

James Madison University
College of Arts and Letters
College of Visual and Performing Arts

THE EDNA T. SHAEFFER HUMANIST AWARD

Description: Using income from the Evelyn Pugh endowment, annual awards of \$4,500 each are given, depending on the merits of proposals submitted, for scholarly projects on topics in the humanities. These projects are conducted in the summer months.

Eligibility: Tenured, tenure-track and renewable-term contract faculty members in the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Visual and Performing Arts who have not received a Shaeffer award in the past three years are eligible to apply.

Criteria: Each award is for a specific, scholarly project in the humanities which is intended to lead to publication (refereed periodical, section of a book, or book) and results in a formal presentation to be given as part of a symposium the following spring semester. The selection committee will evaluate: (1) the quality of the project and (2) the importance of the project. Other factors may also be considered: (3) how likely the candidate is to follow through with the project and (4) whether a cash award would play a significant role in launching the project or bringing it to fruition. Proposals that have the potential to lead to external funding are particularly encouraged.

Selection Committee: The committee will consist of six members, each appointed from the pool of previous recipients of the award and each serving a two-year term. Dr. Melinda Adams, an Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters will serve as non-voting chair. When unavoidable circumstances prevent the Associate Dean meeting these specifications, she has the authority to make reasonable exceptions in order to constitute a reliable selection committee.

Application Process: Any eligible faculty member may apply by sending the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters electronic copies of a curriculum vitae and a project proposal in essay form of no more than 1,250 words. The proposal should (1) describe the project, (2) explain its importance, (3) cite the pertinent literature and indicate where the applicant's work fits in relation to it, (4) provide a brief schedule of activities, (5) explain how the cash award would be used (detailed budget not required), (6) indicate the type of publication intended, (7) sketch prospects for external funding, and (8) offer a tentative presentation topic that might grow out of the project. The faculty member should also include a one-page bibliography of material relevant to the project.

Conditions of Acceptance: By accepting the award, the recipient agrees (1) not to teach for more than one month between the end of April and the beginning of September in the year of the award and (2) during the following spring semester to participate in a symposium based on results of the project for which the award was given the previous summer. In addition, this award cannot be held concurrently with a college teaching or research grant.

Deadlines: Applications are due to Laura Wisman, wismanlb@jmu.edu by January 15, 2020. Announcement of awardees will be made during the spring symposium in March.