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# APPALINK

*Appalachian Studies Association  
Newsletter*



**FALL 2025**

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# President's Message

Dear ASA Community,

Saludos from Durham, North Carolina! We are settling into fall here, with more leaves turning their shades of yellow, orange, and fiery red with each passing day. As daylight savings marks this change and our evenings grow shorter, I feel the draw to turn-in, to reflect, to slow down. But even as mother nature prepares to rest, the human world rages on. Times are more troubling than ever. Like many of you, I struggle with this contradiction every day—of finding time and space to just exist as a human and still be present for/with our larger, shared struggles. Just over a year after Hurricane Helene, our communities in western North Carolina are still hard at work to rebuild and to heal from catastrophic loss. Many of our neighbors are without work, pay, and vital resources in the wake of the government shutdown. Higher education institutions across the country continue to suffer the rippling effects of federal attacks on academic freedom. Our working-class immigrant communities—the very folks who pick our crops and package our food, who staff our favorite restaurants and clean our workplaces—are living with the constant fear of being ripped away from their homes and families and forced to return to a faraway place.



To not acknowledge these present realities affecting our Appalachian region, country, and world would be irresponsible. In my note back in April following our conference at Tennessee Tech, I reflected on why it's important to continue to recommit to our collective work during challenging times and why it's worth the hard moments, days, years, etc. I stand by these convictions and feel energized just by thinking about all of you and invoking your incredible work across the region and the globe. I'm reminded of just how valuable (and remarkable) ASA is as an intellectual community that is **grounded in practice** in these troubling times. I am reminded that we are not only a community that writes and talks and generates academic discourse— we also build, we create, we teach, we organize.

I encourage us to view the upcoming ASA conference at Marshall University as an opportunity to connect and recharge amidst our current crises. Our conference planning team has been hard at work for what I am confident will be an unforgettable time in Huntington, West Virginia. I am also excited to share that over the next several months, members of the Steering Committee will be leading an initiative to gather feedback and input from membership towards the rewriting of our organizational mission statement as well as the composition of separate vision and value statements. I believe that these processes will help bring greater clarity and sense of purpose to our shared work and offer us the language we need to ground ourselves in our commitments as an association.

Wishing you all warmth for the coming cold months, strength for the challenges we face, and grace as we continue to work together for better.

Sophia M. Enriquez  
President, Appalachian Studies Association

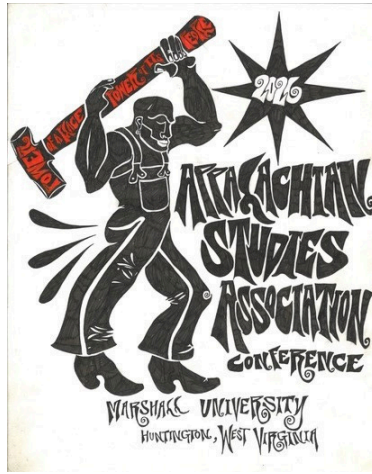


# Mission Statement



The mission of the Appalachian Studies Association is to promote and engage dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action among a diverse and inclusive group of scholars, educators, practitioners, grassroots activists, students, individuals, groups and institutions. Our mission is driven by our commitment to foster quality of life, democratic participation and appreciation of Appalachian experiences regionally, nationally, and internationally.





***POWER OF A PLACE,  
POWER OF ITS PEOPLE***

**49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference**

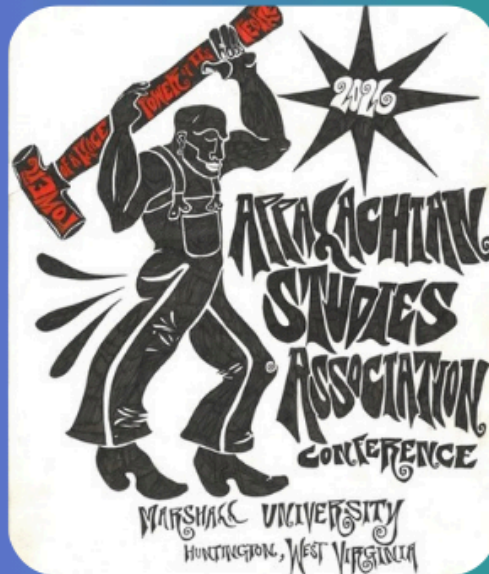
**March 19 – 21, 2026, Marshall University**

**Huntington, West Virginia**

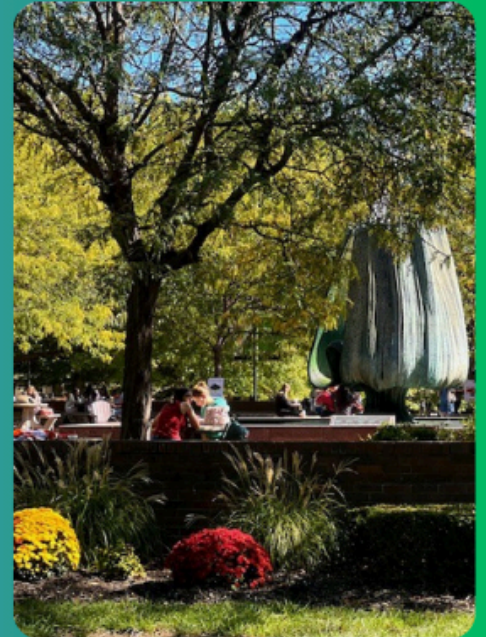




## Power of a Place, Power of Its People



Marshall University  
Huntington, West Virginia  
March 19 – 21, 2026



49TH ANNUAL APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

**Marshall University**, an R2 Carnegie institution, is proud to host the **49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference**, to be held in **Huntington, West Virginia**, an urban centerpiece in the heart of Appalachia. The Tri-State Area, where three states, three major rivers, and one of the most significant dividing lines in U.S. history converge, provides a welcoming and unique environment for sharing and learning. Huntington is easily accessible from I-64, is served by the Tri-state Airport, and is a 45-minute drive from Charleston’s Yeager Airport.

The conference will run from **March 19, 2026** through **March 21, 2026**, and takes as its theme **“Power of a Place, Power of Its People.”** In the spirit of this title, the conference planners encouraged submissions that elevated, celebrated, and interrogated the strength and diversity that give life to the Appalachian region. United by the commonalities of resistance, perseverance, and pride, we invited work that elaborates and extends these themes through art, performance, research, policy/analysis, and advocacy. We recognized undergraduate and graduate student participation as an integral and valued part of every Appalachian Studies Association Conference.

Highlights of the 2026 Appalachian Studies Conference include the keynote address by William H. Turner, the Appalachian Film Festival, a drag show, local Underground Railroad site tours, Black Huntington history trolley tours, an artisan tour of the Marshall University Visual Arts Center, Blenko Glass, and the Huntington Museum of Art, a tour of the Marshall Memorial Crash Site and Grave Site, a tour of the Mothman Museum, tours of Marshall University Libraries Special Collections, and recording opportunities with Marshall University History Department’s Queer History Project. And, as with previous conferences, there will be numerous musical performances, ranging from traditional string bands to hip-hop.

