

The **William O'Farrell Fellowship**, sponsored by James Lindner, is awarded to an individual engaged in research toward a publication, production, or presentation based on moving image history and culture, particularly amateur and nontheatrical film. With this fellowship, we honor the continuing legacy of Canadian film archivist William O'Farrell, a long-time advocate for amateur and nontheatrical film collections.

The fellowship is designed to support a month's study within Northeast Historic Film's collections. Awardees must commit a minimum of two weeks to research in residency at NHF.

**To learn more about, or apply for, the 2020 William O'Farrell Fellowship, see below.**

#### **CURRENT AND PREVIOUS FELLOWS**

**Tara Merenda Nelson**, Curator of Moving Image Collections at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, NY, has been awarded the **2019** annual research fellowship. During her fellowship, Nelson viewed numerous amateur film collections held at NHF. Her research centered around the practice of amateur filmmakers presenting their 'home movies' to larger audiences as a way to share their experiences within larger social circles within the community. Nelson will use the Northeast Historic Film collections to conduct research into 8mm and Super 8 home movies that may have had public screenings for the purpose of education and cultural enhancement within the filmmakers' extended community. Nelson's thesis is that this practice is one of the earliest forms of social media, as it provided the opportunity for an individual to exhibit privately produced media to a larger audience outside of their 'first circle' of friends and family.

In **2018** the Fellowship was awarded to **Martin Johnson**, Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina. During his fellowship, Johnson viewed advertising films held at NHF as part of research for his next book, *The Best Advertisement Will Never Be Written: Advertising Films Before Television (1895-1939)*. His research focuses on excerpts taken from the *Paramount Pictograph* screen magazines, a variety short film program that was popular in the late 1910s. While most *Paramount Pictographs* are lost, some survive as 28mm copies, made in the late 1920s for home viewing. "While we think of advertising in movie theaters as a new, and unfortunate, development, in fact advertising films have been around for decades," he said. "By carefully disguising the true ambitions of their films,

advertisers helped create ways of telling stories that influenced the development of documentaries and educational films.

In **2017 Artemis Willis**, a Ph. D. candidate at the University of Chicago, was awarded the Fellowship. Willis's project explores intersections, from the early 20th century, between non-theatrical motion pictures and lantern slides in Northern New England. Through a study of NHF's holdings of lantern slides, including material from seven different collections, Willis is uncovering a broader range of interactions between still and moving images on the level of production, exhibition and consumption.

**Andrea Mariani**, University of Udine, Italy, received the **2016** Fellowship. He conducted his research in the Alan and Natalie Kattelle Collection, focusing on the amateur film technology of the 1920s and 1930s. He presented, "The Emergence of the Amateur Film Technology. The Amateur Cinema League and The Alan Kattelle Technology Collection at the Northeast Historic Film Archive" at The Politics of Film Archival Practice in Stockholm in 2016, and will return to NHF in 2017.

The **2015** award went to **Ryan Shand**, PhD, Research Assistant, University of the West of Scotland. His project focuses on *Counterpoint*, a 1929 amateur fiction film made by Roy Lockwood. "This film was made as a student project at Oxford University, however prints of *Counterpoint* do not seem to exist in the United Kingdom and scholars have made no reference to it so far." Northeast Historic Film appears to hold the only extant copy of this film.

The **2014** award went to **Liz Czach**, Associate Professor, Dept. of English and Film Studies, University of Alberta. Czach's project is focused on sound in amateur film. Her research at NHF drew on the large collection of newsletters and magazines aimed at amateur filmmakers (e.g., *Movie Makers*, *Bolex Reporter*), the Alan Kattelle technology collection, which consists of over 800 cameras and projectors, and the [Archie Stewart Collection](#)'s exceptional amateur sound films.

The **2013** award went to **Graeme Richard Spurr**, a postgraduate student in Film and Television Studies at the University of Glasgow. Spurr's research project, *The "Vexed Question of Video": Charting Transatlantic Amateur Media Practice*. This research is related to Mr. Spurr's ongoing PhD thesis *Post-Film/Amateur Video: The Diffusion of New Media in the UK Amateur Cine Movement*.

The **2012** winner of the Fellowship was **Oliver Gaycken**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the University of Maryland's Department of English. His project

focused on the role film played in the depiction and development of forestry culture during the middle part of the twentieth century, roughly 1935-1985.

**Walter Forsberg**, a Research Fellow in New York University's Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program, was the **2011** Fellow. His project explored the Donald C. Brown Jr. Collection of 35mm drive-in and theatrical trailers, from over a dozen cinemas in New England and West Virginia.

