

Application Packet:

“Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast”

On-site in Alaska and British Columbia

June 13 - July 12, 2010

A National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute
for Community College and Four-Year College and University Faculty
sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association

Application deadline: March 2, 2010.



Institute Administration

George L. Scheper, Project Co-Director
Coordinator, Humanities, Community College of Baltimore County

Laraine Fletcher, Project Co-Director
Acting Chair, Anthropology, Adelphi University

David A. Berry, Project Manager:
Executive Director, Community College Humanities Association

“Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast”

September 15, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your interest in “Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast,” a NEH Summer Institute for college and university teachers sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association. This letter from the project directors will set out the general scope of our project, and appended to this letter you will find an **Application Packet, consisting of NEH’s general “Application Information and Instructions.” Please note that NEH requires that an Application Cover Sheet must be filled out online at the following web address: <<http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/>>, submitted electronically, and then printed out and submitted also in hard copy to us, with the rest of your completed application, as explained in the Application Instructions appended to this letter.**

The Institute will be held on-site for four weeks, from June 13 through July 12, 2010, based in locations in Alaska and British Columbia, Canada. Institute sessions will be conducted successively by ten internationally distinguished scholars, along with other local Native guest speakers and artists, both in seminar and field study format. The seminars and field study are designed to enable faculty participants to explore the exciting and rapidly accumulating new collaborative and interdisciplinary scholarship on Alaskan and Northwest Coast Native cultures, on-site in the extraordinarily diverse coastal environments of the Pacific Northwest.

Applicants should be aware that this project will involve a good deal of travel and field study under inherently unpredictable weather conditions, along with a couple of long ferry trips. However, what this travel/study Institute thereby affords participants is an unparalleled opportunity for a group of twenty-four colleagues to travel and learn together, visiting many of the most important sites and communities for the study of Native cultures of Alaska and British Columbia. Our program includes study visits to Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Prince Rupert, Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), Vancouver and Alert Bay.

The two of us who are directing the project – George Scheper and Laraine Fletcher – and our project manager, David Berry, Executive Director of the Community College Humanities Association, have worked together directing similar travel/study NEH Institutes, and we have good working relationships with our visiting scholars. This is the eighth NEH Institute co-directed by Laraine Fletcher, professor of Anthropology at Adelphi University, where she regularly teaches a course on People of the North. For more than twenty-five years Laraine has been involved in archaeological fieldwork, including analyses of the settlement patterns of the pre-Columbian sites of Cobá and Calakmul, as well as archaeological surveys in northern Nicaragua in the 1990’s. Recently she has begun a photo-ethnographic project focused on Maya women in the Yucatán. This is the eleventh NEH Institute George Scheper has co-directed on topics related to New World cultural encounters. George coordinates an interdisciplinary program in humanities for adult learners at the Community College of Baltimore County and regularly teaches interdisciplinary courses in Advanced Academic Programs for the Center for Liberal Arts at The Johns Hopkins University and for the School

of Continuing and Professional Studies at New York University, and he is a regular lecturer for the Smithsonian Associates program in Washington, D.C. His teaching, research and publications focus on cultural studies and comparative religion.

We are working with an excellent travel agent in Alaska who will be handling most of our logistics. We trust that the experience we have gained as a team, along with the resources of CCHA, will translate into a fruitful, collegial and stimulating experience for our participants. We do realize that the commitment to a four-week on-site project makes this a demanding travel/study experience, and that participants need to be flexible and to be able to go with the flow as group arrangements demand. A generous spirit of collegiality and good will go a long way toward making a complex project such as this work successfully.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT, EXPENSES AND STIPEND

Because “Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast” is being held on-site in Alaska and British Columbia, with a full program of field-study visits, the grant monies usually allocated as stipends for a four week Institute have been pooled to cover participant travel and lodging expenses within the Institute. These expenses will be covered directly by CCHA using the stipend money. Participants will receive all lodging, internal travel and site-visit costs for all scheduled activities during the Institute as specified in the detailed Daily Schedule, along with a few pre-arranged meals. Participants are responsible for meal expenses other than when pre-arranged during the periods of residency at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau and at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver; for personal expenses; and for their own individual travel arrangements to arrive in Juneau, Alaska by Sunday, June 13th, 2010 and for return from Vancouver, Canada on or after July 12, 2010 (NEH funds cannot cover individual travel to and from the Institute). Participants may wish to make these travel arrangements individually, but our travel agent will be pleased to assist participants with those arrangements if desired.