**The conference logo**—an imagining of John Henry and the North Star, in reference to Huntington’s role as both a rail center and an Underground Railroad waystation—was created by Charlie Umhau. For this year’s conference logo, Charlie wanted to specifically pay homage to the Underground Railroad’s North Star shining south; the African Appalachian American folk hero John Henry, who was pivotal in building West Virginia’s Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Railroad, with his two whalebone handled sledgehammers singing as they drove clear through the mountain’s rock. In creating the logo text, Charlie took great inspiration from the black and white blur of passing coal cars, and the tradition of hobo boxcar graffiti, as they lay a patchwork topography of steel rail line ribbon unfurling across the hills, where people don’t let the dry truth get in the way of telling tales the way they actually happened.

If you have a question regarding the conference, contact any of the following:

Cicero M. Fain, III  
*Conference Chair*  
[fainc@marshall.edu](mailto:fainc@marshall.edu)

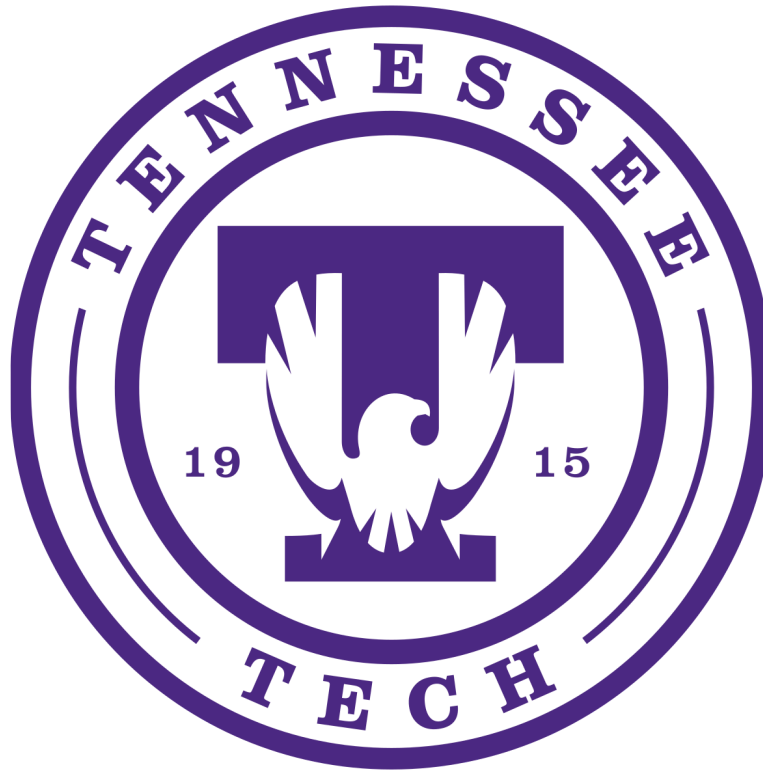
Paul L. Robertson  
*Program Co-chair*  
[robertsonp@marshall.edu](mailto:robertsonp@marshall.edu)

Marianna Footo-Linz  
*Program Co-chair*  
[linz@marshall.edu](mailto:linz@marshall.edu)





# TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE FOLLOW UP



Thanks to everyone who donated their time, financial resources, and any other form of help to the 2025 Conference. This was a big undertaking, but I enjoyed it and look forward to attending the 2026 conference.

Monic Ductan  
2025 Conference Chair



# TAMMY "TAMBONE" CLEMONS VISION AWARD



In honor of her life and legacy, the annual Tammy "Tambone" Clemons Vision Award recognizes young and emerging artists and activists in Appalachia who embody Tammy's passion for storytelling, oral history, and creative expression, whether through oral history projects, creative media, filmmaking, writing, or other storytelling efforts that honor the culture, history, and voices of our beloved and vibrant region. This award not only acknowledges outstanding achievement but also serves as a reminder of Tammy's enduring legacy and her deep belief in the power of stories to shape and strengthen communities.

Each year, at the annual Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) conference, the Clemons Vision Award presents a plaque and a check to each award winner. Members of the ASA can nominate anyone they feel fits the criteria and eligibility of a respective award. Membership is not required for any award nomination.

In honor of Tammy Clemons' life and legacy, the Kentucky Foundation of Women (KFW) will act as a fiscal sponsor for the award. Community members can make charitable donations to KFW in support of this award.

Kentucky Foundation of Women (KFW) contact info:  
(502) 562-0045  
505 W. Ormsby, Louisville, KY 40203



# Appalachian Studies Association Offers Organizational Membership Level

## What Is Organizational Membership?

Organizational Membership is intended for college and university programs and departments, research institutions, and organizations that have a particular focus on Appalachian studies, Appalachian culture, or the Appalachian region.

## Why Organizational Membership?

This Program offers a way for organizations to benefit from, as well as to support, the variety of programming and services offered by the ASA. Benefits include:

- 2026 Conference Registration/Membership for one director or their designee
- Two directed social media posts during 2025 - 2026 to be posted on all ASA Social Media accounts
- Sponsored Session at the 2026 Annual Meeting (conference)
- Listing of Organizational Members in the Final Conference Program and on the ASA website
- Two 2026 Student Conference Registrations/Memberships
- 15% discount on the first ad; full-page package ads only (2026 Conference)
- 25% discount on first full exhibit table at 2026 Conference
- And more! See the website for more details on the above and the rest of the benefits!

**Cost of Organizational Membership: \$1,250 annually**

**Learn more on our website.**



# JOURNAL OF APPALACHIAN STUDIES



The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* seeks potential book reviewers for our interdisciplinary journal. We publish book reviews from the many fields that contribute to Appalachian studies, including literature, history, sociology, geography, communication, psychology, education, public health, environmental studies, and more. Reviewers should be critical, strong writers and up to date on relevant literature. Emergent scholars interested in publication and participating in academic dialogue are especially encouraged. Scholars from any field related to Appalachian studies are invited to enter their information in [this Google Sheet](#) to be considered for inclusion on our book review team.

# APPALACHIAN STUDIES

## ASSOCIATION HERDWORK INTERN

It took a long time to understand that I, a born and raised West Virginian in a long line of West Virginians, am Appalachian; and longer to begin understanding what either of those identities mean to me. I remember distinctly what made me realize that the Appalachian identity, culture, and shared struggle are intentionally obscured. Growing up, it was considered the main goal in life to escape the mountain state and make a new, improved life far away from my home by adulthood; and that expectation always felt so sad, so fatal. I never understood why I would have to leave everything and everyone I care about behind one day, why staying or returning here would mean sacrificing potential or success, why it was assumed that I could not be happy as a queer person, and happy as a West Virginian. As I got older I found myself stumbling across the question ‘why’ more and more, unsatisfied with the difference between what characteristics I saw in myself and in the communities surrounding me versus what was expected of us or shown of us.

