



12/09/2015

Colleagues,

In the summer of 2014, at the invitation of President Scroggins and Dean Jenkins, I attended the Aspen Institute's Wye River College Faculty Seminar on "Citizenship and the American Global Polity."

This colloquium, conducted at the Wye River estate in Maryland on the Chesapeake Bay in mid-July, was an intellectual feast and a thoroughly enjoyable week-long retreat with college faculty from across the entire spectrum of disciplines. The facility—a huge colonial estate located on thousands of acres—is stunning. Attending faculty convene during the morning hours and discuss a body of selected readings, focusing on democracy, governance, citizenship, and political philosophy. Faculty are drawn from all disciplines, including, but not limited to, psychology, linguistics, history, journalism, political science, English, sociology, and, in one specific case, meteorology (the host of the Weather Channel's WeatherGeeks, Dr. Marshall Shepherd, Professor of Geography at U of Georgia).

The work of the Aspen Institute and the rationale for the Faculty Seminar focus on fostering informed discussions that a democracy requires in order to revisit and renew its commitment to civil discourse and self-governing in an age of increasing tension and global conflict.

Attendance, lodging, transportation, and food are usually provided by our hosting institution (at the discretion, of course, of the college). Letters of interest should be proffered to Jim Jenkins and President Scroggins immediately. While it's customary to have just one faculty member from an institution attend in a given year, I did notice a few exceptions to this rule when I participated. Additional information is available in the forwarded email (below).

I can't recommend this program enough, and I encourage you to consider applying. I will gladly respond to any questions you might have about the day-to-day events of the colloquium, but more detailed and current information is available here:

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/seminars/wye-academic-programs/wye-faculty-seminar>

Sincerely,

Thomas Edson, Professor
Dept. of English, Literature, & Journalism
Mt. San Antonio College