

November 2011

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA), it is a pleasure to encourage you to apply for the 'NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture' workshop: "Concord, Massachusetts: Feminists, Utopians, and Social Reform in the Age of Emerson and Thoreau." Some sixty years after the "shot heard round the world" was fired at the North Bridge, an extraordinary confluence of literary and social forces brought together the likes of Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Amos Bronson Alcott and his soon-to-become more famous daughter, Louisa May, in the small village of Concord, Massachusetts. The result—as local Concordians like to say—was a "second Revolution" that forever changed the American literary and cultural landscape.

This workshop explores that landscape, and it provides the opportunity for community college faculty—full-time, part-time, and adjunct—to spend a week in one of the most historic towns in America—a town that proudly reveres and celebrates its unique literary, historical, and cultural heritage.

Comments from previous participants suggest why the Concord program on "Feminists, Utopians, and Social Reform in the Age of Emerson and Thoreau" has been so successful:

- "The [Concord] workshop did a wonderful job of showcasing what an interesting nexus Concord is for history, literature, science, religion, politics, etc. We had teachers from across a variety of disciplines."
- "I left this conference more enthusiastic about teaching, my own research, and being a community college professional, than I've ever left any other event in the past 10 years."
- "The directors, the location, the accommodations, the visiting faculty, [and] the agenda made my week in Concord the most exciting and valuable educational experience of my career."

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

"Concord, Massachusetts: Feminists, Utopians, and Social Reform in the Age of Emerson and Thoreau" is sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA). Each one-week workshop examines Concord's importance in the New England Transcendental movement, as well as in antebellum reform activities, especially antislavery and abolitionism and the women's suffrage movement.

Daily workshops, privately guided visits to Concord's many literary and historic sites, and stimulating interactions with colleagues from all over the country constitute the core of the one-week program. Participants will have the opportunity to work closely with five distinguished scholars, each of them actively engaged in teaching and research: Robert Gross (UConn), Sandra Petrulionis (Penn State), Sterling F. Delano (Villanova), Phyllis Cole (Penn State), and Pulitzer Prize winner John Matteson (John Jay College). (See below for additional information about the visiting scholars.)

Community college teachers, selected competitively nationwide, will have the opportunity to develop special teaching modules, or they can work on an individual research project using the unique holdings in the 'Special Collections' of the Concord Free Public Library. Participants will be asked at the end of the week to report briefly on specific teaching or research plans inspired by the workshop.

Participants will be able to share teaching modules with other community college faculty by posting them on the CCHA web site. Several NEH Summer Scholars will be invited to present their teaching modules or research at one of the five CCHA regional conferences in October and November 2012.

NEH Summer Scholars will also have the opportunity to submit their research for publication to The Community College Humanist, the journal of record of the CCHA.

*

*

*

The NEH Landmarks Concord workshop examines Concord's enduring importance as a center of social reform ferment in antebellum America. This importance was stimulated particularly by the Transcendentalists' involvement in the antislavery and women's rights movements. And although it is often naively assumed that their focus consisted primarily of high-minded theories about reform, NEH Summer Scholars quickly learn that virtually all of the Transcendentalists were two-fisted activists who put their thoughts into concrete measures of reform, as the experiments at Brook Farm, Fruitlands, and Walden, and the work of the Concord Female Anti-Slavery Society, for instance, make dramatically clear. The New England Transcendentalists, and those associated with them, were anything but armchair philosophers.

Although Concord may only have been a small village (its population in the decades preceding the Civil War remained constant around 2,300 people), it was known nonetheless to be one of America's most vital intellectual centers in nineteenth century America, as indicated by the diverse range of writers and social activists who lived or visited there. Concord played a crucial role in the larger discussion in antebellum America about cultural, moral, ethical, and religious issues. The Concord community of progressive thinkers and writers—both men *and* women—were leaders and supporters of a variety of social crusades, such as the movements for free public education, temperance, women's rights, and antislavery and abolitionism. Daily morning seminars examine Concord's role in the wider context of antebellum social reform, and how this vigorous community of visionary and committed individuals helped to bring about meaningful social change.