When I was seventeen, I heard about the Mine Wars for the first time while working a book event at Taylor Books for *Never Justice, Never Peace* by Lon Kelly Savage and Ginny Savage Ayers (WVU Press, 2018). As I listened to the author and audience discuss, I felt confused and disappointed, realizing how much important history had not been taught to me in school. Even in West Virginia Studies in eighth grade, when we talked about miners, no one made mention of Mine Wars and union strikes. The audience and the speaker discussed the way these vital histories and tragedies are excluded from West Virginian education, the purpose of exclusion, and why it is so important to rediscover the difficult histories of our home. I considered what I knew about my Nana’s upbringing here; about the stories she told me of her family’s difficult life, and the lives of many that she, my mother, and I knew. I considered my struggle to feel cohesive, the conflict between my background and my identity. I considered the death of the Charleston Mall, the way we all made fun of pronounced accents (which we all had), and why my main goal was always to go to college out of state. After this author event I realized that there was more to being a West Virginian than devising an escape plan, and I wanted to know all I could about what drives the initiative to run away from ourselves. So, I pursued understanding it through texts on my own, as much as I could, and through discussion with members of my community. It led me to a grief and frustration that had been bubbling under the surface of my consciousness, that lingering pain passed along through our DNA itself which I had never been given a chance to discuss before.

A couple of years later, I took the Appalachian Literature course here at Marshall, taught by Paul Robertson, where I was guided to a more thoughtful understanding of all these puzzle pieces and feelings of grief that *Never Justice, Never Peace* opened my mind to. The course focuses on exploring representations of Appalachia in media and text from the perspectives of insiders, outsiders, and all the in-between-siders through many decades of literature. Through participating in such work, I finally got the chance to hone the ability to recognize where these deep-rooted assumptions about Appalachia I caught glimpses of, both in the world around me and within myself, were coming from and how they manifest in culture. I was able to start understanding the purpose such stereotypes and limitations have served culturally and systemically. I was given all new tools of analysis and the necessary experience to develop observations of intersectionality, struggle, and context in Appalachia. It is relieving to be given the tools to understand the generations of this shame and hardship in my family, in the faces of those I love, in conversations with strangers. But I quickly learned that it also hurts, to know that these negative core beliefs are not a natural truth



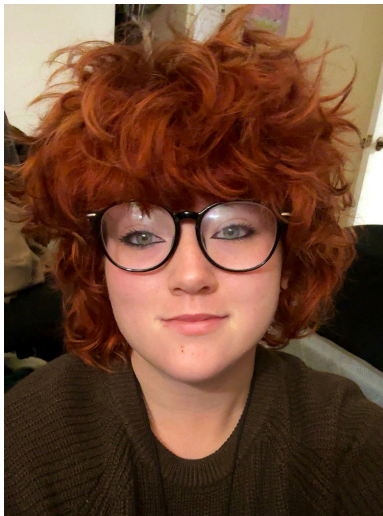
means facing that we are taught this suffering, that it could be another way indeed. This causes me to grieve for versions of myself and other Appalachians in another life, where we do not suffer from such harsh misrepresentations, neglects, and imposed inferiority complexes. It is a lens that cannot be unworn.

Not long after that course, I also began seeing these cycles of stereotyping in classical texts from my Humanities and Latin courses. There was a certain violent loathing for mountain people even in the ancient Western world, uncannily paralleling the stereotyping of Appalachia today. And once again, that need to understand was burning up within my mind and my chest. I now understand that this burning to know is necessary in healing the scorched image of Appalachia and that the context of being Appalachian is foundational to any path in life I may lead. Following that burn to know led me to a critical recognition that embracing things like my passions as a student and my identity as a queer individual are not counterintuitive to life as a West Virginian, or as an Appalachian; and that I did not ever need to escape the mountains to live fruitfully--nor does anyone else. I think this pursuit is key in developing our communities in all categories of infrastructure and thought, and that learning and valuing Appalachian stories, histories, cultures, intersections, and contexts are life saving for Appalachia. And it overwhelms me with hope and joy to see that there are plenty of others who know this to be true; and to know that organizations such as the ASA exist and are working hard to pursue Appalachian thought, community, opportunity, and bring the opportunity for understanding into reality for more and more Appalachians.

Pursuing this internship with the ASA and the countless opportunities to engage further with Appalachia in context is the extension of these previously opened doors. I am so eager to not only learn many important skills to develop my career as an aspiring academic, but also to absorb countless perspectives and studies of my ever-complicated home. The way this internship shapes me intellectually will be undoubtedly beneficial and enriching to my understanding of Appalachia and allow me to continue integrating Appalachia into my studies and long-term goals. This is a deeply healing and exciting opportunity that fulfills the intersection of my personal, academic, and professional interests.

Lio Frye

Appalachian Studies Association HerdWork Intern



# APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION HERDWORK INTERN

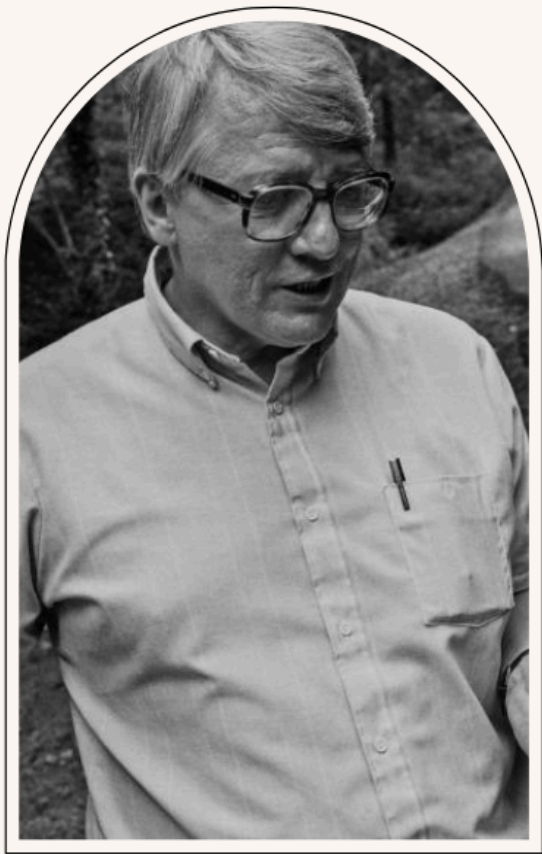
I have lived in a small town in West Virginia my whole life, which means I grew up surrounded by the same sights, places, and people for years. When I was younger, I dreamed of moving out of West Virginia so I could finally experience more of what the world had to offer. To me, that meant bustling cities with shops, restaurants, and most importantly, sidewalks everywhere I went. Until I started interning for ASA, I was oblivious to how much Appalachia had yet to show me. The amount of deeply rooted diverse culture and arts I have only begun experiencing is already amazing to me but knowing there is so much more history and so many more people who are actively celebrating Appalachia makes me eager to learn more. Interning for the Appalachian Studies Association has helped me make connections within the Appalachian community and truly say I feel proud to live in Appalachia.



