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Appalachian Studies Association Newsletter

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President's Message



Dear ASA Membership,

Greetings from Durham, North Carolina!
As many of you know, plans for the Appalachian Studies Association's 50th Annual Conference at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, are well underway. Our conference team, led by Bucknell professor Kenton Butcher and Lewisburg Mayor Kendy Alvarez, has already been doing extraordinary work to prepare for this milestone gathering. I am deeply grateful for their leadership, creativity, and commitment to making this a memorable occasion for our association. Whether you are a longtime member, a first-time attendee, a student, a community practitioner, or someone newly interested in Appalachian studies, I warmly invite you to attend and hope you will join us!

The 50th anniversary offers us a particularly meaningful opportunity to reflect on where we have been and where we hope to go. For five decades, the ASA has brought together scholars, artists, activists, students, and community members whose work reflects the richness and complexity of Appalachia. Our annual conference has long been a space for sharing research, building relationships, and imagining new possibilities for the region and for Appalachian studies. As we celebrate this history, I also hope we will take seriously the invitation to think about our association's future. What might the next fifty years of Appalachian studies look like? Whose voices, experiences, and ways of knowing do we need to make more room for? How might we continue to strengthen the relationships between our scholarly work and the communities whose lives, histories, and futures animate it?

Beyond conference planning, I am also pleased to share that the ASA Steering Committee has been working hard to address concerns about our peer review process. We recognize the importance of maintaining a thoughtful, transparent, and equitable process for evaluating conference proposals, and we are committed to strengthening our practices in ways that better serve our growing and diverse membership.

Finally, I am excited that we will share the association's newly formed vision, mission, and values statements at this year's conference. These statements have emerged from a process of listening to our membership and responses to questions and prompts circulated at last year's gathering and in an online survey. Fifty years is an extraordinary accomplishment, made possible by generations of people who have given their time, energy, and care to this association. Honoring that legacy also means remaining open to change, welcoming new voices, and continuing to ask how the ASA can be a place where more people find belonging, intellectual community, and shared purpose.

I look forward to welcoming you to Lewisburg as we celebrate fifty years of Appalachian studies and begin the next chapter of ASA together.

Sophia 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.



Where Do We Go from Here?

50th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 4 – 7, 2027, Bucknell University &

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania



Bucknell University and the Borough of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania welcome the Appalachian Studies Association to our state for only the second time in ASA's history from March 4-7, 2027. As we prepare to celebrate ASA's 50th annual conference at an atypical site, we consider this the ideal time and place to revisit the theme from the first conference, held in 1978, "Appalachian Studies: Where Do We Go from Here?" By revisiting the original theme, we hope to encourage submissions that reflect upon ASA's successes, consider the state of our organization, and critically assess our field of study as we look forward to the next 50 years.

This year's logo was created by Philadelphia-based designer, Jovan Ellis. After designing logos for the Tablertown People of Color Museum in southeast Ohio and the Bucknell Humanities Center for their 2025-26 program, "Black Appalachia and the Search for Nowhere," Jovan based this year's conference logo on the first ASA conference newsletter from 1978.





Located on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, the Borough of Lewisburg is the seat of Union County and is known for its historic downtown. Lewisburg boasts several locally owned shops, restaurants, and beautiful historic churches, but one of the most recognizable features of Lewisburg is its unique three-globe streetlights. Only a short distance from Lewisburg's downtown, Bucknell University has been a part of the Lewisburg community for nearly two centuries. Founded in 1846 as the University of Lewisburg, Bucknell University is a private liberal arts college with approximately 4,000 students. Bucknell offers undergraduate and graduate degrees across its three colleges: Arts & Science, Engineering, and the Freeman College of Management. The 450-acre campus includes modern and historic buildings as well as research, athletic, and performing arts facilities.

Highlights for the upcoming conference include an opening ceremony at Lewisburg's beautiful Campus Theatre, one of the only remaining single-screen art deco movie theaters in the country. James Branscome, longtime journalist and author of the frequently anthologized article and pamphlet, "Annihilating the Hillbilly," will provide the keynote on Friday evening. Join an off-site excursion with local guide and historian, David DeKok, for a tour to learn about the history and legacy of the Centralia mine fire, which has been burning underground since 1962. ASA attendees are invited to attend another off-site event honoring the history and legacy of the Craig Family, several of whom were enslaved at Fort Hunter near Harrisburg and are buried on grounds currently owned by the Harrisburg Country Club; in partnership with the Dauphin County Library and the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity at Dickinson College, the speaker series sheds light on the overlooked history of bondage and the struggle for freedom in Pennsylvania and the legacy of Harrisburg's Black community, and this event will honor the legacy of the Craig family matriarch, Hannah Craig.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following members of the planning committee:

Kenton Butcher
Conference Co-chair
kenton.butcher@bucknell.edu

Mayor Kendy Alvarez
Conference Co-chair
kalvarez@lewisburgborough.org

Shaunna Barnhart
Local Events Chair
shaunna.barnhart@bucknell.edu

Paul Barba
Program Chair
pab040@bucknell.edu



NEWS











MARSHALL UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE FOLLOW UP

As the Assistant Director of the Appalachian Freedom Heritage Tourism Initiative, I'm in Boyd County, KY, attending two UGRR marker dedications placing the Asbury Parker Memorial and Network to Freedom Marker Dedication, at ARMCO Park, in Ashland, Kentucky, and the Piketon 59 Escape Site Dedication, at the Catlettsburg Riverfront, in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, onto the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. These two sites increase the number of sites placed on the national network by the AFHTI to 26, clearly demonstrating the centrality of the Tri-state region in the nation's first civil rights movement.

