

CALL FOR PAPERS

“Jamestown 2007 and the Invention of America: Reality and Fiction”

Virginia Humanities Conference
30-31 MARCH 2007
Christopher Newport University

Walt Whitman called America a “nation of nations.” But 400 years after Jamestown’s founding, what and who has our nation become? What portion of our national self-concept is real, and what portion is fictional? The invention of America led to epochal results, but how do we fairly evaluate those results? What was our original trajectory 400 years ago? Where are we now, and where are we heading? The 20th Century has been called The American Century, but what will our role be in the 21st? Will Yankee ingenuity continue to reinvent America? How do we measure up to the Jeffersonian ideals of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” for all? Where do the humanities fit in? What can we learn from literature and the arts about America? The Virginia Humanities Conference invites scholars and artists* from all disciplines to present papers or propose sessions on these and related topics at its 2007 conference.

WHERE: Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA
WHEN: Friday-Saturday, 30-31 March 2007
TO APPLY: Participants may propose papers, panels, or similar sessions by submitting one-to-two-page abstracts by email, fax or mail to:

George Hillow, President
Virginia Humanities Conference

Christopher Newport University or: hillow@cnu.edu
Theater Department
One University Place FAX: 757-594-7389
Newport News, VA 23606 attn: George Hillow

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: January 19, 2007

*Submissions from graduate students and advanced undergraduates are also encouraged.

Keynote Speaker: Pauline Strong, Ph.D., Anthropologist, University of Texas, Austin
Conference participants are also invited to attend a joint lecture by historians James McPherson and David Hackett Fischer on the evening of Thursday, March 29.