After working at the 48th Annual Conference and completing a year-long internship for ASA in spring 2025, I knew there was so much more left to learn. This year I'm back again as an intern with plans of attending what I hear is going to be one of Appalachian Studies Association's biggest conferences yet. As I help to prepare for ASA's 49th Annual Conference, I feel more ready to take on new challenges and have already seen how much I have grown since I started my journey with ASA last year. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to continue developing skills as an ASA intern while simultaneously learning more about the culture and history of my home, Appalachia.

Haley Elkins  
Appalachian Studies Association HerdWork Intern

# IN REMEMBRANCE



## GURNEY NORMAN

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Gurney Norman, one of Kentucky's most beloved writers and a foundational voice in Appalachian Studies. Born in Virginia but raised in Eastern Kentucky, Gurney's work - including *Divine Right's Trip* and *Kinfolks* - captured the beauty, resilience, and complexity of Appalachian life with unparalleled authenticity

**Read the rest of the remembrance on our memorial page.**



# Committee Reports



# Communications

**Communications Committee Members:** Krystal Carter, Kendra Winchester, and Jordan Lovejoy, chair.

The Communications Committee aims to broaden ASA's reach on social media, to grow our digital networks, and to share the work of our Appalachian studies community in online spaces.

The Communications Committee annually selects the e-Appalachia award winner, which is given each year in recognition of an outstanding media source that provides insight on Appalachia and its people or provides a vital community service to Appalachians. The 2024 winner of the e-Appalachia award was *No Options: Hip-Hop in Appalachia*, produced by Ted Olson, William H. Turner, and Jomo "JK" Turner. We encourage you to not only listen to this exceptional album but also to explore its included art and liner notes that further contextualize the significance of this genre within the region. Beginning in late fall, the Communications Committee will seek nominations for the 2025 e-Appalachia award.

The Communications Committee is also actively seeking new members who may be interested in serving on the Communications Committee and becoming more involved with the Appalachian Studies Association. Any interested members can email Jordan Lovejoy, Communications Committee Chair and *Appalink* Editor, at [jelovejoy@holycross.edu](mailto:jelovejoy@holycross.edu).



## Committee Report

# Silent Auction

## Call for Howard Dorgan Silent Auction Contributions and Volunteers

*Contribute items to the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction!  
Support scholarships for those who otherwise could not attend!*

We are currently seeking contributions for the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction for the 2026 Appalachian Studies Conference. The silent auction welcomes Appalachia-focused swag and experiences including books, clothing, food, music, and craft bundles. Please start brainstorming now!

The more money we raise, the more Appalachian studies scholars we support! In the late 1990s, Howard Dorgan created the silent auction to raise funds to support student and community participation in the Appalachian Studies Association—particularly at the conference. All proceeds fund scholarships for people who could not otherwise attend the Appalachian Studies Conference. By contributing to the silent auction — and later placing a bid for items — you are building on Howard’s legacy and supporting a more diverse and more robust Appalachian Studies Association.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the silent auction, please contact **Jeff Dey** (jeffd134@aol.com) or **Dee Parker** (darryl.parker32@gmail.com). Please pledge your contribution by February 26th!

**FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$6,000**



## Committee Report

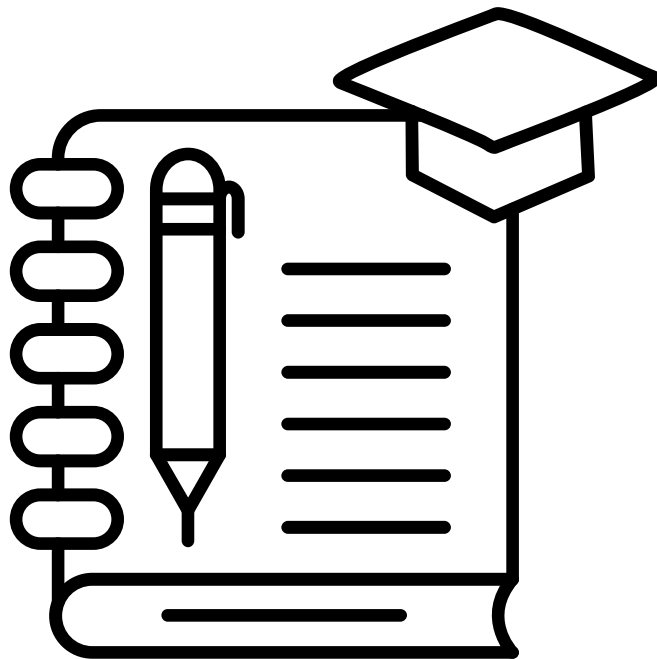


# Journal of Appalachian Studies

*The Journal of Appalachian Studies* has received strong submissions and has been supported by peer reviewers who have answered the call—reading and offering feedback to submissions—allowing us to tighten our production timeline. We have a fantastic slate of articles lined up for the next several issues, and we look forward to continuing to receive your work. Our Fall issue features articles from Alana Anton; Michael Clay Carey; Ty Gill-Saucier and Ian Schneider; Kana Wisniewski, Natalie Kruse Daniels, and Ilana Chertok; and Isra Daraiseh, exemplifying the best of interdisciplinary Appalachian studies. We are pleased, as well, to share the ASA keynote address from John Gaventa in the Fall 2025 issue.

It has been a deep honor to have worked as Associate Editor and then Editor on the last six issues, but new professional responsibilities mean that I need to step away from this role. We are thrilled to welcome two new co-Editors for the journal: Christina Fisanick and David Powers Corwin. The journal is in a very strong position and I am certain that our new leaders will continue to shepherd the journal through its next phase.

Meredith McCarroll, past Editor



# Special Collections

**Special Collections Committee Members:** Emil Asanov, Savannah Bennett, Tim Binkley, Marc Brodsky, Greta Browning Anna Curvin, Jeff Dey, Katherine Everhart, Julie Fox-Horton, Liz Harper, Michael Hatch, Chad Hunter, Gene Hyde, Sarah Insalaco, Jacob Johnson, Emily Kader, Kimberly Larmee, Scott Sikes, Leo Shannon, Jeremy Smith, Jack Swab, Kopana Terry, Shane Terry, Jinny Turman, Ashley Whittle, and Jed DeBruin, chair.

The SCC lost its former chair and long-time member, Stewart Plein, on Saturday, August 16, 2025. Stewart was instrumental in resurrecting the SCC after a period of dormancy. Stewart was an incredibly passionate advocate for libraries and archives, as well as an incredibly warm and welcoming person who both welcomed me to the SCC and encouraged me to become the chair after she stepped down. Please see her obituary here:

<https://www.hastingsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/anne-plein>.