All participants receive a copy of The Concord Reader in May, which is a compilation of essays (book chapters and articles) written by the visiting scholars having to do with the workshop theme. These materials provide the basis of the daily seminars that are presented each morning. (See weekly schedule just below.) Selections include essays about antislavery ferment in Concord, about the Transcendentalists (men and women), and about the Transcendentalist utopian communities Brook Farm and Fruitlands.

WORKSHOP DATES

JULY 8 – 14, 2012

OR

JULY 15 – 21, 2012

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday. Registration and Welcome Reception/Colonial Inn

6:00-7:00 PM: Registration
7:00-8:30 PM: Welcome Reception
Introductions/Workshop Overview (Middlesex Room)

Monday. Seminar: Why Concord?

8:30-9:00 AM: **Concord Museum:** Coffee
9:00-10:30: Dr. Robert Gross, "Why Concord?"
10:30-10:45: Break
10:45-12:00: Dr. Gross; Dr. David Wood, Director of the Concord Museum, "Emerson and Thoreau in the Concord Museum"

Lunch on own

1:00-2:30: Leslie Wilson, Curator of Special Collections, **Concord Free Public Library**, "Special Collections Resources at the CFPL"
(Meet on front steps of Library @ 1:00 PM)
4:00-6:00: **Walden Pond.** Visit to site of Thoreau's cabin.

The Concord Free Public Library will be open until 9:00 PM

Tuesday. Seminar: Concord: Center of Anti-Slavery and Abolitionist Ferment

Colonial Inn: Middlesex Room

9:00-10:30: Dr. Sandra Petrulionis, Penn State University, "Concord, Women, and Antislavery Ferment"
10:30-10:45: Break
10:45-12:00: Continuation of Workshop

Lunch on own

1:00-3:00: Free time to work in Special Collections or to meet with colleagues.
3:15-4:30: **Old Manse.** Privately guided tour of Nathaniel & Sophia Hawthorne's first home in Concord, and the place where Emerson wrote the draft of his first book, *Nature*.

Afterward you may want to visit the nearby North Bridge and/or Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

The Concord Free Public Library will be open until 9:00 PM

Wednesday. Seminar: Transcendental Utopias: Brook Farm and Fruitlands

8:30-9:00 AM **Concord School of Philosophy:** Coffee
9:00-10:30: Dr. Sterling F. Delano, Villanova University, "Transcendentalist Utopias: Brook Farm and Fruitlands"
10:30-10:45: Board bus

10:45-5:00 PM Site visits to Brook Farm, Fruitlands, and the Harvard Shaker communities led by Dr. Delano.
Box lunch provided enroute.

The Concord Free Public Library will be open until 9:00 PM

Thursday. Seminar: “Let them be sea-captains”: Three Transcendental Women

Colonial Inn: Middlesex Room.

9:00-10:30: Dr. Phyllis Cole, Penn State University, “Transcendental Women: Mary Moody Emerson, Lidian Emerson, and Margaret Fuller”
10:30-10:45: Break
10:45-12:00: Continuation of Workshop

Lunch on own

1:00-3:00: Free time to work in Special Collections or to meet with colleagues.
3:15-4:30: Emerson House. Privately guided tour.

The Concord Free Public Library will be open until 9:00 PM

Friday. Seminar: Bronson & Louisa May Alcott, Margaret Fuller, and Reform.

Concord School of Philosophy.

8:30-9:15: Private tour of Orchard House (where Louisa May Alcott wrote *Little Women* and other major works)
9:15-9:30: Coffee
9:30-11:00: Dr. John Matteson, John Jay College of Criminology, “The Alcotts, Margaret Fuller, and Reform”
11:00-11:15: Break
11:15-12:00: Continuation of seminar.

Lunch on own

3:00-6:00: Colonial Inn. Participant Reports.

Saturday. Conclusion.

8:30 - 10:30 AM: **Colonial Inn.**
Program Evaluation; Final Business; Summary and Closing.

WORKSHOP SCHOLARS & PROJECT STAFF

Each one-week workshop provides an opportunity to work closely with five scholars who are intimately acquainted with the contours of literary and historic Concord, with New England Transcendentalism, and with antebellum social reform activities.

