LILY MCKEE HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWS
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
2016-17

Application materials may be accessed at www.folger.edu/fellowship.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Lily McKee High School Fellows Program is a September-to-June experience—an intensive fall course, plus up to five special spring sessions— for sixteen high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors. Working with scholars, actors, directors, teachers, editors, conservators, curators, and digital humanists, McKee Fellows form a community of learners gathered around knowledge and materials found only at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

During the intensive course, which takes place from September 12 to December 12, 2016, McKee Fellows will investigate a wide range of approaches to Shakespeare, with deep dives into Othello, As You Like It, Shakespeare’s sonnets, and other selected texts.

McKee Fellows will pursue big questions… and make a big commitment to this experience. The fall course will meet each Monday from 3:45pm-6:00pm for seminars with various experts. In addition, Fellows will have occasional sessions on Wednesday afternoons and weekends. They will study language, printing, editing, history, and performance. They will tour the Folger and attend live performances. They will have the opportunity to interact with all kinds of scholars, artists, and Folger staff and to conduct original research in the world’s largest Shakespeare collection. In short, McKee Fellows have access to—and play an active part in—the Folger community.

Spring 2017 sessions will include live performances at Folger Theatre and will be announced at a later date.

ACADEMIC SEMINARS: A team of distinguished humanities scholars will lead sessions on the plays and poems and on the social and historical contexts in which they were written. Emphasis will be placed on performance as textual interpretation. On Mondays in the fall, students will gather for a 15-minute homeroom period before a 2-hour seminar session. Each scholar or session leader chooses his or her own style of presentation, but all sessions include intensive discussion, in which all students are expected to take an active part.

PRACTICAL THEATRE EDUCATION: Students will also be exposed to working theatre practitioners: actors, directors, dramaturgs, and designers. Sessions that focus on theatre—performances, acting, design, and film sessions—take place throughout the year, occasionally on weekends.

HEAD TEACHER: Corinne Viglietta, Assistant Director of Education (cviglietta@folger.edu), will oversee the program—teaching strategies for unlocking Shakespeare’s words, managing assignments, coaching Fellows as they do research, assessing student work, communicating with the schools—and be available for help of any kind.

SCHOLARS: Past Fellows Program scholars include: Maynard Mack, Jr., Professor of English, University of Maryland, College Park; Stephen Booth, Professor of English Literature, University of California at Berkeley; Barbara Mowat, Senior Editor of Folger editions of the plays, Folger
Shakespeare Library; Tad Howard, Associate Dean, Georgetown University; Gail Kern Paster, Scholar and Former Director, Folger Shakespeare Library; and Michael Witmore, Director, Folger Shakespeare Library.

THEATRE ARTISTS: Past Fellows Program theatre artists include: Michael Tolaydo, Professor of Drama, St. Mary’s College; Caleen Sinnette Jennings, Professor of Theatre, American University; Eleanor Holdridge, Professor of Theatre, The Catholic University of America; and Marcus Kyd, Actor/Director.

READING, WRITING, AND RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be asked to read plays and related material each week. They will complete a series of papers as well as a final research project. Students will also work together to present a final acting project at the end of the program.

SPONSOR TEACHER: Each McKee Fellow will be asked to designate someone at his or her school as a Sponsor Teacher. The student is expected to report informally to this teacher at mutually agreed upon intervals during the semester. Sponsor Teachers are invited to some of the fellowship sessions over the course of the year.

ACADEMIC CREDIT: Folger Shakespeare Library is not a credit-granting institution, but the students’ schools can choose to give course credit in English, theatre, or independent study. Students who do not receive credit for the course are still expected to meet all the requirements—attendance, reading, and writing assignments. Whether or not credit is granted, the school should note participation in the Lily McKee High School Fellows Program on the student’s transcript.

ELIGIBILITY: High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from public, parochial, and independent high schools in the Washington, DC region are all eligible. Applicants should have a strong interest in literature, history, or drama in general and Shakespeare in particular. They must be ready for the challenge of this intensive and exciting program and willing to commit the necessary time to it. All interested students are encouraged to apply. Previous knowledge of Shakespeare is not necessary.

FINANCIAL AID: All students accepted to the Lily McKee High School Fellows Program are awarded full scholarships, which include necessary texts, materials, and tickets to all performances. A few supplementary stipends may be available for qualified students who are eager to participate but for whom transportation costs would be a hardship.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION: Participants will be selected on the basis of their answers to application questions, especially an essay describing their reasons for wanting to participate in the program, and on the recommendations from two teachers, one of whom should be an English teacher. Students may also be asked to complete a brief interview. We will select the 16 applicants who we believe will have the most to contribute to the program and derive the most from it. We expect that each student will bring different strengths to the program.

We are eager to assemble a group of students genuinely interested in working with people from a wide variety of educational and cultural backgrounds in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Folger Shakespeare Library is dedicated to excellence and equal access to that excellence.

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