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*Voices from the Misty Mountains and the Power of Storytelling:  
Appalachian Writers and Mountain Culture, APST 500  
NEH Summer Institute for Teachers*

July 8-28, 2018, Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education (unless otherwise noted), Rm. 165



Charles Frazier Denise Giardina Silas House Awiakta Frank X Walker Gretchen Laskas Lee Smith Nikki Giovanni

**PURPOSE OF THE INSTITUTE:** Voices from the Misty Mountains is an NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers, designed to survey the rich and diverse literature, history, and culture associated with the geographical region known as Appalachia and to help teachers explore the dramatic possibilities in presenting this and other literature to their students. Contemporary writers that speak to this purpose, such as Silas House, Marilou Awiakta, Frank X Walker, Gretchen Moran Laskas, Charles Frazier, and Lee Smith, will be explored in the institute. **Artist-in-residence Denise Giardina**, as well as scholars and artists **Silas House**, **Frank X Walker**, **Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt**, Misty Mountains Institute Director; **Dr. James Broomall**, Director of Civil War Institute; Historian **Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst**, Storyteller **Adam Booth**; CATF Producing and Founding Director **Ed Herendeen**; and Performing Arts at Shepherd Director **Rachael Meads** will bring their work directly into the institute classroom for NEH teachers to explore, while the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) will bring to life storytelling through the dramatic arts. Through the study of literature, music, social history, dramatic arts, and storytelling traditions, NEH Summer Scholars will come to an understanding of the significance of the dramatic arts and storytelling in their teaching and the diverse cultural traditions and heritage of the Appalachian region—from the Celtic influence to Cherokee mountain traditions and beyond. An Appalachian Road-trip to West Virginia Cultural Center in Charleston (<http://www.wvculture.org/agency/cultcenter.html>); Hawks Nest State Park (<http://www.hawksnestsp.com/>), the WV Exhibition Coal Mine at Beckley (<http://www.beckley.org/general-information-coal-mine/>), and the Thurmond Depot National Park (<http://www.nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/thurmond.htm>) will provide experiential learning opportunities to participants, while special CATF dramatic readings, the CATF contemporary theater productions, workshops, musical events, and other learning/cultural experiences will provide cultural and pedagogical experiences for the teachers and their Misty Mountains Projects. Participants will have the opportunity to work with significant scholars and artists in the discipline, as well as the Appalachian novelists, playwrights, artisans, and musicians associated with the Voices from the Misty Mountains, all within the Appalachian setting of Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

**ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND OUTCOMES ACQUIRED THROUGH THE SEMINAR:**

- To explore the range and variety of literature created by Appalachian writers, both classic and contemporary;
- To achieve an understanding of the culture, history, and heritage of a region often stereotyped and misunderstood;
- To provide professional development opportunities for participants so that they can become better educators;
- To encourage participants to engage in critical thinking and interaction with colleagues across the country, from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, in order to expand the intellectual depth and experience of all participants;
- To broaden participants' experience and understanding as they are challenged through the literature explored in the seminar, through the contemporary American plays presented in the 2013 CATF season, and through the activities and events encountered during the three-week seminar.

**TEXTS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Lee Smith's *Fair and Tender Ladies*, Silas House's *A Parchment of Leaves* (Algonquin Books); Gretchen Moran Laskas's *The Miner's Daughter*; Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* (Grove Atlantic); Denise Giardina's *Storming Heaven* (Ivy Books 1988); Frank X Walker's *Journey of York and Affrilachia* (Old Cove 2000); and the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Silas House Volume II; Gretchen Moran Laskas Volume V, Frank X Walker Volume VI, Nikki Giovanni Volume VIII, and Charles Frazier Volume IX* (WV Center for the Book 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 anthology volumes are provided by Institute). Optional texts: James Green's *The Devil Is Here in These Hills* (Atlantic Monthly, 2015) and Williams' *History of Appalachia*. Participants will log into Sakai for web discussion, assignments, and other course materials. Participants are required to attend at least two optional activities or events, one of which must be a CATF play and write an activity reflection; **2 activity reflections are required. The Misty Mountains Project (see Resources link) and project reflection are also required of all participants, with project presentations occurring at the end of the institute for the teachers and invited guests.**

THE SCARBOROUGH LIBRARY: All library resources, including an Appalachian Studies collection, are available to participants during the July 8-28 Institute.

