

From the Executive Director

WHY THE HUMANITIES

The West Virginia Humanities Council's mission is "to promote a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia," a broad charge that allows us to offer and sponsor hundreds of worthy projects throughout the Mountain State each year. But what is it, exactly, that we're working to promote? What precisely are we talking about, when we talk about the humanities?

I taught college courses in literature and the humanities for 22 years. Nearly every time I registered a student for a humanities course, I had to try to answer that question. And here, more or less, is what I'd say.

What we call "the humanities" encompasses many fields—literature and the arts, history and cultural studies, religion and philosophy, law and linguistics, and more. Though these fields grapple with different questions and generate very distinctive sorts of knowledge, they share a basic impulse. Separately and together, they are those areas of study and practice that help us create, share, and preserve stories about our common human experience.

The humanities, in other words, are those endeavors that allow us to tell the story of not only what it was like to be here—in this place, at this time—but also, inasmuch as we can know it, what it meant for us to be here, in our own historical moment and beyond.

This impulse to make sense of our experience is at once marvelously ambitious, and deeply humble. It assumes that only through committed self-study can we learn anything of value about ourselves. But it also places a bedrock faith in the capacity of that study to generate meaningful self-knowledge, and perhaps even self-improvement. It's the goal of the West Virginia Humanities Council to preserve, promote, and foster that sort of work throughout, and on behalf of, the Mountain State.

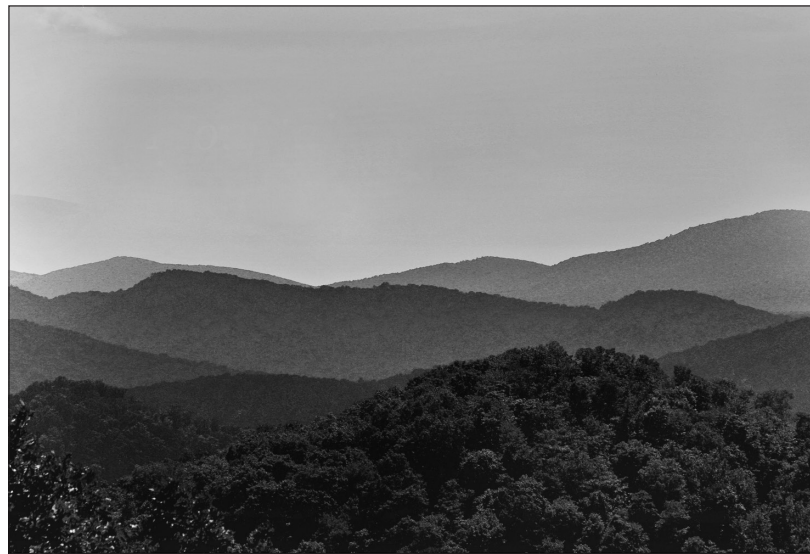
To that end, the Council supports and develops programs that advance the humanities throughout West Virginia. We accomplish that work through providing grant funding at multiple levels; developing in-house programs and events presented to the public free of charge; establishing reciprocal partnerships with humanities-based projects whose homes are in other institutions; and advocating on behalf of the sister organizations with which we collaborate and share our mission.

The Council provides support to scholars, teachers, historians, traditional arts and folklife practitioners, and energetic people across the state, young and old, who want to help preserve West Virginia's rich and complex cultural history, as well as help shape its future. In this work we are fortunate to partner with individuals, agencies, and institutions that share our vision, and our belief that a proper understanding of the Council's purpose begins in a recognition of our common humanity.

To risk sounding grand: We work to bring the world to West Virginia, and West Virginia to the world.

The opportunity to support humanities scholars and artisans, and to connect the people doing that work with each other and with wider audiences, is a gift. We're fortunate to have been entrusted with stewardship of that gift for almost 45 years, aided by the support of so many West Virginians, like you, who want to help enrich the lives of us all.

West Virginia—its people, its history, its future—is worth investing in. Our stories are worth telling. Let's go to work.