Based on our past experience, participants should anticipate budgeting \$40 to \$50 per day for meals and other personal expenses for the duration of the project.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The Institute will run for four weeks, from June 13 to July 12, 2010. We will be based in Juneau, Alaska from June 13 through June 23; in Sitka from June 24 through June 26; and in Ketchikan from June 27 through June 30. We then move on to British Columbia, where we will be in Prince Rupert on July 1 and July 2, in Queen Charlotte Village on July 3 and July 4, in Vancouver from July 5 through July 7, Alert Bay on July 8 and 9, and back in Vancouver July 10 and 11. Our travels are concentrated in the second half of the Institute, and participants may wish to send some things back home as we embark on those travels; also, to make our two-day trip to Alert Bay less cumbersome, we suggest that participants leave most remaining luggage in our lodgings in Vancouver, to which we shall return, and travel to Alert Bay with just a small overnight bag.

A typical non-travel working day of the Institute will consist of a seminar in the morning conducted by one of the visiting scholars, followed by lunch and informal discussion

with the scholar. Once a week the project directors will conduct a brief roundtable to review the proceedings and to discuss individual ideas and needs. Days of field study either at museums or historic or contemporary cultural sites will typically devote the full day to that activity. The visiting scholars will be available, during their respective scheduled days with the Institute, for consultation with participants about their individual research and curricular interests.

Sessions with Institute scholars will alternate between seminars and field trips to historical and cultural sites. Because of the intense schedule of the Institute, as much of the required reading as possible should be done prior to departure. There is a core reading list of books that accepted participants will need to acquire after confirmation of acceptance, and in addition we will supply some duplicated reading materials assigned by the Institute scholars for their respective sessions and not readily available through JSTOR. These readings will be sent ahead to each selected participant upon our receipt of the Agreement to Participate. To help ensure a high level of informed discussion, this project does require of participants a substantial amount of reading in a variety of disciplines. So, once again, we'd like to stress how greatly it will contribute to the success of the project if accepted participants undertake as much of the required reading as can realistically be done in advance.

INSTITUTE FACULTY AND PROGRAM

During the course of the Institute seminars and field study will be conducted by an array of distinguished visiting scholars representing many different humanities and social science disciplines.

We begin with three seminar days devoted to the Yup'ik cultures of Western Alaska led by Ann Fienup-Riordan, of the Arctic Studies Center and Calista Elders Council, based on her long-term research focusing on oral tradition and issues of representation, including representations of Native Alaskan peoples in documentary and feature films. Our next scholar, Kenneth Ames (Portland State University), will address the long and complex prehistory of the peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast, tracing the long archaeological record of the region and addressing the exceptional rise of complex chiefdom-level societies without an economic base in agriculture.

Nora Marks Dauenhauer, a Native Tlingit scholar, and her husband/collaborator, Richard Dauenhauer (University of Alaska Southeast), a scholar, poet and non-Native participant in Tlingit culture, will address the evolving concept of identity among Alaskan Native peoples, specifically focusing on the Tlingit. Nora Dauenhauer will also offer two evening seminar presentations on her seminal work on the collection and preservation of Tlingit oral narratives and Tlingit life histories. With Aldona Jonaitis, Director Emerita of the University of Alaska Museum of the North, we turn to an in-depth study of one of the great art traditions of world culture. Jonaitis' seminars will focus on the diverse expressions of continuity and change observable in Northwest Coast art, and on new directions in scholarship. Jonaitis will demonstrate the stylistic characteristics of the various Pacific Coast cultures through study tours of the Alaska State Museum in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka, as well as in guided visits to the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center and the Sitka

National Historical Park, whose famous Totem Pole Trail features skillful modern carvings that replicate historic poles, mostly from Haida villages on Prince of Wales Island. We also visit the Sheetka Kwaan NaaKaHidi [Tlingit] Cultural Center, a traditional longhouse where all of Sitka's clans are represented, for a scheduled cultural program. In Sitka we will also meet with Teri Rofkar and Nicholas Galanin, two other widely recognized contemporary Native artists.

In Ketchikan, Native Tlingit anthropologist Rosita Worl (Vice Chair, Sealaska Corporation and President, Sealaska Heritage Institute) will conduct three days of seminars and field visits focusing on contemporary social/cultural issues in Southeast Alaska. The group will visit the Totem Cultural Heritage Center, the largest collection of original, unaltered totem poles in Alaska, and Totem Bight Park, which features a group of poles carved by Native carvers who made up an Indian Civilian Conservation Corps (ICCC) in the 1930's, charged with recreating historic poles. At Saxman Village of the Cape Fox Tlingit, whose grounds feature an assemblage of twenty-two new and old totem poles, the group will attend a cultural performance of traditional dance and also have the opportunity to meet with master carver Nathan Jackson.

