Mellon Partners for Humanities Education

The Mellon Partners for Humanities Education, generously funded by a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, is a collaboration among four colleges and universities—Tennessee State University, Tougaloo College, Berea College, and Vanderbilt University.

The partnership supports faculty development on all campuses involved; seeks to improve graduate education at Vanderbilt, while preparing students to meet the needs of diverse types of institutions; and enhances undergraduate education at partner schools, as they prepare their students for a more competitive edge in the world marketplace. Resources include:

- **Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships** for individuals who recently have received PhD’s in the humanities or humanistic social sciences from Vanderbilt – The two-year fellowships provide salary, benefits, and a research fund and offer teaching and service opportunities at Tougaloo, Berea, or TSU.
- **The Mellon Seminar in Liberal Arts Teaching and the Mellon Institute for Early-career Scholars in the Digital and Public Humanities** – These two programs, for Vanderbilt graduate students, offer specialized training in teaching at liberal arts colleges and historically black colleges and universities, as well as workshops related to public and digital humanities.
- **Faculty exchanges** among the four partner schools

Partner Schools

The member institutions in this partnership are Vanderbilt University, Tennessee State University, Tougaloo College, and Berea College. Tennessee State University (TSU) is a historically black public university set in urban Nashville. It has over 8,000 students and offers degrees in a broad range of disciplines. Tougaloo College is a historically black private liberal arts college with just under 1,000 students. It is located in the northernmost part of Jackson, Mississippi, and continues its time-honored tradition of academic excellence and social responsibility. Berea College also is a liberal arts school and was the first coeducational and interracial college in the southern United States. Based in a rural community not far from Lexington, Kentucky, Berea has never charged its students tuition, and advances a liberal arts philosophy with a strong emphasis on service learning.

**Tennessee State University**’s special emphases in humanities and liberal arts focus in two areas: (1) an interest in global perspectives on civil rights and social justice issues and (2) perspectives on African and African American historical and cultural life. In both areas, the faculty have developed publications, panel discussions, new courses, and interdisciplinary seminars. Also, faculty who have studied and written on global perspectives on civil rights and justice have developed and led study-abroad courses to places such as South Africa, Egypt, Germany, and Sri Lanka. At the same time, the faculty pursue other more traditional studies in areas including medieval and early British and American literature and history. Information about TSU can be found at [http://www.tnstate.edu/](http://www.tnstate.edu/).
Berea College has long enjoyed very strong humanities programs, and its committed faculty is dedicated to the transformative education of the students it serves. Berea College ranks in the top 10% of 1,548 colleges and universities as the baccalaureate origin of students who obtain the Ph.D. According to a recent analysis by the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS) organization, Berea College is in the top 2.5% of colleges and universities for “beating the odds” for PhD production based on students’ entering ACT scores. In the last four years, the college has hired three faculty—two in English and one in history—who bring great experience in and knowledge of the digital humanities. One of these faculty recently was awarded a Humanities Writ Large fellowship at Duke, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Discover more about Berea College at http://www.berea.edu/.

Humanistic disciplines at Tougaloo College include BA programs in art, English, the Interdisciplinary Career Oriented Humanities major, mass communications, and history, and an associate’s degree program in religious studies. The Tougaloo faculty regularly receive national and international recognition for their research and creative scholarly work, and Tougaloo students are closely mentored in an environment of academic and social engagement. Each spring, the Tougaloo Division of the Humanities produces a week-long Humanities Festival, featuring discussions, demonstrations, concerts, exhibitions, dance, and dramatic performances coordinated around a central theme. Each summer, the Tougaloo Art Colony features a week-long intensive arts experience provided by nationally known artists and lecturers. Learn about the history and programs of Tougaloo College at https://www.tougaloo.edu/.

Vanderbilt University is a research university with a distinguished record in the humanities and a strong dedication to graduate education. The Warren Center Graduate Fellows program provides experience in strategic professional development for graduate students in the humanities. The Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy offers an opportunity to develop new resources in the arts and public humanities. These programs are coupled with significant recent investments in humanities faculty, graduate education, and undergraduate education. Humanistic research and teaching in all forms thrive on the Vanderbilt campus.
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Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships for 2014-16

With the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Vanderbilt University is pleased to accept applications for three two-year postdoctoral fellowships for recent Vanderbilt University PhDs in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. These are exceptional opportunities for early-career scholars to pursue their research while gaining mentored experience as teachers and members of academic departments and programs at one of Vanderbilt’s three partner institutions: Berea College, Tennessee State University, and Tougaloo College.

The fellowships will provide valuable teaching experience at a historically black college or university (HBCU) and/or a small liberal arts college. We are especially interested in candidates who have an interest in digital humanities and/or public humanities.

Terms of appointment

The fellowships will extend from fall, 2014, to the end of spring, 2016. Fellows are expected to be in residence at the schools where they are appointed for each of the two full academic years.

Fellows will teach one course each semester in each year of their residency in their home department(s) or program(s). At least one of the four courses should contribute something new to the curriculum of the host institution.

Each fellow will be provided an academic-year salary of $45,000, plus benefits, and a one-time research fund of $10,000. The fund is intended to provide for the initial purchase of a computer or other equipment needed by the fellow, as well as support travel and research. A one-time moving allowance up to $2,500 also will be provided. One trip to Vanderbilt per year, to review the progress of the fellow’s teaching and research, will be required and funded.

Vanderbilt University will provide special opportunities on its campus for the postdoctoral fellows to be involved in workshops and training programs related to teaching at HBCUs and liberal arts colleges, as well as a week-long institute on digital humanities and public humanities in May 2014. The successful candidate for the postdoctoral fellowships will be required to complete these two programs.

Application and selection process

Applicants for the 2014–2016 fellowships must have completed a PhD degree from Vanderbilt University no earlier than January 1, 2011, and no later than December 31, 2013. Candidates who have accepted tenure-track faculty employment are not eligible to apply for this award.

Applications for the 2014–2016 fellowship must be received via email, according to the instructions below, on or before Friday, January 31, 2014. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

The following must be submitted:

- Completed application form
- An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae
- A description of the applicant’s teaching experiences, completed research (including dissertation), work in progress, professional goals and plans for publication, and any other information relevant to the applicant’s candidacy – up to three pages
- A personal statement of the applicant’s philosophy and vision regarding how he or she would approach this fellowship opportunity at the partner schools – up to two pages
- Three letters of reference – These should be sent by the referees directly to the email address provided below.

All documents are to be submitted as email attachments, in PDF format, to allison.thompson@vanderbilt.edu, by Friday, January 31, 2014.

Timeline

January 31, 2014 – DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION
February 1 through March 25, 2014 – Evaluations and selections
March 26, 2014 – Successful candidates notified by email

Should you have questions, please direct them to sharon.buchanan@vanderbilt.edu.