Introduction

The Aydelotte Foundation at Swarthmore College is an independent, interdisciplinary research center that supports the creation and dissemination of knowledge about liberal arts education.

The Frank 5 Fellows program (named for Frank Aydelotte, one of Swarthmore’s past presidents) is now heading into its second year. Launched by the Aydelotte Foundation in 2017, it seeks to spark conversation around the evolving careers and life choices of liberal arts graduates, to explore what the liberal arts means to them.

Through the stories of five young alums and the people in their lives, we hope to listen in to the national conversation about liberal arts education and to help kindle and sustain new conversations with public audiences, including both those who feel a strong affinity for the liberal arts and those who are uncertain of its value.

Call for Applications

Are you under the age of 30? Are you a connector, builder, mediator, facilitator, pioneer? If yes, please apply to be a 2018-19 Frank 5 Fellow.

Whether you are an urban farmer, social entrepreneur, climate scientist, middle school math teacher, intellectual property lawyer — or anything else, we’re interested in what you — and the people around you — have to say about liberal arts education. Alums working in the for-profit, not-for-profit or public sector (and anywhere in between) are encouraged to apply.

Each Frank 5 Fellow will partner with a faculty/staff member for a year to build a sustained conversation within their social network about the liberal arts: What is a liberal arts education? Who is it right for? Where can it lead? Who feels excluded from its possibilities? (See “How Frank 5 Stories Will Be Shared” for details.)

Who Can Apply

Those eligible to apply must be:

• Graduates of Swarthmore College
• Individuals (not organizations or collectives)
• Younger than age 30 before the application deadline of March 19

Review Criteria

The Aydelotte Foundation is looking for candidates who come from a diversity of careers, lives or roles. We are also interested to know if candidates are:

• Effective communicators who invite and participate in conversation.
• Able to establish credibility and engage with and inspire a wide range of public audiences.
• Comfortable with engaging one of their own social networks (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, community members) in a public conversation about liberal arts.
• Skilled in sharing their stories — through both in-person conversations and social media platforms.
• Able to take initiative and see projects through to completion.

Fellowship Benefits

• Platform from which to tell your personal story.
• Chance to expand your network.
• Fellow honorarium of $2,500. (Note: travel and project costs associated with the program to be covered by the Foundation.)

Key Dates

• Applications available online: January 16
• Application deadline: March 19
• Skype interviews for short-listed applicants: May
• Fellows announced: June
• Fellow term: June to June
Sharing Frank 5 Stories

Each Fellow will partner with a faculty or staff member who will help to curate the conversation and guide the Fellow. As part of their fellowship year, Fellows commit to participating in the following activities:

- Profile featured on Aydelotte Foundation web and social sites
- Brief group visits to campus (1 fall + 1 spring) for public workshops and other small group activities
- Conversations convened during the fellowship year by the Fellow with members of one of their social networks about perceptions of liberal arts education and its practices
- Podcasts collaboratively edited by the Fellows and Swarthmore partners that showcase and discuss the conversations within their social networks
- Host Your Own event*

*Host Your Own: Each Fellow will promote, host and share (on social media) a customized event in their region some time during the year that showcases their interests and offers up an informal and hands-on opportunity that welcomes public audiences into the liberal arts experience. Be creative — make the event your own! You’ll have a budget of up to $1,000 for production and promotion.

Application Elements

Interested applicants must submit an online application by March 19. A completed application will consist of the following uploaded elements (in addition to the application questions):

- Link to a short video (60 seconds max) that shares something about your story and what you bring to the conversation. This is a way for us to learn more about you and your point of view. (Note: We don’t expect professional production quality, but if selected we will use this piece to introduce you to public audiences.) **TIP:** Upload your video to a YouTube or Vimeo account that you have created. Please add any privacy settings that are appropriate for you. If you do password-protect your account, please be sure to list that password when you share the link to your video.
- One-page resume (PDF format)
- Contact information for your three recommenders

Please note: Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee that includes Swarthmore faculty and staff. Decisions will be based on an applicant’s overall fit with the program’s objectives.

On-line applications are available beginning January 16 at [www.swarthmore.edu/aydelotte-foundation](http://www.swarthmore.edu/aydelotte-foundation). For more information, pshrops1@swarthmore.edu.

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2017-18 Frank 5 Fellows (left to right) Sam Sussman, Nell Bang-Jensen, Kimberly St. Julian Varnon, Kara Peterman, Marissa Davis