Rest in peace, Stewart – we will miss you!

The Special Collections Committee (SCC) met for our Spring Meeting on Friday, March 21, 2025, in-person at the Annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Cookeville, Tennessee and via Microsoft Teams. The major meeting items included:

- Updates and reminders re: charge of the SCC
- Discussion on how to support those impacted by hurricane-related flooding
- ASA Annual Meeting panel presentation on SCC work in outreach and assistance to cultural heritage institutions in disaster preparedness and recovery
- Preparing Disaster Preparedness Kits (available via the [SCC homepage](#); more below)

The SCC is also pleased to announce that we are growing, and since the Winter 24-25 progress report the following members have joined: Ashley Whittle (UNC-Asheville). Many thanks to the current SCC members for their tireless recruitment efforts!

The SCC's Fall Meeting has not been scheduled yet, but the meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams. Please email Jed DeBruin ([jdebruin@jsu.edu](mailto:jdebruin@jsu.edu)) if you are interested in attending this meeting and are not already a member of the SCC.

The SCC continues to work on several projects, and here are the updates on these projects:

## Committee Report

# Special Collections (con't)

## 1. The *Appalachian Curator*

- The most recent issue – Volume 5, Issue 3 Winter 2025 – was published in Summer 2025. Please see <https://libjournals.unca.edu/appalachiancurator/> to read this issue.
- As of July, Emily Kader (Appalachian State University) became the new co-editor alongside Gene Hyde (retired) as Liz Harper (Western Carolina University) stepped down. The SCC thanks Liz for all her contributions and efforts and welcomes Emily to the position!
- The aim is for the *Curator's* August issue to focus on the Archives of Appalachia, and the editors are requesting content to reflect the community (contact information under '3.' below).
- Please send any requests for help with projects, updates on collections, or introductory information about new members to Gene Hyde ([genehyde@gmail.com](mailto:genehyde@gmail.com)) for inclusion in the *Curator*. Especially with the project requests, provide as much information as you can including contact information, project specifics, project needs, and any other relevant information.
- Submissions are needed and welcome! Please direct any questions and ideas for new articles to co-editors Gene Hyde ([genehyde@gmail.com](mailto:genehyde@gmail.com)) and Emily Kader ([kaderel@appstate.edu](mailto:kaderel@appstate.edu)).

## 2. Tammy “Tambone” Clemons Vision Award

- Following the passing of Tammy “Tambone” Clemons, a long-time member of the ASA and who established – along with her wife, Timi Reedy, Camp Happy Appalachee in 2011, amongst her many other contributions, a working group established this award to honor Tammy Clemons' life and legacy.
- This award will be annually presented at each Appalachian Studies Association conference, and the first recipients were honored at the March 2025 ASA Meeting: Madison Mooney of LiKEN in Martin County, Kentucky and poet/educator Lacy Snapp of East Tennessee State University. Congrats to both!
- Details on the award, including eligibility requirements and submission deadlines, can be found at <https://www.appalachianstudies.org/awards>.

## 3. Grouping together Appalachian collections at institutions across the region

- The Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University is working to group together Appalachian collections at institutions across the region. If you are interested in learning more about this process, please contact Jeremy Smith, who is the Director of the Archives of Appalachia ([smithja14@etsu.edu](mailto:smithja14@etsu.edu)).
- This fall, Jeremy Smith and Catherine Pollard, a graduate assistant, are working to update a 1980s survey of where all the collections of Appalachia are located. Smith and Pollard have reviewed the institutions on the original list and have since found fifteen (15) more. The aim is to cover the original seven (7) states and potentially expand to include all states with parts within the ARC-defined region.



# Special Collections (con't)

## 4. SCC Visibility and Outreach

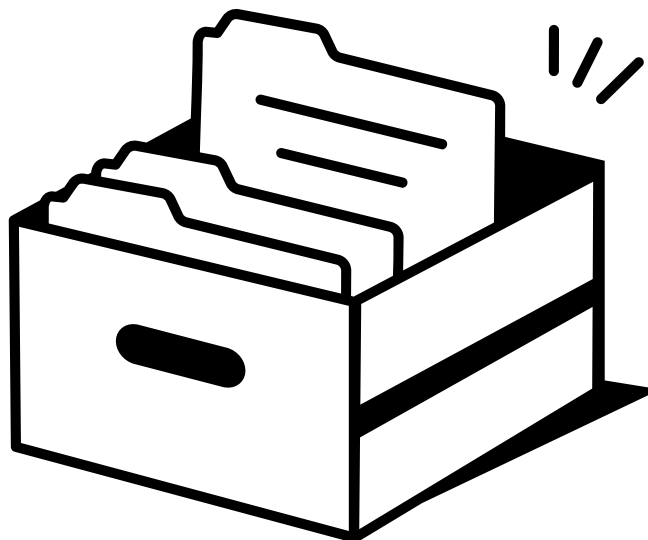
- Jed DeBruin is working with Ann Bryant on creating a list of names and contact information for archivists working at institutions in Appalachia and/ or working with Appalachian collections. Please send Jed ([jdebruin@jsu.edu](mailto:jdebruin@jsu.edu)) your name, title, institution, and contact information if you would like to be included. The plan is to make this document available on the ASA home page.
- b. Please see the [SCC homepage](#) within ASA's organizational site to access the following resources:
  - Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Resources for Individuals
  - Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Resources for Institutions
  - A selected list of Appalachian Libraries and Archives
  - A list of SCC committee members
  - A contact form to reach a SCC member about any inquiries

## 5. Recruitment

- The SCC is always looking towards recruiting new members, especially students, early career researchers, and institutionally unaffiliated members. Please direct any interested parties to Jed DeBruin ([jdebruin@jsu.edu](mailto:jdebruin@jsu.edu)).

Respectfully submitted by:

Jed DeBruin



## 2025 ASA GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

### Summary

A general registration scholarship covers registration for the conference and includes membership. In 2025, we pre-awarded\* 37 out of the 39 eligible applicants—25 students, and 12 non-students. We had \$4,319.82 to award. The 2 applicants, who were declined a scholarship, received notification in time to pre-register for the conference at the lower, pre-conference rate.

To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference. Of the pre-awardees, 34 of 37, utilized the award and attended the conference including:

- 23 students (92% of student awardees)
- 11 non-students (91.6% of non-student awardees)
- Three of the Thirty-seven recipients did not attend (2 students and 1 non-student) and therefore did not utilize the award.

The final amount awarded in registration scholarships, for the 34 recipients who attended, was \$4,570.00 which was an overaward of \$250.18, leaving \$0 carry over to the 2026 conference. When we overaward it does not cost ASA anything. It just does not produce any additional revenue. The scholarship committee decided that for the small difference in funds available to award and funds needed it was worth it to allow additional people to attend the conference.

All 2025 awardees who utilized the award by attending the conference received membership in the association with a 2025 electronic subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* and the ASA newsletter, *Appalink*. In this way, recipients continue to benefit from the award—receiving access to current research literature and to a community of scholars, learners, and activists.