SEMINAR TOPICS AND CALENDAR:

- July 8, 2018      **Noon-5:00 p.m. Arrival at Potomac Place**, Institute Participants  
**6:00 p.m., Program and Reception**, “The Power of Place,” Byrd Legislative Center Atrium (NEH Stipend I Dispersal)
- July 9            **9:00-11:15 a.m. (Byrd 165) The Mountains Are My Home: Appalachia—Time, Place, and People** (See Sakai Resources for Williams’ *Appalachia, A History* introduction) Jesse Stuart, the Farmer Poet and the Question of Dialect (See Sakai for Michael Montgomery’s “The Historical Background and Nature of the Englishes of Appalachia”)  
**11:30-12:15 Tour of Byrd Collection (Jody Brumage and Scarborough Library with Laura Neal (NEH Project Resource Librarian)**  
**2:00-3:00 p.m. (Byrd Theater) “The Play’s the Thing and the Power of Storytelling, from the Director’s Seat,”** CATF Director Ed Herendeen
- July 10          **9:00-11:30 a.m. (Byrd 165) Awiakta and the *Wisdom of the Corn Mother: The Native American Voice*** Selections (See Sakai), Research Projects & Affrilachian Preview  
**1:00-2:30 p.m. (Byrd Theater) Playwriting Workshop**, “Writing & Staging the Play,” CATF Staff  
**7:00 p.m. (Byrd Theater) Voices from Affrilachia: Frank X Walker and the Affrilachian Poets**
- July 11          **9:00-10:30 a.m. (Byrd 165) A Conversation with Frank X Walker, *The Journey of York and Affrilachia, Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Frank X Walker Volume VI* and Nikki Giovanni Volume VIII** <http://www.frankxwalker.com/>;  
**10:45-Noon. Appalachian Book Club for Teachers (Giovanni Poetry, Resources) 5 Facilitators (2 break-out sessions)**  
**Noon-12:30 Report (Byrd 165)**  
**2:00-4:00 p.m. (Byrd Theater) *Matewan*** screening and discussion (setting is Thurmond, West, Virginia, Appalachian Road-trip); see “As You View” pre-reflection sheet at Sakai Resources link)
- July 12          **9:00-10:30 a.m. (Byrd 165) A Conversation with [Silas House](#), *A Parchment of Leaves: “The Scent of Words,” Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Silas House Volume II***  
**10:45-11:30 Appalachian Book Club (“The Recruiter,” Anthology Volume II) 5 Facilitators (2 break-out sessions)**  
**11:30-Noon Report (Byrd 165)**  
**2:00-4:00 p.m. (Byrd Theater) *The Appalachian Mine Wars***, An American Experience Screening (See “As You View” pre-reflection sheet on Sakai Resources)  
**7:00 p.m. Appalachian and Celtic Music Jam Session at O’Hurley’s Store, Shepherdstown**
- July 13          **9:00-10:30 a.m. (Byrd 165) The Mine Wars and Labor Issues in Appalachia, with Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst**  
**\*Weekend: Explore research projects in Scarborough Library, and enjoy Historic Shepherdstown, CATF Plays and special events: <http://catf.org/>**
- July 14          **7:30 a.m. Optional Smithsonian Tour** of American Indian Museum (Awiakta), Holocaust Museum (Giardina), National Museum of African American History and Culture (Walker and Giovanni), National Gallery, National Cathedral (Dine at Cactus Cantina, Wisconsin Ave.)
- July 15          **7:00 p.m. An Evening of Appalachian Storytelling**, with Adam Booth, Byrd Theater

- July 16           **9:00 a.m.-Noon (Byrd 165) Appalachian Storytelling Workshop with Adam Booth,**  
Master Storyteller, <http://www.adam-booth.com/>  
**1:30-3:00 p.m. (Byrd Theater) “Performing the Story Workshop,”** CATF Actors
- July 17           **9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Byrd 165) Denise Giardina, *Storming Heaven* and the  
Appalachian Mine Wars**  
**2:00-4:00 p.m. From Play to Performance, *Robert and Ted*** (CATF Director, Actors,  
and Denise Giardina)  
**6:00 p.m., (Marinoff Theater) Denise Giardina’s *Robert and Ted* Staged Reading,**  
CATF Actors and Denise Giardina
- July 18           **9:00-10:30 a.m. (Byrd 165) Conversation with Denise Giardina, *Storming Heaven,*  
*Robert and Ted,* and *a Life of Activism***  
**1:00-4:00 p.m. (Byrd Theater) “In- and Out-Migration: The Great Appalachian  
Diaspora,”** Rebecca Harding Davis’s *Life in the Iron Mill* and Harriet Arnow and *The  
Dollmaker*, Jane Fonda’s Emmy Award-Winning Performance
- July 19           **9:00 a.m.-Noon** “Fallen Footsteps: Walking Antietam Battlefield Through the Soldiers’  
Eyes.” (Antietam Battlefield, those needing transportation meet at Byrd, 8:30 a.m.)  
**2:00-3:00 p.m. (Byrd 165) Charles Frazier’s *Cold Mountain* and the Journey of the  
Hero, *Anthology IX,*** <http://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/frazier/>  
**3:00-4:00 Appalachian Book Club for Teachers (*Cold Mountain*)**  
**5 Facilitators (2 break-out sessions)**  
**4:30 Report (Byrd 165)**

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- July 20           **9:00-10:00 a.m. (Byrd 165) “Appalachia and the New Deal, Facing Prejudice, and the  
Stories of Gretchen Moran Laskas”**  
**10:00-11:00 Appalachian Book Club for Teachers (*The Miner’s Daughter*)**  
**5 Facilitators (2 break-out sessions)**

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- \*Weekend: July 21, 8:30 a.m.-noon Saturday Harpers Ferry Fieldtrip, “Freedom Rising: From Civil War to Civil  
Rights, Dr. James Broomall, Director of the Civil War Institute.”** Explore research projects in Scarborough  
Library, and enjoy Historic Shepherdstown, CATF Plays and Special Events: <http://catf.org/>
- July 23           **9:00-a.m.-Noon. (Byrd 165) Appalachian Music with Rachael Meads,** Director of  
Appalachian Heritage Festival and Performing Arts Series  
**1:00-3:30 (Byrd lower level) On the Front Porch, with Rachael and John** (An  
Appalachian Culinary Experience with Musical Jam)  
**4:00-5:00 p.m. (Ed’s Place at CAC) “Postview” Discussion of Contemporary  
American Theater Festival,** with CATF Director Ed Herendeen
- July 24/25       **6:00 a.m. (Departure from Printz/Dunlop) A Road-trip through the Appalachian  
Heartland:** The West Virginia Culture Center, Hawks Nest Industrial Disaster, Hawks Nest  
State Park, and The New River Gorge Bridge, Thurmond Depot National Park, and  
Beckley Coal Mine Museum, Screening of *Blood on the Mountain* and *The Song Catcher*)
- July 26           **9:00-10:30 a.m. (Byrd 165) Appalachian Women and Lee Smith’s Fair and Tender  
Ladies**  
**Appalachian Book Club for Teachers (Fair and Tender Ladies)**  
**5 Facilitators (2 break-out sessions)**

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- July 27           **Noon-5:00 p.m. (Byrd Theater) Research Project Presentations,** Byrd Legislative  
Center (NEH Stipend II & Certificates)
- July 28           **Departure of Seminar Participants**

**INSTITUTE EVALUATION AND GRADUATE CREDIT:** Two activity responses/reflections will be turned in: CATF plays and an additional seminar cultural experience of the participant’s choice (see

activity response format on Sakai). Institute Participants will receive written feedback on these activity responses which will be shared during seminar discussion and on Sakai (activity responses will count ¼ of the seminar participant evaluation, if graduate credit is selected). Participants will select a writer of particular interest in order to serve as seminar facilitator for “Appalachian Book Club” discussion (the facilitator grade will count ¼). Participants’ plan of study will culminate in NEH Project: an historic, literary, creative, or cultural studies research project conference-style presentation selected for the seminar and approved by the seminar director **or** an alternative teaching unit on Appalachian literature, history, or culture—see evaluative rubrics for details. The research/cultural project will count ½ of seminar evaluation. All participants are required to complete the research/cultural project, the reflections, and serve as Book Club facilitators as part of the NEH experience. **Class discussions** are usually M-F, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., with some afternoon events planned (and one morning fieldtrip); online Sakai web discussions and assignments will help participants to clarify and refine their ideas about the many voices from the Appalachian region represented in the seminar. Because of the erudition of these Appalachians writers, the Book Club discussions will be preceded by appropriate introduction on the part of the Director. **Assignment sheets provide helpful “as you read” information** to Institute Scholars and will be posted on Sakai prior to the Institute so that some preparation can occur before July 8. Graduate credit will be available through the Shepherd University Graduate Studies Program. A Shepherd participant survey will be collected at the end of the seminar in order to ascertain the success of the institute, the activities, the guest speakers, the CATF components, and the various other parts of the , and institute the official NEH evaluation will likewise be required at the online NEH site.

#### SELECTED RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTITUTE:

Biggs, Jeff. *The United States of Appalachia*. Emeryville, CA, 2006. F 219 .A65 B54 200  
Billings, Dwight and Gurney Norman, eds. *Back Talk from Appalachia: Confronting Stereotypes*. Lexington UK Press  
Clark, Amy & Nancy Hayward, eds. *Talking Appalachia: Voice, Identity & Community*, Lexington: U K Press, 2013.  
Edwards, Grace et al eds. *A Handbook to Appalachia*. Knoxville: UT Press, 2006.  
Eller, Ronald. *Uneven Ground: Appalachia since 1945*. Lexington: UK Press, 2008. HN79 .A127 E55 2008.  
Green, .James *The Devil Is Here in These Hills*. NY: Atlantic Monthly, 2015.  
House, Silas and Wendell Berry, et al. *Missing Mountains*. Lexington: Wind Publications, 2005.  
Rehder, John. *Appalachian Folkways*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2004. GR 108 .R48 2004.  
Turner, W.H. and Edward Cabbell, Eds., *Blacks in Appalachia*, Lexington: UK Press, 1985.  
Williams, John. *Appalachia, A History*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2002. F 106 .W68 2002.  
*Encyclopedia of Appalachia*. Ref F 106 .E53 2006. See APST Bibliography posted on the Sakai Resources link.  
For full Appalachian Studies Bibliography see <http://appalachianstudies.org/resources/bibliographies.php>; for a full Appalachian Literary Bibliography see <https://lib.wvu.edu/collections/bibliography/literature/>.



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