

NATIONAL HUMANITIES CONFERENCE

Salt Lake City - 2016

Thursday, November 10th- Sunday, November 13th

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The NHC Daily

Welcome to the 2016 *National Humanities Conference Daily*, a daily recap of news and images from the conference. In addition, please check out the [National Humanities Conference Facebook Page](#) and the [conference website event page](#). To follow the conversation on social media, please use #NHCSLC.

Thank You!



Routledge for its sponsorship of the 2016 National Humanities Conference.

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In Case You Missed It



"I love the humanities" - Video Interviews with the 2016 Schwartz Prize Winners

Saturday

Breakfast with the NEH Chairman



Photo by Jesse Moss, NEH

This morning, attendees were invited to listen in on a conversation between NEH Chairman Adams and Virginia Foundation for the Humanities President and CEO Rob Vaughan, two veteran humanists who offered a historical review of where the NEH and the councils have been and who provided insight and encouragement on what still needs to occur. Chairman Adams stressed the importance of civic preparedness and asked how councils and humanists can continue and increase activities to facilitate, inspire, and support humanities and civic education in secondary education. He also noted the importance of addressing complex public issues and asked Rob to share what the Virginia council was doing in this department as well as to describe what he saw as the next frontier. The conversation was live streamed and recorded on the conference Facebook page.

"We have a lot more work to do to explain why the humanities and liberal arts are important for all Americans." - *Chairman Adams*



Photo by Jesse Moss, NEH

Closing Keynote with Elizabeth Fenn

This evening we were honored to have Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Elizabeth Fenn deliver the conference closing keynote. Dr. Fenn talked about the history of the Mandan tribe and the intense challenges the people faced in terms of famine, smallpox, and rat infestations, and the resilience the tribe demonstrated. She explained that although the tribe existed more than two centuries ago, the stories were still pertinent to today, and that in order to truly grasp where we are today, it is imperative to understand the stories of early American history, the history that predates the better known "American story" of the east coast colonists. Otherwise, she urged, we run the risk of misunderstanding the full American story.

"You are the people who need to do this work, you are the only people who can do this work."

Dr. Fenn encouraged the audience to continue reaching out to indigenous populations, particularly children. After giving her presentation, Dr. Fenn took questions from the audience and was available to sign books.



Photo by Jo-Ann Wong

"What I want to see more than anything is work with indigenous kids... Immerse them in history."

Concurrent Sessions' Highlights

THE CLEMENTE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES: 20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

1:00 pm session

"Partnerships are relational, not transactional." -Kathryn Pope, Bridge Models

The [Clemente Course](#) has brought free humanities education to thousands of men and women of lower-income classes. In its 20-year history, the organization has learned the importance of their partnerships. Without the enduring relationships with their partners, the Clemente Course would not see the success it sees today.

COLLABORATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS

1:00 pm session

"We see the humanities as so relevant in our times. And this [collaboration] with Penn State Reads is a way to incite individual change."- Laurie Zierer, PHC

Collaboration serves as a bridge and connector between universities, state humanities councils, and the public, but it is not without its tensions. Dan Kubis, University of Pittsburgh and Laurie Zierer, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, discussed several collaborative projects at their institutions, including the "Year of the Humanities in the University" at the University of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council's "Chester Made," and the triumphs and challenges of these collaborations.

THE FACE OF PHD EDUCATION INNOVATION: NEW

YORK'S PUBLIC HUMANITIES FELLOWS

1:00 pm session

The panel outlined the inception and growth of the New York Public Humanities Fellows. It identified the key role that Humanities New York played in the planning and implementation processes: the council hosts workshops for the Fellow where they receive training and a space to reflect on their projects, skills, and experiences. Thomas Guiler provided an example of the way that participating in the Fellows program revolutionized his career goals, his relationship to his scholarship, and his ideas about the role the public humanities play in today's society.

DEEPENING COUNCIL/ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

1:00 pm session

"Young scholars can help us with probing and challenging assumptions." -Deborah Watrous, NHHC

This session featured a wide-ranging conversation on how councils and scholars could collaborate as well as discussed some of the most productive ways that scholars could interact with communities. Attendees discussed what it meant to collaborate and what collaboration looked like in times of change. Panelists encouraged participants to involve and engage with communities while creating programs, and stressed that community and public engagement is a natural part of the humanities.

TEACHER PROGRAMS THAT WORK

2:30 pm session

"The foundation of a healthy civic life is people talking to and listening to each other."

This session provided concrete examples of how Humanities Texas' Professional Teacher Development Programs are structured. Content area training engages classroom teachers with highly-qualified scholars around specific topics of history and literature. Some of the key points of the presentation included the importance of scheduling programs around the teachers' schedules (local, regional, and seasonal) as well as finding engaging scholars and outstanding teachers to lead workshops.

The session also featured a conversation around the teacher training programs with the National Archives Legislative branch with key points including the necessity of starting where the students are, the use of primary sources, the importance of providing easy-to-access content (PDF lesson plans, etc.), and the need to make lessons correspond to teaching standards.

REGIONAL STUDIES CENTERS AT THE CROSSROADS OF GLOBAL AND THE LOCAL

2:30 pm session

Panelists from regional studies centers at the University of South Carolina, the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, the University of New Mexico, the University of

Mississippi and the University of Missouri-Kansas City presented on a wide range of programs that have tackled global phenomenon through local lenses. These projects included: inter-disciplinary conferences of the local manifestations of climate change; a documentary on the trajectory of cotton from harvesting to manufacturing overseas; and digital tools to examine the history of the Missouri/Kansas border. Conversation following these presentations focused on models for building sustained collaboration between regional studies centers and state councils.

THE PUBLICLY ENGAGED SCHOLAR

2:30 pm extended session

Three scholars presented publicly engaged projects that address community needs from their Universities:

Dr. Fleetwood presented the work of formerly incarcerated artists, challenging public perceptions of the artists, and helping them to tell their stories and combat the dehumanizing aspects of incarceration.

Dr. Rebman shared her summer program that brings enthusiastic middle school students to local sites of the 19th century struggles for suffrage, abolition, and Native American cultural preservation.

Finally, Dr. Schroeder introduced her Providence Syllabus, a collaborative project to create a digest on local history to help situate new residents in local life and challenge negative perceptions.

Thank You and Stay in Touch!

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations that supported this year's National Humanities Conference. We are especially grateful to the 2016 National Humanities Conference Planning Committee and to Utah Humanities for the planning, execution, and hosting of the 2016 conference.

To the session coordinators, panelists, and moderators, thank you for bringing your expertise and sharing your experiences. This conference was made richer by your participation.

To our sponsors, we are so grateful for your support of the humanities and the humanities' communities. A special thank you to Routledge, University of Utah, College of Humanities, Utah Humanities, the Natural History Museum of Utah, and Jo-Ann Wong (Photography) for your sponsorship and contributions.

We'd also like to thank Alex Nowicki from the National Humanities Alliance and Jesse Moss from the National Endowment for the Humanities for donating their video talents to capture the conference in new ways and bring sessions home to those unable to attend. Videos from the conference will continue to be posted across the Federation, National

Humanities Alliance, and NEH social media channels. Additionally, thank you to the more than 15 people who submitted session descriptions and content for the *NHC Daily*!

To stay connected to news and events surrounding the 2016 and future National Humanities Conferences, be sure to like the [National Humanities Conference Facebook](#) page. We'll be gearing up for 2017 before you know it!

Upcoming Events (Sunday, Nov. 13)

8:30 AM - Federation Board Breakfast (Canyon B)

8:45 AM - Mountains and Park City Tour (Meet in the Hotel Lobby)

Mark your calendars for 2017:

Nov. 2-5, 2017 - *Boston, MA*

See you there!