Festival, <http://passweb.shepherdpb.com/>. Rachael is a long-time enthusiast for the region, and she is dedicated to preserving Appalachian culture and traditions, as well as being a proponent of environmental responsibility, and she is an opponent of mountaintop removal and other harmful forms of extraction. Meads received her graduate degree at WVU in Appalachian Studies and has worked with some of the country's most significant Appalachian musicians in her position as PASS Coordinator. She served this year as the Program Chair of the International Appalachian Studies Association Conference held at Shepherd University.



Adam Booth

Adam Booth is an award-winning storyteller and adjunct professor in the Appalachian Studies Program at Shepherd, teaching storytelling and traditional music. Booth holds an MM degree from Case Western Reserve University in Music History, graduating magna cum laude. Adam Booth's original stories blend traditional mountain folklore, music, and an awareness of contemporary Appalachia. He has been featured at the International Storytelling Center, the National Storytelling Festival, the Appalachian Studies Association Conference, the National Storytelling Conference, and has been a Spoken Word Resident at the Banff Centre. His recordings have received two Parents' Choice Silver Honors and three Storytelling World Awards and Honors. He is a four-time champion of the West Virginia Liars' Contest. (<http://www.adam-booth.com/>). Booth is founder and coordinator for the acclaimed *Speak Storytelling Series*, a nationally and internationally recognized program of storyteller and part of the Appalachian Studies Program at Shepherd University.



Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst

Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst received his BA degree from the University of New Mexico and his Masters and Ph.D. from Kings College, University of London. Dr. Bankhurst's research focuses on migration to the Appalachian frontier in the colonial and revolutionary periods. Before joining the History Department at Shepherd, Dr. Bankhurst held teaching and research appointments at the London School of Economics; the Institute of Historical Research; and Queen Mary, University of London. His articles have appeared in the *Pennsylvania Magazine for History and Biography*, *The Journal of Irish and Scottish Studies*, and *Eire/Ireland*. The American Council for Irish Studies awarded his first book *Ulster Presbyterians and the Scots Irish Diaspora, 1750-1763* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) the Donald Murphy Prize.



Dr. James Broomall

Dr. James Broomall is Director of the Civil War Center. Along with William A. Link, Dr. Broomall most recently co-edited and published *Rethinking American Emancipation: Legacies of Slavery and the Quest for Black Freedom* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). He has articles in *Civil War History*, *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, and the edited volume, *Creating Citizenship in the Nineteenth-Century South* in addition to historiographical essays, book reviews, and online essays. He is currently completing a manuscript-length project, *Personal Confederacies: War and Peace in the American South*, and has finalized a report for the National Park Service and the Organization of American Historians on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal during the American Civil War.



Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt

Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt is Senior Managing Editor of *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, Professor of English and Coordinator of Appalachian Studies at Shepherd University. She is Director of Appalachian Heritage Writers Project and Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Program

<http://www.shepherd.edu/englweb/faculty/shurbutt.htm>. Shurbutt's

writing has appeared in *The Journal of Appalachian Studies*, *The Journal of Kentucky Studies*, *The North Carolina Review*, *Women's Studies*, *Women and Language*, *Essays in Literature*, *The Southern Literary Journal*, *Encyclopedia of American Literature*, and Scribner's *American Writers* and *World Writers* series, among others. She has chapters in books including *Feminism in Literature*, *Untying the Gender Knot* (Greenwood Press), and she is author of books about writing and literature, including *Reading Writing Relationships* (Kendall Hunt). Shurbutt was 2006 West Virginia Professor of the Year, 2015 President of the Appalachian Studies Association, and 2016 ASA Conference Chair. She will serve as director of the 2018 NEH Summer Institute for the study of Appalachian Literature and Culture, "Voices from the Misty Mountains: The Power of Storytelling."



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