As the Chair of the 49th Annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference, I had the great pleasure of working with a remarkable leadership team of Mary, Ann, Paul Robertson, Marianna Linz, and an amazing supporting cast from across Marshall, student volunteers, and community stakeholders, each who gave their time and effort to animating, amplifying, and celebrating our theme: "Power of a Place, Power of its People." Their tireless efforts demonstrated our commitment to ensuring that all attendees were ensconced in an eco-system of dignity, inclusivity, belongingness, intellectual engagement, and fellowship. And, despite the challenges and upheavals, from all indications, the overwhelming consensus is that we pulled it off!

I am proud to share with you the following accomplishments:

- William H. Turner's masterful, funny, and well-received keynote, "Been to the Mountaintop," highlighted the importance of Black Appalachian contributions to our nation, the resilience of Appalachia's marginalized communities, the centrality of inter-racial cooperation throughout our region to advance social justice movements, and the need for new generations to continue these legacies through community based and regional advocacy. Find the link below to view: https://www.marshall.edu/livestream/livestream/keynote-address-william-h-turner/

- The Conference featured two outstanding plenaries. Plenary #1, entitled "Appalachia's Powerful Literature of Place and its People," moderated by Cat Pleska, and sponsored by Mountain State Press and in memory of author Carter Taylor Seaton, showcased the rich gifts of Appalachian based writers Willie Edward Taylor Carver, Jr. and Jacinda Townsend. Plenary #2, entitled "Soulful and Gothic: Appalachian Musical Traditions Returned, Reclaimed, and Re-imagined," and hosted by Paul Robertson, displayed the captivating talents of musicians and storytellers, Aristotle Jones and Clover-Lynn.

These events helped contribute to the Conference hosting:

- The largest number of conference proposal submissions
- The largest exhibit hall with 92 tables and 80 individual vendors including a COEPD exhibit table
- The largest number of participants ever—with over 1,227 in attendance

In closing, I am proud and grateful to have served as the Chair. I am excited about what the 50th Annual ASA Conference promises, and know that Kenton and Mayor Kendy will produce a memorable experience.

Cicero M. Fain, III
2026 Conference Chair

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. The organizational membership year (2026/2027) runs from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

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:

- 2027 Conference Registration/Membership for one director or their designee
- Two directed social media posts during 2026 - 2027 to be posted on all ASA Social Media accounts
- Sponsored Session at the 2027 Annual Meeting (conference)
- Listing of Organizational Members in the Final Conference Program and on the ASA website
- Two 2027 Student Conference Registrations/Memberships or one Regular Conference Registration/membership
- 15% discount on the first ad; full-page package ads only (2027 Conference)
- 25% discount on the first full exhibit table at 2027 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 INTERN

I cannot begin to say how much I have enjoyed working with the Appalachian Studies Association during my final semester at Marshall.



I have lived in West Virginia my whole life, but it was not until recently that I discovered the beauty of what it means to be from Appalachia. As someone who has grown up in a Mexican household, I did not have a lot of opportunity to explore Appalachian culture; everything I learned about it was mainly in grade school. Then, in college, I got the chance to work with the ASA, where my eyes were opened to the diverse place I call home.

During the ASA's 49th Annual Conference, I met so many people who had one thing in common: their Appalachian pride. I remember a moment during the conference when I was talking to Cicero Fain, the conference chair, about where I'm from and he said, "West by God Virginia." He could tell I was confused, because I had never heard this saying before in my life, but he and the people surrounding us told me what it meant. While I learned a lot at the conference, it showed me that there is still so much I have yet to explore.

One of my biggest missions is to learn continuously throughout my life, so even just one semester of ASA has taught me a lot. As an Advertising & Public Relations major, I got to work on the ASA's social media content. It gave me the chance to use what I learned in classes to connect and engage with those who viewed the posts. This internship also helped me develop other skills through conference planning, such as writing, copyediting, and problem-solving. As I wrap up this school year, I want to grow my Appalachian pride by continuing to learn more about Appalachia and involving myself in the many communities it holds.

I would like to thank Ann and Mary for giving me an opportunity to develop and grow my skills and knowledge through this internship.

Maritza Cobian
Appalachian Studies Association Intern

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION HERDWORK INTERN

I was born and raised in the foothills of West Virginia, deep in the heart of Appalachia; when I was a girl, I had always dreamed of getting out. For as far back as I can remember, I was told that the only opportunities for me existed outside of these mountains: and I believed it, without much of a second thought, really. I didn't know anyone here that looked or behaved like me. I knew I was a lesbian very early on in my life; it's been a major influence in my academics, and because of that I began to believe wholeheartedly that there was nothing for me here, and that the only way I would amount to anything was to leave. I believed all of the stereotypes that I'd heard about folks like me, and so I sought out to prove them wrong, but in doing so, I felt more isolated than ever.



I'd heard so frequently that folks from West Virginia were the furthest thing from academics. I wanted to disprove this so desperately, so I dove headfirst into the books. But I couldn't relate to all the classic authors and the traditional curriculum in front of me. Funnily enough, it was the Appalachian authors that inspired me the most; hard-working people documenting their struggle here, as well as their abundant success and love for the region, and the ways in which their studies brought them back to the love that runs so deeply through the valleys. Dorothy Allison, Ann Pancake, and Mesha Maren have been such big inspirations for me and my want to stay in West Virginia: I want to write love letters to these hills too.

