

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES RURIC AND MARY ROARK DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

(“THE ROARK LECTURE”)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Roark Lecture is an annual recognition and presentation that showcases excellence in scholarship by a faculty member in the College of Arts & Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University. As such, the Lecture offers both support and reward for distinguished work.

The Lecture was established through the generosity of an anonymous donor in the 2004-2005 academic year. The donor supported the Lecture for three years before the College of Arts & Sciences assumed the responsibility in the 2007-2008 academic year.

The Roark Lecture honors a significant contribution, whether in the scholarship of discovery (including creative works), integration, application, or teaching. In addition, the Lecture provides an opportunity each spring for a faculty member to present that scholarship to the University community in a self-selected format. The first annual Roark Lecture was presented in April 5, 2005.

The award consists of \$1000 to support both the presentation and continued scholarly/creative endeavor by the recipient. No portion of the award may be applied to salary.

The Roark Lecture is named after the University’s first president (1906-1909) and his wife, who later served as Acting President (1909-1910).

II. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Any tenured or tenure-track faculty member in the College of Arts & Sciences is eligible to apply for the Roark Lecture. Applicants should have a record of achievement in scholarly work that will support the development of the proposed presentation. Appropriate supporting scholarship may take the form of original research, original synthesis, or creative endeavor. The proposed lecture should appeal to a wide audience from within and outside the College, including students, faculty, and community members.

Selection of the Roark Lecture will be based on the following criteria:

- Proposed Topic. The proposed topic for the Lecture must potentially be of interest to a variety of people, significant to educated citizens, and worthy of scholarly exploration.
- Presentation Potential. The applicant must be capable of producing and delivering a captivating presentation.
- Scholarly Standing. The applicant must be sufficiently engaged in the proposed topic to be able to make an authoritative presentation. Engagement in the topic will typically include on-going and/or past research, synthesis, or creative endeavor.

III. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Candidates for the Roark Lecture will be identified by application. A portfolio supporting the application of each candidate shall be submitted. The portfolio should contain the following materials:

- A one-page description of the proposed lecture (see “Presentation Guidelines”).
- A listing of those projects relevant to the proposed lecture presentation. For each project cited, a one-paragraph summary should describe the connection of the work to the proposed lecture. The applicant’s role and contribution in each should be made clear.
- A one-page summary of the applicant’s career and achievements.
- A resume of the applicant’s relevant scholarly/creative achievements.
- Names and contact information of three individuals to serve as references. At least one reference must be from outside Eastern Kentucky University. Members of the selection committee may not serve as references.
- The selection committee is free to obtain additional evidence of scholarly/creative achievement and presentation ability of the applicant.

All applications should be sent to:

Dean’s Office
Re: Roark Lecture
College of Arts & Sciences
Eastern Kentucky University
Roark 105
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475

IV. SELECTION PROCESS

- a. The Research and Faculty Development Committee shall be responsible for reviewing applications for the Roark Lecture.
- b. The composition of the committee and the procedures for the election, appointment, and replacement of its members are outlined in the *Policies and Procedures for the Research and Faculty Development Committee*.
- c. If a faculty member or a member of his or her immediate family is being considered for the Roark Lecture, that member shall be replaced by an alternate when the committee is reviewing Roark Lecture applications. The participation of the member on the committee when the committee is discharging its other responsibilities (e.g. Faculty development grants, research awards, Sabbatical leave applications) is guided by the policies and procedures pertaining to those other responsibilities.

- d. After reviewing applications, the committee will submit the name of one candidate and an alternate to the Dean as its recommendation for the Award. The Dean will announce the name of the recipient.
- e. The award ceremony will be in April and will include recognition of the recipient followed by the award lecture.
- f. The timeline is as follows:

Call for applications	October 3
Application deadline	November 1
Selection committee's recommendation to the Dean	November 30
Dean's announcement of the recipient	By December 5
Award Lecture	April (date announced annually)

V. PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

The Roark Lecture presentation is designed to showcase the award recipient's scholarly/creative work, and to make both the nature of the work and its contributions to the community of scholars accessible to a wide audience. The expected audience for the Lecture includes students, faculty, staff, and members of the wider ECU community. The format of the presentation is left to the recipient's discretion, but the following guidelines should be followed.

- While a discussion of the specific nature of the scholarship or creative activity is necessary and appropriate, care should be taken also to discuss the impact the work has had on the larger community. For example, does the scholarship/creative activity offer a new model or vision for an old question or problem? Does the work integrate previously disparate theories, applications, media, or the like? What contributions does the scholarship/creative activity make to the discipline, to the scholarly community, and to society? Why should the audience – and particularly those who may be unfamiliar with the discipline – care about and celebrate this scholarly contribution?
- The presentation should communicate the recipient's work in a format that facilitates interest and understanding on the part of those who may not be familiar with the specific discipline.
- The recipient should consider what presentation format(s) would be the most effective in light of the audience and topic. Presentation styles in addition to traditional lectures could include (but are not limited to) visuals, readings, laboratory exercises, posters, audio, and performances.

The recipient should plan a presentation of about 45 minutes, with a question and answer session to follow. At the discretion of the recipient, a portion of the monetary award is available to prepare materials for the lecture.