



# PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 19 – 21, 2026, Marshall University

Huntington, West Virginia

## THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

Thursday. 10:00AM-5:30PM. Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction Set Up. Don Morris Room and John Marshall Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.

Thursday. 10:00AM-2:00PM. Registration Set Up. Shawkey Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.

Thursday. 12:00PM-6:00PM. Poster Set Up. First Floor Drinko Library.

Thursday. 1:00PM-4:00PM. Tour: “The Underground Railroad in the Tri-State,” Meet at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of Memorial Student Center (1 of 2)

*Sponsored by: Shawnee State University Center for Public History*

Registration Required. Tour Limit 12. Sign Up [Here](#)

Thursday. 2:00PM-5:30PM. Exhibit Hall and Registration Open. Don Morris Room and Shawkey Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.

Thursday. 3:00PM-3:45PM. ASA Membership Business Meeting. BE5, Memorial Student Center.

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See final program for more information.



**Thursday. 4:00PM-5:00PM. Opening Reception, Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.**  
*Sponsored by: Nomada*

**Thursday. 5:00PM-7:00PM. Opening Ceremonies, Awards, and In Memoriam, Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.**

The Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) conference will officially begin with an opening ceremony. Welcome and opening remarks will be given by Marshall University president Brad Smith, the dean of the College of Education, Kelly Bradley and Anna Adkins, Huntington Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as Huntington City Council member Teresa Johnson, and WV House of Delegates member Sean Hornbuckle. Further welcome comments will follow from Sophia Enriquez, president of ASA, and Cicero M. Fain, III conference chair.

Immediately following the opening ceremony, Beth Nardella, chairperson of the ASA Awards Committee will open the Awards and the In Memoriam ceremony. Laura Leigh Morris will serve as emcee. Doug Van Gundy will be playing music during the In Memoriam section of the ceremony.

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## **FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026**

**Friday. 7:00AM-5:30PM. Registration Open. Shawkey Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.**

**Friday. 7:00AM-9:00AM. Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction Set Up Continues, Don Morris Room and John Marshall Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.**

**Friday. 7:00AM-9:00AM. Poster Set Up Continues. First Floor Drinko Library.**

**Friday. 8:00AM-5:30PM. Posters Open. First Floor Drinko Library.**

**Friday. 8:00AM-5:30PM. Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction Open. Don Morris Room and John Marshall Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.**

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## CONCURRENT SESSION 1

### **Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.1. ROUNDTABLE: "Traditional and Vocational Secondary Education in Appalachia: A Comparative Analysis of Perception"**

**Convener:** Jasmine Hopson, High Rocks Academy - Youth Advisory Board Vice President

- Jasmine Hopson, High Rocks Academy - Youth Advisory Board Vice President
- Irelyn Sams, High Rocks Academy - Youth Advisory Board President
- Miriam Fitts, High Rocks Academy - Youth Advisory Board Treasurer
- Luella Mansheim, High Rocks Academy - Youth Advisory Board Alumni Mentor
- Logan Nixon, High Rocks Academy - Youth Advisory Board Alumni Mentor

### **Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.2. PANEL: "Woodlands of the Mind: Remnants of the Great Eastern Forest on Appalachian Campuses"**

**Convener:** Kevin O'Donnell, East Tennessee State University

- "Rebirth through Fire: Old-Growth Longleaf Pine at Berry College," Kevin O'Donnell, East Tennessee State University
- "Head, Heart, and Hand: The Forest at Berea College, Berea Kentucky," Scott Honeycutt, East Tennessee State University

### **Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.3. PANEL: "Uncovering Labor History in Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Lou Martin, Chatham University

- "Relatable Narratives: How Genealogy and Family Stories Shape Appalachian Labor Historiography," Faith Leone, University of Michigan
- "West Virginia Glass Workers and Precarity in the 1960s and 1970s," Hal Gorby, West Virginia University
- "The 2018-19 West Virginia Teachers' Strikes: Towards a Historical Culture of Labor," Severin Müller, George Mason University
- "Unionization in Appalachia in the 1930s," Lou Martin, Chatham University

### **Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.4. WORKSHOP: "Resource Extraction and Resistance: Teaching on the Adverse Health Impacts of AI Data Centers in Appalachia and How Communities Fight Back."**

**Convener and Presenter:** Anna Mullany, Emory University

### **Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.5. PANEL: "Mountain Music: Place, Space, and People"**

**Convener:** Margaret Walton, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- "Queer Musicking in Appalachia: An Exploration of Space, Place, and Identity through the Lens of Traditional Music and Dance," Becks Lipshultz, Independent

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- "Freedom Songs and Carceral Landscapes: Mapping the Struggle for Justice, Freedom, and Abolition in Rural Appalachia in the U.S. South," Margaret Walton, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- "When Witness Trees Fall: Instrument-Building as Non-Discursive Environmentalism," Robert McCormac, Indiana University



**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.6. PANEL: "The FLASH Curriculum: Co-Developing Middle-School Curriculum on Flood Propagation and Resilience in Appalachia"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Kenton Sena, Lewis Honors College, University of Kentucky

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.7. WORKSHOP: "Music of the Anti-Mountaintop Removal Movement"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Dave Cooper, Independent

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.8. PANEL: "Representations of Appalachia: Reflections and Meaning Making"**

**Convener:** Tobias Harkleroad, Virginia Theological Seminary

- "Plum Wild: Representations of Appalachia in the Comics of *Little Bubby Child*," Cecilia Salomone, West Liberty University
- "Serpent Signs: The Power of Faith and Resistance in Appalachian Snake Handling," Alana Anton, Radford University
- "Covering Urban Appalachia: A Qualitative Analysis of National News Coverage of a Representative City," Laura Meadows, University of North Carolina, Asheville
- "Student Journalism in the Time of Helene," Anne Ward, Appalachian State University

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.9. PERFORMANCE: "Folksongs from the West Virginia Coal Fields"**

**Convener:** Chris Haddox, West Virginia University

- "Voices Faintly Heard: Folk Songs of the Southern West Virginia Coal Fields," Chris Haddox, West Virginia University, and Rebecca Jones, Independent

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.10. PANEL: "Appalachian Places Loved and Left and Rediscovered"**

**Convener:** Lydia Warren, Fairmont State University

- "Civic Sentimentalism: The Demolition and Scandal Behind the Old Parkersburg City Hall," Aleta Rader, Glenville State University

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- "This is My Holler: Reclaimed Buildings and Reclaiming Culture in West Virginia," Sydney Webster, Marshall University Department of Anthropology and Sociology
- "Appalachian Futures Lab – Experiments in Community, Architecture, and Education," Kevin Jones, Virginia Tech – School of Architecture

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.11. ROUNDTABLE: "Mountain Mama: The Mother Who Raised Us All"**

**Convener:** Megan Krupa

- "TBD," Hannah Guthrie, Marshall University
- "Almost Heaven," Asia Rappold, Marshall University
- "Angel Statues," Jacob Wood, Marshall University

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.12. PANEL: "Appalachian Legends and Meaning Making"**

**Convener:** Scott Huffard, Lees-McRae College

- "Superstition in Appalachia: A Concept Analysis," Kristen Montgomery, East Tennessee State University
- "'Wreck of the Catawba River Trestle' A Lost Train Wreck Ballad from the 1916 Flood," Scott Huffard, Lees-McRae College



**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.13. WORKSHOP: "I Might Should Go to This Session: Appalachian English(es) Through a More Than Lens"**

**Convener:** Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr., University of Kentucky

- "Classroom Applications of a More-Than Lens for Appalachian English," Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr., University of Kentucky
- "Rootedness and Variation in Appalachian English," Paul Reed, The University of Alabama

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.14. ROUNDTABLE: "Asbury Parker and the Underground Railroad in Appalachia: Recovering the History of Resistance to Slavery in the Tristate Region of West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio"**

**Convener:** Cicero M. Fain, III, Marshall University

- Andrew Feight, Shawnee State University
- Marlitta Perkins, Appalachian Freedom Heritage Tourism Initiative
- Kyle R. Alvey, Purdue University
- Cicero M. Fain, III, Marshall University

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.15. PERFORMANCE: "Otherwise, I'm Fine: World War II, Memory, and the Role of Place in Healing"**

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**Convener and Presenter:** Barbara Presnell, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.16. PANEL: "Community and Concerns in LGBTQ+ Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Travis Rountree, Western Carolina University

- "Youth-to-Adulthood Mental Health among Sexual and Gender Minority Individuals in Appalachia: A Scoping Review," Holden Dillman, University of Kentucky, College of Social Work
- "Queer Sylva: A Fabulachian Enclave," Travis Rountree, Western Carolina University
- "Doubly Erased: LGBTQ Literature in Appalachia," Allison Carey, Marshall University

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.17. PANEL: "Appalachian Writers Project Podcast"**

**Convener:** Tonya Nagle, Appalachian State University

- Wesley R. Bishop, Jacksonville State University, North Meridian Press
- Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle, Weatherford Award, Winner of the 2021 Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award
- Jessica Cory, Editor *Appalachian Journal*: A Regional Studies Review
- Monic Ductan, Tennessee Tech University
- Kennedy "Alex" Sloop, Appalachian State University
- Torli Bush, *Heartwood* Literary Magazine, West Virginia Wesleyan College

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.18. WORKSHOP: "Building Community Power through Place-Based Organizing"**

**Convener:** Morgan King, West Virginia Citizen Action Group

- "Power," Dani Parent, West Virginia Citizen Action Group
- "Self-Interest," Shawn Phillips, West Virginia Citizen Action Group
- "One-to-Ones," Tyler Cannon, West Virginia Citizen Action
- "Power Organizations," Morgan King, West Virginia Citizen Action Group

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.19. PANEL: "Preserving Architectural History"**

**Convener:** Jessie McClanahan, Marshall University

-  "Preserving Cultural Heritage Buildings and Sites in Southwest Virginia," Lisa Tucker, Virginia Tech
- "Behind the Flood Wall: Whose Story is this, Anyway?," Laura Dennis, Independent
-  "Defending the Past, Defending the Future: Floodwall Murals as Hybrid Forms in Appalachia," Chandler Curtis, Rhode Island School of Design

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**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.20. WORKSHOP: "Power of Appalachian Rural Libraries"****Convener:** Wendy Johnston, Fleming County Public Library