I am so grateful for my experience with the Appalachian Studies Association. Being an intern here has exposed me to a much richer understanding of this place that I've grown to love so much. I want to continue studying all the incredible artists and creatives that came before me as I further my education. I'll be graduating with my BA from Marshall University in December and I'm going on to graduate school to study queer Appalachian literature—it's my dream to begin my own archival system for these neglected texts that are so very important to the region. Mary and Ann have been a driving force for this, as they have both exposed me to different artists, themes, and history that I don't believe I would have ever found on my own; for that, I am so very grateful.

Brooke Smith
Appalachian Studies Association HerdWork Intern

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION HERDWORK INTERN



I used to struggle with thinking of myself as an Appalachian or West Virginian. I had been born in Columbus, Georgia, before moving to Delbarton, West Virginia, well before I could even form proper memories, before ultimately ending up in Matewan, West Virginia. Both of my parents were from New Jersey, so I had grown up with distant family members teasing me for becoming a "hillbilly" and "hick" whenever we got to visit them every few years. Due to my sheltered, shut-in nature and lack of social skills from being homeschooled until late elementary school, I held a deep emotional disconnect from Appalachia and West Virginia as a whole.

I had grown up being told that people from Appalachia were uneducated, dirty, and couldn't do anything except drink, hunt, and fish, but never once had I had an experience that suggested any of those things to be true. I was awkward and sheltered, yes, but I did make an effort to listen to my classmates when they shared stories from their childhoods: how their uncles taught them how to fish, how their mothers and grandmothers had special recipes for cornbread and collard greens (things I had never even heard of until going to public school), and how their fathers worked underground in the coal mines to provide for their families despite the health risks and time lost with their loved ones. It all felt so foreign, so far away from my own fractured upbringing, like a transparent wall kept me away from the people I considered friends and found family.

It wasn't until late middle school and early high school that I started to learn more about Appalachia in school. I believe it was my freshman year of high school when I had to read *Rocket Boys* for a class and write about the social and historical misconceptions that the community faces. I had enough common sense and awareness to know the basics (rural communities don't equal uneducated; the political and economic history had more interesting stories than just one or two; etc.), but a deeper part of me remained confused. I knew these things intimately, having grown up in the environment for nearly my whole life, but I still couldn't reconcile with the odd disconnect I had felt since childhood. Fearing this would hurt my grade, I decided to meet privately with my teacher at the time (a wonderful English teacher named Beth Keatley).

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION HERDWORK INTERN

The conversation I had with her that day had struck such a deep, emotional chord in my body that I had cried in her office. She explained to me that yes, Appalachia and West Virginia are regions where the culture and communities remain pretty consistently closed off from the rest of the country, but that you didn't need to be born in West Virginia to be Appalachian: Appalachia wasn't just a place; it was a culture; a people. She helped me understand my feelings of disconnection by helping me realize that just because I wasn't born in West Virginia or didn't have family from the area didn't make me any less connected to the culture as somebody who was.

After that day, I started to notice the little things more often. The way my own accent was more noticeable when I said any words with the letter "i" in them, how camping in the mountains sounded fun rather than frightening and uncomfortable, how I had subconsciously picked up on the folklore of the Appalachian Mountains and treated them like personal experiences. I've become a much bigger advocate for correcting misconceptions and stereotypes about Appalachia and her people, and I've been absolutely thrilled to continue learning more about Appalachia and her people by working with the ASA. Mary and Ann have been such wonderful guides and mentors, and it fills me with an indescribable joy and pride to be able to get involved with the Appalachian Studies Association to learn more about the culture, community, and the opportunities within Appalachia as a whole for not just myself but for all Appalachians

Jaime Wheeler
Appalachian Studies Association HerdWork Intern

Committee Reports



Communications

Communications Committee Members: Krystal Carter, Nora Shalaway Carpenter, Robert Ellison, 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 2025 winner of the e-Appalachia award was the Library of Appalachian Preaching: A Digital Repository of Sermons, which is a collaborative effort among the Center for Sermon Studies, the MU Libraries, the Department of English, and the Digital Humanities program at Marshall University. We encourage ASA members to visit The Library of Appalachian Preaching at:

https://mds.marshall.edu/sermons/

Beginning in late fall, the Communications Committee will seek nominations for the 2026 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.

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 2027 Appalachian Studies Conference. The silent auction welcomes Appalachia-focused swag and experiences including books, clothing, food, music, experiences, and craft kits. Please start brainstorming now!

Once you've come up with items, please enter them using this form:
https://forms.gle/bfUX9ba4uLX5QAk37

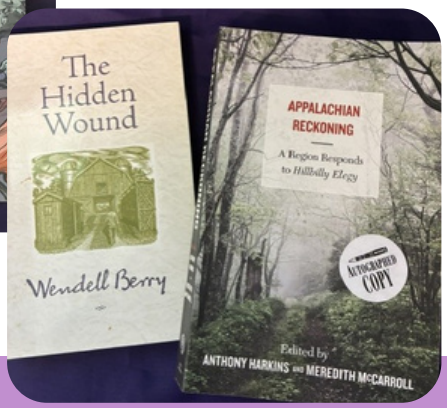
The more money we raise, the more Appalachian studies scholars we support! In the late 1990s, Howard Dorgan created the silent auction to raise funds to support student and community participation in the Appalachian Studies Association—particularly at the conference. All proceeds fund scholarships for people who could not otherwise attend the Appalachian Studies Conference. In past years, you have come through with amazing support for the Silent Auction. For this 50th Conference, let's see how much we can honor Howard's amazing legacy by contributing items to the silent auction to support a more diverse and more robust Appalachian Studies Association. And, when you come to Bucknell, be ready to bid on items!

