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Spring 2018

Volume 41, Number 2

President's Message

Soon we will gather in Cincinnati for the 41st ASA conference, "Re-stitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond Its Borders." Our host is the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition and our conference site is the Millennium Hotel in the heart of the city. Debbie Zorn, conference chair; Joy Gritton, program chair; and many helpers are hard at work preparing for this special conference focused on COMMUNITY.

The Preliminary Program promises familiar conference elements: panels, posters, papers, and performances selected by the committee and presented by attendees. But, Saturday's schedule will depart from the norm. It will be Community Day, a time for conference participants to interact with local residents and explore critical themes that relate to all of Appalachia. Look for details in Debbie Zorn's message.

This is a year of challenge and opportunity for our region. The health of the people and the environment, sustainable economic

Your Steering Committee is working hard to support ASA's current efforts, but is also exploring new ideas. As the 2018 conference team is preparing for this spring, the next team is planning the 2019 event in Asheville - "AppalachA'ville: Engage. Sustain. Innovate." Along with this preparation, the Steering Committee is discussing possibilities on how to improve the conference experience through providing help with child care, revising the scholarship applications and the fee structure, and improving the software that creates the printed program. We are also considering ways to extend the Association's outreach beyond the annual conference. Our consultant for last summer's retreat, Jeff Stec, will join us in Cincinnati to lead a workshop to explore the connection between academics and activists--a topic with transformative potential.

A hearty thank you to all the people dedicated to the mission and success of the Appalachian Studies Association, especially our long-time executive director, Mary Thomas, and our new office manager, Ann

development, social justice, public education, and cultural change are some of the complex issues we face. Working together will lead to better ideas, clearer understanding, and more practical solutions. The ASA's mission is to engage in dialogue, research, scholarship, education, and creative expression across a diverse and inclusive group of people, all of whom are committed to fostering quality of life, active participation in and appreciation of the Appalachian experience. Fulfilling that mission presents a continual challenge that keeps us open to opportunities.

Bryant. Appreciation also goes to every member who gives time and attention to the Association and gains support and inspiration from it. If you have ideas about new projects or directions, contact members of the Steering Committee or the ASA office at Marshall University.

In preparing for the 2018 conference, let's plan to listen to one another, learn from each other, share and celebrate our heritage, and connect as a large diverse community around our mutual commitment to life in our Appalachian region. Stay active and connected to the ASA. Join us in Cincinnati this April.

Carol Boggess, President

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.

OFFICER AND STEERING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

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Two At-Large Members (2018-2022)

Carson Benn is a PhD student studying Appalachian history at the University of Kentucky. He earned a history MA at Texas Tech University in August 2015, with a focus on Appalachian music. He has attended and presented at ASA, and he is a member of the Graduate Appalachian Research Community at UK. His current research focuses on broadcast media—radio and television. The histories of these media in the region demonstrate how local, state, and private organizations conceptualized the Appalachians and framed educational outreach campaigns. Education in the Appalachian region is a major component of his research.

Karen Paar is the Director of the Southern Appalachian Archives and University Archivist at Mars Hill University, where she has worked since 2008. She has attended the Appalachian Studies Association annual meetings for most of the years she has been at Mars Hill and has presented at two of these meetings. In 2015, she served on the committee to select the Weatherford Award winner for non-fiction. She is currently helping with plans for the 2019 ASA meeting in Asheville. She also serves on the board of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in western North Carolina.

One Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2018-2020)

Ian Kirkpatrick is currently pursuing a master's in Appalachian studies at Appalachian State University. His fields of interest include ballad singing, clogging, and folklore. He first heard of ASA during his time as an undergrad at Mars Hill University, when he presented his research on the Montgomery Music Collection at the 2017 Conference. Ian is a former Bailey Mountain Clogger and has travelled throughout the US and Europe promoting traditional Appalachian folk dance. With ASA coming to NC next year, Ian wishes to be more involved in the association and to help build awareness of the continuance of Appalachian folkways.

Korick Sisomphone is a student at Appalachian State University, where he is pursuing a master's in Appalachian studies. His work focuses on resistance movements and protest music from the region. He is committed to Y'ALL because he loves being involved with other young

scholars and activists from the region who are working to make it a better place for future generations. He has a history of leadership at ASU, including serving as captain of the university's debate team while an undergraduate and assistant debate coach the last two years. He is from Asheville, North Carolina.

Vice President/President Elect (2021 Conference Chair for conference at Ohio University)

Michele Morrone is a Professor of Environmental Health at Ohio University and the Director of the Appalachian Rural Health Institute. Her research focuses on Appalachian health issues, specifically the relationship between environmental conditions and health outcomes. She is the author of numerous books and papers on environmental topics, including community impacts of hydraulic fracturing, environmental health disparities in Appalachia, and environmental justice. Her current book project is *Ailing in Place: Environmental Health in Appalachia*. She was a 2012 Fulbright Research Scholar in Ontario, Canada and was a member of a group to present Appalachian-related research in Ukraine in 2014.

Program Chairperson Elect (2021 Conference Program Chair for conference at Ohio University)

Write-in

Four At-large Program Committee Members (for 2020 conference in Kentucky)

Lesly-Marie Buer is a PhD candidate at the University of Kentucky and the healthy development coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Health East Region. Her dissertation work focuses on substance use in Central Appalachia, she was an Appalachian studies teaching assistant, and she was involved with the UK Graduate Appalachian Research Community. Lesly-Marie has served as the Y'ALL co-chair, and hopes to continue contributing to ASA by becoming an at-large program committee member for the 2020 Kentucky conference. She would like to assist ASA in its efforts to engage professions and groups that may be unaware of ASA, including health professionals and local governments.

Kathryn Engle is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Kentucky. She holds a master's in Appalachian studies from Appalachian State University. She teaches at Union College and

serves on the board of the Knox County Farmers' Market in Barbourville, Kentucky. She has been involved with ASA since 2010 and served as a founding co-chair for Y'ALL and is a member of the education committee. Kathryn has also been involved with the University of Kentucky Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC) serving as president and symposium co-chair.

Jillean McCommons is a PhD student in history at the University of Kentucky. She is recipient of the Lyman T. Johnson Fellowship. She holds master's degrees in Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies and Information. Her current research explores the history of black Appalachians during the Black Power and Civil Rights movements. She recently presented "Recovering the Lives of Black Banjo Players in the Mountain South: The Case of John Homer Walker," at the 2017 African Americans in Western North Carolina and Southern Appalachia Conference. She is a member of the Society of Appalachian Historians and the Appalachian Studies Association.

Jessie Wilkerson is an Assistant Professor of History and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. Her scholarship focuses on women, gender, and power in the twentieth century South and Appalachia. Her first book, *To Live Here, You Have to Fight: How Women Led Appalachian Movements for Social Justice*, is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press (cross-listed in Appalachian studies), and she has published articles on feminism in Appalachia as well as Appalachian women's labor history. She regularly incorporates Appalachian history into her southern history and southern studies classes. She also writes essays on Appalachia for the online magazine *Rewire*.



SPOTLIGHT

Who are you, Ann? What do you do for us? What does a day in the life look like?

After ten years in the legal field, I knew I wanted to transition to work in a field of academia — my career goal when I had pursued both of my degrees in the first place. When I saw the posting for the office manager position at ASA I just knew it was my dream job. As I read about the job I saw it was uniquely situated to blend seamlessly with my experience and skill set. Here at ASA, I get to work on the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* and *Appalink*, putting my journalism and writing background to use. In assisting with putting on the annual conference, my hobby of event planning is utilized. And, finally the day-to-day running of the office takes full advantage of my organizational and long-term planning skills. I enjoy a fast-paced and changing working environment, as well as being responsible for a wide range of duties and tasks, as my varied work experience demonstrates. From reporter, to paralegal, to a district sales manager for Avon Products, to legal librarian, to restaurant server and manager, to legislative intern, to office manager, I feel all those experiences have lead me to this point, to this job. A fact I am daily grateful for.

What do you love about ASA?

My mother always use to say there was a magnetism in the Appalachian mountains, which if you were born here, would always draw you back one day, no matter how far you had traveled — the connection to the area is inescapable. I found that to be true myself after spending years away. I love that ASA celebrates our heritage and culture. And not only celebrates, but promotes and encourages it, while actively engaging in a holistic approach to help our region grow and improve. Those of us from Appalachia know the negativity of the stereotypes the rest of the world has placed on us. The tireless work of ASA and its members shows our vivid, vibrant, and vital culture and people to the world helping to dispel those stereotypes, as well as simultaneously working to preserve and promote the welfare of our area.

Where do you see our organization going?

One of the first things I was struck by when I came to ASA was the involvement of the younger generation, especially the work and dedication of the members in Y'ALL. With their determination and dedication I see them propelling ASA, and Appalachia along with it, to more prominence in our country, and in the world. There is plenty of room for growth and expansion in our Association, which will fuel the work our members do here. When I look at ASA, and Y'ALL, I see hope. And, I am proud and grateful to have been given the opportunity to be here, to work alongside our members toward a beautiful and bright future for Appalachia.

What can we do for Appalachia that we aren't doing yet?

My other initial reaction upon becoming a part of ASA, was “why didn't I know about this before?!” I had been at Marshall University since 2004 working on my undergraduate degree, and then my graduate degree, and had no idea about the Appalachian Studies Association. A large part of that I am sure was due to me being inside my self-contained bubble of being a mom to two boys, a student, and working a full-time job, all at the same time. But, I certainly wasn't alone in my overwhelming

schedule. Most of us now days have too much on our plates. I think we need to improve our outreach to our Appalachian neighbors. ASA's mission is crucial to the people and culture of Appalachia. We need to work toward spreading the word about who we are as an Association, and what we are doing. When I tell other Appalachians about what I do now, and about the Association, nearly every one of them is excited by the prospect of what ASA does and means. They see the need for it, and want to learn more. I look forward to working with everyone at the Association to brainstorm and implement ways for us to better engage with our neighbors, our communities, and our region.



We are currently encouraging submissions of new syllabi and lesson plans that you would like to contribute.

Please send submissions to Eryn Roles at roles1@marshall.edu.



An Intern's Perspective **By Geoffrey Foster**

As a senior at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, I knew this was the year to finally take my internship. I chose not to apply earlier, perhaps as a sophomore or junior, because I felt an internship would be of greater benefit nearer to the professional career for which I would soon embark. I also knew that the more academic experience I had under my belt, the better prepared I would be for my internship.

As a history major, I have become steeped in the local history of the Civil War and the Reconstruction that defined antebellum America. Those years were defining moments for the present region in which we live, serving as a template of sorts for modern day Appalachia. And that is where the Appalachian Studies Association came in. My history classes showed me the past, and ASA is showing me the present and the future.

As an intern, I have been working closely with Executive Director Mary Thomas and Office Manager Ann Bryant to prepare for the upcoming conference in Cincinnati. My duties have included extensive proofing of the conference programs, the Spring 2018 issue of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, *Appalink* and the general updating of the ASA website and social media platforms. I am proud to be a part of this organization, and I am looking forward to the upcoming conference, as I'm sure many of us are. The conference is the single largest gathering of academics, artists, scholars and authors that emphasize what it means to live and work in Appalachia. It defines where we have been, where we are going and how to embrace the past while also constantly improving our future, all under the umbrella of mutual appreciation for the diversity of Appalachia and the people that live within its borders.

ASA 2018 Conference, *Re-stitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond Its Borders*, will focus on COMMUNITY

The 2018 ASA Annual Conference, April 5-8, is almost here, and this year's conference represents some "firsts" for ASA. It will be the first time a community-based organization, the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition (UACC), has hosted an ASA conference, and the first time the conference will be held in the downtown center of an urban Appalachian city. Maybe not a "first," but perhaps a returning to ASA's roots – the conference will bring together scholars, activists, artists and service providers in intentional ways to promote dialogue about the issues that most poignantly impact our urban and rural communities and "what's working" to address those issues and re-stitch the seams that research and experience tell us are fraying.

Our Program Committee, through Joy Gritton's leadership, has woven together a program of thought-provoking panels, roundtables and posters, as well as inspiring performances, from the many excellent proposals submitted by ASA's members and friends. AND, of course, we will renew our sense of regional community that transcends borders through celebrations of all kinds.

The focus of this conference is Community, and it is fitting that it is being held in the center of the greater Cincinnati community, home to over 40,000 persons with family roots in Appalachia. Community organizations, academic institutions, businesses, and individuals from diverse corners of this community are coming together with the UACC to host this conference. Conference participants will have an opportunity to engage with local community members and get a first-hand experience of our region in several ways. A number of educational tours throughout the greater Cincinnati area and beyond are planned, from Adams County's Edge of Appalachia Preserve System to tours of communities where Appalachian migrants settled, including Over-the-Rhine, northern Kentucky and Lower Price Hill, to a Cincinnati brewery tour considering the social, economic, technical, and political forces shaping the craft beer scene (See the Preliminary Program to pre-register for these tours.). Conference participants will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue with greater Cincinnati residents who will be specifically invited to participate in the conference on Saturday, Community Day.

From the youth-presented plenary on Friday afternoon, **"Truth to Power: Appalachian Youth Test the Boundaries and Bust the Seams!"** to Saturday's Community Day, the conference has been planned to provide a special focus on issues and solutions related to six themes: Diversity and Inclusion, Economic Development, Education, Environmental Sustainability, Health, and Migration. Saturday's program of sessions will be framed by six mini-plenaries at the beginning and end of the day centering on these themes. The end-of-day mini-plenaries are being designed to encourage dialogue on insights and learning from the day and charting potential pathways forward in these six issue areas.

One very special event will occur on Thursday afternoon, April 5 for those who are able to come early. A pre-conference, **"Walking the Road to Health Together: Private, Non-Profit, and Community Partnerships,"** sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Cincinnati Branch, will present strategies for addressing community development in the areas of health, energy, and food systems, with a particular focus on funding mechanisms. This program at the Federal Reserve will discuss the POWER (Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) initiative, a multiagency effort that assists communities that have been negatively impacted by the decline in the coal industry (2:00 – 3:10 PM) and potential ways to collaborate and effectively leverage resources to sustain healthy-community efforts (3:20 – 4:30 PM). Registration for the pre-conference is limited to 80 persons. See the Preliminary Program for a full description and link for registration.

Celebration and opportunities to renew friendships and form new ones are

at the heart of any ASA conference. We will celebrate our common heritage, interests, and kinship in many ways. The exhibit area this year will be a large open area with a performance spot for planned and impromptu entertainment. Performers, bring your instruments and share your talents with all of us throughout the days of the conference. Next to the exhibit area, a child-friendly "Family Zone" will feature activities for families with the youngest among us in mind. A full menu of free evening arts events will be offered throughout downtown Cincinnati, Over-the-Rhine, and northern Kentucky, Thursday - Saturday; and a Saturday **Urban Appalachian Showcase** will feature writers, singers, musicians, and spoken word artists including bluegrass legend, writer, and radio personality Katie Laur at The Aronoff Center's Jarson Kaplan Theater. (A link to purchase tickets for \$15 is <https://ev9.eventue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventInfoticketCode=PR:CAA:1718F:JK0407E:ASA&linkID=cinarts&shopperContext: =&caller=PR&appCode: =&prc=ASA&ppc=ASA> can also be found in the Preliminary Program and on the ASA website.)

One last "first" we want to make sure you note as you make your plans to attend the conference: the ASA Members' Business Meeting will be held on Sunday morning following breakfast rather than on Saturday midday. Tickets for breakfast are available on the registration website.

For an overview of the exciting program in store for you, make sure to peruse the Preliminary Program at [<http://appalachianstudies.org/annualconference/files/2018-preliminary-program.pdf>]. **We can't wait to welcome you to Cincinnati!**

Debbie Zorn, 2018 Conference Chair

ASA REPORTS

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report

At the October ASA Steering Committee, which was convened via conference call, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee recommended that at the summer 2018 Steering Committee retreat, a facilitator be brought in to help the Steering Committee examine how our own actions and decisions create an exclusive rather than an inclusive organization. The Steering Committee voted to approve this. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will recommend facilitators for consideration to lead this aspect of the retreat. For the retreat, we encourage the Steering

Committee to focus not on “who is in the room,” but on who is trying to get in the room but can’t? Whose presence in the room is under constant threat of erasure? Rather than asking if everyone’s ideas have been heard, focus on whose ideas won’t be taken as seriously because they aren’t in the majority. What conditions have we created that maintain certain groups as the perpetual majority here?

The Diversity and Inclusion thread at the Cincinnati conference is full of exciting offerings by artists, activists, community organizers, and scholars. They include performances, personal reflections, historical studies, cultural critiques, and responses to contemporary politics. One session sheds light on hidden Black Appalachian experience, another focuses on claiming and exploring queer Appalachian identities, and in another a film and discussion highlights the plight of Latino H2-A migrant workers in the region. The Women of Appalachia Project brings a multi-media presentation and readings confronting stereotypes, and Yunina Barbour Payne presents “An Affrilachian Memory Play: Tobacco Fields.” Several writers share their work, Rick Rushing offers a musical performance and workshop entitled “The Healing Blues Experience,” and one session focuses on resources for equity and empowerment effectively used in various Appalachian communities. The closing mini-plenary for the Diversity and Inclusion Thread is geared toward applying what we have learned in our own communities and organizations. “Moving Toward Equity and Justice: Taking Action” aims to arrive at concrete recommendations for ASA; action steps for participants to take at home in their communities; and a network of folks who are working concertedly on equity and justice issues.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is open to anyone who is interested. To get involved, email [Susan Spalding@Berea.edu](mailto:Susan_Spalding@Berea.edu) or attend the committee meeting on Saturday morning, April 7 at 7:00 a.m.

Journal of Appalachian Studies Editor Report

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* (JAS) has several transitions to announce. First, we are delighted to inform you that Gene Hyde has agreed to serve as our media review editor, taking the place of Chris Miller who recently resigned the post to pursue other priorities. As the archivist at the Ramsay Library at University of North Carolina Asheville, Gene is well qualified and well positioned to continue the fine work of Chris. He has already succeeded in impressing us by turning in a full compliment of media reviews in the astoundingly quick turn-around time between his acceptance of the position and our deadline. The work you have started is clearly in good hands, Chris! Thank you so much, Gene.

Speaking of “good hands,” the JAS and I have long relied upon the expertise, talent and thoroughness of our associate editor Linda Spatig,

who serves a crucial role in assuring that the articles we publish are of the highest quality possible. Having retired from Marshall University, moved to Shepherdstown, and gotten involved in other rewarding facets of community/civic engagement, Linda has informed us that it is time for her to move on to other things. All of us at *JAS* are grateful to Linda for the many years of service she has given to the journal and to ASA, and we wish her much happiness as she moves on to tackle new and exciting work.

Happily, Chris Leadingham has kindly offered to take over her position, and I have accepted. If you'll recall, he had left the ASA office to work on his PhD in history at the University of Kentucky, which left us with a vacancy at the ASA's Marshall University headquarters. Ann Bryant has taken over Chris' old post. So, I feel that I have been very fortunate that Chris is able and willing to take over for Linda, and that we now have Ann joining us at the ASA office. I am one lucky editor! So, please join us in welcoming Gene Hyde and Ann Bryant aboard, and Chris Leadingham to his new position, as well as in wishing Linda Spatig and Chris Miller the best of luck in their new endeavors.

To some of you, it seems, the period between biannual issues of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* seems interminable (or, as one of my graduate students reported, it seems like two years has passed since the last issue came out)! I take this both as a compliment to the journal and authors and an indicator that our readers – especially our younger ones— are hungry to read more scholarly work on the region. I assure you that our staff at the Appalachian Studies Association office and our colleagues at the University of Illinois Press have met all of our production deadlines on time. The Fall 2017 issue was mailed in December and is currently available online, and the Spring 2018 issue is on track for an end of June distribution.

To eager students and colleagues who wish we could get the journal out faster or more frequently, I am afraid we do not have the capacity or content to publish *JAS* quarterly. Indeed, I have struggled to fill our page allotment for two issues in the past two years. One possible cause for my struggle to fill pages could be the decision to stop publishing conference papers and, instead, encourage and support authors to develop their conference papers into full-fledged scholarly articles. I advocated this to the board a couple of years ago for the following reasons. First, in the time between acceptance and publication, many of our conference papers had evolved into article length, breadth and depth and, therefore, should receive the recognition of a peer-reviewed article. Second, I felt that the journal and field were mature enough to shed the last vestiges of our former incarnation as the conference proceedings. The other associations to which I belong may publish conference papers online as conference

proceedings, but their journals publish peer - reviewed articles. I saw this as a standard to which we should conform.

Most members of the board agreed with me, but a few did voice concerns about possibly closing a publication door to younger scholars. To address this, we briefly tried a mentorship program in which editorial board members were assigned to oversee the development of promising conference papers into full articles. Our original procedure for that was not effective. After an introductory discussion with one of our members about an alternative model, I failed to follow through in developing that in 2017. (To explain: the UK Appalachian Center's external review, the arrival of a new grandchild, and other things that made last year extremely busy for me.) So, this is something we will visit at the Spring 2018 editorial board meeting. If you have thoughts on this topic, please email me at shaunna.scott@uky.edu.

There are, of course, alternative hypotheses about the causes of the content struggle as of late. It could be part of the natural ebb and flow of scholarly productivity and time lines, or merely a coincidence. Nevertheless, it is possible that the forum on sustainable economic development may have inadvertently discouraged scholars whose work did not fit that category. I hope not. It certainly was not my intent. In fact, by organizing the forum instead of a special issue on this topic, I hoped to achieve the opposite effect: to keep space open for pieces on other topics and, therefore, not slow down the publication process for those working in other areas. If you review the last four issues, you will see that the journal has published pieces on literature, story-telling, healthcare, and a variety of other topics. Please know that scholarship on any aspect of Appalachia or Appalachian studies is always welcome at *JAS*.

In 2017 especially, I struggled to find willing and qualified reviewers for manuscripts. This slowed down the review process and forced authors to wait a longer time before being informed about the status of their submission. To address this, I am working on expanding my reviewer database and welcome volunteers or suggestions on people who are willing to serve as peer reviewers for Appalachian-focused scholarship. You can volunteer or suggest reviewers on the journal's web page (click *Journal of Appalachian Studies* on <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>) or by emailing me (shaunna.scott@uky.edu) or Ann Bryant (mullins88@marshall.edu).

So, if you volunteer to be a reviewer (or are already serving us in that capacity), please respond to my requests for reviews in a timely manner. Even if you must decline, please do so quickly, and if you can, suggest an alternative reviewer. When a potential reviewer does not respond, the

automated system waits one week and then sends a reminder. After two weeks, the system alerts the editor that the situation needs further attention. Then, the editor has to identify another reviewer and start the process again. Reviewer non-response usually delays the review process by three to eight weeks. This may not seem like a long time to some of you, but it seems an eternity to a young scholar seeking tenure. Related to the issue of non-response, it is possible that messages from our journal management system might wind up in your junk mail folder. Please check your junk mail folder on a regular basis and work with your system administrator to help these messages get through your institutional firewalls.

Finally, now is a good time to let me know if you are interested in serving the journal as an editorial board member or as a manuscript reviewer. I will soon send a message to the editorial board, asking them to affirm their commitment to serve for another year. As part of this annual process, we always have at least one or two board members who express a desire to move on due to other work and obligations. I will be seeking replacements for them in April and May. Please consider joining us in this work. Editorial board members participate in two annual meetings a year - one at the ASA conference in the spring and one via conference call in the fall. They may be asked to participate in electronic voting in the summer or winter, but only rarely. Finally, editorial board members are occasionally asked to provide input to the editor's deliberation about journal content, staffing, and direction.

With your participation and good ideas, we will continue to produce an excellent journal of Appalachian studies scholarship – one that our readers will continue to await with eager anticipation. Thank you for your support, everyone.

Y'ALL

To keep up with the latest news and opportunities from Y'ALL please join our public Facebook group Y'ALL (Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners) and "follow" our Instagram and Twitter accounts @yall4asa. If you want to receive our newsletter or have any questions or comments, please email us at yall4asa@gmail.com. Y'ALL will be sponsoring the following special events at ASA 2018:

Y'ALL Meet and Eat, Grand Ballroom A, Saturday, April 7, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

All those interested in the work of Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners are invited to attend this meeting and dinner. Vegetarian options will be provided. We will be rolling out our webinar and book club initiatives. Our first book will be *What You Are Getting Wrong about*

Appalachia. Come and meet the author, Elizabeth Catte, at the Meet and Eat!

Citizenship in Action Workshop: Engaging Appalachian Youth in Design Thinking to Promote Community Wellness. Session 1.9

As Appalachian communities evolve, citizen engagement and understanding of the built environment will be crucial to the quality of our growth. To address this need, the Nashville Civic Design Center (NCDC) has developed Design Your Neighborhood (DYN), which is an innovative, web-based curriculum of activities that engage youth with the planning and design of their communities. In this presentation, we will describe the scope, goals, and target outcomes of implementing DYN workshops in Appalachian communities. First, NCDC staff members will lead attendees through a design activity called *story mapping* in which they analyze the assets, opportunities, and challenges in a fictional Appalachian community. Then, youth participants from a recent workshop will present their designs and share next steps in implementing the changes they have planned for their community. The presentation will conclude by addressing the logistics of facilitating a Design Your Neighborhood Workshop with youth in Appalachian communities. Our workshop offers a space for researchers and community workers alike to explore the potential impact of bringing design thinking into their current work with youth.

Harm Reduction Workshop: Naloxone, Syringe Exchanges, and Social Justice. Session 3.11

Many of us are well aware of the issues surrounding drug abuse in the United States. Three of the five states with the highest drug overdose death rates in 2015 are in Appalachia, and seven Appalachian states experienced drug overdose death rate increases from 2014 to 2015. While some political responses to drug overdose have regressively further criminalized users, many Appalachian states and communities are seeking alternatives to criminalization. These harm reduction programs intended to lessen the negative consequences of drug use may come in various forms, including implementation of syringe exchange programs, increasing access to health care for viral and bacterial infections, and providing naloxone to first responders, individuals who use drugs, and their families. This workshop will begin by providing a half-hour summary of these efforts and examples of successful programs in Appalachia. The last half hour of the workshop will focus on providing necessary skills to administer naloxone to someone who is overdosing. Fifteen minutes will be left to answer questions and discuss the issues at hand. Naloxone kits will be provided for everyone to take with them at the end of the workshop. Due to the nature of this workshop, participation will be limited to 20 attendees. Pre-registration online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harm-reduction-workshop-naloxone-syringe-exchanges-and-social-justice-tickets-42081348446>. The pre-

registration password is ASA 2018.

Conversations on Hope in a Hostile (Educational) Climate and Tools for Empowerment through Appalachian Studies, Parts 1 and 2. Sessions 8.7 and 9.7

The Y'ALL Committee and the Education Committee are co-sponsoring a panel devoted to tools for educators. We will facilitate a welcoming discussion regarding classroom tactics and experiential learning opportunities to encourage civic engagement and promote social and environmental justice with students possessing a variety of ideologies. As educators and learners in the region, we are deeply invested in the sustained growth of the Appalachian studies movement as a liberating and educating force. However, we realize many of our pedagogical and scholarly practices may repeat the violences of the systems we hope to move beyond. We ask conference attendees to join us in the task of confronting the neoliberalization of higher education institutions, as well as the "global economy," while allowing space for true dialogue and discussion from different viewpoints. We hope those who attend this panel will leave with tools for maintaining hope through the hostile neoliberal institutionalization of "the knowledge project." Additionally, we want to explore teaching approaches that do not alienate any student but instead create safe spaces for honest, respectful dialogue for our region and the greater world. In Part 1, pedagogical approaches and the lived experiences within Appalachian studies classrooms are exchanged through conversations about specific courses from both the instructor and student perspective. We continue the conversation in Part 2, where we explore Appalachian studies as a tool for empowerment within the neoliberal era by closely examining methods and outcomes utilized in place-based pedagogy.

Workshop: Are You Ready to Talk to a Publisher? Ten Things You Should Know Before You Sign that Contract. Session 4.12

Presented by Elizabeth Scarpelli, Mark Konecny, and Michael Duckworth from The University of Cincinnati Press.

Room for All Y'ALL, throughout the conference in the "old bar."

Y'ALL is working with Project STAY to provide a space throughout the conference for folks to congregate, meet, nap, hang with their children, et cetera. Project STAY is providing snacks and we will also have some DIY crafts to help you turn your brain on or off, whichever is needed!

Y'ALL Conference Hashtags, throughout the conference, use these hashtags #YALL4ASA and #YALLhere2018.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to all of our 2017 members and conference attendees who

completed the 2017 conference evaluation and membership survey. You helped make our effort to increase our response rate a success. We increased the response rate from about 0.4 percent in 2016 to about 34 percent in 2017. This is a pretty good response rate given general trends in survey responses. We hope to do even better in 2018!

The information we receive from this survey is very valuable for the ASA leadership in helping us continue to improve our organization and to respond to our members. Please help us again this year by making sure to complete the survey when you receive it via email in the weeks following the conference.

Get involved! We are always looking for ways to increase our membership and make the ASA a great organization for our current members. Contact Rachel Terman, ASA Membership Committee Chair, terman@ohio.edu. You are also welcome to attend our meeting at the conference this year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thanks to collaboration with the 2018 ASA Conference organizers, the Education Committee is able to offer K-12 teachers Certificates of Attendance to validate their hours spent at the conference for teacher recertification credit. Upon check-in at the conference, K-12 teachers can obtain a Conference Session Attendance form, which they may submit to conveners of each session they attend for signatures. We intend to continue this service at future conferences. **It is the responsibility of the teachers to confirm with their respective school districts that their conference participation will count toward professional development units.**

Joining forces with Y'ALL, the Education Committee is co-sponsoring two sessions at the 2018 Conference in Cincinnati.

Conversations on Hope in a Hostile (Educational) Climate and Tools for Empowerment through Appalachian Studies: Part 1, will include Kimberly Reigle, Tim Thomas, Zachary S. Kopkin, and Tammy Clemmons, with Jordan Laney serving as convener. And Part 2 includes Amy Azano, Cody Miller, Sunshine Liberty Brosi, and Jordan Laney, with Tim Thomas serving as convener.

Thanks and Happy New Year!
Theresa Burriss, Education Chair



2018 HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION: Re-Stitching the Seams of Fundraising

Since Howard Dorgan launched the silent auction in the late 1990s, this annual fundraiser has supported student and community-member participation at ASA conferences. With the 2018 conference on the horizon, the silent auction team needs your help to translate this year's theme and its focus on community into cooperative action. "Re-Stitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond its Borders" calls for donations, bids, and fund-raising to support common goals that span holler and hood alike. The silent auction welcomes crafts, quilts, woodwork, memorabilia, pottery, home-canned and baked goods, spirits, event tickets, music, art, getaway opportunities, gently-used and new books, and more! Please start gathering your items now to help ensure that the 2018 Howard Dorgan Silent Auction reaches its fund-raising goal of \$6,500.

In honor of this year's community-engaged focus, we are also looking for two to three dedicated volunteers to join our efforts. Ideally, our growing team will include ASA members from across Appalachia to ensure that this annual fundraiser reflects our many diverse communities and invites those not yet involved with the ASA to see and understand themselves within our shared work. If you are looking for a meaningful way to support the Appalachian Studies Association, please consider joining our efforts. For more information about volunteer opportunities, email silent auction co-chairs Jesse Edgerton and Meredith Doster at meredithadoster@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you—and your silent auction items—in Cincinnati! In the interim, please stay tuned to auction updates via the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ASASilentAuction/.

Appalachian Studies Association is now on Tumblr. Follow us today! And, if you haven't yet, find us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram and follow us there. If you have questions regarding our social media accounts, or suggestions for posts or content, contact our office manager, Ann E. Bryant

at mullins88@marshall.edu



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Forty-first Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

April 5-8, 2018, Millennium Hotel and Resorts

Cincinnati, Ohio

Restitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond its Borders

Debbie Zorn, Conference Chair, debbie.zorn@uc.edu

Joy Gritton, Program Chair, j.gritton@moreheadstate.edu

Omope Carter Daboiku, Local Arrangements Chair, daboiku3@gmail.com

Forty-second Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 14-17, 2019, University of North Carolina - Asheville

Asheville, North Carolina

AppalachA'ville: Engage. Sustain. Innovate.

Carol Boggess, Conference Chair, asa2019@mhu.edu

Kim Reigle, Program Chair, kreigle@mhu.edu

Daniel Pierce, Local Arrangements Chair, dpierce@unca.edu

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Our mailing address is:

One John Marshall Drive

Huntington, WV 25755

www.appalachianstudies.org

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