Grant Categories

The Humanities Council welcomes applications in the following grant categories.

Major Grants (\$20,000 maximum) support major humanities projects, symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures.

Due: *Feb. 1, Sept. 1

Minigrants (\$1,500 maximum) support small projects, single events, or planning and consultation. **Due:** *Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Oct. 1

Fellowships (\$3,000) support research and writing projects by humanities faculty and independent scholars.

Due: *Feb. 1

Media Grants (\$20,000 maximum) support projects intended to produce audio or video products, websites, or a newspaper series.

Due: Sept. 1

Publication Grants (\$20,000 maximum) are available to nonprofit presses and academic presses, and support the production phase of a completed manuscript. **Due:** Sept. 1

Teacher Institute Grants (\$25,000 maximum) are available to colleges and universities, and the state Department of Education, and support summer seminars for secondary and elementary teachers.

Due: Sept. 1

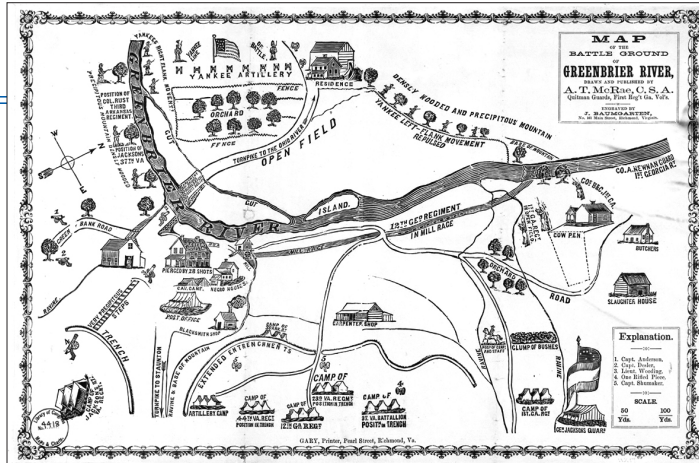
* Approaching Deadlines!

Fellowship and grant applications may be submitted online at www.wvhumanities.org. Contact Erin Riebe with any questions at (304)346-8500 or riebe@wvhumanities.org.

Interpretation of Camp Bartow Historic Site

On the morning of October 3, 1861, Union forces attacked a fortified Confederate encampment in Bartow (then Virginia), during the first campaign of the Civil War. During the short-lived Battle of Greenbrier River, Union soldiers were unable to cross the river to engage in infantry combat. By afternoon they retreated to Cheat Mountain.

Fourteen acres of the battlefield are now owned by the West Virginia Land Trust, which plans to preserve the property and open it to the public. With help from a Humanities Council grant, the Land Trust is placing signs at the site to inform visitors about the property and its history. A ribbon cutting and tour of Camp Bartow is scheduled for August 3 at 12 p.m. For information visit www.wvlandtrust.org.

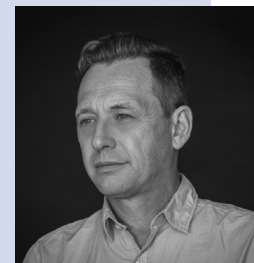


Library of Congress

WVU Humanities Center Quality of Life Series

On February 21, Appalachian writer Silas House (right) will deliver a reading from his latest novel, *Southernmost*. The reading, supported by a Council grant, is part of the WVU Humanities Center's "Quality of Life" speaker's series, which explores how humanistic investigation into thought, history and culture improves our daily life. It will take place in the Milano Reading Room of WVU's Downtown Library.

The following day, House will be joined by filmmakers Ashley York and Sally Ruben at the Mountainlair's Gluck Theatre for a screening and discussion of the documentary *hillbilly*, also funded in part by the Humanities Council. The film features diverse voices from across Appalachia in an exploration of what constitutes Appalachian identity in contemporary America.

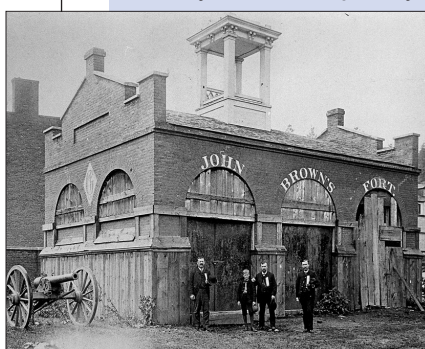


Tasha Thomas

Both events begin at 7 p.m. For information, visit www.humanitiescenter.wvu.edu.

Harpers Ferry NHP: 75th Anniversary

When President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill making Harpers Ferry a national historic site in 1944, the town was nearly deserted, suffering from flood devastation and the effects of the Great Depression. The crumbling town transformed into a National Historic Park that now receives over 300,000



John Brown's Fort, Harpers Ferry, 1880's

visitors a year.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of this designation, the park is hosting a monthly speaker's series and a three-day celebration in June. The events will not only explore the 200-year history of the location, including its Civil War and industrial past, but also highlight the changes, accomplishments, preservation, and contributions of the National Park Service.

The events, supported by Council funding, kick off February 10. For information visit www.nps.gov/hafe/index.htm.

Little Lectures are set for

2019: Dr. Katharine Antolini, professor of history and gender studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College, kicks off the series by examining the women's suffrage movement in the Mountain State at 2:00 p.m. on March 31 with "West Virginia and the Ratification of the 19th Amendment."

On April 28 Dr. Ann Serafin, executive director of Adaland Mansion in Philippi, will present "Philippi's Historic Adaland Mansion," the story of the restoration of the 1870 Greek Revival mansion.

The May 19 Little Lecture brings Mount St. Mary's University Provost Dr. Boyd Creasman to the MacFarland-Hubbard House for a presentation titled "Contemporary Literature from West Virginia" that draws from his recent book *Writing West Virginia*.

The series concludes on June 23 with Marshall University art history professor Dr. Heather Stark discussing "Controversies in Modern Art," from Whistler to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Little Lectures are presented at 2:00 p.m. in Council headquarters, in the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston. Admission is \$10. Visit www.wvhumanities.org for information.

WVU Women's Suffrage League



WV & Regional History Center

Program Committee Election

Please help choose citizen members for the Humanities Council program committee. Your vote gives the public a voice in our grants and program decisions.

Vote for no more than four:

___ **Jody Evans**, Hardy County, is a retired employee of the CIA who has been involved with several international and intercultural programs dedicated to promoting peace and cross-cultural exchange, including the American Field Service and the ThaiCraft organization.

___ **Jason Gum**, Gilmer County, is archivist and reference librarian at the Robert F. Kidd Library at Glenville State College. He is a program committee incumbent and eligible for re-election.

___ **Thomas Schoffler**, Upshur County, is Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance at West Virginia Wesleyan College. A professional actor and director, he has worked and presented master classes in acting and movement at colleges and conferences around the country.

___ **Elizabeth Spangler**, Greenbrier County, has served on the board of directors of Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg, the Greenbrier Historical Society, and Greater Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation. She is a program committee incumbent and eligible for re-election.

___ **Peter Staffel**, Ohio County, is Chair of the Humanities Department and Professor of English at West Liberty University.

___ **H. G. Young**, Wood County, is Professor of Music at West Virginia University-Parkersburg and is active as a conductor and musicologist.

Return your ballot by mail to the West Virginia Humanities Council or access at wvhumanities.org by March 1, 2019

Portal to another Culture

With funding from a Council grant, Hardy County students and the public will be able to learn about the culture of places such as Rwanda, Kazakhstan, Brooklyn, and Milwaukee from the people who actually live there.

The Hardy County portal, housed in a repurposed gold-painted shipping container, is one of dozens placed throughout the world by tech company Shared Studios. The goal of the Portals Project is to connect diverse people for lectures, discussions, and other types of real-time interactions. Visitors to one portal come face-to-face with visitors in others around the world, through live immersive audiovisual technology.