In **2010**, the first year the Fellowship was awarded, the recipient was **Caitlin McGrath**, Ph.D., from the University of Chicago, who conducted research here at NHF on the 1939 New York World's Fair. Her research used films from 15 different NHF collections.

# WILLIAM O'FARRELL FELLOWSHIP

## at Northeast Historic Film in Maine

Northeast Historic Film (NHF) is pleased to invite applicants for the 2020 William O'Farrell Fellowship. The O'Farrell Fellowship is awarded to an individual engaged in research toward a publication, production, or presentation based on moving image history and culture, particularly amateur and nontheatrical film. It honors the continuing legacy of Canadian film archivist William O'Farrell, a long-time advocate for amateur and nontheatrical film collections. The O'Farrell Fellowship is sponsored by Jim Lindner, a friend of Bill O'Farrell as well as a long-time mentor, and supporter of the archives.

**The fellowship supports a month's study within Northeast Historic Film's collections. Awardees must commit a minimum of two weeks to research in residency at NHF.**

### Eligibility

- Researchers from all academic disciplines are eligible and encouraged to apply.
- Applicants may be current graduate students, faculty, or staff at a college or university; archive professionals; film producers; or independent scholars.
- The fellowship is open to U.S. citizens and foreign nationals with appropriate visas.
- Proposed research must be for work intended for publication, production, or presentation, based on significant research in the collections of Northeast Historic Film.

### Selection Criteria

The William O'Farrell Fellow selection committee reviews the following:

- The significance and interest value of the project
- The appropriateness of the proposed research to the collections of Northeast Historic Film
- The applicant's experience

### Available support

- The program provides a stipend of \$1,500
- Staff support with access to NHF collection and related databases
- Use of film and videotape viewing facilities within NHF business hours
- Up to 8 hours of transfer and/or editing services, if applicable (fees waived)
- Copyright releases for educational and research purposes, if applicable (fees waived)
- Office space: a computer with network and internet connections, telephone, and photocopier.
- Housing is not provided, but NHF staff will assist the fellow in identifying lodging if needed. (Please note, seasonal rentals are plentiful on the Maine coast, but they can be expensive. Off-season rentals typically start at \$400 - \$600/week. Summer rates are higher. Short-term apartment rentals are difficult to find, but may be available for \$600 - \$1,200/month.)

## **How to Apply**

The following materials comprise a complete application:

- Application form (available at [www.oldfilm.org](http://www.oldfilm.org))
- Current curriculum vitae

Application materials should be emailed to Jennifer L. Jenkins, Chair, O'Farrell Fellowship Committee, [jenkinsj@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jenkinsj@email.arizona.edu). The complete application must be received no later than March 5, 2020. The fellowship will be awarded on or before March 20, 2020.

## **Other Requirements**

The fellowship may be assumed any time beginning May 4, 2020 and must be completed by October 31, 2020. The fellow is required to produce an 800 – 1,200-word journalistic article describing activities and findings for the NHF newsletter or blog. The fellow is required to conduct a minimum of two weeks' research on site at NHF and is expected to participate in NHF's Summer Film Symposium in 2020 and/or 2021. (The award will include, in addition to the \$1,500 fellowship, complimentary symposium registration.)

## **About Northeast Historic Film**

Northeast Historic Film, an independent nonprofit organization, was founded in 1986 to preserve and make available moving images of interest to the people of northern New England (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts). We hold ten million feet of film in 8mm, Super 8mm, 9.5mm, 16mm, 28mm, and 35mm and 8,000 analog and digital video recordings that do not duplicate the film holdings. NHF is located in a 1916 cinema building with purpose-built cold storage and a study center, where the organization hosts an annual Summer Symposium and runs a community cinema.

The William O'Farrell Fellowship was established in 2009 to honor an important individual who contributed in significant ways to the history of NHF. Bill O'Farrell (1954-2008) worked as Chief, Moving Image and Audio Conservation of the Archives of Canada. He was a valued Advisor to NHF, providing intellectual and practical support to the archives for many years.

Further information about Northeast Historic Film's collections can be found at [www.oldfilm.org](http://www.oldfilm.org).

## William O'Farrell Fellowship Application (2020)

Name

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Title or student status

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Institution

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Address

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Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone

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**Name of NHF Collection(s) to be used in project:**

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Detailed description of the proposed research project, including anticipated outcomes: publication, production, or presentation (500 – 1000 words)

Submit application and supplemental materials to:

Jennifer L. Jenkins, Chair, O'Farrell Fellowship  
Committee, [jenkinsj@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jenkinsj@email.arizona.edu)