Dr. Phyllis Cole is Professor of English at Pennsylvania State University. Her articles on different aspects of antebellum American literature have been published in all the leading journals in the field. Her groundbreaking book on *Mary Moody Emerson and the Origins of Transcendentalism* (Oxford UP)

documented for the first time the pervasive and profound influence that Emerson's aunt had on the Concord Sage's thinking and writing.

Dr. Sterling F. Delano, Emeritus Professor of American Literature at Villanova University, is Co-Director of the Concord workshop. In 1996, Dr. Delano received the University's "Outstanding Teacher" award. His book, *Brook Farm: The Dark Side of Utopia* (Harvard UP), is the definitive study of America's most celebrated utopian community. Dr. Delano has participated in the workshop since its inception in 2006. This will be the fourth consecutive year that he will co-direct the Concord program.

Dr. Robert Gross is the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Professor of Early American History at the University of Connecticut. He is the recipient of numerous national awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim, Howard, and Rockefeller foundations, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the American Antiquarian Society. Dr. Gross is the author of the widely acclaimed book, *The Minutemen and Their World* (Hill & Wang), as well as dozens of articles having to do with Concord.

Dr. John Matteson is Professor of English at John Jay College of Criminology in New York City. In 2008 he received the Pulitzer Prize for Biography for his book, *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father* (Norton). His much anticipated biography of celebrated feminist and Transcendentalist, Margaret Fuller, will be published in January 2012.

Dr. Sandra Petruionis is Professor of English at Pennsylvania State University. She is the author of *To Set This World Right: The Antislavery Movement in Thoreau's Concord* (Cornell), a book that has been described by one prominent scholar as "the finest and most detailed account of the essential role played by women in the grassroots effort to promote the cause of antislavery." She is the co-editor of the recently published *Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism*, as well as numerous articles about Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalists. She is currently writing a biography of Thomas Wentworth Higginson.

Leslie Wilson is Curator of the William Munroe Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library. She is the author of *In History's Embrace: Past and Present in Concord, Massachusetts*, and *Historic Concord and the Lexington Fight*, as well as numerous articles having to do with Concord and its history.

Prof. Diane Whitley-Bogard, a NEH Summer Scholar in the 2008 Concord workshop, co-directs the Concord Program. She is Professor of English at Austin Community College, in Texas. In 2008, Diane received the NISOD award for Excellence in Teaching. Her participation in various NEH Landmark workshops has resulted in conference presentations, publications, and an in-depth project focusing on the artwork in Ralph Waldo Emerson's study.

Prof. David Berry, Executive Director of the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA), is the workshop's Project Manager. He is Professor of History and the Director of the Honors Program at Essex County College, in New Jersey. Professor Berry has served as Project Manager for more than thirty NEH-funded projects sponsored by the CCHA.

The Community College Humanities Association is the only national organization that exclusively serves to strengthen the humanities in the nation's community colleges.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

N.B.: What follows is only a brief summary. For complete application instructions see the end of this letter.

The Concord workshop is intended to function as a stimulus to course development and revitalized teaching, as well as individual research and publication. Full-time faculty, part-time lecturers, and adjunct faculty are eligible to apply. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the Concord workshop, community college teachers of American Studies, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Women's Studies, Psychology, History, Humanities, Expository Writing programs, and Literary Studies are especially encouraged to apply.

To apply you must first complete the NEH cover sheet for the Concord program by going to the NEH website: www.neh.gov/online/education/participants

You then print the cover sheet and attach it to your completed application. A completed application consists of: (1) NEH Cover Sheet; (2) a brief resume; (3) a one to two page (double-spaced) essay; and (4) a letter of recommendation.

The essay of **one to two pages (double-spaced)** is very important. It should include information about your professional background and interest in the subject of the workshop, and how you anticipate the workshop will enhance your teaching and/or scholarship.

Additionally, applicants must include one letter of recommendation from their department chair, division head, or other faculty colleague in support of their application.

The ORIGINAL PLUS THREE copies of your completed application should be postmarked **no later than March 1, 2012**, and should be addressed to:

David A. Berry
Project Director, Concord Workshop
Community College Humanities Association
Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102-1798

*****Application materials sent to the NEH will not be reviewed or returned.*****

STIPEND AND COMMITMENT

NEH Summer Scholars receive a stipend of \$1200, which is intended to help offset costs for lodging at the Colonial Inn (special discounted rate—see below), travel, meals, and related expenses.

Stipends will be distributed on the final day of the program. Stipends are taxable.

NEH Summer Scholars are expected to attend all scheduled meetings and to engage fully in all project activities. The NEH requires that any participant, who, for any reason, does not complete the full tenure of the project, must refund a pro-rata portion of their stipend.

Participants who bring family members or dependents to Concord must make their own arrangements for accommodations at the Colonial Inn in Concord, or elsewhere. (See just below.) NEH Summer

Scholars are strongly encouraged, however, to stay with their colleagues at the Colonial Inn. Informal group discussions and social interactions there are an important part of the overall workshop experience. Only NEH Summer Scholars may engage in workshop activities.

TRAVEL, HOUSING, AND MEALS

Participants will arrange individual transportation to Concord, Massachusetts. Information will be provided to selected participants about public transportation and shuttle service from regional airports—Boston and Manchester, NH—to Concord.

Special double-occupancy room rates for the six nights of the workshop have been arranged at the historic Colonial Inn (part of which was once home to Henry David Thoreau and his family) on the green in Concord (www.concordscolonialinn.com). Selected participants will be paired in double-occupancy rooms, unless a participant advises the Co-Directors otherwise. The cost of double-occupancy lodging—approximately \$65/pp per night + tax—will be automatically deducted from individual stipends.

A few private accommodations—for an additional charge—will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. NEH Summer Scholars desiring private accommodations make their own reservation at the Colonial Inn (personal credit card required). These participants will receive the full stipend.

There are several restaurants within easy walking of the Colonial Inn (there are also three dining venues at the Inn itself), ranging from fast food to family-style to fine dining. A list will be provided at registration.

We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions, please contact David A. Berry at berry@essex.edu, or call 973.877.3577. You may also contact either of the Co-Directors:

Sterling F. Delano
Co-Director/Concord Program
398 Dewsbury Place
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Diane Whitley Bogard
Co-Director/Concord Program
Austin Community College, Eastview Campus
3401 Webberville Road
Austin, TX 78702

sterling.delano@villanova.edu

dbogard@austincc.edu

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

NEH LANDMARKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE: WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops are offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide community college faculty with the opportunity to engage in intensive study and discussion of important topics and issues in American history and culture, while providing them with direct experiences in the interpretation of significant historical and cultural sites and the use of archival and other primary evidence.

Prior to completing an application to a specific workshop, please review the “Dear Colleague Letter” from the project director (available on the project’s website, or as an e-mail attachment) and consider carefully what is expected in terms of residence and attendance, reading and writing requirements, and general participation in the work of the project.

NEH Landmarks Workshops allow 25 faculty members at a time to collaborate with core faculty and visiting scholars. The workshops are designed to present the best available scholarship on a specific landmark or related cluster of landmarks, while enabling participants to gain a sense of the importance of historical and cultural places, to make connections between the workshop content and what they teach, and to develop individual teaching and/or research materials.

ELIGIBILITY

Full-time faculty members, part-time lecturers, and adjunct faculty at American community colleges are eligible to participate. An applicant need not have an advanced degree in order to qualify.

Faculty members at community colleges in the United States or its territorial possessions, or Americans teaching in foreign schools where at least 50 percent of the students are American nationals, are eligible for this program. Applicants must be United States citizens, residents of U.S. jurisdictions, or foreign nationals who have been residing in the United States or its territories for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline. Foreign nationals teaching abroad at non-U.S. chartered institutions are not eligible to apply. Individuals may not apply to participate in a workshop given by the same director on the same topic in which they have previously participated; in other words, they should not apply to attend the same workshop twice. Individuals may not apply to study with an NEH Landmarks director who is a family member or a colleague.