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 so we can plan to display all these treasures!



FUNDRAISING GOAL: $6,000







Committee Report

Journal of Appalachian Studies

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* just completed final edits on Volume 32, Issue 2, 2026. In addition, we added Sean Ridge as assistant editor, and TJ West as our new Media Review Editor. As always, we are looking for peer reviewers in all areas of Appalachian studies. If you are interested in adding your name to our reviewers list here, you can find it here.

Christian Fisanick
Co-editor

Education

Help Shape the Future of the ASA Education Committee

We're seeking new committee members!

Join us in connecting educators, supporting students, and advancing education across the region.

Interested? Contact the Education Committee Chair, Leah Vance-Berg, at leah.vance-berg@midway.edu to learn more.

Membership Challenge

I would like to encourage all members to invite at least one colleague from your campus(es) to join ASA as a member. If each of us could invite one member, our total membership would really grow.

Eliot Parker
ASA Membership Committee Chair

Special Collections

Current members: Savannah Bennett, Tim Binkley, Mark Coltrain, Anna Curvin, Helen Davies, Jeff Dey, Katherine Everhart, Julie Fox-Horton, 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.

Since the Fall 25 progress report, the following members have left the committee, and we thank them for their time and contributions: Emil Asanov, Marc Brodsky, and Liz Harper. We have also had the following members join the committee: Mark Coltrain and Helen Davies.
Many thanks to the current SCC members for their tireless recruitment efforts!

The Special Collections Committee (SCC) met for our Spring Meeting on Friday, March 20, 2026, in-person at the Annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Huntington, West Virginia, and via Microsoft Teams. The major meeting items included:

- Project updates on the following:
  - The updated online version of the Encyclopedia of Appalachia
  - A new ASA collections management schedule
  - The Archives in Appalachia Survey Project
  - SCC Visibility and Outreach
  - Clemons Award Committee
  - Highlighting SCC activities at the annual conference

The SCC met for our Fall Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2026 via Microsoft Teams. The major meeting items included:

- Project updates on the following:
  - The updated online version of the Encyclopedia of Appalachia
  - A new ASA collections management schedule
  - The Archives in Appalachia Survey Project
  - SCC Visibility and Outreach
  - Clemons Award Committee
- Discussion on the 2027 annual conference and SCC-sponsored sessions
- Discussion of joining WMMT's emergency preparedness cohort
- Discussion of having a "history harvest" at the annual meeting to celebrate 50 years of the conference and to document the history of the organization

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

Special Collections (cont.)

1. **The *Appalachian Curator***
   a. The most recent issue – Volume 6, Issue 2 Fall 2026 – was published in October 2026. Please see https://libjournals.unca.edu/appalachiancurator/ to read the issue.
   b. Please send any requests for help with projects, updates on collections, or introductory information about new members to co-editors Gene Hyde (*genehyde@gmail.com*) and Emily Kader (kaderel@appstate.edu) 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!

2. **Updated online version of the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia***
   a. Currently transitioning into Year 2 of the project. The first year entailed revisiting about 140 articles about Appalachian landscapes; about half of these articles have been updated with the remainder expected to be updated later this fall.
   b. No current live website available at this point in time; however, organizers are working on a test site and aim to have a live version available later this fall.
   c. Currently working on updating the music section, with Ted Olson overseeing this process (approximately 160-170 articles needing to be reviewed and updated).
   d. Literature, language, and humor are the next categories up for review, and hopefully folklore will be addressed around the new year.

3. **Tammy "Tambone" Clemons Vision Award**
   a. Details on the award, including eligibility requirements and submission deadlines, can be found at https://www.appalachianstudies.org/awards.
   b. Applications for the award will be accepted between December 1, 2026, and January 15, 2027. Selection of the award winner will be made by an awards subcommittee of the ASA Special Collections Committee.
   c. Please send nomination materials to: Jed DeBruin, ASA Special Collections Committee Chair, jdebruin@jsu.edu, with the subject line "Clemons Award Nomination."

4. **Recruitment**
   a. 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).

Respectfully submitted by:
Jed DeBruin

Scholarship

2026 ASA GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Summary*

A general registration scholarship covers registration for the conference and includes membership. In 2026, we pre-awarded** 55 out of the 64 eligible applicants—39 students and 16 non-students (including 23 Berea students and 4 non-students). We had $1,758.16 to award, in addition we had $3,345.00 in earmarked funds from Berea. The 9 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, 52 of 55 utilized the award and attended the conference including:

- 37 students (95% of student awardees)
- 15 non-students (94% of non-student awardees)
- 3 of the 55 recipients did not attend (2 students and 1 non-students) and therefore did not utilize the award.

The final amount awarded in registration scholarships, for the 52 recipients who attended, was $6,880.00 which was an over award of $1,776.84 leaving $0 carry over to the 2027 conference. When we over award, 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 2026 awardees who utilized the award by attending the conference received membership in the association with a 2026 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.

*Full report available by request from ASA office.

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

Scholarship (con't)

2026 ASA BIPOC REGISTRATION SCHOLARSHIP REPORT*

The BIPOC Membership Scholarship was extended to include conference registration beginning with the 2022 conference[1].