We fly to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, where Aldona Jonaitis accompanies us for a study visit to the Museum of Northern British Columbia and to undertake a study tour with Native Tsimshian guides of Laxspa'aws (Pike Island), where archaeological evidence and petroglyphs are indicative of thousands years of occupation. From Prince Rupert we go by ferry to the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii), home of historic and contemporary Haida communities. With Jonaitis we will visit the newly refurbished Haida Heritage Centre, featuring work by the important modern Haida artist, the late Bill Reid.

The group then flies to Vancouver with two days of seminar discussions at the Museum of Anthropology of the University of British Columbia and a tour of the Museum. Speakers on the first day are Jennifer Kramer (Curator, Pacific Northwest, Museum of Anthropology, UBC) and Charlotte Townsend-Gault (Art History, UBC), co-editors, with Ki-ki-en [Ron Hamilton] of the recent volume *Writing Northwest Coast Art: An Anthology 1774-2000*. Discussions will center on the construction and interpretation of Native American art; issues of identity, ownership and intellectual property rights; the history of collecting; and the role of Native collectors and collaborators and of Native communitarian museums. The second seminar day features Bruce Miller (Anthropology, UBC) and Aaron Glass (Fellow in Museum Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History and Bard Graduate Center). Miller has worked primarily with issues of Aboriginal justice and governance, and Aboriginal ethnography and ethnohistory, with a particular emphasis on the Coast Salish of BC and Washington State. Miller will arrange a visit to the nearby Musqueam Native community, guided by community representatives. Aaron Glass's research focuses on Kwakwaka'wakw communities, especially that of Alert Bay on Vancouver Island. He will discuss his current research in connection with the book *Totem Poles: Myth and Monument*, co-authored with Aldona Jonaitis, and his current project involving the restoration of Edward Curtis' 1914 documentary film "In the Land of the Head Hunters," filmed in Alert Bay, off northern Vancouver Island.

With Aaron Glass we travel by ferry and bus to the historic Kwakwaka'wakw settlement at Alert Bay, where his research has focused on community attitudes toward issues of contemporary art and cultural performance. At Alert Bay, the group is hosted by the U'mista Cultural Centre, a communitarian museum founded in 1980 to present Native artifacts in a manner reflective of Native sensibilities; a centerpiece is the display of previously confiscated potlatch artifacts subsequently returned by the Canadian government to the community. The institute concludes back in Vancouver with a farewell reception hosted by CCHA on the evening of July 10; July 11 is the final night of lodgings provided by the grant.

INSTITUTE LOCATION AND FACILITIES

Our Institute will be convened in Alaska and British Columbia in order to emphasize locations suitable for the first-hand study of the histories and contemporary cultures of Alaskan and Pacific Northwest Coast Native peoples. Planning for the travel, lodging and seminar arrangements throughout the Institute have been closely orchestrated between the project directors, the project manager and our local travel agent in Alaska.

The group will have safe and quiet lodgings throughout the project. The Institute will be housed in residence halls at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau and at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver; at other locations the Institute will use hotel facilities. The University of Alaska residence halls are located approximately 10 miles from downtown Juneau, to which a shuttle bus which runs every 15 minutes. The residence hall at the University of British Columbia is on the main campus, a 45 minutes bus ride from downtown Vancouver. Grant arrangements include a partial meal plan during residency for Institute fellows at the two residence halls in Juneau and Vancouver. As centers for our more extended stays, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Prince Rupert and Vancouver are unparalleled resources for understanding the history and culture of Western and Southeast Alaska and coastal British Columbia. These cities offer many cultural institutions as well as completely modern facilities.

Seminar space will be in conference facilities of our hotels or at local universities and cultural centers. In addition to our seminar sessions, a major component of our project consists of field study, as we make study visits to historic and cultural sites, museum collections and indigenous communities guided by our visiting and local scholars, all of whom have paramount professional experience and connections in the field in Alaska and British Columbia. Guided visits to such sites as Haida Gwaii and Alert Bay in the company of scholars who are among the foremost authorities in their discipline, with extensive field-work experience, have been planned as intellectual and cultural highlights of the program.

APPLICATION

The Institute is intended to function as a stimulus to individual study and research and as a seedbed for course and curriculum development. In your application essay you should identify an area of personal research interest and/or of curriculum development that you intend to pursue during the course of the Institute. The semester following the Institute, participants will be asked to submit reports on the impact of the Institute on their research and teaching; these will be included in the project directors' Final Report to NEH.

For the reasons indicated above, you should note that perhaps the most important part of your application is the essay that must be submitted as part of the complete application. This essay should include any personal and academic information that is relevant; reasons for applying to this particular Institute; your interest, both intellectual and personal, in the topic; qualifications to do the work of the project and to make a contribution to it; what you hope to accomplish by participation, including any individual research and writing projects; and the relation of the study to your teaching and research.

Please follow the guidelines in the appended general "Application Information and Instructions" from NEH, and remember that an Application Cover Sheet must be filled out online at

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

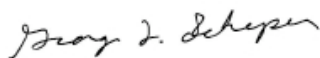
submitted electronically, and then printed out and submitted in hard copy to us, with the rest of your completed application. Three copies of your completed application, in hard copy only, postmarked no later than March 2, 2010, should be addressed to our project manager:

David A. Berry, Executive Director
 "Pacific Northwest Coast" Institute Project Manager
 Community College Humanities Association
 c/o Essex County College, 303 University Avenue
 Newark, NJ 07102-1798

Email: berry@essex.edu ; Tel: 973-877-3204

We wish you all the best and look forward to hearing from you. If you have additional questions about the structure or content of our Institute, please contact David Berry, above, or one of the project directors at either of our addresses below. For further information, please visit our project website at < <http://www.ccha-assoc.org/nwcoastcultures10/index.html> >.

Sincerely,



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NEH SUMMER SEMINARS & INSTITUTES FOR COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

For the 2010 Summer Institute: “Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast”

Summer Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers are offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide college and university faculty members and independent scholars with an opportunity to enrich and revitalize their understanding of significant humanities ideas, texts, and topics. These study opportunities are especially designed for this program and are not intended to duplicate courses normally offered by graduate programs. On completion of a seminar or institute, participants will receive a certificate indicating their participation. Prior to completing an application, please review the enclosed letter from the project director 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.

Institutes are for 24 to 25 participants and provide intensive collaborative study of texts, topics, and ideas central to undergraduate teaching in the humanities under the guidance of faculties distinguished in their fields of scholarship. Institutes aim to prepare participants to return to their classrooms with a deeper knowledge of current scholarship in key fields of the humanities. Please note: The use of the words “seminar” or “institute” in this document is precise and is intended to convey differences between the two project types.

ELIGIBILITY

These projects are designed primarily for teachers of American undergraduate students. Qualified independent scholars and those employed by museums, libraries, historical societies, and other organizations may be eligible to compete provided they can effectively advance the teaching and research goals of the seminar or institute. 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 are not eligible to apply. Up to two seminar spaces and three institute spaces are reserved for current full-time graduate students in the humanities.

Applicants must complete the on-line NEH Application Cover Sheet (see “Application Instructions” below) and provide all of the information requested below to be considered eligible. An applicant need not have an advanced degree in order to qualify. Adjunct and part-time lecturers are eligible to apply. Individuals may not apply to study with a director of a seminar or institute who is a current colleague or a family member. Individuals must not apply to seminars directed by scholars with whom they have previously studied. Institute selection committees are advised that only under the most compelling and exceptional circumstances may an individual participate in an institute with a director or a lead faculty member who has previously guided that individual’s research or in whose previous institute or seminar he or she has participated. An individual may apply to **up to three**

projects in any one year (seminars, institutes or Landmarks workshops), but may participate in **only one**. Please note that Landmarks Workshops are designed for community college faculty.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A selection committee reads and evaluates all properly completed applications in order to select the most promising applicants and to identify a small number of alternates. (Institute selection committees consist of three to five members, usually drawn from the institute faculty and staff members.) While recent participants are eligible to apply, selection committees are charged to give first consideration to applicants who have not participated in an NEH-supported seminar, institute or Landmarks workshop in the last three years (2007, 2008, 2009).

The most important consideration in the selection of participants is the likelihood that an applicant will benefit professionally. This is determined by committee members from the conjunction of several factors, each of which should be addressed in the application essay. These factors include:

1. quality and commitment as a teacher, scholar, and interpreter of the humanities;
2. intellectual interests, both generally and as they relate to the work of the institute;
3. special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the seminar or institute;
4. commitment to participate fully in the formal and informal collegial life of the institute;
5. the likelihood that the experience will enhance the applicant's teaching and scholarship.

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 seminar, institute, or Landmarks workshop, or who significantly contribute to the diversity of the seminar or institute.**

STIPEND, TENURE, AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD

The stipend for a four-week long Institute is valued at \$3,300. Stipends are taxable; they are intended to help cover travel expenses to and from the project location, books and other research expenses, and living expenses for the duration of the period spent in residence. Because "Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast" is being held on-site in Alaska and British Columbia, with a series of travel and field-study visits, the grant monies normally allocated as stipends have been pooled to cover participant travel and lodging expenses within the Institute, all of which will be covered directly by CCHA. Participants will receive all lodging, internal travel, site-visit and other program costs for scheduled activities during the Institute. NEH funds cannot additionally cover individual travel to and from the Institute. Participants will be responsible for meal expenses, except where covered by meal plans during residency at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver; for personal expenses; and for individual travel arrangements to arrive in Juneau, Alaska by June 13, 2010 and for return from Vancouver, Canada on or after July 12, 2010. **Applicants to all projects, especially those held abroad, should note that supplements will not be given in cases where the stipend is insufficient to cover all expenses.**

Seminar and institute participants are required to attend all meetings and to engage fully in the work of the project. During the project's tenure, they may not undertake teaching assignments or any other professional activities unrelated to their participation in the project. Participants who, for any reason, do not complete the full tenure of the project must refund a pro-rata portion of the stipend.

At the end of the project's residential period, participants will be asked to submit online evaluations in which they review their work during the summer and assess its value to their personal and professional development. These evaluations will become part of the project's grant file and may become part of an application to repeat the seminar or institute.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

These general application instructions from the NEH are accompanied by a “Dear Colleague Letter” letter from the project directors that 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, subsistence, and extracurricular activities. If you do not have such a letter, please request one from the director of the project in which you are interested before you attempt to compete and submit an application. **All application materials for “Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast” should be sent to the project manager, as directed below. Application materials sent to the Endowment will not be reviewed.**

CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION MATERIALS

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

- three copies of the completed application cover sheet,
- three copies of a detailed résumé, or brief biography, and
- three copies of an application essay as outlined below, and
- two letters of recommendation, as described below.

A full application consists of the items listed above, as sent to a project director or project manager.

The Application Cover Sheet

The Application Cover Sheet must be filled out on line at this address:

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

Please fill it out on line as directed by the prompts. When you are finished, be sure to click on the “submit” button. Print out the Cover Sheet and add it to your application package. At this point you will be asked if you want to apply to another project. If you do, follow the prompts and select another project and then print out the cover sheet for that project. 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 cover sheets for several projects.

Résumé

Please include a detailed résumé (not to exceed five pages).

The Application Essay

The application essay should be no more than four double spaced pages. This essay should include any relevant personal and academic information. It should address reasons for applying; the applicant's interest, both academic and personal, in the subject to be studied; qualifications and experiences that equip the applicant to do the work of the seminar or institute and to make a

contribution to a learning community; a statement of what the applicant wants to accomplish by participating; and the relation of the project to the applicant's professional responsibilities.

- Applicants to institutes may need to elaborate on the relationship between institute activities and their responsibilities for teaching and curricular development.

Reference Letters

The two referees may be from inside or outside the applicant's home institution. They should be familiar with the applicant's professional accomplishments or promise, teaching and/or research interests, and ability to contribute to and benefit from participation in the seminar or institute. Referees should be provided with the director's description of the seminar or institute and the applicant's essay. Applicants who are current graduate students should secure a letter from a professor or advisor. Please ask each of your referees to sign their name across the seal on the back of the envelope containing their letter, and enclose the letters with your application.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Completed applications for "Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast" should be submitted by postal mail to the project manager and should be **postmarked no later than March 2, 2010**:

David A. Berry, Executive Director
"Pacific Northwest Coast" Project Manager
Community College Humanities Association
c/o Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102-1798

Successful applicants will be notified of their selection by April 1, 2010, and they will have until April 5 to accept or decline the offer. Applicants who will not be home during the notification period are advised to provide an address and phone number where they can be reached. No information on the status of applications will be available prior to the official notification period.

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 the Equal Opportunity Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. TDD: 202/606-8282 (this is a special telephone device for the Deaf).