\*To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference.

# Scholarship (con't)

## 2025 ASA BIPOC REGISTRATION SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

### SUMMARY

The BIPOC Membership Scholarship was extended to include conference registration beginning with the 2022 conference.\*

All scholarship award recipients who attended the 2025 ASA conference will receive an ASA annual membership, a one-year electronic subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, and the ASA newsletter, Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. In this way, recipients continue to benefit from the award—receiving access to current research literature and to a community of scholars, learners, and activists.

We had a total of \$6,480.00 in funds available for BIPOC conference registration scholarships that include access to the conference and membership in the ASA.

In 2025, we had thirteen applicants, eight students and five non-students. We pre-awarded\*\* all thirteen BIPOC conference registration scholarships applicants.

To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference\*\*. Of the pre-awardees, seven students and four non-students utilized the award by attending the conference for a total of \$1,505.00 out of the \$6,480.00 available for the 2025 conference. That leaves \$4,975.00 to carry-over for the 2026 conference.

Additionally the \$2,950.00 earmarked from the non-student membership fee in fiscal year 2024 – 2025 is added to the above amount making \$7,925.00 the total funds available for BIPOC 2026 Scholarships\*\*\*.

\*On August 30, 2021, the steering committee voted, beginning with the 2022 conference, to extend the BIPOC membership scholarship to include conference registration.

\*\*To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference.

\*\*\*Beginning in August of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, \$5 of every non-student membership was earmarked for the BIPOC Membership Scholarship fund, which changed on August 30, 2021, to include conference registration.



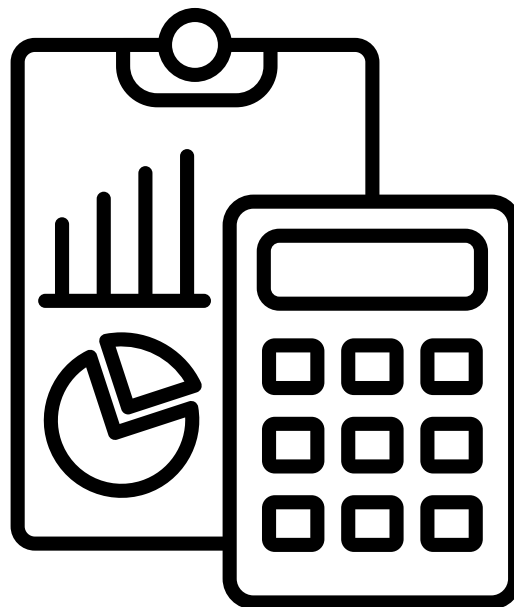
# Treasurer/Finance

Greetings from the Finance Committee! This past summer, long-time ASA Treasurer Aaron Guest, expertly passed the reins of his position to me. So far, I have met with key leadership as well as participated in our annual summer retreat.

For the first time, ASA has a surplus in our endowment. I have recommended that we roll those funds over – rather than cash them out – so we can continue to grow our endowment. We are currently financially well-positioned after multiple successful post-pandemic ASA conferences. Other recent activities include the passage of the 2026-27 Wilma Dykeman Fellowship. This \$3,000 Fellowship supports scholars researching gender, race, and/or ethnicity in the region.

The Finance Committee is actively accepting new members and would welcome your contribution. Please contact me if you are interested in getting involved. I look forward to what we can accomplish together in '25-'26 and beyond!

Kindly,  
Danielle Quales  
ASA Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair  
[Danielle.quales@gmail.com](mailto:Danielle.quales@gmail.com)



## FROM THE OFFICE

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel, wavy lines in white, orange, purple, and green, curving from the top right towards the center of the page.

You can hear a lovely autumnal breeze through the trees about campus here at Marshall University, home to the ASA office, this past week. And just as wonderful to hear is the buzz about the upcoming conference! The excitement seems to grow each day. Ours certainly does as we look forward to welcoming our ASA community here to our headquarters in March!

Be sure to follow all our social media accounts, and sign up for the email list, so you don't miss the latest news. You can sign up for email updates on the main page of our website, and links to all our social media accounts are there as well.

And speaking of the website, if you haven't been on there recently, you need to check out the recent additions. We have an Appalachian job posting page, and an Appalachian events page. Plus, a whole host of various Appalachian resources, from podcasts to artisans to syllabi.

As the conference committee works to put together the conference program with the wide array of presentations, plenaries, tours, and more, remember that our exhibit hall is also a vibrant part of the conference. So if your Appalachian program or school wants to share its offerings or if you're an artist who wants to sell wares, be sure to get your order form for a table and/or ads and social media in now. And don't forget the Silent Auction! We need donations! The auction is the main funding source for our general scholarships, which brings attendees to the conference who otherwise could not attend. So, get those donations ready, and we will see y'all in March!

# AWARD WINNERS

**Stephen L. Fisher  
Award for Excellence  
in Teaching (Post-  
Secondary):**

Kevin O'Donnell, East  
Tennessee State  
University

**Stephen L. Fisher  
Award for Excellence  
in Teaching (K-12):**

Marissa Dillon,  
Huntington High  
School, Cabell County  
Schools, West Virginia

**Stephen L. Fisher  
Award for Excellence  
in Teaching (Post-  
Secondary):**

Mae Miller-Claxton,  
Western Carolina  
University

**Carl A. Ross  
Appalachian Graduate  
Student Paper Award:**

Michelle Roberts,  
University of Kentucky:  
"Insuring Health, Ensuring  
Limits"

**Carl A. Ross  
Appalachian Graduate  
Student Paper Award:**

Adeline Rosenberger,  
University of North  
Georgia:  
"Dying, Death, and  
Funeral Traditions in  
Appalachia"

**Travis Stimeling Early  
Career Award for  
Excellence in  
Teaching Appalachian  
Studies:**

Jordan Lovejoy,  
University of North  
Carolina at Chapel Hill



# AWARD WINNERS

**Jack Spadaro  
Documentary Award  
for Short Documentary:**

*Heritage on a Plate*,  
Tucker Mason, Colby  
Amburgey, and  
Wolfgang Gunnar Miles,  
Appalshop AMI

**Jack Spadaro  
Documentary Award  
for Feature-Length  
Documentary:**

*Inheritance*,  
Matt Moyer and Amy  
Toensing

**Appalachian  
Foodways  
Practitioner  
Fellowships:**

Sam Cole (KY), Chris  
Smith (NC), Ronnie  
Marie Tartt (WV), and  
Marcus West (NC)

**e-Appalachia Award  
for Outstanding  
Media Source:**

*No Options: Hip-Hop  
in Appalachia*,  
Ted Olson, William H.  
Turner, and Jomo  
“JK” Turner