Applicants must complete the [NEH application cover sheet](#) and provide all the information requested below to be considered eligible.

Please Note: An individual may *apply to up to two* NEH summer projects (NEH Landmarks Workshops, NEH Summer Seminars, or NEH Summer Institutes), but may *participate in only one*. Please note that eligibility criteria differ between the NEH Landmarks Workshops and the NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes programs.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A selection committee (consisting in most cases of the project director, one of the project scholars, and a veteran teacher) will read and evaluate all properly completed applications.

Special consideration is given to the likelihood that an applicant will benefit professionally and personally from the workshop experience. It is important, therefore, to address each of the following factors in the application essay:

- 1) your professional background;
- 2) your interest in the subject of the workshop;
- 3) your special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the workshop; and
- 4) how the experience would enhance your teaching or professional service.

When choices must be made among equally qualified candidates, several additional factors are considered. Preference is given to applicants who have not previously participated in an NEH Landmarks Workshop, NEH Summer Seminar, or NEH Summer Institute, or who significantly contribute to the diversity of the workshop.

STIPEND, TENURE, AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Faculty members selected to participate as NEH Summer Scholars will receive a stipend of \$1,200 at the end of the residential workshop session. Stipends are intended to **help** cover travel expenses to and from the project location, books, and ordinary living expenses. Stipends are taxable.

NEH Summer Scholars are required to attend all scheduled meetings and to engage fully as professionals in all project activities. Participants who do not complete the full tenure of the project will receive a reduced stipend.

At the end of the project's residential period, NEH Summer Scholars will be asked to provide an assessment of their workshop experience, especially in terms of its value to their personal and professional development. These confidential online evaluations will become a part of the project's grant file.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Before you attempt to complete an application, please obtain and read the "Dear Colleague Letter" from the director(s) of the project(s) to which you intend to apply (in most cases, it can be found on the project's website). This document contains detailed information about the topic under study, project requirements and expectations of the participants, the academic and institutional setting, and specific provisions for lodging and subsistence.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

A completed application consists of **three** copies of the following **collated** items:

- the completed application cover sheet,
- a résumé or short biography, and
- an application essay (no longer than two double-spaced pages) as outlined below.

In addition, it must include **one** letter of recommendation as described below.

Application Cover Sheet

The application cover sheet must be filled out online at this address:

<http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/>

Please follow the prompts; be sure to indicate your first and second choices of workshop dates. Print out the cover sheet and add it to your application package. **Finally, be sure to click on the “submit” button.** At this point you will be asked if you want to fill out a cover sheet for another project. If you do, follow the prompts and select another project and then print out the cover sheet for that project as well. Note that filling out a cover sheet is not the same as applying, so there is no penalty for changing your mind and filling out a cover sheet for several projects. A full application consists of all of the items listed above, as sent to the project director.

Résumé

Please include a résumé, curriculum vitae, or brief biography detailing your educational qualifications and professional experience. This should be no longer than five double-spaced pages.

Application Essay

The application essay should be no more than **two double-spaced pages**. The essay should address your professional background; interest in the subject of the workshop; special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the workshop; and how the experience would enhance your teaching and/or research.

Reference Letter

Each applicant should provide a letter of recommendation from his or her department chair/division head or other professional reference. It is helpful for referees to read a copy of the director’s description of the project and your application essay. Please ask your referee to sign across the seal on the back of the envelope containing the letter. Enclose the letter with your application.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The original plus THREE copies of your completed application should be postmarked **no later than March 1, 2012**, and should be addressed to:

David A. Berry
Project Director, Concord Workshop
Community College Humanities Association
Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102-1798

Application materials sent to the NEH will not be reviewed.

Successful applicants will be notified of their selection on April 2, 2012, and they will have until April 6, 2012 to accept or decline the offer.

Once you have accepted an offer to attend any NEH Summer Program (NEH Landmarks Workshop, NEH Summer Seminar, or NEH Summer Institute), you may not accept an additional offer or withdraw in order to accept a different offer.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Endowment programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. For further information, write to NEH Equal Opportunity Officer, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. TDD: 202/606-8282 (for the hearing impaired only).