- "The Power of Appalachian Rural Libraries," Wendy Johnston, Fleming County Public Library
- "Power and Powerlessness as a Citizen Activist in Appalachia," Jasmyne Lewis, Morehead State University

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.21. ROUNDTABLE: "Bridging the Gap Between Arts and Business: Arts Fellowships in West Virginia"****Convener:** Kandi Workman, Tamarack Foundation for the Arts

- "Designing and Implementing a Literary Arts Fellowship in West Virginia," Kandi Workman, West Virginia Creative Network
- "Cultivating the Creative Entrepreneurship Fellowship," Domenica Queen, West Virginia Creative Network
- "Anna Rollin's Experience as a Literary Arts Fellow," Anna Rollins, Independent
- "L. Renee's Experience as a Literary Arts Fellow," L. Renee, Independent
- "Mary Roy's Experience as a Creative Entrepreneur Fellow," Mary Roy, Independent
- "Ned Dougherty's Experience as a Creative Entrepreneur Fellow," Ned Dougherty, Independent

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.22. PANEL: "Black Lung: Contemporary Organizing and Campaigning"****Convener:** Willie Dodson, *Appalachian Voices*

- "Black Lung Excise Tax - How We Won," Willie Dodson, *Appalachian Voices*
- "The Role of Black Lung Clinics in Organizing for and With Coal Miners," Lisa Emery, National Coalition of Black Lung and Respiratory Disease Clinics
- "Black Lung Benefits: Leveraging Local Governments to Push for Congressional Action," Brendan Muckian-Bates, Appalachian Citizens Law Center
- "Living and Organizing with Black Lung," Gary Hairston, Black Lung Association
- "Ongoing Organizing and Advocacy to Strengthen Silica Regulations at Mines," Quenton King

**Friday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 1.23. PERFORMANCE: "Appalachia Zen: A Poetry Reading"****Convener:** Edwina Pendarvis, Marshall University

- "*The Light is Everywhere*," Victor Depta, Independent
- "Timothy Russell's Poetry in *The Light is Everywhere*," Marc Harshman, Independent

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- "Timothy Russell's Poems in *The Light is Everywhere* and Discussion," Frank Lehner, Independent
- "*The Light is Everywhere* and the Appalachia Zen Project," Edwina Pendarvis, Marshall University
- "*The Light is Everywhere* and the Appalachian Zen," Larry Smith, Independent

**Friday. 10:00AM-11:00AM. Morning Snack Break. Second Floor Atrium Memorial Student Center, Outside Don Morris Room.**

*Sponsored by: East Tennessee State University*

## CONCURRENT SESSION 2

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.1. WORKSHOP: "'Prints of Place'— A Zine-Making & Re-Leaf Printing Workshop"**

**Convener:** Tiffany Arnold, Ohio University

- "'Prints of Place'— A Zine-Making & Re-Leaf Printing Workshop" Sullivan Potter, Ohio University, and James Stabler, Berea College

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.2. PANEL: "Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and West Virginians' Experiences in Civil Rights: How We Have Been Connected All Along"**

**Convener:** Barb Howe, Community Coalition for Social Justice

- "Overview of the Project," Barb Howe, Community Coalition for Social Justice
- "Compiling and Illustrating West Virginians' Experiences in Civil Rights: How We Have Been Connected All Along and Designing the Related Exhibit," Eve Faulkes, Community Coalition for Social Justice
- "My Role as Storyteller and Co-Editor for West Virginians' Experiences in Civil Rights: How We Have Been Connected All Along and the Related Exhibit," Joan Browning, Community Coalition for Social Justice

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.3. PERFORMANCE: "WMMT 40th Anniversary Vignettes"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Jared Hamilton, M.A.R.S. Collective

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.4. PANEL: "Seeing the Mountains Within Themselves: Appalachian Projects in the Secondary Classroom"**

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**Convener:** Marissa Dillon, Huntington High School

- "Appalachian Texts and Research Based Projects in the Secondary Classroom," Marissa Dillon, Huntington High School

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.5. PANEL: "Risk and Resilience in Appalachia: Culturally Sensitive Interventions "**

**Convener:** Holden Dillman, University of Kentucky College of Social Work

- "My Kids Come First: Substance-Involved Parenting in Appalachia," Katherine King, University of Southern California
- "Environmental Concerns of Individuals Living in Historical Appalachia," Kristen Montgomery, East Tennessee State University
- "Likelihood of Rural Mental Health Providers to Recommend Assistance Animal Companionship as a Treatment Option for Mental Health," Luke Saunders, Marshall University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.6. ROUNDTABLE: "Breaking Bread Together: From Hillbilly Cake to Tabbouli"**

**Convener:** Hallie Chillag, University of Charleston

- "Breaking Bread Together: From Hillbilly Cake to Tabbouli," Kara Fisher, University of Charleston

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.7. PANEL: "Animal Rescues in Appalachian Literature"**

**Convener:** Wes Blake, Independent Author

- Wes Blake, Independent Author
- Julie Hensley, Eastern Kentucky University, Bluegrass Writers Studio
- Laura Jackson, Independent

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.8. PERFORMANCE: "George Rashid the Leper of Pickens"**

**Convener:** Peggy Proudfoot Harman, Marshall University

- Jason Harman, Marshall University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.9. PERFORMANCE: "Songs, Stories, and Crankies from Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Annick Odom, Independent

- "Crankies and Ballads: Storytelling in Song and Image," Annick Odom, Independent

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**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.10. ROUNDTABLE: "Unlocking Hope: The Power of Trauma Therapy in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorder"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Lacey Sawyers, West Virginia University, Jacob's Ladder at Brookside Farm

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.11. PERFORMANCE: "Diagram of Region, Diagram of the Self—Readings by Three Poets"**

**Convener:** Khristeena Lute, SUNY Adirondack

- "Reading, Amanda Chimera," Mary B Moore, Marshall University
- "Whippoorwill Sing," Khristeena Lute, SUNY Adirondack
- "Rust Belt Excavations," Jodie Childers, University of Virginia

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.12. PANEL: "The Appalachian Classroom and the Technology Landscape"**

**Convener:** Elizabeth DiSalvo Osborne

-  "AI in Appalachian Classrooms," Paul Sepulveda, Marshall University
- "Ugh, But Do I Have To?: Teaching AI Literacy in the Appalachian Classroom," Marti Wagnon, Radford University
- "Miss-Understood: 'Appalachian English' Speakers in the Composition Classroom," Emily Blake, Marshall University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.13. PANEL: "Telling Our Stories to the Next Generation: Appalachian Story Telling in the Age of Technology "**

**Convener:** Christina Fisanick, California University of Pennsylvania

- "'Collaboratin' and Hell Raisin' in the Third Space: Challenging Appalachian Stereotypes through Digital Storytelling" Christina Fisanick, Pennsylvania Western University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.14. PANEL: "Indigenous Voices in Appalachia: Speaking Our Piece"**

**Convener:** Jed DeBruin, Jacksonville State University

- "Contemporary Native Stories in Appalachian Public Schools: Access and Representation," Julie Clark, Gardner-Webb University
- "Identity, Race, and the Educational Experiences of Melungeon People of West Virginia," Henry Oliver, West Virginia University
- "Comparing Received Dialects across the Sonic Color Line: Racializing Genre and Region in the South 1860-1910," Olivia Jacobs, Boston University

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**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.15. PANEL: "Labor, Policy, and Activism in Central Appalachia"****Convener:** Dominic Wilkins, Berea College

- "Culture, Policy, and Personal Narrative in the Wyoming County, West Virginia Water Crisis," Jordan Lovejoy, College of the Holy Cross
- "Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Failures: A New Environmental Justice Frontier," Jacob Hileman, West Virginia University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.16. PANEL: "Identity in the Grandfather Highland Games and Nearby, Function of Ballads in *My Old True Love* by Sheila Kay Adams, Ballad Keepers and the Arrival of the Fiddle"****Convener:** Cece Conway, Appalachian State University

- "Counterculture Identity," Daniel Wartham, Appalachian State University
- "The Importance of Ballads in *My Old True Love* by Sheila Kay Adams," Tanya Nagle, Evergreen Author Resources and Appalachian State University
- "Ballad Keepers and the Arrival of the Fiddle," Cece Conway, Appalachian State University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.17. PANEL: "Making a Living from Our Land: Microbusiness and Appalachian Economies"****Convener:** Natasha Shannon, UC Berkeley

- "Harvesting Tomatoes, Harvesting Identity: The Commodification of Place-Based Discourse in the Rise and Fall of AppHarvest," Natasha Shannon, UC Berkeley, and Taylor Gilliam, University of Virginia
- "The Handicraft Movement in West Virginia," Danielle Burke, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- "Economies of Solidarity: Black Grassroots Economic Development in West Virginia," Cameron Rishworth, West Virginia University, Center for Resilient Communities

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.18. ROUNDTABLE: "Sharing Appalachian Culture through West Virginia Stories"****Convener:** Michael Tierney, Step by Step

- "Community Story Sharing from an Isolated Rural Community," Michael Tierney, Step by Step

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- "Presenting Appalachian Stories through Youth Theater," Dan Kehde, Contemporary Youth Arts Company
- "Preserving and Sharing West Virginia's Musical Heritage," Michael Lipton, WV Music Hall of Fame
- "Lifting up West Virginia Writers," Kate Long, Voices of West Virginia
- "Identifying Community Resources in Storytelling; Exploring the Field as an Undergraduate," Harper Aulick, Marshall University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.19. ROUNDTABLE: "New Generation Change Agents in Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Luke Eric Lassiter, Marshall University

- Luke Eric Lassiter, Marshall University
- Autumn Crowe, West Virginia Rivers Coalition
- Jacob Israel Hannah, Coal Field Development
- Trish Hatfield, Marshall University
- Erica Marks, Yew Mountain Center
- Anna Osborne, Marshall University



**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.20. PANEL: "A History of Huntington Filmmaking"**

**Convener:** Walter Squire, Marshall University

- "A History of Huntington Filmmaking," Walter Squire, Marshall University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.21. PANEL: "Ron Houchin: Poet of Place"**

**Convener:** Marianne Worthington, Independent

- "Unknowable and Unnamable: Ron Houchin's Quest for a Poetic Language of Place," Marianne Worthington, Independent
- "The Poetics of Ron Houchin's *The Man Who Saw Us in Half*," Sara Henning, Marshall University
- "Setting the Darkness Echoing: The Uncanny Poetry of Ron Houchin," Doug Van Gundy, West Virginia Wesleyan University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.22. PANEL: "Creative Acts as Tools for (re)Building Community"**