All scholarship award recipients who attended the 2026 ASA conference will receive an ASA annual membership, a one-year 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.

We had a total of $7,925.00 in funds available for BIPOC conference registration scholarships that include access to the conference and membership in the ASA.

In 2026, we had fifteen applicants, nine students and six non-students. We pre- awarded [2] all fifteen BIPOC conference registration scholarships applicants.

To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference. Of the pre-awardees, six students and four non-students utilized the award by attending the conference for a total of $1,390.00 out of the $7,925.00 available for the 2026 conference. That leaves $6,535.00 to carry-over for the 2027 conference.

Additionally, the $3,350.00 earmarked from the non-student membership fee in fiscal year 2025 – 2026 is added to the above amount making $9,885.00 the total funds available for BIPOC 2027 Scholarships.

*Full report available by request from ASA office.

1On August 30, 2021, the steering committee voted, beginning with the 2022 conference, to extend the BIPOC membership scholarship to include conference registration.

2To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference.

3Beginning 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

The Appalachian Studies Association's endowment at Foundation for Appalachian Ohio enables us to grow our available funds and protect our financial health. We have an available spend of $2,327 from the endowment. At our annual ASA Steering Committee retreat in July, the Treasurer recommended and the SC voted to keep the funds invested rather than to take the distribution. In this way, we will continue to grow our cash reserves as the organization focuses on its fiscal health.

The total market value of our endowment funds as of September 19, 2026 was $82,414.67. The market value ending June 30, 2026 for Q2 was $82,381.21. Therefore, we see a small increase during this timeframe.

The market value ending June 30, 2025 for Q2 was $68,894.88. This shows a very healthy 19.58% increase from the end of Q2 2025 and the end of Q2 2026.

Kindly,
Danielle Quales
ASA Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair
danielle.quales@gmail.com

Y'ALL

The Y'ALL Committee is actively accepting new members who value networking and collaborating with young and emerging scholars, activists, and leaders. We are incredibly excited about the members who have been consistently attending our monthly meetings since our revival of this subcommittee, and we look forward to seeing new faces.

Our upcoming meetings will be centered around planning our workshop for the conference, and we would greatly appreciate hearing from members what topics would be most beneficial for you. Please reach out to either of us at the following emails with workshop ideas or to receive a Zoom link for our next meeting:

moriah.alford@louisville.edu
molly.updegrove@reimagineappalachia.org

Remember, Y'ALL really is for all!

Warmly,
Molly Updegrove and Moriah Alford



FROM THE OFFICE



It is hard to believe we have been in our new home in the Education Building for over a year and a half. We are so happy to be part of the College of Education and Professional Development (COEPD) and the vital work they do at Marshall, and for the future teachers of Appalachia.

We are pleased to be collaborating with them as well, including having faculty member Sean Ridge as assistant editor on the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. He is working on a pilot program that will give COEPD graduate students an opportunity to work as interns on the journal.

Mary Thomas and I had the pleasure of being hosted by the conference planning committee in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania in July. We had a tour of the campus and town, and both are truly wonderful and inviting. As co-hosts, the town and University will make this 50th ASA Conference truly unique with a harmonious blending of community and university. And what could be more Appalachian? We can't wait to celebrate with our ASA community, and discover and discuss, *Where Do We Go From Here?*

AWARD WINNERS

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

Theresa Burriss, Emory & Henry University

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

Meade Richter, Blowing Rock School

Tammy "Tambone" Clemons Vision Award:

Karly Kursell & Krystal Brooke Carter

Carl A. Ross Appalachian Undergraduate Student Paper Award:

Aleta Rader

Carl A. Ross Appalachian Graduate Student Paper Award:

Seth Garcia

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

Zada Komara

AWARD WINNERS

Jack Spadaro Documentary Award for Feature-Length Documentary:

***A Beast Touch the Mountain*, directed by James Mottern**

Jack Spadaro Documentary Award for Short Documentary:

***Strings*, directed by Nik Lee**

e-Appalachia Award for Outstanding Media Source:

The Library of Appalachian Preaching: A Digital Repository of Sermons, Robert Ellison

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

Ron Roach

Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award:

Elizabeth Barret

2026-2027 Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship:

Sarah E. Plummer

AWARD WINNERS

Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowships:

Lucas & Candace Wiggin
Maple Grove Farm
&
Siara Benoit & Takia Gaylord
Kinfolk Heritage Farm

Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowships:

Jasmine Thompson
Naturalist
Woolbank Conservancy
&
Keyarna "Chef Ke" Frederick
Culinary Artist

Weatherford Award (Nonfiction):

***Holler: A Graphic Memoir of Rural Resistance* by Denalie Sai Nalamalapu**

Weatherford Award (Fiction):

***They All Fall the Same* by Wes Browne**

Weatherford Award (Poetry):

Had I a Dove: Appalachian Poets on the Helen Flood

edited by Hilda Downer

WILMA DYKEMAN FELLOW REPORT

"From Past to Present: Black Farming in Appalachian Kentucky" – Scholarly Resources

Jed DeBruin, PhD
Assistant Professor of Geography
Jacksonville State University



To begin, I would like to thank the Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-doctoral Research Fellowship award committee for selecting me as the 2025-2026 recipient of this generous award and funding. Additionally, I would like to thank my two references, Dr. Priscilla McCutcheon (who was my Ph.D. advisor) and Dr. Ann Kingsolver (who served on my Ph.D. committee), for their tireless support of me and my work. I also need to thank Kopana Terry, William Isom II, Alona Norwood, and Dr. Reinette Jones in helping with the distribution and storage of these scholarly resources within their respective organizations. Last, and certainly not least, I would like to thank all the narrators who participated in my project by agreeing to sit down for an oral history interview (or two, in one instance) with me: Lonzo Ballew, Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin, Mitchell (Mitch) Brown, Travis Cleaver, Jim Embry, Judy Greene-Baker, Tatum Lewis, Susan Miller, Sharyn Mitchell, Alicestyne Turley, and Perriee Williamson.

