UNSETTLING CATHER:

Differences + Dislocations

June 17 – 21, 2019
Shenandoah University | Winchester, Virginia
Welcome to Virginia, and welcome to the 17th International Willa Cather Seminar!

You drove into town by Water Street, lined on either side with neat mansard houses built of pale gray limestone, gray, but almost blue, and not dressed so smooth as to take all the life out of the rugged stone. Such genteel houses they were, opening directly on the street, with green window shutters, and brass knockers. . . . Water Street seemed to welcome you to town.

~ Sapphira and the Slave Girl

“Unsettling Cather: Differences and Dislocations” hopes to un-root or unsettle our notions of Cather through attention to those differences and dislocations that marked Cather’s life and work, beginning with her undergraduate stories and culminating in her late-life return to Virginia in her last novel, Sapphira and the Slave Girl. The seminar includes papers from a broad array of approaches to Cather’s life and work, and we aim to jump start conversations that have been muted in Cather studies in recent years and to invite new voices into the discussion.

We are happy to welcome many new faces to this Seminar, and we look forward to a wonderful week of scholarship, collaboration, and celebration.

Program Directors:
Marilee Lindemann,
Associate Professor,
University of Maryland

Ann Romines,
Professor Emerita,
George Washington University

Site Director:
John Jacobs,
Professor Emeritus,
Shenandoah University

Keynote speaker Siobhan Somerville is the author of Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture and the forthcoming A Queer Genealogy of Naturalization in the U.S. (Duke). She is Associate Professor of English, African American Studies, and Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of Illinois.

Zita Nunes, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Maryland, is the author of Cannibal Democracy: Race and Representation in the Literature of the Americas. She teaches and conducts research in the areas of African American/African Diaspora literature, the literature of the Americas, and literary theory.

Joseph Dimuro is a Continuing Lecturer in the UCLA English Department. His current research focuses on spatial perception in the making of national identities in 20th century American literature, and on the libidinal economy in the works of Cather, Anderson, James and other American writers of the time.

Christin Taylor is an Assistant Professor of English at Shenandoah University. Her work focuses on African American literature and culture, Southern studies and representations of the working classes. Her book, Labor Pains: New Deal Fictions of Work, Sex, and Race is forthcoming from the University of Mississippi.

Matthew Clark Greer is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at Syracuse University; his dissertation is titled “Assembling Enslaved Life: Composing Slavery, Places, and Histories in the Northern Shenandoah Valley.”

Jonathan Noyalas is the Director of the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University. His current research focuses on post-emancipation African-American life in the Shenandoah Valley. He is the author of numerous monographs on the Civil War in the Northern Shenandoah Valley.

Adeela Al-Khalili is a board member of the Josephine School Museum which memorializes the founding of an independent African American community in nearby Berryville, Virginia, just after the Civil War.
Patti Burris, Southeast Community College (R14)
“Mr. Shimerda’s Destiny”
Burris teaches English at Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Nebraska. The location of this Cather Seminar is especially meaningful because Virginia is where her grandad Jackson was born and raised. As a young man in 1916, he left Virginia for Nebraska.

Sarah Clere, The Citadel (M4)
“Material Culture in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Sarah Clere teaches at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. Her work on Cather appears in Cather Studies 9 and Studies in the Novel.

Timothy Cramer, Santa Monica College (T10)
“Teaching Cather in a Diverse Classroom”

Anna Creadick, Hobart and William Smith Colleges (T8)
“Lost Ladies: (Dis)locating Cather as Feminist Recovery Work”
Creadick is Professor of English and American Studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. She writes on topics including Appalachia, gender, disability, Faulkner, whiteness, pop fiction, and pedagogy, in such venues as Southern Cultures, Post-45 Peer Reviewed, Appalachian Journal, Mosaic, and Transformations.

K. E. Daft, Central College–Pella, Iowa (R14)
“A Sociological and Literary Examination of Willa Cather’s Fraught Relationship with Czech Culture”
Daft is a graduate of Central College in Pella, Iowa. Recent projects include an honors thesis on cryptography and Masonic symbolism in Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Cask of Amontillado” and creative work on innovative poetic form.

Joseph Dimuro, UCLA (P2)
“Willa Cather’s Queer Economy”
See bio, page 2

Joshua Dolezal, Central College–Pella, Iowa (F15)
“Lost By a Song”: The Neuroscience of Epiphany in Lucy Gayheart”
Doležal is Professor of English at Central College, where he teaches American literature, medical humanities, and creative writing. His memoir, Down from the Mountaintop: From Belief to Belonging (2014), was short-listed for the William Saroyan Prize. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in journals such as Medical Humanities, Literature and Medicine, Interdisciplinary Literary Studies, and Cather Studies.

Simone Droge, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (F17)
“Unveiling Cather: Making Her Voice Accessible and Reorienting Our Lens”
Droge is an undergraduate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in English and History, and minoring in Women’s & Gender Studies and Digital Humanities. She works at the UNL Writing Center and serves on the English Student Advisory Board.

Jane Elkin, Independent (F17)
“Hélas: My Unfortunate Handwriting: the Power Behind the Pen in Willa Cather’s Life and Literature”
Elkin is a handwriting analyst with an MFA from Bennington Writing Seminars, where she studied authorial use of script as a character and plot development tool. A former handwriting analysis instructor at Anne Arundel Community College, she has written on the topic for The Bay Weekly and Chesapeake Children’s Magazine, and was a featured speaker and on Retirement Living TV’s Daily Cafe Live.
Presenters, cont’d

John Flannigan, Prairie State College, emeritus (T6)
“Something Not Quite Regular: The Perils of Vaudeville in Cather’s ‘Her Boss’”
Flannigan is a retired professor of English at Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, Illinois. His essays on Cather, music, and opera have appeared in Cather Studies, Modern Fiction Studies, Studies in Short Fiction, and the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial Newsletter. His essay “Cather’s Evolving Ear: Music Reheard in the Late Fiction” is included in Cather Studies 12 (forthcoming 2019).

Elizabeth Foulke, University of Rhode Island (T5)
“New Horizons: The Single Woman in Willa Cather’s O Pioneers!”
Foulke is a fourth year PhD student at the University of Rhode Island. For her doctoral work, Elizabeth is writing a collection of creative essays on literary and cultural representations of the single childless woman. She is the senior editor of The Ocean State Review and her poetry and essays have appeared in Plainsongs, The Wayfarer, and Grub Street Literary Magazine.

Lisbeth Fuisz, Georgetown University (R11)
“Storied Landscapes in the Works of Willa Cather and Francis LaFlesche”
Fuisz is an adjunct lecturer in the Georgetown University Writing Program.

Geneva Gano, Texas State University (T5)
“UnAmerican Activities: The Sexual Lives of Hired Girls, or, Cather’s Critique of Capitalism”
Gano is Assistant Professor of English at Texas State University. Her work was published in Violence, the Arts, and Willa Cather. Her research focuses on women writers of the United States.

Jace Gatzemeyer, Penn State (F18)
“Regionalism Dénébélé: Cather’s Reflective Nostalgia”
Gatzemeyer is a PhD student specializing in late 19th- and early 20th-century American fiction, particularly literary modernism and its historical, sociological, and philosophical contexts. His research interests lie at the confluence of literature and geography.

William Gonch, University of Maryland (F19)
“Postsecular Peripheries: Augusta and Fr. Vaillant”
Gonch is a PhD candidate at the University of Maryland.

Matthew Clark Greer, Syracuse University (P1)
“African American Life in Sapphira and the Slave Girl: New Perspectives from Archeology and History”
See bio, page 2.

Paul Grosskopf, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (T6)
“The Strong Arm Reaches Out: Transnational Rural Masculinity and Marriage as Abduction in Willa Cather’s ‘On the Divide’”
Grosskopf is an English PhD student at UNL. He has a Masters from Northern Illinois University. His research interests include rural women writers, modernity, and transnationalism in American literature of the long nineteenth century.

Charmion Gustke, Belmont University (T7)
“Radical Geography and the Bodily Subject in Sapphira and The Slave Girl”
Gustke is Assistant Professor at Belmont University in Nashville. She directs the interdisciplinary first-year seminar program and has just returned from teaching in Paris. Recent publications include “Stop the Machine: Civil Disobedience and Maria Alyokhina’s Riot Days” in The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies and “Big Steel and Class Consciousness in ‘Paul’s Case,’” forthcoming in Cather Studies 13.

Sue Hallgarth, Independent (P5)
Author of On the Rocks and Death Comes
Sue Hallgarth is a former English professor and administrator at William Woods University and SUNY/Empire State College. She has written scholarly articles on Willa Cather and Edith Lewis and published two novels featuring the two of them: On the Rocks (2013) and Death Comes (2017).

Melissa J. Homestead, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (F20)
“We are the Only Wonderful Things’: The Final Years of Willa Cather and Edith Lewis’s Partnership”
Homestead is Professor of English and Program Faculty in Women’s & Gender Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where her research and teaching focuses on American women’s writing and authorship. Her book on Willa Cather’s and Edith Lewis’s creative partnership is under contract with Oxford University Press. She is associate editor of the Complete Letters of Willa Cather: A Digital Edition, and becomes Director of the Cather Project at UNL in August.

Barry Hudek, University of Illinois (R13)
“Willa Cather’s ‘Black Liberation Theology’ in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Hudek is a Lecturer, teaching business and professional writing classes at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2017, he completed his dissertation, “Book of Empire: the Political Bible of Literary Modernism,” at the University of Mississippi.

Barbara Hustwit, College of Wooster, emerita (M3)
“Willa Cather and 19th Century Frederick County Names: An Addendum to Mildred Bennett’s Article”
Hustwit’s extensive research on Cather’s prototypes includes the book Never Far from Home: Willa Cather, On Choosing Names from Frederick County, Virginia, for Her Literary Characters.

John Jacobs, Shenandoah University, emeritus (R12)
“The Aeneid and One of Ours: Willa Cather Displaces the Imperial Epic”
Jacobs is Professor Emeritus of English at Shenandoah University. He was the site director for the 1997 International Cather Seminar and reprises the role in 2019.

Andrew Jewell, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (M1)
“Dislocating the Cather Family: The End of Willa Cather’s Virginia Childhood”
Jewell, editor of the Willa Cather Archive and co-editor of Complete Letters of Willa Cather, is a Professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries. He is the co-editor of The Selected Letters of Willa Cather (2013), and the co-editor of the journal Scholarly Editing: The Annual of the Association for Documentary Editing. He is a member of the Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors.
Presenters, cont’d

Sallie Ketcham, Independent (R11)
“Willa Cather and Mari Sandoz: The Muse and the Story Catcher in the Capital City”

Matthew Lavin, University of Pittsburgh (T8)
“Contextualizing Cather’s Relationship with The New York Times Book Review”
Lavin is a Clinical Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Digital Media Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. Lavin’s most recent scholarship examines intersections of book history and digital humanities, with particular focus on computational methods and data.

Marilee Lindemann, University of Maryland (P5, chair)
Lindemann is Associate Professor of English at the University of Maryland. She co-directs this Seminar.

Sonja Lynch, Wartburg College (F18)
“Light, the Land, and the Power of Memory: Impressionism in My Ántonia”
Lynch is Associate Professor of English at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Her research interests include Impressionism and ecocriticism.

Peter Mallios, University of Maryland (F19)
“Political Peripheries: The Professor’s House and the Modern Presidency”
Mallios is Associate Professor of English at the University of Maryland. He specializes in modern American literature and the modern novel. Publications include Our Conrad: Constituting American Modernity (2010), concerning Joseph Conrad’s literary, cultural, and political reception in the US and its implications for American modernism and writers including Cather.

Richard Millington, Smith College (M1)
“Refocusing: Sapphira by the Light of New Histories of Slavery”
Millington is the Helen and Laura Shedd Professor of English Language & Literature at Smith College. He co-edited Cather Studies 10, Willa Cather and the Nineteenth Century.

Joseph Murphy, Fu Jen Catholic University (M4)
“From ‘Mansoul’ to ‘de Cane-brake’: Biblical Typology and Blackface Minstrelsy in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Murphy is Associate Professor of English at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taipei. His essays on Cather have appeared in Cather Studies, American Literary Scholarship, and Violence, the Arts, and Willa Cather (2007) and Willa Cather and Aestheticism (2012). His article “Blind d’Arnault, Stephen Foster, and the Irish: The Blackface Minstrel Legacy in My Ántonia” is published in the Willa Cather Review.

Jonathan Noyalas, McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University (P1)
“African American Life in Sapphira and the Slave Girl: New Perspectives from Archeology and History”
See bio, page 2.

Zita Nunes, University of Maryland (P4)
“Willa Cather and the Harlem Renaissance”
See bio, page 2.

Julie Olin-Ammentorp, Le Moyne College (M2)
“Displacement and the Meaning of Place in Cather and Wharton”
Olin-Ammentorp is Professor of English and Director of Women’s & Gender Studies at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, and serves on the board of Cather Studies and on the board of the Willa Cather Foundation. Her paper draws from her forthcoming book Edith Wharton, Willa Cather, and the Place of Culture.

Daryl Palmer, Regis University (M1)
“The Complex Masculinity of Charles Cather, The Original Virginian of Red Cloud, Nebraska”
Palmer is Professor of English at Regis University in Denver. Though a British literature scholar, he has published extensively on Cather and has a forthcoming book, Becoming Willa Cather: Creation and Career, with University of Nevada Press.

Charles Peek, University of Nebraska–Kearney, emeritus (T10) “Teaching Cather in a Diverse Classroom”
Peek is a past member of the Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors with numerous publications to his credit, including the Willa Cather Review and Cather Studies.

Hunter Plummer, Texas A&M (T5)
“I don’t know but she’d run a business better than a house’: Cather’s Office Wives and Their Work”
Plummer is a PhD student at Texas A&M University where he studies the New Woman and female journalist narratives. He earned his Masters in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is excited to be attending his second Cather Seminar.

Diane Prenatt, Marian University (T7)
“The Use of Force: Medicalized Bodies in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Prenatt is Professor Emerita of English at Marian University, where she taught American and European literature and established a Medical Humanities program. She has published essays in Cather Studies and the Willa Cather Review and is at work on the biography of Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant. She is a member of the Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors and will co-direct the 2020 Willa Cather Spring Conference and Symposium.

Emily J. Rau, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (T8)
“The neighbors had helped them to build it’: Willa Cather and the Public Humanities”
Rau is Managing Editor of the Willa Cather Archive and is an editorial assistant for Western American Literature and a doctoral student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has published in the Willa Cather Review and has presented at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, the Willa Cather International Seminar, and Digital Humanities 2016.
Sunday, June 16, 2019
2-5 p.m. Seminar check-in at Shenandoah’s University Inn
5:00-6:00 Cafeteria dinner service
Meal package begins with Sunday dinner service
7:00 p.m. Reception - Henkel Hall
Coffee & cookies served

Meals served in Allen Dining Hall
Breakfast: 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
Lunch: 11:30 AM - 1 PM
Dinner: begins at 5 - 6 PM (unless arranged)
If you purchased a meal ticket, simply give your name to the cashier; otherwise, they accept cash & credit cards.

Monday, June 17, 2019
I was something over five years old . . . I was in my mother’s bedroom, in the third story of a big old brick house entered by a white portico with fluted columns. . . . I could see the clouds drive across the bright, cold sky, throwing rapid shadows on the steep hillsides. The great slats of the green window shutters rattled, the limp cordage of the great willow trees in the yard was whipped and tossed furiously by the wind.

~ Sapphira and the Slave Girl

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
Stimpson Auditorium

9:15 a.m. P1. Plenary: African American Life in Sapphira and the Slave Girl: New Perspectives from Archaeology and History
Stimpson Auditorium
Panelists: Adeela al-Khalili, Matthew Clark Greer, Jonathan Noyalas, Ann Romines
Chair: John Jacobs

11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions - Halpin 222
M1. Virginia Roots and History 1
Panelists: Andrew Jewell, Daryl Palmer, and Richard Millington
Chair: Sarah Clere

M2. Dislocations - Halpin 226
Panelists: Nanci Boisvert, Julie Olin-Ammentorp, and Kimberly Vanderlaan
Chair: Diane Prenatt

Tuesday, June 18, 2019
9:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
T5. Unsettling Women - Halpin 222
Panelists: Elizabeth Foulke, Geneva Gano, and J. Hunter Plummer
Chair: Melissa Homestead

T6. Urban and Rural Diversities in the Short Fiction - Halpin 226
Panelists: John Flannigan, Paul Grosskopf, and Yohei Yamamoto
Chair: Timothy Bintrim

10:45 a.m. P2. Plenary: Unsettled Bodies
Stimpson Auditorium
“Willa Cather’s Queer Economy,” Joseph Dimuro
“Haptic Narrative: Touch, Violence, and Disability in Sapphira and the Slave Girl,” Guy Reynolds
Chair: Marilee Lindemann

12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
T7. Body Matters - Halpin 222
Panelists: Diane Prenatt, Elizabeth Wells, and Charmion Gustke
Chair: Marilee Lindemann

T8. Canons, Contexts, and Communities - Halpin 226
Panelists: Anna Creadick, Matthew Lavin, and Emily Rau
Chair: John Jacobs

3:15 p.m. T9. Farms, Mills, Food - Halpin 226
Panelists: Ann Romines, Steven Shively, and Tracy Tucker
Chair: Daryl Palmer

T10. Panel: Teaching Cather with Diverse Student Populations - Halpin 222
Panelists: Timothy Cramer, Todd Richardson, Kelsey Squire, and Charles Peek.
Chair: Julie Olin-Ammentorp

4:30 p.m. Graduate Student Mixer - Glory Days Grill (off-campus), 130 Featherbed Lane

6:00 p.m. Dinner with the Cather Relatives
Join us at the Campus Dining Center as we welcome members of the Virginia Cather family to our gathering!

8:00 p.m. P3. Keynote Address - Stimpson Auditorium
“Unsettling Citizenship: Naturalization and Dispossession in Cather’s Time,”
Siobhan B. Somerville

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

I got off the train, just behind the Capitol building . . . . After I had walked about a little and seen the parks, so green . . . I decided to put off my business for a little and give myself a week to enjoy the city. . . . For that week I was wonderfully happy.

~ The Professor’s House

8:30 a.m. Board buses for Washington, D.C.
Buses will load at Student Center

We have timed passes for the National Museum of African American History & Culture and will enter together. Other museums on the Washington Mall are open admission and free. Visit at your leisure.

Meals in Washington, D.C., will be on your own. See list for suggestions.

6:00 p.m. Depart for Shenandoah University
Buses will load at NMAAHC

8:00 p.m. Cather Trivia - Student Center
Cash bar, prizes, a legendary battle of memory and skill. Also smack-talk.

Thursday, June 20, 2019

9:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
R11. Willa Cather and Others 1 - Halpin 222
Panelists: Kelsey Squire, Lisbeth Fuisz, and Sallie Ketcham
Chair: Andrew Jewell

R12. Willa Cather and Others 2 - Halpin 226
Panelists: John Jacobs and Hannah Wells
Chair: Mary Ruth Ryder

10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
R13. Africanist Presences - Halpin 222
Panelists: Mark Robison, Tracyann Williams, and Barry Hudek
Chair: Richard Millington

R14. Unsettling Ántonia - Halpin 226
Panelists: Aimee Allard, Patti Burris, and K.E. Daft
Chair: Ashley Olson

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. P4. Plenary - Stimpson Auditorium
Racial Dislocations
“Willa Cather and the Harlem Renaissance,” Zita Nunes
“Ambivalent Geographies: Race, Work, and the Potomac in Sapphira and the Slave Girl,”
Christin Taylor
Chair: Joseph Urgo

Connectivity:

Network Name: 4SU
Guest Username: AECSummer
Password: AEC$ummer
They took out their sewing or knitting from the carpetbag, and while the pound cake or the marble cake was baking in a slow oven, they talked about old times. I was allowed to sit with them and sew patchwork. Sometimes their talk was puzzling, but I soon learned that it was best never to interrupt with questions, — it seemed to break the spell.

~ Sapphira and the Slave Girl

3:15 p.m.  **Museum of the Shenandoah Valley and the Handley Library**

Enjoy a special Cather quilt presentation with museum curator, Nicholas Powers, and Mary Robare, expert in Quaker quilts. Afterward, explore the museum and library (for Cather scholars, a rich repository), and an evening in Old Town and dinner on your own.

*Shenandoah vans will shuttle seminarians to the museum and back to campus. The last shuttle is expected to run at 9 p.m.*

Friday, June 21, 2019

9:00 a.m.  **Concurrent Sessions**

**F15. Considering Creativity - Halpin 226**
Panelists: Joshua Dolezal and Chris Wolak
Chair: Todd Richardson

**F16. Tuning In to Linguistic Diversity - Halpin 222**
Panelists: Francesca White and Andrew Wu
Chair: Joseph Murphy

10:15 a.m.  **Concurrent Sessions**

**F17. Hastily, Cather: Letters and Writing - Halpin 222**
Panelists: Gayle Rocz and Simone Droge, and Jane Elkin, joined by the *Complete Letters* editors
Chair: Ann Romines

**F18. Literary Trends and Techniques - Halpin 226**
Panelists: Jace Gatzmeyer and Sonja Lynch
Chair: James Jaap

12:00 p.m.  **Lunch**

1:00 p.m.  **Concurrent Sessions**

**F19. Peripheries in The Professor's House - Halpin 222**
Panelists: William Gonch, Peter Mallios, and Jeannette Schollaert
Chair: Kimberly Vanderlaan

F20. Cather’s Lives - Halpin 226
Panelists: Timothy Bintrim, Laurie Weber, and Melissa Homestead
Chair: John Flannigan

3:00 p.m.  **P5. Wild for Willa: Celebrating New and Forthcoming Critical and Creative Work - Stimpson Auditorium**

Reading by Sue Hallgarth, author of *On the Rocks* and *Death Comes,* and brief presentations by authors of forthcoming Cather books.
Chair: Marilee Lindemann
*Lemonade and cookies served*

**Seminar Banquet and Program - Ferrari Room**

This new generation was gayer and more carefree than their forbears, perhaps because they had fewer traditions to live up to.

~ Epilogue, Sapphira and the Slave Girl

6:30 p.m.  **Hobnobbing**

Enjoy a glass of wine and lively conversation with your Cather colleagues before our evening program begins.

7:00 p.m.  **“Black Voices and Black Silences in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”**

Barbara Davis, singer

7:30 p.m.  **Dinner service**

8:30 p.m.  **Bluegrass music by Patent Pending**

Optional Activities

Saturday, June 22, 2019

9:00 a.m.  **Old Town Farmers’ Market,** with local musicians, on

1:00 p.m.  **Old Town Pedestrian Mall**

9:30 a.m.  **Special services at historic Christ Episcopal Church, 104 West Boscawen St.**

attended by Cather relatives and featured in *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*. Services conducted by the Rev. Charles Peek Cather scholar.

**Afternoon**

Explore local sites and attractions on your own.
A Selected List of Buildings

2. Allen Dining Hall
3. Alson H. Smith, Jr. Library
4. Armory Building
5. Armstrong Hall
7. Brandt Student Center - incl. Ferrari Room, Food Court, Bookstore, McKown Plaza, Campus Mail
11. Davis Hall - Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center
13. Edwards Residential Village - Residence Hall
20. Halpin-Harrison Hall - Stimpson Auditorium
30. Mary M. Henkel Hall - Classrooms, Hester Auditorium, Studios, Mac lab, Glaize Studio Theatre
32. Parker Hall - Residence Hall
45. University Inn - Residence Hall

Important Numbers:
Shenandoah Housing Duty Number: (540) 431-1228
Yellow Cab of Shenandoah: (540) 622-6060
A Touch of Class Limo & Shuttle: (301) 698-2650
Tracy’s Cell Phone: (402) 806-8467
Guy Reynolds, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (P2)
“Haptic Narrative: Touch, Violence, and Disability in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Reynolds is Professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the director of the Cather Project. He is the general editor of the Cather Scholarly Editions, and has both edited and contributed to Cather Studies volumes.

Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska at Omaha (T10) “Teaching My Ántonia as Participatory Culture”
Richardson is Associate Professor in the Goodrich Scholarship Program and teaches American folklore and literature through UNO’s English department. Research interests include creative thinking and community, and the life and work of Willa Cather. Publications include The Journal of American Folklore, and The Writer’s Chronicle.

Mark Robison, Union College (R13)
“Africanist Presence in Cather’s Fiction: Toni Morrison’s Critique of Cather”
Robison is Professor of English and Chair of Humanities at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. His publications include Great Plains Quarterly, the Willa Cather Review, and Cather Studies.

Gayle Rocz, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (F17)
“Unveiling Cather: Making Her Voice Accessible and Reorienting Our Lens”
Rocz is an undergraduate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in English and Dance. She has contributed to the Daily Nebraskan, interned at Prairie Schooner, and is actively involved in UNL’s Dance Program. Her academic interests include research in feminist pedagogy for dance and the emerging field of youth competitive dance in the United States.

Ann Romines, George Washington University, emerita (P1) “African American Life in Sapphira and the Slave Girl: New Perspectives from Archeology and History”
(T9) “The Double Bind of Southern Food in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Romines is Professor Emerita at The George Washington University and the author or editor of several books and many essays on Willa Cather. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the Willa Cather Foundation, an editor of the Willa Cather Review, and co-director of this Virginia Seminar.

Mary Ruth Ryder, South Dakota State University, emerita (M3) “More Than a Clash of Wills: Tuckahoe and Cohee Culture in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Ryder is Distinguished Professor of English Emerita, South Dakota State University. Her numerous publications on Cather include Willa Cather and the Classical Myth: The Search for a New Parnassus (1990) and essays in Cather Studies and the Willa Cather Review.

Jeanette Schollaert, University of Maryland (F19)
“Coming, Mother Eve!: Unsettling Indigenous and Aztec Lore in Cather’s Fiction”
Schollaert studies twentieth-century American women’s literature and feminist and ecofeminist theory. She is a doctoral student at the University of Maryland.

Steve Shively, Utah State University (T9) “The Mutability of ‘Weevily Wheat’”
Shively is Professor of English at Utah State University and co-editor of Teaching the Works of Willa Cather. He is an issue editor of the Willa Cather Review and a member of the Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors.

Kelsey Squire, Ohio Dominican University (T10) “Teaching Cather in a Diverse Classroom”
(R11) “The Language He Used Survived in the Law: Differences and Dislocations in My Ántonia and The Round House”
Squire is Associate Professor of English at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio. She teaches courses in first-year writing and American literature. Her work on Cather has appeared in Great Plains Quarterly, Cather Studies, and the Willa Cather Review.

Tracy Sanford Tucker, National Willa Cather Center (T9) “The Very Furrows of the Soil: A Farm Novelist and her Farms”
Since 2012 Tucker has served as education director and archivist, overseeing the National Willa Cather Center collections. Her research interests include Cather, Great Plains and rural literature, and the physical and cultural landscape of the Plains. She is an Affiliate Fellow of the Center for Great Plains Studies.

Siobhan B. Somerville, University of Illinois (P3) “Unsettling Citizenship: Naturalization and Dispossession in Cather’s Time”
See bio, page 2.

Christin Taylor, Shenandoah University (P4) “Ambivalent Geographies: Race, Work, and the Potomac in Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
See bio, page 2.

Joseph Urgo, Interim Chancellor of University of North Carolina Asheville (P4, chair)
Urgo is a long-time Cather scholar and co-author of Willa Cather and the American Southwest.

Kim Vanderlaan, California University of Pennsylvania (M2) “Psychic Dislocation in Cather’s Novels of the 1920s” Vanderlaan is Associate Professor of English at California University of Pennsylvania. She boasts an impressive list of publications on Cather, Wharton, and James, and is currently co-editing Cather Studies 13.

Laurie Weber, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (F20)
“Willa Cather: Highbrow by Association”
Weber is a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; her research interests include Cather’s early readers, particularly general readers and family members.

Elizabeth Wells, Hobart and William Smith Colleges (T7) “Unsettling Performance: Disability as Critique of Aesthetic Power in Cather’s Works”
Wells is a 2019 Woodress Scholar and earned her PhD in English at Louisiana State University. She is an instructor in Writing and Rhetoric at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where she is also a post-doctoral research fellow. Her research interests include the representation of disability in Willa Cather’s oeuvre.
Presenters, cont’d

Hannah Wells, Baylor University (R12)
“‘Keen Senses Do Not Make a Poet’: Cather’s Respectful Rebellion Against Whitman in O Pioneers!”
Wells is a PhD student in English at Baylor University, specializing in early American literature. Her current work centers on the poetry of the American Civil War and considers the interdisciplinary connections between literature, religion, philosophy, and politics in the writing of that era and beyond.

Francesca White, University of Leicester (F16)
“‘Rosicky asked her in Czech […]. She replied in English’: Who Speaks What Language to Whom and Where in Cather’s Fiction?”
White is a PhD student at the University of Leicester studying multilingualism in Cather’s fiction. In 2017, she received the BAAS Malcolm Bradbury Award to fund research at the archives in Red Cloud, and in 2018 she presented on Cather at the International Willa Cather Symposium in Northern Ireland and the University of Oxford’s Rothermere Institute for American Studies. She is Editorial Assistant for Cambridge University Press’s Journal of American Studies.

Tracyann F. Williams, The New School (R13)
“Willa Cather’s State of the Union: Sapphira and the Slave Girl”
Williams earned her PhD and M. Phil. in English from The Graduate Center/City University of New York. She also holds a Certificate in Women’s Studies. Before becoming the Director of Academic Affairs, she was full-time faculty for 13 years at The New School. She has also taught Composition and Literature at LaGuardia College/City University of New York. Her current research focuses on mixed race women in modern fictions. She was awarded a Helena Rubenstein Foundation fellowship and the Distinguished University Teaching Award from The New School in 2004.

Chris Wolak, Independent (F15)
“Loneliness, Isolation, Solitude: Cather’s Creative Women”
Wolak was bitten by the Cather bug as an undergraduate in the periodicals department of her college library. The resulting fever led her to graduate studies with Sue Rosowski at UNL. Since leaving the academic world, Chris has been spreading Cather fever as a bookseller, blogger, and now on her podcast, The Book Cougars.

Andrew Wu, University of Pennsylvania (F16)
“‘Blue sky, blue eyes’: Multilingualism, Identity and Dislocation in My Ántonia”
Wu is a doctoral student in Educational Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Yohei Yamamoto, Meiji University (T6)
“Cather’s Urban Imagination”
Yamamoto is Senior Assistant Professor of American Literature at Meiji University in Tokyo. His research interests include the literature of environmental ethics, Transcendentalism, and ecocriticism, with special concern given to Thoreau, Melville, and Cather.

Save the date!
June 4–6, 2020
Join us in Red Cloud as we revisit the short stories of Youth and the Bright Medusa at the century mark!

Our 65th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference promises to be a lovely and lively affair, as The New Yorker’s Alex Ross returns to Red Cloud to give a keynote address, surrounded by groundbreaking original art exhibits and thoughtful scholarship, new museum exhibits, and a special Red Cloud Opera House performance—details to come.

2020 Conference directors are:
Diane Prenatt, Marian University, emerita
Elaine Smith, University of South Florida

A call for papers will be issued in August 2019.

We’ll see you then!
Willa Cather lived most of her professional writing life in New York (1906-1947), first in Greenwich Village and later, after she had risen to the top of the literary profession, on Park Avenue on the upper east side. Though Cather seldom wrote about the city, it was her home for nearly forty years and a key element of her personal and professional life.

We propose to hold the 18th International Cather Seminar right in the neighborhood where Cather lived between 1906-1932: Greenwich Village. In collaboration with The New School, we want to create a conference that explores the city Willa Cather knew, but also the city that was present around her, though perhaps not always visible to her. The goal is to intellectually locate Cather in the broader context of New York in the first half of the twentieth century, and, further, to imagine her work as a product of that urban experience.