**Convener:** Derek Davidson, Appalachian State University

- "The Appalachian Ode Project Empowers Community Expressions of Identity," Ned Dougherty, Independent

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- "Place(d) on the Stage: Two Appalachian Theatres and the Challenges of Community-Building," Derek Davidson, Appalachian State University
- "Co-Creating the Story through Documentaries," Amanda Page, Shawnee State University

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.23. PERFORMANCE: "Thinking Like a Mountain: An Appalachian Artists' Collective"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Anna Kline, Independent

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.24. PANEL: "It's Time to Appalachian up People!"**

**Convener:** Austin Persinger, Marshall University Research Corporation

- Austin Persinger, Marshall University Research Corporation
- Katelyn Fowler, Marshall University Research Corporation
- Mollie Toppe, West Virginia University Extension

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.25. PANEL: "Religion at the Margins: Examples from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam"**

**Convener:** Robert Ellison, Marshall University

- "West Virginia Bully Pulpits: Three Faith Leaders Speak Their Truths," Robert Ellison, Marshall University
- "Mountain Logic and the Old Time Religion: Cultural Resistance in the Preaching of B.R. Lakin," John Dunkle, Liberty University
- "Living the Word in Court: Faith, Law, and Serpent Handling in Tennessee," Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand, Middle Tennessee State University
- "From Devotion to Denunciation: Pentecostal Serpent Handling, the Church of God, and Class Consciousness in the New South," Summer King, University of Mississippi

**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.26. PANEL: "Toward an Aquapelagic Appalachian Studies"**

**Convener:** Aaron Padgett, University of Kentucky

- "Kentucky Island, American Lake: Water and Power in an Interior Aquapelago," Aaron Padgett, University of Kentucky
- "When the Mill Closed and the Waters Rose: Interlocking Disasters in Southern Appalachia," Megan E. Hall, University of Kentucky
- "And the Creek Don't Rise: Disasters, Climate, and Resiliency in Appalachia," Nicole Marks, University of Kentucky
- "Woods and their Waterlands? Thinking with Forest History and Appalachian Aquapelagoes," Kathryn Newfont, University of Kentucky

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**Friday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 2.27. Education Committee Sponsored Session.**

**ROUNDTABLE: “We’re All in This Together”: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Stephen L. Fisher, Scholar-Activist and Teacher of Appalachia”**

**Convener:** Theresa Burriss, Emory and Henry University

- Theresa Burriss, Emory and Henry University
- Dirk Moore, Emory and Henry University
- Beth Bingman, Independent
- Robert Gipe, Independent

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**Friday. 10:00AM-11:00AM. Morning Snack Break. Second Floor Atrium Memorial Student Center, Outside Don Morris Room.**

*Sponsored by: East Tennessee State University*

**Friday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. PLENARY 1: “Appalachia’s Powerful Literature of Place and Its People,” Jacinda Townsend, and Willie Carver. Moderated by Cat Pleska.**

**Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation, Auditorium 116.**

Join Appalachia authors **Jacinda Townsend** and **Willie Carver** for a spirited discussion of the region’s vital literature that provides insights into the voices of the land and its people. How does our culture comfort and confine, our land shape us; how do authors reveal our strengths and diversity, elevate us and our region into a model of perseverance? How does the literature of Appalachia celebrate the fact that we show the world our flaws and our triumphs, yet we remain—ever-evolving, growing, showing the world how it’s done.

*Sponsored by: Mountain State Press and in Memory of Author Carter Taylor Seaton*

**Friday. 11:00AM-12:30PM. “Y’ALL Meaningful Networking and Embracing Our Appalachian Backgrounds and Culture,” Marcos, basement of Memorial Student Center.**

Please join the Y'ALL Committee to share pizza, participate in networking activities, and hear from a panel on their experiences growing up in Appalachia. We want to promote pride in our Appalachian upbringings and share difficulties with one another so that we can work together to overcome them.

*Sponsored by: ReImagine Appalachia*

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**Friday. 12:15PM-1:15PM. Black Huntington History Trolley Tour. Meet at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Side of Memorial Student Center. (1 of 3)**

Attendees will learn of Huntington's rich African American history as Huntington native and historian, Cicero M. Fain, III, leads a tour of key historic African American sites throughout the city.

**Friday. 12:15PM-1:30PM. Lunch on your own.****Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Black Huntington History Trolley Tour. Meet at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Side of Memorial Student Center. (2 of 3)**

Attendees will learn of Huntington's rich African American history as Huntington native and historian, Cicero M. Fain, III, leads a tour of key historic African American sites throughout the city

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**CONCURRENT SESSION 3****Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.1. ROUNDTABLE: "Appalachian Studies in the Community College Classroom: A Multi-Disciplinary Dialogue"**

**Convener:** Julia Lewis, Blue Ridge Community College

- Julia Lewis, Blue Ridge Community College
- Kevin Dingess, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
- Matthew Mayo, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.2. PANEL: "Students as Stewards: Documenting Appalachian History, Memory, and Culture"**

**Convener:** Thomas Jude, West Virginia Mine Wars Museum

- "'The Blair Indicted Genealogical Database' Project," Rebecca Bryant, Northern Kentucky University, and Rebecca Bailey, Northern Kentucky University
- "'The Baldwin-Felts Binder Project: Archiving a Treasure," Ben Grothaus, Northern Kentucky University
- "'The Baldwin-Felts Binder Project: Digitizing to Share," Emily Stephens, Northern Kentucky University
- "'Food, Family, and Tradition: A Celebration of Over-the-Rhine's Foodways," James Tecco, Northern Kentucky University

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See final program for more information.

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.3. WORKSHOP: "Who's Gotta Regatta?: Creating Networks of Community Defense During Times of Increased Policing"****Convener:** Lake Sidikman, Independent

- "Who's Gotta Regatta?: Creating Networks of Community Defense During Times of Increased Policing," Lake Sidikman, Independent, and Rachel Rubin, Independent

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.4. PANEL: "Celebrating Place and Meaning Making in Appalachia"****Convener:** Edward A. Adams, Washington & Lee University

- "Looking at a Place from the Perspective of Other Places: Parkersburg, WV as Seen from Marietta, Staunton, and Lexington," Edward A. Adams, Washington & Lee University
- "Fun, Food, and Fantasy: How Amusement Parks, Festivals, and Attractions Embody Appalachian History in the Anthracite Coal Region," Rebecca Kanaskie, Colorado College

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.5. WORKSHOP: "Discover the Kentucky River Watershed Through History Science, Art, Culture, Conservation, Recreation and Education"****Convener and Presenter:** Pat Banks, Kentucky Riverkeeper**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.6. PERFORMANCE: "Ethnomusicology Report of The Tygarts Valley Homestead"****Convener:** Peggy Proudfoot Harman, Marshall University

- "Music of the Tygart Valley Homesteaders," Jason Harman, Marshall University

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.7. ROUNDTABLE: "Preserving Our Appalachian Activist and Non-Profit History"****Convener:** Michael Tierney, Step by Step

- "The Challenge of Preserving Community Movement History," Michael Tierney, Words Walking and Step by Step
- "The Relationship Between Academic and Non-Profit Worlds," Eric Lassiter, Marshall University
- "Regional Commitments to Preserving Community History," Chris Green, Berea College

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.8. WORKSHOP: "The Power of Policy: How Students Advocate for Meaningful Systemic Change"****Convener and Presenter:** Margaret Falletta, High Rocks Educational Corporation and First2 Network

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**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.9. PANEL: "Still Standing: Communities Living the Coal Transition"****Convener:** Deborah Thompson, LiKEN

-  "Resistance After Extraction: Notes from an Intentional Community in West Virginia," Dominic Wilkins, Berea College
-  "The Long Disaster: Coal, Prisons, and the Making of the 2022 Central Appalachia Floods," Daire Jansson Glanville, Lincoln Memorial University, and Judah Schept, Eastern Kentucky University
-  "Community Air Monitoring in West Virginia - A Case Study of the Kanawha River Valley," Morgan King, West Virginia Citizen Action Group

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.10. ROUNDTABLE: "Updates on The Online Encyclopedia of Appalachia Project"****Convener:** Ron Roach, East Tennessee State University

- Ron Roach, East Tennessee State University
- Jeremy Smith, East Tennessee State University
- Rebecca Adkins Fletcher, East Tennessee State University
- Ted Olson, East Tennessee State University

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.11. PANEL: "Pheonix Rising: Coal Communities Respecting the Legacy while Moving Forward"****Convener:** Molly Updegrove, ReImagine Appalachia

- "Cooperatives: The Path Toward Sustainable Development in Appalachia," J. Todd Nesbitt, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Lock Haven
- "Community Strong: Building Community Resilience in Virginia's Coalfields," Kara Dotten, *Appalachian Voices*
- "Reimagining Shuttered Coal Plants as 21st Century Industry and Community Assets: A Community-University Design Collaboration," Molly Updegrove, ReImagine Appalachia

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.12. PANEL: "Recovering Bessie Woodson Yancey, Poet and Political Voice for Justice"****Convener:** Katharine Capshaw, University of Connecticut

- "Woodson's Sister, Incisive Writer: Searching for Bessie Woodson Yancey," Katharine Capshaw, University of Connecticut
- "The Reader Speaks: Bessie Woodson Yancey and the Audacity of Authenticity," Laura Tussey, Ashland Community and Technical College

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- "The Reader Speaks: How One Editor Helped a Powerful Voice Be Heard," Rebecca Stephens, Marshall University

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.13. PANEL: "Recognizing and Respecting the Legacy of the Queer Community in Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Jason Vanfosson, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

-  "Appalachian Trans - Masculinity: Discovering Regional Manhood and Combatting Toxic Masculinity," Theodore Sells, Northern Kentucky University
-  "Appalachian Matters of the Closet," Caleb Pendygraft, Massachusetts Maritime Academy
-  "'Commit the Cardinal Sin of History': The Power of Queer Appalachian Ancestors and Resistance in Andrew Joseph White's *Compound Fracture*," Jason Vanfosson, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.14. PANEL: "The Role of Resilience in Appalachian Literature "**

**Convener:** Donna Wojnar Dzurilla, Independent

- "Fatalism and Transcendence," Benjamin Trogdon, Independent
- "Muriel Rukeyser's *Book of the Dead* and the Discourse of Disaster in Appalachia," Jeannie Dalporto, University of Charleston
- "Switchback," Rick Van Noy, Radford University

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.15. WORKSHOP: "Power in Practice: Exploring Culture-Centered Survivor Advocacy in Appalachia"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Ijeoma Idika-Chima, Ohio University

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.16. PERFORMANCE: "Reading of *Had I a Dove*: Appalachian Poets on the Helene Flood"**

**Convener:** Hilda Downer, Independent

- Morgan DePue, Appalachian State University
- Basil Vaughn Soper
- Jessica Cory, *Appalachian Journal*
- Judy Jenks
- Brit Washburn
- Danita Dodson
- Brian Longacre

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- James Englehart
- Jeff Mann
- Doug Van Gundy
- Marc Harshman
- Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr.,
- Scott Goebel
- Rhonda Browning White
- Leia Cain
- Melissa Jørgenrud Helton
- Ann Shurgin
- Sherry Poff
- Clint Bowman
- Kelsey Solomon
- Marianne Worthington
- Kari Gunter-Seymour

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.17. PANEL: "Reflections on the Self in Appalachian Contexts"**

**Convener:** Christopher Bundrick, University of South Carolina Lancaster

- "Southernmost to the North," Monica Miller, Middle Georgia State University
- "Cold Mountain Field Notes," Christopher Bundrick, University of South Carolina Lancaster
- "Transcendent Bodies, Divine Selves: Walt Whitman and Scott McClanahan's Appalachian Transcendentalism," Jana Tigchelaar, Marshall University

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.18. PANEL: "Mutual Aid in the Mountains: Grassroots Care, Collective Power, and Community Resilience in Eastern Kentucky"**

**Convener:** Cara Ellis, EKY Mutual Aid

- Cara Ellis, EKY Mutual Aid
- Misty Skaggs, EKY Mutual Aid
- Olivia "Ole" Qualls, EKY Mutual Aid
- Gray Pritt, EKY Mutual Aid
- Melinda Trueblood-Stimpson, EKY Mutual Aid

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.19. PERFORMANCE: "Queer in the Holler: An Appalachian Journey of Perseverance"**

**Convener:** Marilyn S. Minney

- "Queer in the Holler: An Appalachian Journey of Perseverance," Barbara Marie Minney, Independent

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**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.20. WORKSHOP: "New Veins, Old Hills: Mining AI to Shape Appalachia's Future with LLM Based Tools"****Convener:** Dan VanZant, Northeast State Community College

- "Mining AI to Strengthen Appalachia," Dan VanZant, Northeast State Community College

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.21. PANEL: "Ecological Anthropologies, Anthropological Ecologies"****Convener:** Kopana Terry, University of Kentucky

- "Character of Place: Appalachian Cultural Landscape & The Weather," Kopana Terry, University of Kentucky
- "Out of Place: Signage, Memory, and the Rhetoric of Landscape on Flat Rock Trail," Lora Smith, Queens University of Charlotte
- "The Myth of Leave No Trace in the Red River Gorge," Cat Lamb, University of Kentucky
- "Off-Roading as Play: A Ludic Approach," J. M. L. Whittington, University of Central Florida

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.22. PERFORMANCE: "Hazel Green: A Forgotten Legacy Restored"****Convener:** Heather Parks, Morehead State University

- Heather Parks, Morehead State University
- Zander Mack, Morehead State University
- Ava Anderson, Morehead State University
- Kyah Tappmeyer, Morehead State University

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.23. ROUNDTABLE: "Artistic Renderings of Appalachia: Who Gets to Tell Our Story?"****Convener:** Ali Printz, Tyler School of Art, Temple University

- Ali Printz, Tyler School of Art, Temple University
- Julie Rae Powers, Independent
- Rebecca Proffitt, Reese Museum
- Shaun Slifer, WV Mine Wars Museum

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.24. WORKSHOP: "Community Storytelling Through Film with Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia"****Convener:** Lauren Trice, Virginia Tech

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- "Short Documentaries with Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia," Jacob Robinson, Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia, Meranda Flachs-Surmanek, WhyWOW Studio, and Matthew Pickett, Loud Valley Productions



**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.25. PANEL: "‘Dream[ing] our Dreams’: Capturing and Restoring Appalachian Experience through Speculation in Fiction and Creative Nonfiction"**

**Convener:** Sarah Beth Childers, Oklahoma State University

- "Hauntings and the Holy Ghost," Sarah Beth Childers, Oklahoma State University
- "Psychics and Seers in Southwestern Pennsylvania and Beyond," Lori D'Angelo, Independent
- "Speculation and Restorative Appalachian Narratives," Amanda Gaines, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- "Girl Inventories: Queer Girl Selves in Appalachia," Sophie Ezzell, University of Mississippi

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.26. PANEL: "Teaching Affrilachia as a Subversive Act in and out of the Classroom"**

**Convener:** Kristine Yohe, Northern Kentucky University

- "Heeding an Affrilachian’s Call: A Multimethodological Approach to Teaching Crystal Wilkinson’s Writing," Theresa L. Burriss, Emory & Henry
- "Reckoning with the Past in the Classroom: Teaching Subversive Truth through Frank X Walker’s Historical Poetry," Kristine Yohe, Northern Kentucky University
- "Building Community in Affrilachia: Examining the Legacy of Poets Laureate Frank X Walker, Crystal Wilkinson, & Ashley M. Jones," Zanice Bond, Tuskegee University

**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.27. WORKSHOP: "Appalachian Foodways - Celebrating the 2026 Appalachian Foodways Practitioners"**

**Convener:** Candace Mullins, Grow Appalachia at Berea College

- Keyarna “Chef Ke” Frederick, Culinary Artist, Kanawha County, West Virginia



**Friday. 1:30PM-2:45PM. Session 3.28. PANEL: "Tilting the Slope: Photovoices of Brain Injury in Appalachia,"**

**Convener:** Michelle K. Roberts

- Kristopher Cottrell
- Joshua Mayse
- Tony Nickel
- Lindsey Newland

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- Lance O'Cull
- Ashley Stender
- Cassidy Williams
- Kaitlyn Williamson

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**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Black Huntington History Trolley Tour. Meet at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Side of Memorial Student Center. (3 of 3)**

Attendees will learn of Huntington's rich African American history as Huntington native and historian, Cicero M. Fain, III, leads a tour of key historic African American sites throughout the city.

**Friday. 4:00PM-5:00PM. Afternoon Snack Break. Second Floor Atrium Memorial Student Center, Outside Don Morris Room.**

**CONCURRENT SESSION 4 AND POSTER SESSION**

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.1. PERFORMANCE: "Flooded with Feeling"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Kiesa Kay, North Carolina Storytelling Guild, Center for Pioneer Life

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.2. PANEL: "Appalachian Writers Navigating the Contemporary Moment"**

**Convener:** Meghan Moore-Hubbard, Kennesaw State University

- "The Need to Be Wholly Honest: A Critical Reading of 'The Need to be Whole,'" Meghan Moore-Hubbard, Kennesaw State University
- "Readings from Two New Books," Silas House, Berea College
- "Bridging Roots: Stories that Connect," Susan Cato, Morganton Day School

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.3. PERFORMANCE: "Building Lesbian Community in Southwest Virginia"**

**Convener:** Kathryn L. Beranich, Independent

- "*The Unlikely Story of the Lesbians of First Friday* - A Documentary," Kathryn L. Beranich, Independent

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.4. PANEL: "Appalachian Images, at Home and Abroad"**

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**Convener:** Jessie Baty McMillan

- "Appalachian Students' Developing Sense of Place in a Rural-Focused Study Abroad Course," Josh Thompson, Virginia Tech and Amy Price Azano, Virginia Tech
- "Photographs and Place: Exhibiting the Pictureman Mullins Collection," Terri Weissman, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and Sharayah Cochran, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- "Appalachia vs The World: Going Online," Clara Jones, Marshall University

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.5. PANEL: "Students as Activists"**

**Convener:** Bobby Starnes, Berea College

- "Voices of the Mountains: Students Building Appalachian Visibility on Campus," Joseph Cromwell, Berea College, and Jackie Conti, Berea College

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.6. PANEL: "Solidarity Unbound: Issues and Practice in Contemporary Appalachian Organizing"**

**Convener:** Bradley Wilson, WVU Center for Resilient Communities

- "Groundwork for Collective Inquiry: Fostering Participation in Collaborative Action Research in West Virginia," Bradley Wilson, WVU Center for Resilient Communities
- "Streams of Solidarity: Community Organizing, Preparedness, and Risk Assessments," Grace Dever, West Virginia University
- "Shifting Responsibilities: Refugee-Migrant Youth Care Work in a Rural Poultry Town," Cynthia Gorman, West Virginia University
- "Co-Creating Home: Refugee Resettlement and Community Belonging in Appalachia," Kait Stewart, West Virginia University

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.7. PANEL: "Expanding Tradition"**

**Convener:** Kellsie Prather, University of Georgia

- "Comparison of AI RAG and LLM for Use in Cherokee Herbalism and Practices," Catherine Philips, Tennessee Tech University
- "Where Care Takes Root: Listening and Learning from Appalachian Mothers and Communities," Mary Jo Hedrick, East Tennessee State University

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.8. PANEL: "Focused Place-Based Research in Appalachia"**

**Convener:** John Young, Marshall University

- "From Past to Present: Black Farming in Appalachian Kentucky: Development and Archiving of Scholarly Resources," Jed DeBruin, Jacksonville State University, **2025-2026 Wilma S. Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-doctoral Research Fellow**

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- "In and Out of Chestnut Ridge in Barbour County, WV: The Power of Place," Andrea Frohne, Ohio University

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.9. WORKSHOP: "Appalachian Dance: Community, Connection, Caper"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Annalee Tull Lanier, Queen's University Belfast

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.10. WORKSHOP: "Never Give Up: Successful Organizing Against Impossible Odds"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Betty Rivard

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.11. WORKSHOP: "A Conversation with Your Ancestors: A Creative Writing Workshop"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Paulette Hansel, Southern Appalachian Writers Cooperative

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.12. PANEL: "Education and the Problematics of Identity"**

**Convener:** Kristi Barnes, Marietta College



- "Conservative Discourse: How it Shapes and is Shaped by Social Studies Education in West Virginia," Liz Rexroad, West Virginia University
- "Quiet Resistance in the Mountains: How Appalachian Educators Disrupt Whiteness through Cover Stories," Elizabeth DiSalvo Osborne, West Virginia University, and Erin Feeney, Western Kentucky University
- "Cultural Values and Regional Identity: Are College Students from Appalachia at Higher Risk?" Kristi Barnes, Marietta College

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.13. PANEL: "Considerations of Regional Bureaucracies"**

**Convener:** Samuel Workman, West Virginia University

- "The Cost of Corruption: Health in West Virginia," Jayna Elliott, West Virginia University
- "Open Data & Appalachia: An Overview and Exploration," Scylla Hecateis Robl, University of Pittsburgh
- "Regional Government, Representation, and Distributive Policy in Appalachia," Samuel Workman, West Virginia University

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.14. PERFORMANCE: "Reading from *Appalachian Journal* and *As the Crow Flies*"**

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**Convener:** Jessica Cory, *Appalachian Journal*

- "Poems from the Special Issue on Appalachian Visual Art," Kari Gunter-Seymour, Women of Appalachia Project
- "Gooseberries," Amy Le Ann Richardson, Unaffiliated
- "Poetry from Winter 2026 Edition," Skyler Lambert, WV Writers, Inc.
- "Almost Heaven," A. Michael Schultz, Belmont College, Ohio
- "Selected Poems," Wesley R. Bishop, Jacksonville State University, North Meridian Press
- "Poem from the Special Issue on Appalachian Visual Art," Marianne Worthington, In the Words of Ulysses Everett McGill: "I Remain Unaffiliated"

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.15. PANEL: "Reckoning with the Past: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Racial Violence"**

**Convener:** Cierra Ledford, University of Kentucky

- "Law, Memory, and the Construction of Justice: A Legal Reading of the Corbin Expulsion of 1919," Claire Gussler, University of Kentucky
- "Racial Violence and Kentucky Mythmaking: Lessons from the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice-Kentucky Clinic," Austin Zinkle, University of Kentucky
- "Conversations on the Eastern Kentucky Remembrance Project," Dee Parker, Eastern Kentucky Remembrance Project
- "Conversations on the Eastern Kentucky Remembrance Project," Micah Lynn, University of Kentucky, and Woodford County Remembrance Project

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.16. WORKSHOP: "Traditional Leatherworking in East Tennessee"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Tori Griffin, Independent

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.17. PANEL: "Planetary Thinking [ ] Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Scott McDaniel, Virginia Tech

- "Hellbenders as Emissaries of Appalachia," Tierra Curry, Center for Biological Diversity
- "'Fire in the Hole': Appalachia's Elemental Narrative in Harlan County, USA and King Coal," Somak Mukherjee, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
- "Dark Green Religion and Planetary Thinking in Appalachian Environmental Movements," Joseph Witt, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.18. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**SPONSORED SESSION: "Approaching Difficult Topics in Appalachian Special Collections"**

**Convener:** Julie Fox-Horton, East Tennessee State University

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- "Responsible Engagement with Sensitive Content in Appalachian Special Collections," Julie Fox-Horton, East Tennessee State University
- "What Would You Do? Three Sensitive Collection Case Studies from the Appalshop Archive," Chad Hunter, Appalshop Archive
- "Handling Sensitive Materials: Discussing the Ethics and Methodologies of Museum Professionals," Savannah Bennett, Reece Museum, East Tennessee State University

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.19. ROUNDTABLE: "Teaching Literary Studies Here and Now"**

**Convener:** Jana Tigchelaar, Marshall University

- "Teaching the Colony from Within: Why Students in Appalachia Should Study Postcolonial Literature," Puspa Damai, Marshall University
- "Teaching a Trans Memoir in 2025," Daniel Lewis, Marshall University
- "Literature Way Over There and Way Back Then: Shakespeare and the Demand for Relevance," Daniel Normandin, Marshall University
- "The English Undergraduate Student in Greater Appalachia: The Importance of Individually Relatable Texts in Introductory English Major Courses," Paul L. Robertson, Marshall University
- "Pedagogy Makes Nothing Happen: Literature, Leisure, and the Art of the Slowdown," Deborah Thurman, Marshall University

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.20. ROUNDTABLE: "Intergenerational Transmission, Traditional Arts, and Experiential Learning: Lessons from the New Berea Folklife Apprenticeship Program"**

**Convener:** Emily Hilliard, West Virginia Humanities Council/West Virginia Folklife Program

- "My Folklife Apprenticeship in Baile Folklórico Mexicano," Kiana Onate, Berea College
- "Iron & Identity: A Folklife Apprenticeship in Appalachian Blacksmithing," Michael Adebusey, Berea College
- "Storytelling: The Appalachian Art with Many Faces," Anthony Crowder, Berea College
- "My Folklife Apprenticeship in Appalachian Weaving," Zechariah Williams, Berea College

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.21. PANEL: "Hush! Secrets Women Keep about Mental Health"**

**Convener:** Sara Henning, Marshall University

- "Starry Night: Destructive Secrets, Bipolar Disorder, and My Love Affair with Vincent van Gogh," Sara Henning, Marshall University
- "Stella, in the Upstairs Room," Karen Salyer McElmurray, Spalding University
- "Keeping Secrets," Cat Pleska, Marshall University

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**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.22. PERFORMANCE: "Where Labor Rights Meet Environmental Activism in Appalachia"****Convener:** Jody DiPerna, Independent

- "The Power of Story-Telling," Jody DiPerna, Independent
- "The Workers in the Tech Industry," Patrick McGinty, Slippery Rock University
- "Readings from Her Work," Annie Woodford, Wilkes Community College
- "Readings from Their Work," Torli Bush, Independent

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.23. PANEL: "For Such a Time as This' Doing Journalism with People Across Ideological and Religious Divides"****Convener and Presenter:** Laura Harbert, Fairmont State University**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.24. PERFORMANCE: "Echoes of Light & Whispers in the Dark"****Convener:** Nora Shalaway Carpenter, Independent

- "Am Fear Liath Mòr," Nora Shalaway Carpenter, Independent
- "Broken Record," Tanya Aydelott, Independent
- "The Devil's in the Details," Mindy McGinnis, Independent
- "Doe," Rob Costello, Independent
- "Wings," Ash Wilda, Independent

**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.25. PERFORMANCE: "The One Star: Pro Wrestling in North Carolina"****Convener and Presenter:** Caleb Brown, Appalachian State University**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.26. PERFORMANCE: "Dark as a Dungeon: The Coal Mining Ghost Tales from the Dr. Ruth Ann Musick Collection"****Convener and Presenter:** Bill Stalnaker, Marion County Schools**Friday. 3:00PM-4:15PM. Session 4.27. POSTER SESSION: First Floor Drinko Library.**

- **Accessing Rural Healthcare Access and Workforce Needs through ACRI**  
Cole Longcor, Becca Streets, Emilie Johnson, and Camryn Kiefer
- **Anachnu Aflachim: Variations of Appalachian English in Jewish Communities**  
Rhys Brown
- **Appalachian Social Commons: Exploring the Landscape of Third Spaces in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle**  
Molly Sutter, Jennifer Fisher, and Alissa Sumerano
- **Beyond Burnout: Summer Renewal and Teacher Resilience in Appalachia**  
Breck Loudermilk

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- **Caught Between Stagnation and Displacement: Economic Development and Gentrification in Appalachia**  
Maliah McCann-Coles
- **Economic Sustainability in Post-Industrial Appalachia**  
Dominic Gallo
- **Embroidering the Past and Creatively Preserving the Histories of Black Coal Miners in West Virginia and South Wales**  
Myya Helm
- **Engaging Students in Global Classroom Collaborations: COIL (Connected Online International Learning) As A Free Resource**  
Ann Kingsolver, University of Kentucky
- **From One Room to Changing Lives One Person at a Time**  
Paula Rymer, and Alycen Hurst
- **Growing as a Professional through Applying Humanities Skills and Developing a Love for Appalachia as an Intern for the Appalachian Studies Association**  
Haley Elkins
- **Images of Appalachia in Film**  
Jeffrey Webb
- **Langston Community Health Task Force: Building Capacity Toward Health and Economic Stability**  
Rebecca Adkins Fletcher, Craig Charles, Joshua Jenkins, Samuel Loyd, Tammy O'Hare, Nicholson Casey, and Chelsea Walters
- **Literacy Tutoring and Educational Partnerships for Shared Success**  
Lindsay K. Monihen, Sandra Beam, and Paul Madden
- **Potatoes to the People: Community Approaches to Food Insecurity in SE Ohio**  
Rachel Terman, Zoya Bessler, Hazel Chmiel, Shelby Davenport, Emma Lucas, Jackson McCoy, Isley Newton, Jayson Smith, Ashlee Wagner, and Tiffany Arnold
- **Psychological and Physical Health of Coal Miners: Investigating Depression, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Coping Mechanisms, and the Impact of Black Lung Disease**  
Catherine Kincaid
- **Race & The Railroad: The 1871 And 1920 Racial Expulsions of Estill County**  
Ren Kelley, Kathryn Engle, Mariel Gardner, and Jess Stevens
- **Resilience And Resistance of a Small Headwater Stream Ecosystem to a Natural Gas Pipeline Construction Project in Roanoke County, Virginia**  
Trevor McKenzie, Griffin Anderson, Taylor Bates, Raey Block, Gillian Cone, Sam Decker, Cait Kinnamon, Jay Munden, Nina Nicholson, Alex Sloop, Chris Watson
- **Resilience, Revitalization, And Recreational Economies of the Upper New River Watershed**

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Jamie Lau, Atlas M. C. Davies, Cara Rossmeisl, Jamie K. Lau, Kristina R. Stefaniak, and Tara A. Pelletier

- **Rings Of the Ridges: The Ecological History of Appalachia from a White Oak's Perspective**  
Lorelei Wigginton
- **Rocky Fork Research Project**  
Jane MacMorran
- **Strengthening Safety Nets: An Appalachian Call to Action**  
Christi Scott Bartman
- **The Power of a Creative Network: Using GIS Applications to Connect Artists in West Virginia**  
Kaitlin Stewart
- **Two-Year Pilot Study: Community-Based Visual Art "Life Bouquet" Intervention for Healthy Aging**  
Masahiro Toyama, Jamie Cook, Keely Kiser, and Alexis Giroski
- **Weathering More Than Storms: Understanding the Mental Health Disparities of Black Farmers in the Appalachian Region**  
Aliyah Smith-Gomis
- **Growing as a Professional Through Applying Humanities Skills and Developing a Love for Appalachia as an Intern for the Appalachian Studies Association**  
Haley Elkins
- **Police Accountability Dashboard**  
Kyle Vass, ACLU

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## CONCURRENT SESSION 5



**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.1. PANEL: "Whose Roots? Our Roots!: Black Women and the Creation of an Appalachian Homeplace"**

**Convener:** Jessica Klanderud, Berea College

- "Matriarchs and Matriculated Memories: Understanding Appalachian Migration through Black Women's Educational Memorykeeping and Freedom School Storytelling," LeAnna Luney, Berea College
- "Go Tell It on the Mountain: Mapping Black Appalachia in Children's Books and Women's Fiction," Gale Greenlee, Independent
- "Making Our Homeplace: Black Women and Social Networks in the Migration in and through Appalachia," Jessica Klanderud, Berea College

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**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.2. PANEL: "Educating the Present, Educating the Future"****Convener:** Rebecca Stephens, Partnership for Appalachian Girls' Education (PAGE)

- "Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders through Place-Based Education," Rebecca Stephens, Partnership for Appalachian Girls' Education (PAGE), and Josie Fields, Boston College
- "From One Room to Changing Lives One Person at a Time," Paula Rymer, Marshall University, and Alycen Hurst, Marshall University
- "'My Grandmother Recommended I Apply': College Information Seeking Among Appalachian Students," Africa Hands, University at Buffalo

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.3. PANEL: "Movements, Migrations, and Memory"****Convener:** Debra Lattanzi Shutika, George Mason University

-  "The Power of Absence: Longing and Belonging in the Appalachian Diaspora," Debra Lattanzi Shutika, George Mason University
- "Primeros Pasos: A LatinX, Appalachian Mentorship Program," Deirdre Hand, Virginia Tech, Elizabeth Stringer-Nunley, Galax City Schools, Neiver Morales Perez, Virginia Tech, and Adriana Mariscal-Guzman, Virginia Tech
-  "Syrian Appalachia: Race, Religion, and Regional Belonging," Sterling Bryant, Virginia Tech
-  "Appalachia Beyond Appalachia: Positionality, Solidarity, and the Ethics of Looking Across Borders," Eleanor Griffiths, East Tennessee State University, Fulbright Commission

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.4. WORKSHOP: "The Psychedelic Frontier in Appalachia: Policy, Public Safety, and Opportunity"****Convener:** Justin Moore, Salem University & Appalachian Psychedelic Society

- "Psychedelic Access and Policy in Appalachia: Challenges, Culture, and Reform Education," Justin Moore, Salem University & Appalachian Psychedelic Society
- "Appalachia at the Crossroads: History, Ethics, and the Rising Popularity of Psychedelics," Ali McGhee, Salem University & Appalachian Psychedelic Society

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.5. PANEL: "More Than the Storm: Stories of Strength, Community, and Resilience from Swannanoa NC and Hurricane Helene"****Convener and Presenter:** Rebecca Williams, Independent

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**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.6. WORKSHOP: "Claiming Your 'Authentic' Appalachian Voice"****Convener:** Nora Shalaway Carpenter, Independent

- "What is an 'Authentic' Appalachian Voice?" Rob Costello, Independent
- "Helping Appalachian Students Find Their Voice Through Mentor Texts," Chris Green, Berea College
- "Telling the Untellable," Nora Shalaway Carpenter, Independent
- "Connecting with Voice Through Poetry," Ash Wilda, Independent

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.7. PANEL: "Post-Syndemic Trends in Substance Use, Mental Health, and Treatment in Appalachian Communities"****Convener:** Marianna Linz, Marshall University

- "Overdose Death Trends in Post-Pandemic West Virginia," Jessica Sorenson, Marshall University
- "Treatment Access and Provider Availability Across West Virginia," Claire Stewart, Marshall University
- "Substance Use Treatment Funding Allocation and Policy Shifts Post-Pandemic in West Virginia," Rachel Splawn, Marshall University
- "Behavioral Health Risk Elevation Following Incarceration Post-Pandemic in West Virginia," Catherine Kincaid, Marshall University

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.8. WORKSHOP: "Labor Unions and Non-Profits"****Convener and Presenter:** Breann Smith, Equitas Health**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.9. PANEL: "Remembering Those Who Got Us Here"****Convener:** Joshua-Ray Jenkins

- "Discovering Nimrod: The Life of an Iconic Native Son of Appalachia Nimrod Workman," Jack Wright, Jenco Foundation Fund
- "Recovering and Legitimizing the Work of West Virginia Folklorist Carey Woofter," Rosemary Hathaway, West Virginia University
- "Honoring Our Dead in Our Own Words: Cultural Ideologies in Appalachian Cemeteries," Bridget Anderson, Old Dominion University

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.10. PANEL: "The Appalachian Resiliency Network: An Emerging Collaborative"****Convener and Presenter:** Brendan Muckian-Bates, Appalachian Citizens' Law Center**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.11. PANEL: "Safeguarding Appalachian Ecologies"****Convener:** Lora Smith, Queens University of Charlotte

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- "Fractured Power: Fracking in Contemporary Graphic Novels from Appalachia," Peter Thompson, University of New Brunswick, and Timothy di leo Browne, Carleton University
- "Starry Starry Nights Redux: Reclaiming the Dark Skies Heritage of Appalachia," Henry Wilson, Independent Scholar
- "Wide Branches, Deep Roots: Readings on Sustainability in Appalachia," Amanda Hayes, Kent State University Tuscarawas, and Jessica Jones, Kent State University Stark

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.12. PANEL: "Research and Support Strategies"**

**Convener:** Travis Rountree, Western Carolina University

- "Youth-to-Adulthood Mental Health among Sexual and Gender Minority Individuals in Appalachia: A Scoping Review," Holden Dillman, University of Kentucky
- "Gendered Experiences of Food Insecurity in Appalachian Ohio," Phoebe Giordano, Ohio University

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.13. PANEL: "Literary Deployments"**

**Convener:** William Nash, Middlebury College

-  "Empathy is Fossilized in Our Bones' and Our Books: The Power of Contemporary Appalachian Literature as Rhetorical Rememberings," Moriah Alford, University of Georgia
- "Harnessing 'The Green': *Old Gods of Appalachia* and the Power of Place," William Nash, Middlebury College
- "Laughter in the Holler: Humor, Humanity, and the Beloved Community in Appalachian Texts," Catherine Kelly Wilbur, University of Charleston

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.14. WORKSHOP: "Developing Screenplays: Making Pages and Finding Audiences"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Ian Nolte, Marshall University

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.15. PANEL: "Education and Labor: Issues of Support, Issues of Exploitation"**

**Convener:** Giorgia Cola, University of Oregon

- "Reexamining the Coal Creek War: Convict Laborers in the East Tennessee Coalfields," Zoe Brooks, Virginia Tech
- "Evaluation of Culturally Responsive Recruitment Practices in Appalachian Communities," Annie Melhorn, Maryville College, Sol Robinson, Maryville College, and Tess Simpson, Maryville College
- "Implementing Place-Based Education in a Standards-Based World: Implications for Pre-K and Kindergarten," Monica DellaMea, Marshall University

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**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.16. PANEL: "Regionally-Affiliated Creators Across Literature, Art, and Music"****Convener:** Jeremy Smith, East Tennessee State University

-  "The Musical Spirit of Her People: Intellectual and Creative Advocacy in the Work of Dr. Mildred Katharine Ellis," Jeremy Smith, East Tennessee State University
-  "Recovering John Matheus and Modernist Affrilachia," John Young, Marshall University
- "Black Diamonds: Narrating the Life and Anthracite Coal Sculpture of Charles Edgar Patience," Kenton Butcher, Bucknell University

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.17. PANEL: "Diverse Theoretical Approaches to Appalachian Literature"****Convener:** Grace Buckner, Appalachian State University/Madison County Public Library

-  "Won't You Come Too?: The Ecofeminist Promise of Wilma Dykeman's *The French Broad*," Grace Buckner, Appalachian State University/Madison County Public Library
-  "Barbara Kingsolver's Appalachia: Narratives of Disability in *Demon Copperhead*," Kara Adams, University of Michigan
- "These Bright Hills: Helen Price Stacy's Human-Interest Poetry," Gwendolyn Akers, Morehead State University
- "Appalachian Decomposition: Toward a Geopoetic Reading of Richard Hague's Verse," Scott McDaniel, Virginia Tech

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.18. ROUNDTABLE: "Appalachian Art History"****Convener:** Morgan Gilbert, Southwest Virginia Community College

- Carlee Bradbury, Radford University
- Stuart Robinson, Radford University

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.19. PANEL: "Ghosts, Folklore, and Appalachian Identity"****Convener:** Jessica Cory, *Appalachian Journal*

- "The Legend of Lady Bend: Women Ghosts, Silence, and the Persistence of Story," Wesley R. Bishop, Jacksonville State University
- "Bodies, Memory, and Mothmen: The Haunting is You," Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr., University of Kentucky

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- "Homes that Haunt: A Reading of Original Creative Work," Justin Wymer, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- "Getting Ghosted: The Imprisonment of Indigenous Peoples through Past Tense Memorializations," Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.20. PANEL: "Appalachian Undergrounds"****Convener:**

-  "Of Jíbaros and Hillbillies: Ricardo Nazario y Colón and the Power of Unseen Appalachia," Cody Mullins, Ivy Tech Community College

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.21. PERFORMANCE: "TRUTH SPEAKERS: (Despite All of the Despites), A Reading from 'Women Speak, Volume Eleven'"****Convener:** Kari Gunter-Seymour, Women of Appalachia Project

- Cat Pleska
- Bonnie Proudfoot
- E. J. Wade
- Elaine Fowler Palencia
- Laura Leigh Morris
- M. Lynne Squires
- Megan Hutchinson
- Tina Parker
- Roberta Schultz
- Monic Ductan
- Chiquita Mullins Lee

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.22. ROUNDTABLE: "Mobilizing Across Space: Building Collective Power on Appalachian Campuses"****Convener:** Sophie Slaughter, West Virginia University

- Sophie Slaughter, West Virginia University
- Leah Loveday, East Tennessee State University
- Rhea Clayton, Berea College
- Danielle Stoneberg, West Virginia University
- Charlotte Isenberg, Appalachian State University

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.23. PERFORMANCE: "In Honor of Gurney Norman: A Reading of University of Kentucky Creative Writing Students — Past and Present"****Convener:** Julia Johnson, University of Kentucky

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- "A Tribute to Gurney Norman and his Influence on of UK Creative Writing: A Reading by Current Students," Julia Johnson, University of Kentucky
- "NOWHERE BUT HERE," Leo Coffey, University of Kentucky
- "Appalachian Adolescence: A Creative Exploration of Home, Nature, and Social Progress," Eleni Karelis, University of Kentucky
- "This is Our Gospel," Ariadne Macquarie, University of Kentucky
- "Fool's Gold," Dane Ritter, University of Kentucky
- "A Reading from Original Work," Samantha Ratcliffe, University of Kentucky

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.24. PANEL: "Healing Appalachia Through Collaboration: The Power of People, Culture, and Connection"**

**Convener:** Dave Lavender, Hope in the Hills (Healing Appalachia)

- "Healing Appalachia: Bridging Music, Recovery, and Workforce Development Through Collaboration," Dave Lavender, Hope in the Hills (Healing Appalachia)
- "Collaborative Recovery Models That Strengthen Appalachia," Leah Cook, Recovery Point West Virginia
- "From Stage to Stability: How Arts Education and Industry Partnerships Are Creating Pathways to Healing in Appalachia," Penny Watkins, Marshall Artist Series
- "Transformative Work: Building Appalachia Through Collaboration, Social Enterprise, and Land Renewal," Jacob Hannah, Coalfield Development
- "Healing at Every Level: Bridging Policy, Medicine, and Community in Appalachia," Stephen Loyd, West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.25. WORKSHOP: "Appalachian Foodways - Celebrating the 2026 Appalachian Foodways Practitioners"**

**Convener:** Candace Mullins, Grow Appalachia at Berea College

- Siara Benoit, and Takia Gaylor, Kinfolk Heritage Farm, Hardy County, West Virginia

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.26. PANEL: "Traveling Through This World: Black and Multiracial Motorcycle Clubs in Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Kelli Johnson, Marshall University

- Kelli Johnson, Marshall University
- Paul L. Robertson, Marshall University

**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.27. WORKSHOP: "Designing Futures of Possibility: A Think-and-Do Workshop with the Appalachian Futures Institute"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Rob Collins, Independent

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**Friday. 4:30PM-5:45PM. Session 5.28. PERFORMANCE: "Celebrating LGBTQ+ Elders in Central Appalachia: An Outwards Archive Project"**  
**Convener: Clint Whitten, Virginia Tech**

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**Friday. 6:00PM. Appalachian Film Festival. Kickoff. Foundry Theater.**

- Film Screening
- Film Party
- Trivia Night

**Friday. 6:00PM-6:45PM. KEYNOTE RECEPTION. Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.**

*Sponsored by: Huntington Area Convention and Visitor Bureau, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and Marshall University Office of Academic Affairs*

**Friday. 6:45PM-8:15PM. KEYNOTE ADDRESS: William H. Turner, *Been to the Mountaintop!* Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.**

*Book signing of *The Harlan Renaissance: Stories of Black Life in Appalachian Coal Towns* to follow.*

*Sponsored by: Huntington Area Convention and Visitor Bureau, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and Marshall University Office of Academic Affairs*

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## **SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026**

**Saturday. 7:30AM-5:30PM. Registration Open. Shawkey Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.**

**Saturday. 8:00AM-5:30PM. Posters Open. First Floor Drinko Library.**

**Saturday. 8:00AM-5:30PM. Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction Open. Don Morris Room and John Marshall Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.**

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**Saturday. 9:00AM-12:00PM. Tour: "The Underground Railroad in the Tri-State," Meet at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of Memorial Student Center (2 of 2)**

*Sponsored by: Shawnee State University Center for Public History*

**Registration Required. Tour Limit 12. Sign Up [Here](#)**

## CONCURRENT SESSION 6

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.1. ROUNDTABLE: "Community Development Driving the Future of Black Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Adam Dickson, City of Johnson City - Langston Centre

- "Historic and Cultural Preservation," William Isom, Black in Appalachia, and Emily Hudson, Southeast KY African-American Museum and Cultural Center
- "Economic Development," Jason Tartt, Economic Development Greater East
- "Social Justice and Narrative Change," Milan Bush, Black Appalachian Coalition
- "Community History 365," Adam Dickson, City of Johnson City - Langston Centre

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.2. ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER SPONSORED SESSION. PERFORMANCE: "Poetic Connections at Radford University"**

**Convener:** April J. Asbury, Radford University and Highland Summer Conference

- "A Warm Welcome to a Community of Poets," April J. Asbury, Radford University and Highland Summer Conference
- "Reading," Rob Borman, Radford University
- "Reading," Cody Call, Radford University
- "Reading," Zoe Carter, Radford University
- "Reading," Ny'Kasia Carter-Rice, Radford University
- "Reading," Elliott Sanborn, Radford University



**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.3. ROUNDTABLE: "Queering Mayberry: A Roundtable Book Discussion"**

**Convener:** Matthew Thomas-Reid, Appalachian State University

- Matthew Thomas-Reid, Appalachian State University
- Julie Shepherd-Powell, Appalachian State University
- Cary Curlee, Appalachian State University

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**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.4. ROUNDTABLE: "Appalachian Writers: Impact on Appalachian Students"****Convener:** Kate Long, Voices of West Virginia / Marshall University Libraries

- "The Case for Connecting Students with Your State's Fine Writers," Sarah Morris, West Virginia University
- "Including Appalachian Writers in Survey Courses," Paul L. Robertson, Marshall University
- "Field-Testing Voices of West Virginia with High School Sophomores," Kayla Dyer, Huntington High School
- "Connecting Afterschool Kids with West Virginia Writers," Michael Tierney, Step by Step WV

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.5. PERFORMANCE: "Stories of Sediment and Resurrection: The State of the Appalshop Archive"****Convener:** Anne Ward, Appalachian State University

- Tom Hansell, Appalachian State University
- Chad Hunter, Appalshop
- Shane Terry, Appalshop

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.6. PANEL: "A Just or Sustainable Transition for Appalachia? Rethinking the So-Called 'Just Transition'"****Convener:** Gabe Schwartzman, University of Tennessee, and Marian Moss, University of Tennessee

- Junior Walk, Coal River Mountain Watch
- Mariah Clay, WV Rivers
- Sebrena Corinne Williamson
- Alex Cole, Beyond Petrochemicals

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.7. PANEL: "Regional Linguistics: Theory and Practice"****Convener:** Jenny Crisp, Dalton State College

-  "On the Pronouncing of Appalachia: Insights from Crowdsourcing," Charlie Farrington, Virginia Tech, Sarah Boudreau, Virginia Tech, Grace Bush, Virginia Tech, Ethan Peterson, Virginia Tech, Drake Webb, Virginia Tech, and Chuck Corra, *Appodlachia*
-  "My Home Voice: Contrastive Analysis as Undergraduate Research in Appalachia," Jenny Crisp, Dalton State College
-  "Appalachian Languages as Resistance to Standard English Hegemony," Bridget Anderson, Old Dominion University

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**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.8. PANEL: "Stories of Shiloh: Digital Histories, Community Engagement, and Sense of Place"****Convener:** Sarah Mercer Judson

- "Telling Shiloh's Stories: Community Engaged Digital History," Ellen Holmes Pearson, University of North Carolina Asheville
- "Telling Shiloh's Stories: A Community Partner's Perspective," Anita White, Independent
- "Researching Shiloh's Stories: A Student's Perspective on Creating Digital Histories," Ellie Woolard, North Carolina State University
- "Listening to Shiloh's Stories: A Student's Perspective on Oral History," Hannah McCowen, University of North Carolina Asheville

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.9. PANEL: "Domesticity and Community in Regional Contexts"****Convener:** Dan Shope, South Georgia State College

- "A Seat at the Table: An Edible Examination of the Culture Within the Appalachian Region," Morgan Robinson, Appalachian State University
- "Hocus Pocus and Practical Magic: Artful Communication at The Witches Market in the Appalachian Hub Called Hamilton, Ohio," Dan Shope, South Georgia State College
- "Families in Context: Appalachian Parenting Across Generations," Kellsie Prather, University of Georgia, Ingrida Barker, McDowell County Schools, Jamie Linscott, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Kerri Carte, West Virginia University, and Laken Campbell, University of Kentucky
- "Between the Actual and the Virtual: Ontological Objects and Regional Haecceity in Appalachia," Jie Zhang, University of Georgia

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.10. WORKSHOP: "Rural, Appalachian Youth Enrichment Experiences: The Power of Place and Community"****Convener:** Clint Whitten, Virginia Tech

- Amy Price Azano, Virginia Tech
- Deirdre Hand, Virginia Tech
- Josh Thompson, Virginia Tech
- Annie Shaba, Virginia Tech

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.11. PANEL: "Stirring the Water: Exploring the Effects of Giles County's New River Water Trail"****Convener:** Timothy Thornton, Radford University

- Jacob Shorter, Radford University

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- Gracie Howard, Radford University
- Ciana Calixto, Radford University
- Maggie Hoback, Radford University



**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.12. WORKSHOP: "ETSU Medicine Show Cantastoria"**

**Convener:** Ante Ursic, East Tennessee State University

- "ETSU Medicine Show I Cantastoria Workshop," Ante Ursic, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.13. PANEL: "Living Traditions Southeast Ohio: Anchoring Community through Rooted Traditions"**

**Convener:** Talcon Quinn, Independent

- "Branches: Gathering Support," Cristina Benedetti, Independent
- "Sapwood: Connecting it All," Talcon Quinn, Independent
- "Roots: Living Traditions," Curt Cable, Independent

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.14. PANEL: "From Surviving to Thriving: A Whole Human Approach to Workforce Development in Appalachia"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Will Warren, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR)

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.15. ROUNDTABLE: "Climate Change and Health in Appalachia: Perspectives on Emergency Response"**

**Convener:** Katie Myers, Grist/Blue Ridge Public Radio

- "Reporting on Health in Appalachian Disasters," Katie Myers, Grist/Blue Ridge Public Radio
- "Rural Emergency Response After Major Flooding," Beau Morgan, Hellbender Harm Reduction
- "Disaster Medicine & Palliative Care After Hurricane Helene," Amanda Alexander, Physician

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.16. PANEL: "Being a Liberal Artist in Appalachia: How We Followed the Path Less Traveled"**

**Convener:** Marianna Linz, Marshall University

- "Formative Community Experiences as a Bridge to Liberal Arts," Kristopher Jackson, Marshall University
- "The Role of Teachers and Schools in Shaping Attitudes Toward Liberal Arts in Appalachia," Hollie Kirk, Marshall University

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- "Can You Get a Job with That: Cultural Attitudes Toward Liberal Arts in Appalachia through Lived Experiences," Haleigh Muncy, Marshall University

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.17. PERFORMANCE: "We Are Appalachia! 2: An Anthology from Mountain State Press"**

**Convener:** Jennifer Lewis, Mountain State Press

- "The Boot that Tethers Me," Zac Thabet, Mountain State Press
- "Thorns in the Family Rose: An Uncertain Appalachian," Abby Grim, Mountain State Press
- "Follow the Creek Home," Emily Blake, Mountain State Press
- "From Marshall to Marshall: A Texas Transplant's Story," Robert Ellison, Mountain State Press
- "The Land of Magic Bars," Amy Lawson, Mountain State Press
- "A Night on the River," Courtney Danielson, Mountain State Press

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.18. PANEL: "Vernacular Narratives and Identity Construction"**

**Convener:** Nora Shalaway Carpenter, Independent

-  "Hauntings & Hollers: Folklore, Storytelling, and Collective Identity in Appalachia," Kaitlyn McCracken, Asbury University
- "Faith, Fear, and Magic: Folktales from a 19th-Century Pennsylvania Dutch Family," Sharon Hatfield, Ohio University

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.19. PANEL: "Primary Sources as a Pathway to Power: Shaping Appalachian Heritage through Critical Curatorial Practice"**

**Convener:** Emily Kader, Appalachian State University

- "Developing Rare Print and Archival Collections for the W. L. Eury Appalachian Collection," Emily Kader, Appalachian State University
- "Amplifying Oral History at Appalachian State," Mark Coltrain, Appalachian State University
- "Setting Digitization Priorities at Western Carolina University Special Collections," Kellen Carpenter, Western Carolina University

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.20. PANEL: "Skirmishes and Battles, for Identity and Place"**

**Convener:** Aron Massey, West Liberty University

- "Between Reform and Resistance: Anti-Poverty Activism and Appalachian Agency during the War on Poverty," Teresa Goforth, Michigan State University Department of History
- "The Yeoman Paradox: Society, Religion, and the Formation of Appalachian Culture," Barry Whittemore, University of North Georgia

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- "From Direct Action to Drones: Tracing the Evolution of Mountaintop Removal Resistance in West Virginia," Aron Massey, West Liberty University

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.21. PANEL: "Divided Lives Revisited: Stereotypes and the Appalachian Professional"**

**Convener:** Kristen LeFevers, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

-  "We All Know What You'd Say, You're from the Mountains": Appalachian Narratives on Accent, Stigma, and Social Injustice," Giorgia Cola, University of Oregon
- "From the Mountains to the Margins: Naming the Impact of Stereotype Threat on Appalachian Students," Bobby Starnes, Berea College
-  "Speak Like Scholars": Language Ideologies Surrounding the 1,500 Appalachian Accents Project," Kristen LeFevers, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.22. PANEL: "Education Issues for Appalachian Communities and Individuals"**

**Convener:** Amelia Wheeler, Western Carolina University

-  "Looking for the Appalachian Teacher: Reviewing the Literature," Carrie Rogers, Western Carolina University
- "In Spite of Intolerance: The Effects of City-Sanctioned Segregation and School Desegregation on Huntington, West Virginia's Black Community, 1938-1961," Jillian Kendall, West Virginia University
- "To Live Here You Have to Care: Teachers, the Gift Economy, and the Fight for Reciprocity in Post-Helene Appalachia," Amelia H. Wheeler, Western Carolina University

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.23. PANEL: "Confronting Adversity Through Art"**

**Convener:** Edwina Pendarvis, Marshall University

- "'Visionaries' and 'Piecemakers,'" Dolores Johnson, Marshall University
- "Come to Pittsburgh, There's Too Much This to Leave," Frank Lehner, Independent
- "Bringing It Home," Crystal Good, *Black by God The West Virginian*
- "Dancing in the Street," Edwina Pendarvis, Marshall University
- "Somebody," Jason Moore, Independent

 **Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.24. PERFORMANCE: "Living in the Stereotype: Stories from Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr., University of Kentucky

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- "Big Gay Hillbilly: Writing the Marginalized Appalachian Self," Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr., University of Kentucky
- "Pain & Stereotypes: Roots, Recovery, and Redemption," Mandi Sheffel, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky
- "Reflections of a Professional Appalachian," Robert Gipe, Higher Ground

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.25. PERFORMANCE: "Untelling: Sharing from the New Literary & Arts Magazine (1/3)"**

**Convener:** Melissa Jørgenrud Helton

- Neema Avashia
- Pam Campbell
- Danita Dodson
- Lie Ford
- Richard Hague
- Rachel Holbrook

**Saturday. 8:00AM-9:15AM. Session 6.26. WORKSHOP: "Appalachian Foodways - Celebrating the 2026 Appalachian Foodways Practitioners"**

**Convener:** Candace Mullins, Grow Appalachia at Berea College

- Lucas Wiggin, and Candace Wiggin, Maple Grove Farm of Afton, Tennessee, Greene County, Tennessee

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**Saturday. 9:00AM-12:00PM. Tour: "The Underground Railroad in the Tri-State," Meet at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of Memorial Student Center.**

*Sponsored by: Shawnee State University Center for Public History*

**Registration Required. Tour Limit 12. Sign Up [Here](#)**

**SATURDAY. 10:00AM-11:00AM. Morning Snack Break. Second Floor Atrium Memorial Student Center, Outside Don Morris Room.**

**SATURDAY. 10:00AM-9:00PM. Appalachian Film Festival. Huntington City Hall and Foundry Theater.**

- Films Screening Throughout the Day
- Local vendors on the First Floor of City Hall

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- Come and Go All Day, Discover New Appalachian Voices, and Support Local Artists and Businesses

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## CONCURRENT SESSION 7

### Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.1. PANEL: "Sociology of Appalachia"

**Convener:** Caitlin Trombley, Marshall University

### Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.2. PANEL: "Addressing Community Traumas in Appalachian Literature"

**Convener:** Zanice Bond, Tuskegee University

- "The Blackside of the Mountain: Power of Place(s) in David Bradley's *The Chaneyville Incident*," Forrest Yerman, Independent
- "Restorative and Social Justice in the Work of Joseph Bathanti," Donna Wojnar Dzurilla, Independent
- "Habits of Homes and Haints: Trauma and Multigenerational Communities in *Clay's Quilt* and *The Birds of Opulence*," Elijah Hook, Southern Methodist University

### Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.3. PANEL: "Iconic Structures"

**Convener:** Sydney Webster, Marshall University

-  "This is My Holler: Reclaimed Buildings and Reclaiming Culture in West Virginia," Sydney Webster, Marshall University
- "Appalachian Animatronics: Lore and Fandom at Billy Bob's Wonderland in Barboursville, WV," Lydia Warren, Fairmont State University
- "Witches' Keyholes," Molly Marody, The Ohio State University

### Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.4. WORKSHOP: "Weaving Appalachian Writers into the Classroom"

**Convener and Presenter:** Kate Long, Voices of West Virginia /Marshall Libraries

### Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.5. ROUNDTABLE: "Waking and Weaving a New Appalachia: Imagining an Interuniversity Alliance for Degrees"

**Convener:** Chris Green, Berea College

- "Empowering Students and Communities through an Appalachian Interuniversity Alliance for Degrees," Rebecca Stephens, PAGE (Partnership for Appalachian Girls' Education)

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**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.6. PANEL: "Activism Strategies: Documents and Designs"****Convener:** Jack Wright, Jenco Foundation Fund

-  "Underground Newspapers at Marshall: Appalachian Student Voices in Buffalo Chips," Annika Bruce, Marshall University
-  "Appalachian Youth Imagine the World Otherwise: A Youth Participatory Action Research Project," Alayna Schmidt, Clemson University
- "The Burden of Knowing: Creative Nonfiction Film & Resistance in Appalachia," Shara Lange, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.7. PANEL: "Viewing Advocacy Through a Lens"****Convener:** Caleb Hignite, Appalachian Reclamation Alliance

- Caleb Hignite, Appalachian Reclamation Alliance
- Ashlynd Scavotto, Appalachian Reclamation Alliance

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.8. PANEL: "Quilting Theory, Quilting Praxis"****Convener:** Lora Smith, Queens University of Charlotte

- "Untitled Appalachian Quilt Comic Book," Luke Griffin, Independent
- "Making Together After Helene: Quilting for Community Recovery in Post-Hurricane Appalachia," F. Andrés Téllez, North Carolina State University, Isabel Arteaga-Arredondo, Universidad de los Andes (Bogota, Colombia), and Nicole Villarreal, Appalachian State University
- "The Appalachian Tradition of Quilting and Sewing and the Economics of Saving," Sarah Trautwein, Marshall University

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.9. PANEL: "A Minor in Rural Appalachian Health Disparities – Preparing Undergraduates to Address Health Inequities through Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Education"****Convener:** Kelly Collins, West Virginia University

- Kelly Collins, West Virginia University
- Beth Nardella, West Virginia University
- Audra Hamrick, West Virginia University

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.10. PANEL: "Community Perseverance in Appalachia"****Convener:** Samuel McQuillen, University of Oxford

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- "Rethinking and Rebuilding Community Ties as a Strategy for Resilience and Transition in the Appalachian Region," Daniela Ortega, West Virginia University
- "'Watch Us Take Care': Public Libraries as Part of Disaster Recovery," Grace Buckner, Appalachian State University/Madison County Public Library
- "'You May Go Somewhere Else, but You Go Home Here': Belonging and its Barriers in the Appalachian Mountains," Samuel McQuillen, University of Oxford

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.11. PERFORMANCE: "ETSU Medicine Show II: Performance and Storytelling"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Lee Bidgood, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.12. PANEL: "Place-Based Histories"**

**Convener:** