



For Immediate Release

"Local Teacher Receives National Recognition"

Rachel Allen, a local teacher from Marble Hill High School for International Studies in the Bronx, NY, has been selected as an NEH Summer Scholar from a highly selective, national applicant pool to attend one of 25 seminars and institutes supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Endowment is a federal agency that, each summer, supports these enrichment opportunities at colleges, universities, and cultural institutions so that teachers can study with experts in humanities disciplines.

Ms. Allen will participate in a Summer Institute for Teachers entitled "Teaching Connected Histories of the Mediterranean." The three-week program will be held at the University of Denver, in Denver, Colorado, and will be co-directed by Professor Andrea L Stanton of the University of Denver and Susan Douglass of Georgetown University / George Mason University.

"I'm so excited to be selected for this institute, and I look forward to turning these interconnected histories into a project for our 9th graders next year at Marble Hill," said Ms. Allen.

The University of Denver is a private university that regularly ranks in the top 90 universities nationally, with a commitment to internationalization reflected in its ranking as the number one university in the United States for study abroad participation.

"With our commitment to a global focus for our students, we are delighted to host this NEH Summer Institute," said Daniel N. McIntosh, dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social

Sciences at DU. “We hope that this institute will allow teachers to bring the same emphasis on an interconnected world that DU stresses in our college courses to their students in middle and high schools.”

The institute represents a partnership between George Mason University and the University of Denver to offer secondary school teachers of courses such as world history, world geography, world religions, and global studies the opportunity to focus on the Mediterranean region from a world historical perspective. Under the guidance of leading scholars in this field, participants will explore ways to incorporate this dynamic region into their existing courses at Marble Hill High School.

Building on the strengths of two leading universities in Middle East and Islamic Studies, this three-week summer program connects teachers with the recent scholarship on this region and allows them to access new curriculum materials developed under the direction of several prominent scholars, including some of the institute's faculty, for the K-12 classroom. “We have some of the best scholars working today coming to Denver to share their insights with these teachers,” said co-director Susan Douglass of Georgetown University and George Mason University. “This is an unprecedented opportunity to work one-on-one with some of the thinkers who are re-writing the ways in which we all understand human history, and emphasizing how important the Mediterranean continues to be today.”

The 30 teachers selected to participate in the program each receive a stipend of \$2,700 to cover their travel, study, and living expenses. Teachers chosen to participate in this institute come from public and private schools around the United States, and teach a range of subjects and students. “We were delighted by the strong applications we received,” said co-director Andrea Stanton of the University of Denver. “Our accepted participants are a stellar group of high-achieving teachers, whose interest in furthering their own education to be able to more effectively teach their students is inspiring.”

Topics for the 25 seminars and institutes offered for teachers this summer include: Abolitionism and the Underground Railroad; Africa in World History; African-American Communities in the 20th and 21st Centuries; America’s Reconstruction; Asian Americans in New York City: Literature and Film; Authors in the Prado; Cultures and religions of the Himalayan Region; Dante; The Dutch Republic, Britain, and the European World Economy; Gilded Age and Progressive Era; Histories of the Mediterranean; Immigrants and New York City, 1880-1929; Istanbul: Between East and West; Literatures of Indigenous Peoples; Mesoamerican Cultures and Histories in Oaxaca; Monuments of Rome in English Culture; Muslim American Identities, Past and Present; Native Americans of New England; The News Media and the Making of America, 1730-1865; Political and Constitutional Theory for Citizens; Pueblo Identity in the Southwest; Punishment, Politics, and Culture; Shakespeare; The Spanish Influenza of 1918; Teaching American History through Song.

The approximately 545 NEH Summer Scholars who participate in the 2015 NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes will teach almost 68,000 American students the following year. Participants commit to using content from the institute in their teaching and to share insights from the institute with colleagues, helping further spread the impact of this institute, and helping bring fresh scholarship, relevant primary sources, and educational best practices to enrich the education of students around the United States. “We expect that institute participants will return home with a new perspective on the courses they teach, and that the students they teach will be the ultimate beneficiaries,” said Stanton.

For more information about this summer institute, please contact Co-Director Andrea L Stanton: andrea.stanton@du.edu. To learn more about the institute, including guest speakers and the full program of study, please visit: www.teachconnectedhistories.org. To learn more about the University of Denver and George Mason University, please visit www.du.edu and www.gmu.edu. To learn more about the National Endowment for the Humanities, please visit www.neh.gov.

About the University of Denver

Founded in 1864, the University of Denver is committed to engaging with students in advancing scholarly inquiry, cultivating critical and creative thought, and generating knowledge. The University strives to educate the 21st-century citizens and leaders needed in its organizations and communities. The University of Denver ranks among the country's top 100 national universities, and the Institute of International Education ranks it No. 1 among national doctoral and research institutions in the percentage of undergraduate students participating in study abroad programs. For additional information, visit the University's Media Relations [website](#), or follow the University on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About George Mason University

George Mason is Virginia's largest public research university. Located near Washington, D.C., Mason enrolls nearly 34,000 students from 130 countries and all 50 states. Mason has grown rapidly over the last half-century and is recognized for its innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable diversity and commitment to accessibility. For additional information, visit George Mason's News [website](#), or follow the University on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University was founded through a generous gift from Mr. Ali Vural Ak, businessman and entrepreneur from Istanbul, Turkey, in 2009. It works in the areas of research, public education, and building professional opportunities for current and future scholars of Islamic studies, providing educational and research opportunities for students, faculty, and visiting scholars.

