



College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences  
**Department of Interdisciplinary Studies**

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June 1, 2007

To: All Virginia Tech Faculty

From: Peter Schmitthenner, Director, Humanities Program, Department of  
Interdisciplinary Studies

Re: 2008 Humanities Summer Stipend and Symposium Awards-Call for Proposals;  
due August 1, 2007

Below you will find the guidelines for two research awards in the Humanities. The first, the **Humanities Symposium Award**, provides release time and matching funds to organize a series of seminars and an interdisciplinary symposium on an important issue in the Humanities. The second award is the **Humanities Summer Stipend**. The deadline for both competitions is 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 1, 2007.

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## THE HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM AWARD GUIDELINES

The Humanities Program in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, which administers the Humanities Symposium Award, is sponsoring a competition to stimulate interdisciplinary research in the humanities. This award of \$8000 will be used by a faculty member to organize a major symposium on an important humanistic issue. The first half of the award can be spent to buy release time for one faculty member during the 2008 Spring semester to conduct a series of local seminars on the Symposium topic with interested faculty and students and to begin planning for the Symposium. The Symposium will be held the following Fall (2008). The second half of the award should be spent to bring in appropriate scholars who can address the issue from an interdisciplinary perspective. The Symposium should involve both scholars from Virginia Tech and those from other Universities. The Symposium should generate new research of publishable quality. These funds can be used as matching funds for grants from other departments and foundations, such as the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. The winner of the award will be expected to submit a report on the outcome of the seminars and Symposium by January 16, 2009.

### Guidelines:

The proposed topic for the Humanities Symposium Award must fall within the purview of the humanities. According to the act that established the National Endowment for the Humanities, the term humanities includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following disciplines: history, philosophy, languages, linguistics, literature, archaeology, jurisprudence; the history, theory, and criticism of the arts; ethics, comparative religion, and those aspects of the social sciences that employ historical or philosophical approaches.

This program is designed to make the Humanities Symposium Award available to as many faculty as possible among those at Virginia Tech who are pursuing humanities-oriented projects.

All university faculty pursuing humanities-oriented projects, including instructors and tenure-track and tenured professors, are eligible to apply, without regard to rank.

All proposals for the Virginia Tech Humanities Symposium Award must be submitted to the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies main office (111 Lane Hall) by 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 1, 2007. Every effort will be made to notify the award recipient by Friday, August 31, 2007.

The Humanities Summer Stipend and Symposium Awards Review Committee, comprising representatives from different humanities-related departments or programs across the university, usually awards one symposium proposal in each competition. (In the event that suitable proposals are not submitted, the funds dedicated to this award will revert to fund two additional individual summer stipends.)

Proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

1. the quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities;
2. the significance of the contribution that the proposed Symposium will make to thought and knowledge in the applicant's field and to the humanities generally;
3. the conception, definition, organization, and description of the proposed Symposium, including its interdisciplinary perspectives;
4. the likelihood that the applicant will complete the entire project;
5. the quality of the proposed Symposium speakers;
6. the likelihood that the Symposium will lead to a significant publication, i.e., a book, special journal issue, or documentary.

Further considerations (see Cover Sheet)

1. Consideration will be given to the number and quality of symposia or conferences that the applicant has organized in the past.
2. Applicants who have received a Symposium Award in the previous year will be given a lower priority.

3. Applicants are urged to consult with their department heads or chairs and to ask colleagues to peer-review their proposals before submitting them. Applicants may also wish to consult with the Director of the Humanities Program as they prepare their proposals.

**Proposal procedure:**

Proposals should include the following:

1. A completed Cover Sheet, including departmental endorsement. Please note that the signature of the department chair or head is required. Be sure to give your proposal a title.
2. An abstract of the proposed Symposium (no more than one-half page typed, single-spaced).
3. A description of the proposed Symposium (no more than 2000 words typed, double-spaced, plus a one-page bibliography).
4. A current curriculum vitae that focuses on research accomplishments (3 pages maximum).
5. You should include a tentative budget for the symposium, which indicates matching funds being sought and how funds will be spent.

An original and seven copies of the proposal must be submitted to the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies main office (111 Lane Hall) by 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 1, 2007.

Samples of successful proposals from previous years are available in 111 Lane Hall.

**HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM AWARD PROPOSAL COVER SHEET**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Proposal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below list conferences or symposia that you have organized, if any, giving the year, the name, and any specific results of those conferences or symposia, such as publications. (Use an additional sheet if necessary.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Indicate below other grant support you will apply for to support the proposed Symposium:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Departmental Endorsement

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE HUMANITIES SUMMER STIPEND AWARD GUIDELINES**

The Humanities Summer Stipend competition combines two separate research support opportunities into one process: (1) a Virginia Tech-funded summer stipend program, and (2) a federally funded summer stipend program administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). We understand that the NEH program will continue next year, and the 2008 Humanities Summer Stipend competition will proceed according to the basic practices used in the past. These require a timetable for submitting proposals that will allow us not only to determine who will receive the Virginia Tech-funded stipends, but also to provide sufficient time for the University to present nominations to the NEH for their competition.

All proposals for Virginia Tech Humanities Summer Stipends must be submitted to the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies main office (111 Lane Hall) by 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 1, 2007. Every effort will be made to notify award recipients and NEH nominees by August 31, 2007. Winners of the Summer Stipends must submit a report on the outcome of their research by January 16, 2009.

The Humanities Summer Stipend and Symposium Awards Review Committee, comprising representatives from different humanities-related departments or programs across the university, will recommend proposals to receive summer stipend support to be used in the Summer of 2008. We anticipate that the amount will be \$4000 for each stipend. Of these, two proposals (one junior and one senior faculty) will be nominated to NEH. Should neither of these nominees be funded by NEH, they will be assured of the Virginia Tech stipend. If nominations for NEH stipends are successful, then additional alternates will be funded by Virginia Tech. In past years, several of our nominees to the NEH have been funded, making it possible to fund proposals on the alternate list.

### **Guidelines:**

NEH guidelines include specific advice regarding the kinds of projects that will be considered suitable for the NEH competition. According to the act that established the National Endowment for the Humanities, the term humanities includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following disciplines: history, philosophy, languages, linguistics, literature, archaeology, jurisprudence; the history, theory, and criticism of the arts; ethics, comparative religion, and those aspects of the social sciences that employ historical or philosophical approaches.

The creative or performing arts--such as writing fiction or poetry, painting, sculpture, musical composition or performance, acting, directing, and dance--are not eligible for support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Critical, historical, and theoretical studies of the arts, however, are eligible for NEH support.

Note: The Virginia Tech Humanities Summer Stipend Competition does not exclude work in the creative or performing arts, although proposals in these areas cannot be sent forward as nominees for the NEH competition.

**Criteria for selection:**

Proposals for Summer Stipends will be judged using the following criteria:

1. the quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities;
2. the significance of the contribution that the proposed project will make to thought and knowledge in the applicant's field and to the humanities generally;
3. the conception, definition, organization, and description of the proposed project; and,
4. the likelihood that the applicant will complete the entire project.

**Eligibility:**

This program is designed to make Summer Stipend awards available to as many Virginia Tech faculty who are pursuing humanities-oriented projects.

All faculty, including instructors and tenure-track and tenured professors, are eligible to apply without regard to rank. Awards may be used for overseas travel. Recipients may not teach in either summer term. Awardees may receive some other kinds of additional support from their departments.

Further considerations (see Cover Sheet)

1. Recipients of a Humanities Summer Stipend are not eligible to compete for funding in two consecutive years. (Faculty who received 2007 Summer Stipends are ineligible to reapply for the 2008 competition.)
2. Consideration will be given to the number of previous summer stipends a faculty member has received in the past and the specific results from those awards.
3. Faculty who know they will be holding major fellowships either immediately preceding or following the summer of 2008 must show that the 2008 Summer Stipend will support a discrete body of work that could not be accomplished with the other grant(s).
4. Priority will be given to junior faculty, although some senior faculty will be selected.
5. Priority will be given to proposals seeking travel funds that will lead to published research. A brief budget outlining how you intend to spend the stipend funds will be helpful in determining your need for funds.
6. Applicants are urged to consult with their department heads or chairs and to ask colleagues to review their proposals before submitting them. Applicants may also wish to consult with the Director of the Humanities Program as they prepare their proposals.

**Proposal procedure:**

Proposals should include the following:

1. A completed Cover Sheet, including departmental endorsement. Please note that the signature of the department chair or head is required. Be sure to give your proposal a title.
2. An abstract of the proposed study (no more than one-half page typed, single-spaced).
3. A description of the proposed study (no more than 2000 words typed, double-spaced, plus a one-page bibliography). NEH Summer Stipend guidelines for writing the description are given below.
4. A current curriculum vitae focusing on research accomplishments (3 pages maximum).
5. Faculty whose proposals are selected for forwarding to the NEH will be asked to revise their proposals according to NEH specifications and submit additional materials, including two outside letters of evaluation, required for the NEH dossier.

An original and seven copies of the proposal and vita must be submitted to the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies main office (111 Lane Hall) by 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 1, 2007.

Samples of successful proposals from previous years are available in 111 Lane Hall.

Here are some suggestions the NEH gives for writing descriptions (narratives) for successful Summer Stipend proposals:

The narrative should convey the ideas, objectives, and methods of the project. It should also communicate the project's substance and potential contribution to the humanities. A simple statement of need or intent is insufficient. Because some evaluators will not possess specialized knowledge of the proposed field of study, the description should be free of jargon.

There is no formula for writing a successful narrative. However, past applicants have typically addressed the following questions:

- \* What are the basic ideas, problems, or questions examined by the study? Explain the planned approach or line of thought. If the area is a new area of research, explain the reasons for working in it.
- \* For what part or stage of your project are you seeking support? Provide an overview of the project and describe what part of the study you will undertake during the award period.
- \* What will be accomplished during the award period? Supply a brief work plan.
- \* How will the project complement, challenge, or expand relevant studies in the field? Explain what makes the study distinctive.
- \* What contribution will the project make to the humanities?
- \* What is your competence in the languages needed for the study?
- \* Where will you conduct the study and what materials will you use?
- \* Do you have access to archives, collections, or institutions with the necessary resources?
- \* Who is the intended audience for the results of the study?
- \* What are the intended results of the project?
- \* For book projects, how will the final product be organized? If possible, provide a brief chapter outline.

**HUMANITIES SUMMER STIPEND PROPOSAL COVER SHEET**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Proposal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below list previous Humanities Stipend awards, if any, giving the year received, the title of the project, and any specific results made possible by that award. (Use an additional sheet if necessary.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Indicate below other grant support you anticipate in the academic year preceding and, if known, the academic year following the summer for which this proposal is submitted. State briefly the relationship between this Summer Stipend proposal and any supported proposal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Departmental Endorsement

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_