The portal will be at East Hardy High School through April, and at Moorefield High School from April to September. For information about the Portals Project, or to learn when the portal will be open to the public, visit www.sharedstudios.com.

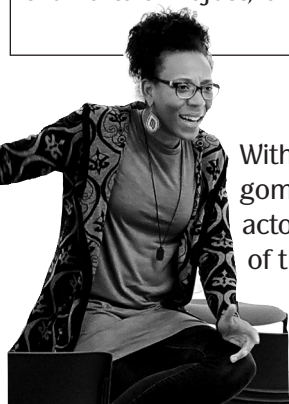
Battle of Shakespeare's Sexes

With funding from a Humanities Council grant, Montgomery's Shakespeare Studio is bringing professional actors Christiana Clark and Jeremy Gallardo, members of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, to West Virginia.

During their eight performances, titled "The Battle of Shakespeare's Sexes," the pair will perform brief scenes featuring mostly comic dialogue between several of Shakespeare's most contentious couples, including Kate and Petruchio (*The Taming of the Shrew*) and Beatrice and Benedict (*Much Ado About Nothing*).

The first event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., November 11 in Fellowship Hall at Concord University. The two will later perform in Belle, Smithers, Charleston and other locations. For information, or for a full schedule, visit The Shakespeare Studio of Montgomery, WV on Facebook.

Christiana Clark speaking at BridgeValley Community and Technical College as part of last year's Shakespeare tour "HeARTistic."



West Virginia Humanities Council
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The West Virginia Humanities Council gratefully acknowledges support from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Office of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History; and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout the Mountain State and beyond.

Pilots, Policy, and Popular Music: A Year of Diverse Programming

The WV Humanities Council is fortunate to be able to lend support to a number of programs and projects highlighting West Virginia's diverse history, present, and future. In 2018 the Council's Folklife Apprenticeship program paired master gospel and blues musician Doris Fields (aka Lady D), right, with apprentice Xavier Oglesby. A West Virginia native who performs original and traditional blues, gospel, R&B, and soul across the state and the country, Lady D is known as West Virginia's First Lady Of Soul. Oglesby, who grew up singing in the black Pentecostal church, has performed in local a capella and theatre groups. The pair performed for a sold-out crowd in the second Folklife Apprenticeship Showcase on the evening of January 16, 2019 at the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House.

Looking ahead: With assistance from a Council grant, historian Richard Rothstein, Senior Fellow Emeritus at the Thurgood Marshall Institute of the NAACP, will present an evening lecture drawn from his book *The Color Of Law: A History of Race and Real Estate* at the sixth annual WV State Human Relations Conference on April 17, at West Virginia State University.

The Council will help present the "Windows on the World" Speaker Series at Bluefield State College, through which scholars from Burkina Faso,



Emily Hiliard

China, India, Italy, Morocco, and Uganda will offer presentations at local schools and at BSC for the general public between January and April. Minigrant funds will also facilitate performing artist Ilene Evans, co-founder of the Voices From The Earth non-profit arts organization, in her portrayal of Bessie Coleman in a series of evening events at Bluefield's Mount Zion Baptist Church on February 17 and 18. Coleman, an American civil aviator, was the first woman of African-American descent, and also the first of Native American descent, to hold a pilot license.

The Diversity in Appalachia Lecture Series' "Search for Identity" program will feature three presentations exploring the history, folklore, and cultural heritage of race, class, sexuality, and gender identity. Two of the three presentations will include screenings of documentary films followed by question/answer sessions. Recordings will be shared with the local cable access channel and on social media via Vimeo. The series will be hosted by the Frank and Jane Gabor WV Folklife Center at Fairmont State University from February to May 2019.

People & Mountains is published three times a year by the West Virginia Humanities Council. We welcome letters, comments, and financial contributions. Address correspondence to 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, E., Charleston, WV 25301 or vwhuman@vwhumanities.org.