



Details for 2021 NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers

NEH Timeline for Application, Selection Process, and Seminar:

March 1: Application Deadline (Selection Committee meets in March)

March 31: Announcement of Awards and Alternates

June: Submission of all NEH and WV State Required Forms

July 11-30, 2021: 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 11 and July 30;
- **Graduate credit** for the seminar may 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/Printz Apartment complex, at \$37.50 per night = \$745.00 for 20 days. Each apartment has a kitchen, two-three private bedrooms with shared bath and common area; free laundry facilities are available (accommodations' cost deducted from NEH stipend); see [Dunlop and Printz Apartment Complex](#) .
- **Meals** can be purchased at several venues on campus and a list of those venues and their hours will be furnished upon arrival. However, West Woods suites have kitchen facilities located in the complex, which are shared, 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;
- **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 and 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 participants who are interested, with transportation furnished by the Appalachian Studies program: [American Indian Museum](#), [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 at Shepherd University:. Hardcopies of required materials must also be mailed directly to **Assistant Director Brenda Feltner, Shepherd University,**

PO Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. The hardcopy package (or a scanned PDF with all materials) must include the following: **1) copy of NEH Application Cover Sheet; 2) 2-3 page application essay/letter which includes how the *Voices from the Misty Mountains Summer Institute for Teachers* will specifically benefit the classroom/teaching content and pedagogy of the applicant; 3) resumé; 4) two letters of recommendation.**

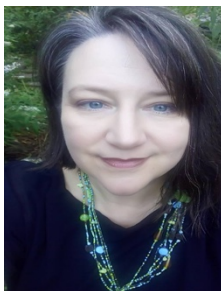
Seminar Staff, Artists, and Scholars:



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* (2004), and the Kentucky Public Librarians Choice Award nomination for *Affrilachia* (2000). He received the Lannan Fellowship for Poetry in 2005 and the AI Smith Fellowship in 2006, as well as the Thomas D. Clark Literary Award for Excellence. Walker is founding member of the Affrilachian Poets and founding editor and publisher of *PLUCK*; he coined the word *Affrilachia*, and much of his work is devoted to discovering or exploring lost Affrilachian and African American heroes: *Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers* (2013), *Isaac Murphy* (2010), *When Winter Come* (2008), *Black Box* (2005), *About Flight* (2015), among other volumes. For information about Walker.



Silas House is a musician, environmentalist, poet, dramatist, and fiction writer born in 1971 and growing up in Lily, Kentucky. 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 completed a folk opera with Sam Cleaves called *In the Fields*, and his latest book is *Southernmost* (2018). House holds an NEH Chair in Appalachian Studies at Berea College. For further details about Silas House.



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. Rachael is a long-time enthusiast for the region, and she is dedicated to preserving Appalachian culture and traditions, as well as a 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.



Photo courtesy CATF

Ed Herendeen is founder and director of the [Contemporary American Theater Festival \(CATF\)](#), which has introduced new works by Sam Shepard, Joyce Carol Oats, David Mamet, Richard Dresser, and Lee Blessing. Under Ed's leadership, CATF has produced 127 new plays, 52 world premieres, and 10 commissions, with an economic impact to West Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of \$5.86 million each year.

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 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.



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 Gold Awards, two Parents' Choice Silver Honors, and four Storytelling World Awards and Honors. He is a four-time champion of the West Virginia Liars' Contest. 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, Alternate NEH Misty Mountains Institute Director, 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. Bankhurst sits on the Board of the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities and is a primary player in programming for the Center.



Dr. James Broomall is Director of the Civil War Center. Along with William A. Link, Dr. Broomall 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. His latest book is *Private Confederacies: The Emotional Worlds of Southern Men as Citizens and Soldiers*.



Jessica Salfia is teacher, writer, and an activist. Her writing has appeared in *the Charleston-Gazette Mail*, *West Virginia Living Magazine's* Blog, the *WVCTE Best Practices* Blog, multiple volumes of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, and she has had work selected for the Women of Appalachia Project. She was the winner of 2016 and 2019 West Virginia Fiction Competitions. She is the co-editor of the book *55 Strong: Inside the West Virginia Teachers' Strike* out now from Belt Publishing. Jessica is the co-director of the West Virginia Council of Teachers of English, and currently is a teacher at Spring Mills High School in Martinsburg, West Virginia where she teaches Advanced Placement Language and Composition and Creative Writing and advises the Literary and Art magazine. When she's not teaching, writing, or advocating for West Virginia and public education, you'll find her in the woods with her three kids or paddling down a creek somewhere.



Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, NEH Misty Mountains Institute Director, is Senior Managing Editor of *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, Professor of English, and Director of the [Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities](#). She was a public school high school teacher for five years and served as Shepherd's English Education Specialization Coordinator for twenty-five years. As an Appalachian, Shurbutt's research interests, scholarship, and service are strongly tied to the region. She is creator of the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project, which brings nationally and internationally recognized Appalachian writers to West Virginia, a program which provides the [State Common Read Authors](#). Dr.

Shurbutt has presented and published on a variety of Appalachian topics and writers, as well as on pedagogy and teaching. Her 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* and *Untying the Gender Knot* (Greenwood Press), and she is author of books about writing and literature, including *Reading Writing Relationships* (Kendall Hunt). She was 2006 WV Professor of the Year, 2015 Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) National President, and 2016 ASA Conference Chair (see [CV](#)).



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