In my proposal to the award committee, I noted that while I believed my dissertation work ("From Past to Present: Black Farming in Appalachian Kentucky" by Jed Michael DeBruin) made significant theoretical and methodological contributions, I had specifically designed my research with the aim of conducting critical scholarship, which Kobayashi (1994) states necessitates both "denaturalize[ing] academic and other social traditions that perpetuate subordinating relations" through race and "unnaturaliz[ing] the scripts through which we conduct our own research" (78). I added that with such goals in mind, I wanted to engage with a "politics of resourcefulness" (Derickson & Routledge, 2015: 1) in thinking through how to channel the resources and privileges of being an academic – in particular, a white, cisgender, male, Appalachian then-graduate student – in designing my research. Therefore, in addition to the written work of the dissertation, I wrote that I wanted to expand my work – this "politics of resourcefulness" as described by Derickson & Routledge (2015) – through resources that could be utilized by the narrators themselves and other researchers inside and outside of the academy: scholarly resources in the form of transcribed and shared oral histories, census datasheets, and encyclopedia entries.

While I did not achieve all the goals that I had outlined in my proposal, I did make significant strides in transcribing and sharing the oral history interviews, creating and sharing the census datasheets, and creating and sharing the encyclopedia entries. I had perhaps been too ambitious and/ or optimistic, not fully accounting for how much of an impact becoming a full-time assistant professor, moving several states away, and helping my parents with some health issues would have on my ability to complete what I had originally outlined in my proposal. I share these experiences not to offer any excuses but rather to be transparent that despite our best intentions life can sometimes get in the way of our academic work, and that these hurdles should not be understood as indicative of failure. Instead, being an academic is part of our lives, not our entire lives, and we need to be gentler with ourselves and our work. With that being said, here is what I was able to accomplish through receiving this award and the accompanying funding, as well as some next steps in furthering this work.

Regarding my first goal of transcribing and sharing the oral history interviews that I conducted with the narrators listed above, I was able to completely transcribe and share three (3) of the twelve (12) interviews. These were the interviews with Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin, Mitchell (Mitch) Brown, and Susan Miller.

As I described in my proposal, while I had transcriptions of all the oral histories due to the use of various audio recording software (which I was I was able to use in writing my dissertation), many of these interviews were in what I characterized as 'rough form' in which there were numerous errors within the written transcribed text such as misspelled words, the wrong word, missing words or text, an individual moving away from the microphone or speaking too softly, overlapping conversation, or background noise interrupting the recording. I aimed to 'clean up' these errors to produce more readable versions that included timestamps, keywords, subjects, and indexes before I worked to get them donated to the archival collections. Even with these 'rough form' transcripts, the 'cleaning up' of the transcripts for the three (3) interviews I completed took on average a little over seven (7) hours each. My goal is to continue to work on 'cleaning up the transcripts for the remaining oral history interviews in the coming months. Once these transcripts are finalized and shared with their respective narrators, the transcripts will be submitted for inclusion in the oral history collection.

Working with the narrators and Kopana Terry, Oral History Archivist and Curator of Newspapers for the Special Collections Research Center and the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky, I completed Deeds of Gift for the interviews with Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin, Mitchell (Mitch) Brown, Susan Miller, Sharyn Mitchell (both interviews), Alicestyne Turley, and Perriee Williamson. Kopana also set up the homepage for the collection (more on this below). My goal is to continue to follow up with the remaining narrators to complete the Deeds of Gift in the coming months. Currently, Kopana and her team are preparing those interviews that have all their paperwork completed for accessioning, which will take some time, but soon the interviews will be available through the Nunn Center for Oral History under the title, "From Past to Present: Black Farming in Appalachian Kentucky" with the project code of "bfak." Kopana also included a link to my full dissertation (currently embargoed through early 2028) since the oral history interviews were part of that work. As more of the paperwork is finalized – both Deeds of Gift and transcriptions – more of the oral histories will be available in the collection.

Regarding my second goal of creating census datasheets utilizing United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agricultural census data highlighting Black farmers and Black-owned farmland in each Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) defined Appalachian Kentucky county, I am pleased to say that that datasheet is complete. A link to that datasheet can be found here: ARC KY Black farmers and Black-owned farmland as of 2022. In this sheet, researchers will be able to see the number of Black farmers in each Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) defined Appalachian Kentucky county, as well as acreage owned, from the beginning of the twentieth-century up to the most recent agricultural census year of 2022. A longer-term goal is to have a similar set of data available for each ARC county.

I met with William Isom II and Alona Norwood of Black In Appalachia in August 2026 to discuss hosting this census datasheet on Black in Appalachia's Omeka.net site as part of their pages highlighting "Projects" involving Black Appalachia. Currently, there is a public, searchable archive of digital materials related to African American history in East Tennessee; William and Alona are working on creating a similar archive for Appalachian Kentucky (coming soon!). We also discussed ideas around posting a video explaining an overview of the census data, as well as plans to work with community groups seeking to collect and/ or work through their own data. I was inspired by Black in Appalachia's commitment to community-engaged research while I was working on my dissertation research, and it is exciting being able to collaborate with them, helping further their work and my work through this partnership.

Regarding my third goal of updating and creating new encyclopedia entries for the Notable Kentucky African Americans (NKAA) Database, I initially wrote that I planned to submit an expanded spreadsheet of Black agricultural extension agents and home demonstration agents in Kentucky to supplement the existing African American County Extension Agents and Home Demonstration Agents, Kentucky. The overall database was created by Dr. Reinette Jones of the University of Kentucky Libraries to document and share biographical knowledge about Black people in and from the state of Kentucky (Jones, 2024), and across my archival research many figures fit this description, making this database an ideal place to share this knowledge with others. A summary of updates to existing encyclopedia entries – as well as proposed new entries – that I have suggested and emailed to Dr. Jones for consideration and inclusion in the Notable Kentucky African Americans (NKAA) Database include the following pages:

- "African American County Extension Agents and Home Demonstration Agents, Kentucky"
    - An Excel sheet that is an updated version of the list of agents currently found in the entry. Through my archival research in the UKY Special Collections I found more agents that were not previously included in this list, as well as years, counties served, and other information about agents previously included. I have included the sources of this information in the Excel sheet.
        - Agents not previously documented in the entry include: J.E. Kuykendall (agricultural extension agent, Warren County, 1918-1927) and Bennett K. Brown (agricultural extension agent, Logan and Simpson Counties, 1945-1950)

    - Links to my two recent articles detailing Henry Allen Laine and the Black agricultural extension service in Kentucky
        - "Entanglements of agency and statecraft: Examining the dual purpose of Black agricultural extension through Appalachian Kentucky archives"
        - "'A Better Way to Live, A Better Way to Cultivate': Henry Allen Laine and the Development of the Black Agricultural Extension Service in Kentucky"
    - More sources on the Black agricultural extension service that are available through UK Libraries.
- "Laine, Henry Allen"
    - Links to my two recent articles detailing Henry Allen Laine and the Black agricultural extension service in Kentucky as noted above
- New entries for the following agents
    - "Brown, Bennett K." (agricultural extension agent, Logan and Simpson Counties, 1945-1950)
    - "Coleman, Lula" (home demonstration agent, Daviess County, 1914)
    - "Davis, Rachel Lee" (home demonstration agent, Christian County, 1938)
    - "Duncan Jr., Louis J." (agricultural extension agent, Christian and Todd Counties, 1944)
    - "Finch, John H" (agricultural extension agent, Warren County, 1937-1948)
    - "Harris, James" (agricultural extension agent, Christian County, 1943-1944)
    - "Jett, L.B." (agricultural extension agent, Mercer County, 1920)
    - "Kuykendall, J.E." (agricultural extension agent, Warren County, 1918-1927)
    - "Melton, Julia" (home demonstration agent, Christian County, 1914)
    - "Story, Runyon" (agricultural extension agent, Christian County,1938-1939)
    - "Taylor, Ella B." (home demonstration agent, Fayette County, 1914)
    - "Wharton, F.D." (agricultural extension agent, Shelby County, 1923-1925)

This portion of what I had outlined in my original goals for this award and funding ended up being much more intensive than I had originally proposed; however, I believe that these updates and suggested new entries help to further the work of the Notable Kentucky African Americans Database and to reach more people who are interested in learning more about Kentucky's rich Black histories. I hope to see these entries slowly begin to come online in the coming months.

Following the sentiment expressed by the geographer Ruth Wilson Gilmore in her introduction to Clyde Woods' *Development Arrested: The Blues and Plantation Power in the Mississippi Delta*, in which she argued that "we might better encounter archives as proposals rather than proofs" (Gilmore, 2017: xiv), I share this report less as a finished product – a proof – and more as a work-in-progress – a proposal – of not just the work I still have to do but more expansively all the work that many others have completed, are working on, and will work on in the future when it comes to Black Appalachia.

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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 15, 2027, through Film Freeway: https://filmfreeway.com/JackSpadaroDocumentaryAward.

Email questions to Meredith McCarroll at: meredith.mccarroll@gmail.com.

CARL A. ROSS APPALACHIAN STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

This competition is open to students in three categories: middle/high school, college undergraduate, and 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, Barry Whittemore, at barry.whittemore@ung.edu by **January 15, 2027**. 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, 2027**, 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 by **January 15, 2027**.

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 by **January 31, 2027**.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

WILMA DYKEMAN "FACES OF APPALACHIA" POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2027-2028)

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 by **December 31, 2026**. Althea Webb is the Wilma Dykeman Committee chair and may be contacted at webba@berea.edu. The award winner, as well as other applicants, will be notified in early **Spring 2027**. Award winners will be announced at the **March 2027** ASA conference awards ceremony.

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

APPALACHIAN FOODWAYS PRACTITIONER FELLOWSHIP

Grow Appalachia, the **Appalachian Studies Association**, and **Mid Atlantic Arts' Central Appalachia Living Traditions** program are proud to host the Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowship to honor, celebrate, and invest in foodways tradition bearers and practitioners in the Appalachian region.

Fellows may include, but are not limited to farmers, home cooks and bakers, chefs, seed savers, gardeners, community elders, keepers of recipes and traditional foodways knowledge, hunters, and foragers, who have made significant and long-term contributions to sustaining and supporting the foodways heritage of their respective communities.

Fellowship applications for the 2027 program **opened July 10th, 2026, and closed August 17th, 2026**. Fellows are selected by some of the region's most respected foodways traditions bearers and are recognized at the annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference. For more information about the program and to learn more about previous fellows, please visit https://growappalachia.berea.edu/appalachian-foodways-fellowship-program/

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, 2026**, and **January 15, 2027**. 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, with the subject line "Clemons Award Nomination."

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

STEPHEN L. FISHER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching seeks to honor individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. There are two awards: one for college or university teaching and one for K-12 teaching.

The winners in each category will receive **$250**. Candidates may be nominated or may self-nominate. The nomination process has two steps; the preliminary nomination deadline is **November 1, 2026**. Based on these nominations, the Education Committee will notify the finalists' nominators by December 1, 2026, at which time they will submit a full nomination packet that is due January 31, 2027.

Preliminary nominations should include the following information: Name of Nominee, Institution, Number of Years Teaching, Classes Taught (Please provide full course name), Name of Nominator (or self-nominator), Position, Email and Phone Number, as well as a brief statement, no longer than one page, explaining why you believe this person is a strong candidate for the Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching. Preliminary nomination forms, available here, should be submitted by November 1, 2026. Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Leah Vance-Berg, chair of the ASA Education Committee, at leah.vance-berg@midway.edu.

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 jelovejoy@holycross.edu with "e-Appalachia Award" in the subject line by **January 31, 2027**.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

TRAVIS STIMELING EARLY CAREER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING APPALACHIAN STUDIES

Travis Stimeling Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies honors individuals within the first ten years of their careers who are dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. Thanks to sponsorship by East Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence for Appalachian Studies and Service, the winner will receive $250. Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee.

If you know of excellent college/university teachers of Appalachian studies with 10 or fewer years of teaching experience, please nominate them. Preliminary nominations should include the following information: Name of Nominee, Institution, Number of Years Teaching, Classes Taught (Please provide full course name), Name of Nominator (or self-nominator), Position, and Email, as well as a brief statement, no longer than one page, explaining why you believe this person is a strong candidate for the Travis Stimeling Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies.

Candidates may be nominated or self-nominated. Preliminary nomination forms, available here, should be submitted by November 1, 2026. Based on these nominations, the Education Committee will notify the finalists' nominators by December 1, 2026, at which time they will submit a full nomination packet that is due January 31, 2027.
Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Leah Vance-Berg, chair of the ASA Education Committee, at leah.vance-berg@midway.edu.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

WEATHERFORD AWARDS

The ASA and Berea College annually present the **Weatherford Awards** to honor published works that “best illuminate the challenges, personalities, and unique qualities of the Appalachian South.” The **Weatherford Awards** are named after Willis D. Weatherford Jr. and Sr. for their contributions to the region. The late Alfred Perrin began the award in 1970. Three awards are presented annually for nonfiction, fiction, and poetry, the latter in honor of Grace Toney Edwards. The subject matter of nominated books must be Appalachian or set in Appalachia and originally published in **2026**.

Anyone can nominate a book published in the current year. Nominations must be made in one of the three categories: fiction, poetry, or nonfiction. No self-published books will be considered.

To nominate, email Chris Green, Director of the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, greenchr@berea.edu. Nominations need only share when we can expect to receive the books. If needed, we will use this email address for future contact regarding the author and the book. Nominators need to ensure that seven copies of the book are sent to The Weatherford Awards, Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, 101 Chestnut Street, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404, by **November 1, 2026**.

Deadline for nominations is **November 1st** of the current year. If the book will be published after the deadline, the nomination letter needs to specify the date the books are expected to be delivered. If the date is late enough, we may ask the books to be mailed directly to the judges.

Judging: Each award committee is comprised of one Berea College faculty or staff, one or two members of the Appalachian Studies Association, and other independent persons from various parts of the Appalachian South. To learn more about the Weatherford Awards visit https://www.berea.edu/centers/loyal-jones-appalachian-center/awards/weatherford-award.

ELECTED POSITIONS

Y'ALL
(YOUNG APPALACHIAN LEADERS AND LEARNERS)
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER
(2026-2028)



Moriah Alford

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:

President (past president) is a four-year term; two years as president (2027-2029) and two years as past president (2029-2031).

The president presides at all meetings, directs fundraising, works with the conference chairperson to negotiate the conference location, serves as spokesperson, and serves on the steering committee. As past president, this person will manage ASA policies and bylaws as well as assist and mentor the president.

Vice President is a two-year term (2027-2029).

This person chairs the nominating committee; assists the president; performs the duties of the president in that person's absence; and shall succeed to the office of president should the office become vacant before the term expires.

One Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2027-2029) 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, 2026

to Katherine Ledford, ASA Vice President, at ledfordke@appstate.edu.

SEE YOU SOON!

50th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference



MARCH 4-7, 2027
BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY
&
LEWISBURG, PA

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Bucknell UNIVERSITY

BOROUGH OF LEWISBURG PENNSYLVANIA

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS: KENTON BUTCHER AND KENDY ALVAREZ

PROGRAM CHAIR: PAUL BARBA

LOCAL EVENTS COORDINATOR: SHAUNNA BARNHART



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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 for rates. Email submissions to Jordan Lovejoy at jelovejoy@holycross.edu. Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1. Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

Editors: Jordan Lovejoy, Mary Kay Thomas, and Ann E. Bryant
Interns: Brooke Smith and Jaime Wheeler

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