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Announcements

The Helen Maria Chesnutt Scholarships for Equity in Classical Study

The Classical Association of New England (CANE) wants to do its part in expanding the focus, both geographically and temporally, of the field of Classics; in remedying the lack of diversity in Classics teaching staff and student body; and in promoting the health and growth of CANE itself, by establishing the **Helen Maria Chesnutt Scholarships for Equity in Classical Study**, funded in part by the Dr. Rudolph Masciantonio Fund for Classical Studies.

Helen Maria Chesnutt (1880-1969), born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, was the second daughter of acclaimed African American novelist Charles Chesnutt. After earning her B.A. from Smith College (1902) and her M.A. in Latin from Columbia University (1925), she taught Latin for many years at Central High School in Cleveland, Ohio. She co-authored a Latin textbook *The Road to Latin* (1932), which, combining a reading-approach with traditional grammar/translation approaches, anticipated some of the now research-backed best principles in Latin pedagogy: an emphasis on reading and on learning new vocabulary and syntax in a meaningful context.¹

Eligibility:

Intended Recipients. The scholarship is intended for traditionally underrepresented groups in the Classics. We include, but do not limit the definition of “underrepresented groups” to: African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, Native-American, and Pacific-Islander students.

Residency. Applicant(s) must either reside in New England or attend a school in New England.

Level. The scholarship is intended for undergraduate and/or graduate students.

NB: CANE officers, committee chairs, or state representatives, members of the CANE award selection committees, or any of their respective family members are not eligible to apply for this award.

Award:

Purpose. The scholarship is intended to support undergraduate and graduate students, from groups historically underrepresented in the field, to further their study of the ancient world, broadly conceived both in geographic limits and time-frame, including reception-studies, which thereby extends the temporal span of the studied period down to the present day.

¹ See https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_road_to_Latin/nHcNAQAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0, accessed November 5, 2020; and abstract of the CAWMS presentation by Michele Valerie Ronnick: “Within CAMWS Territory: Helen M. Chesnutt (1880-1969), Black Latinist,” <https://camws.org/meeting/2005/abstracts2005/ronnick.html>, accessed November 5, 2020.

Amount of Scholarship. Up to \$5,000. This award total of 5,000 may be split among more than one applicant.

Awards associated with the Scholarship. The award comes with a one-year renewable membership to CANE and the chance to be on a future selection committee for this award.

Submitting an Application:

The Proposal. Applicants will submit a proposal setting forth their intended use for the scholarship funds.

The following is not an exhaustive list of suggested proposals: these may be for attendance at or participation in programs, workshops, or seminars not available at the student's institution; seed-money for organizing conferences, especially on non-traditional topics; field work; language-training; and support for research.

The proposal will consist of no more than two pages, double-spaced, with a standardly-used 12-point font. It will include a statement describing how the scholarship would help advance the candidate's career/research goals, and in what specific ways it would broaden their current knowledge of the field/pedagogical practice.

Two letters of recommendation. One of these should explicitly say that the candidate is a suitable recipient for this award.

Budget. The budget will clearly and succinctly itemize and explain each of the costs associated with the proposal. The budget should be under two pages, and follow the formatting guidelines of the Proposal.

Transcript(s). Official transcripts are required in order to verify that the applicant is currently an undergraduate or graduate student and to help assess the proposal.

When and How to Submit the Application. All the above elements of the Application Packet for the inaugural award of the *Helen Maria Chesnutt Scholarship for Equity in Classical Study* must be emailed on or before January 15 of the calendar year. Please check the CANE website (caneweb.org) for updated information regarding where to send application materials.

Criteria for a Successful Application:

- **Quality of the proposal.** The selection committee welcomes a variety of proposals, but will give special attention to candidates exploring non-traditional avenues of research; proposals whose aim is to broaden the applicants' skills in inclusive pedagogy or knowledge of areas falling outside of the usual limits of Classics (examples include: a course in Coptic or Hebrew; a weekend seminar on inclusive pedagogy).
- **Merit.** The applicant's merit will be assessed in a number of ways, but recommendations written on the students' behalf will carry particular weight.

Expectations of Awardee(s)

- The awardee(s) must report afterward on how they used the scholarship and how it helped them to advance their career/research goals. If the scholarship was used to further their research, the awardee(s) may instead choose to present the findings at a CANE meeting.