**Cratis D. Williams &  
James S. Brown  
Service Award:**

Sandra Ballard,  
Appalachian State  
University

**Helen M. Lewis  
Community Service  
Award:**

Gallia-Vinton  
Educational Service  
Center

# AWARD WINNERS

**2025-2026 Wilma Dykeman “Faces of Appalachia” Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship:**

Jed Michael DeBruin,  
Jacksonville State  
University

**Tammy “Tambone”  
Clemons Vision Award:**

Madison Mooney, LiKEN  
Lacy Snapp, East  
Tennessee State  
University

**Weatherford Award  
(Fiction):**

*Rednecks* by Taylor  
Brown

*No Perfect Mothers* by  
Karen Spears Zacharias

**Weatherford Award  
(Nonfiction):**

*This Book is Free and  
Yours to Keep: Notes  
from the Appalachian  
Prison Book Project,*

edited by Connie Banta, Kristin  
Devault-Juelfs, Destinee Harper,  
Katy Ryan, and Ellen Skirvin

**Weatherford Award  
(Poetry):**

*What Good is Heaven* by  
Raye Hendrix

# WILMA DYKEMAN FELLOW REPORT

I am proud to be the recipient of the 2024-2025 Wilma Dykeman “Faces of Appalachia” Post-Doctoral Fellowship. The award supported the completion of my first journal article entitled “From Their Double Minority Position’: Black Women’s Leadership, Black Feminist Thought, and the Black Appalachian Commission, 1969-1975,” which is forthcoming in a special issue on Black Leadership in the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*. The article centers on the contributions of Black women in the Black Appalachian Commission (BAC), a grassroots antipoverty organization that existed from 1969 to 1975. Viola Cleveland, a Black Appalachian woman from Middlesboro, Kentucky, was instrumental in the institutional and ideological development of the BAC.



I took a layered approach to completing the article. My first step was to collect new primary sources related to Black women’s contributions to the BAC. I found documents in the Joseph A. Labadie Collection at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the College of Charleston’s Special Collections in Charleston, South Carolina. I also collected new oral histories from members of Viola Cleveland’s family thanks to the help of her grandson and fellow historian Dorian Cleveland. After analyzing the sources, developing an argument, and grounding the discussion in secondary literature, I embarked on my second step, which was to present my preliminary ideas at academic conferences. I shared my work at the 2024 University of Richmond Faculty and Staff Symposium and the 2025 Appalachian Studies Conference. I also shared the work in a presentation at the Langston Centre in Johnson City, Tennessee. After presenting the work in community, my third step was to revise drafts of the article in preparation for peer review. The Dykeman award was integral to every step. It provided the resources to travel to repositories and conferences, tools to conduct interviews, and time to revise drafts. It was also an affirmation of my mission to center Black women in Black Appalachian history.



Uplifting the long unsung work of Black Appalachian women forms the heart of my research imperative. The political erasure of Black Appalachians continues to perpetuate racial, gender, and economic inequalities within the region. I do this work with the hope that local, state, and national policies begin to address the specific needs of Black people in Appalachia. I also write so that Black Appalachians can glean inspiration from their region's long history in the Black Freedom Struggle. Highlighting Black Appalachian contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power era reveals that Black Appalachian conceptualizations of Blackness were grounded in a racial and regional identity, offering new ways to think about social movements, identity, and restorative justice. It is also the history we need to really advance the reality of a multicultural region where Black people made and continue to make intellectual and cultural contributions.

I am deeply grateful to the Appalachian Studies Association for this award.

Jillean McCommons, 2024 - 2025 Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post Doc Fellow

# CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

## JACK SPADARO DOCUMENTARY AWARD

This award honors the activist and whistleblower Jack Spadaro, who spent his professional career working within the coal mining industry for the betterment of the Appalachian community. The Spadaro Award is given annually to recognize the producer of the best nonfiction film or television presentation on Appalachia or its people.

The winner will be awarded **\$250**. In the event that the committee selects two winners, each will be awarded **\$125**. Nominations should be made by **January 31, 2026** through Film Freeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/JackSpadaroDocumentaryAward>. Email questions to Tom Hansell at [hansellts@appstate.edu](mailto:hansellts@appstate.edu).

## CARL A. ROSS APPALACHIAN STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

This competition is open to students in two categories: middle/high school and undergraduate/graduate students. Middle/high school papers should be eight to fifteen pages in length. Undergraduate/graduate papers should be fifteen to thirty pages in length.

The authors of the winning papers will receive **\$100** each. All papers must adhere to guidelines for scholarly research. Students who wish to present their papers at the conference must also submit a conference proposal following the submission guidelines. The cost of attending the conference is the responsibility of the winners.

Submissions should be sent in Microsoft Word attachments via e-mail to the selection chair, Casey LaFrance, at [TC-Lafrance@wiu.edu](mailto:TC-Lafrance@wiu.edu) by **January 15, 2026**. Papers submitted to the undergraduate/graduate competition must have been completed during the current or previous academic year and must include proof of student status during the current or previous academic year; documentation may consist of a letter from a faculty advisor (including faculty advisor's e-mail, phone, and address), a schedule of classes, or a transcript.

# CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

## CRATIS D. WILLIAMS & JAMES S. BROWN SERVICE AWARD

The Cratis D. Williams & James S. Brown Service Award is given to an individual who has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia, Appalachian studies, and/or the Appalachian Studies Association. Nominations include a two-step process:

Nominations, due to the chair of the selection committee by **January 15, 2026**, should include the following:

- A letter of nomination including a brief statement highlighting the individual's specific contributions
- The individual's c.v./resume or a list of projects, awards, and accomplishments relative to serving the region, Appalachian studies, or the ASA
- Three letters of support from individuals and/or organizations that can attest to the person's contributions to the region, Appalachian studies, or the ASA.

Following a review of the nominations, the selection committee will determine if they would like to request additional information about one or more finalists before selecting the award recipient.

Send nomination materials to Charles W. Calhoun at [c.calhoun201@gmail.com](mailto:c.calhoun201@gmail.com) by **January 15, 2026**.

## HELEN M. LEWIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award is given to an individual or an organization that has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia through involvement with and service to its people and communities. Nominations should include a statement regarding the individual's or organization's specific contributions to the region and its people, and at least two letters of support.

The committee encourages nominations of individuals or organizations who were previously nominated but did not receive the award.

Send nomination materials to Julie-Shepherd-Powell, Appalachian Studies, Living Learning Center, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608, or to [shepherdpowellja@appstate.edu](mailto:shepherdpowellja@appstate.edu) by **January 31, 2026**.

# CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

## WILMA DYKEMAN "FACES OF APPALACHIA" POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2026-2027)

The Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, which provides **\$3,000** to support research related to gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia, is awarded annually when funding is available. Members of the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) who have earned a doctoral degree from an accredited institution within the past seven years are eligible to apply. Fellowship applicants must have been members of ASA for one year prior to applying and must maintain membership throughout the course of the fellowship period. No person may receive the fellowship more than one time.

Please send applications to Mary Thomas at [mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu) by **December 31, 2025**. Althea Webb is the Wilma Dykeman Committee Chair and may be contacted at [webba@berea.edu](mailto:webba@berea.edu). The award winner, as well as other applicants, will be notified in early **Spring 2026**. Award winners will be announced at the **March 2026** ASA conference awards ceremony.

For more information about the award and details on the application process, please visit the ASA website: <http://appalachianstudies.org/awards>.

## THE E-APPALACHIA AWARD

The e-Appalachia Award is given annually in recognition of an outstanding media source that provides insight on Appalachia and its people or that provides a vital community service to Appalachians.

The winner will be awarded **\$250**. Nominations should be sent to Jordan Lovejoy by emailing [asa@marshall.edu](mailto:asa@marshall.edu) with "e-Appalachia Award" in the subject line by **January 31, 2026**.



# CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

## TAMMY "TAMBONE" CLEMONS VISION AWARD

In honor of her life and legacy, the annual Tammy "Tambone" Clemons Vision Award recognizes young and emerging artists and activists in Appalachia who embody Tammy's passion for storytelling, oral history, and creative expression, whether through oral history projects, creative media, filmmaking, writing, or other storytelling efforts that honor the culture, history, and voices of our beloved and vibrant region. This award not only acknowledges outstanding achievement but also serves as a reminder of Tammy's enduring legacy and her deep belief in the power of stories to shape and strengthen communities.

The **\$250** award seeks to recognize individuals or collaborative groups with a connection to Appalachia who demonstrate outstanding dedication to storytelling and creative activism that uplifts the region's culture, history, and voices.

Nominees will be evaluated based on the following criteria: Commitment to Storytelling, Creative Excellence, Community Impact and Inclusion, Dedication to Documenting Appalachia's Diverse Histories, and Emerging Leadership.

Nominees should be young or emerging artists or creative activists ("young" is broadly defined in terms of age and experience). Nominees must have a clear connection to Appalachia, either through residency, cultural heritage, or work focused on the region. Individuals or collaborative groups are eligible to apply. Nominees can self-nominate or be nominated by others.

### Nomination Requirements:

- A brief description of the nominee's work and its alignment with the award's criteria up to but not exceeding five single-spaced, 12-point type pages.
- Examples of the nominee's storytelling or creative projects (e.g., videos, writings, recordings, or other relevant materials).
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the nominee's work and its impact.

Applications for the award will be accepted between **December 1, 2025**, and **January 31, 2026**. Selection of the award winner will be made by an awards subcommittee of the ASA Special Collections Committee.

Please send nomination materials to: Jed DeBruin, ASA Special Collections Committee Chair, [jdebruin@jsu.edu](mailto:jdebruin@jsu.edu), with the subject line "Clemons Award Nomination."

# ELECTED POSITIONS

PRESIDENT  
(2025-2027)

**Sophia Enriquez**



VICE PRESIDENT  
(2025-2027)

**Katherine Ledford**

# ELECTED POSITIONS

Y'ALL (YOUNG  
APPALACHIAN LEADERS  
AND LEARNERS) STEERING  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
(2025-2027)

**Molly Updegrove**



TREASURER/  
FINANCE CHAIR  
(2025-2028)

**Danielle Quales**

# CALL FOR OFFICER AND STEERING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

**Your nominations are needed for ASA officers and Steering Committee members!**

The ASA bylaws call for the annual nomination and election of officers. Any member of ASA may nominate a fellow member to serve.

Self-nominations are also accepted. ASA is seeking nominations for the following elected positions:

**One Y'ALL Steering Committee  
Member (2026-2028) to serve for  
two years.**

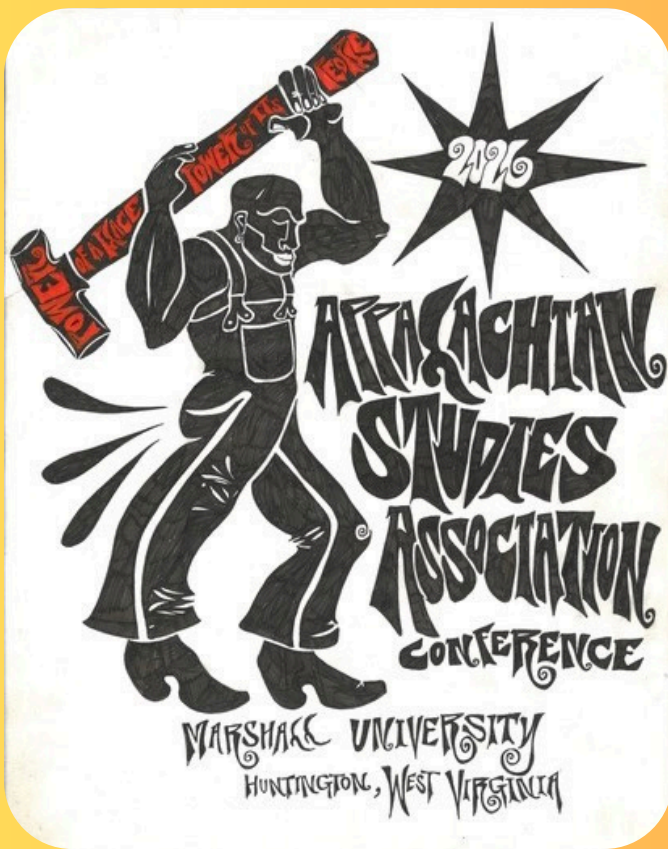
Y'ALL Steering Committee members  
act as co-chairs of the Young  
Appalachian Leaders and Learners  
committee and work collaboratively  
with the President in support of the  
conference.

**Send your nomination(s) by December 31, 2025**  
to Katherine Ledford, ASA Vice President, at [ledfordke@appstate.edu](mailto:ledfordke@appstate.edu).



**SEE YOU SOON!**

# **49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference**



**MARCH 19-21, 2026  
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY  
HUNTINGTON, WV**

**POWER OF A PLACE,  
POWER OF ITS PEOPLE**



**CONFERENCE CHAIR: CICERO M. FAIN, III  
PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS: PAUL L. ROBERTSON  
AND MARIANNA FOOTO-LINZ**



**Follow Us!**

**@appalachstudies**



## ***Appalink* Statement**

*Appalink* is published twice a year. We welcome submissions, announcements, and news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the membership of ASA. Space is limited and all submissions are subject to editing. Paid advertisements will be considered for inclusion. Contact the managing editor, Mary K. Thomas, at [mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu) for rates. Email submissions to Jordan Lovejoy at [jelovejoy@holycross.edu](mailto:jelovejoy@holycross.edu). Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1. Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

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Editors: Jordan Lovejoy, Mary Kay Thomas, and Ann E. Bryant  
Interns: Haley Elkins and Lio Frye



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# INSIDE APPALACHIA<sup>®</sup>



STORIES FROM THIS SIDE  
OF THE MOUNTAIN

STREAMING ON:

