June 4, 2018

Dear CAS Chairs and Directors,

The application process for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) summer stipend grants is once again upon us. UVM may nominate two faculty to formally apply. These grants provide $6000 in summer support for a variety of research projects in the humanities and related fields. Please see complete details on the NEH website at https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends

Please note that the NEH defines "humanities" very broadly: "The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."--National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended.

The NEH's current funding cycle emphasizes, but is not limited to, projects that involve "The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square" as well as "Standing Together," which supports projects related to war and military service. The NEH also encourages applications for projects that "study, document, or create digital representations of lost or imperiled cultural heritage materials."

Summer Stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Eligible projects usually result in articles, monographs, books, digital materials and publications, archaeological site reports, translations, or editions.

Faculty members who wish to be considered should submit a current c.v. and a statement about their proposed summer research project [of no more than 2 pages] to their respective chairs. Chairs should then nominate one faculty member per department and provide a letter of support and the above materials, to me at kelley.didio@uvm.edu by Monday, September 3, 2018. I will convene a committee to evaluate the applications.

Please forward the information about this grant to your faculty as soon as possible. We especially encourage you to share this grant opportunity with junior faculty. Although this is a very competitive program, the relatively short application and the focused time period make it a good way for junior faculty to lay the foundation for future grant applications.

In the last five competitions, the Summer Stipends program received an average of 860 applications per year. The program made an average of 78 awards per year, for a funding ratio of 9 percent. I am very pleased to report that Professor Mark Usher of Classics was awarded an NEH stipend for summer 2016. The title of his project was "Sustainability, Complex Systems, and the Greeks." Our hope is that our exceptional faculty in the Humanities and related disciplines may have similar success with this funding opportunity.
Regards,
Kelley

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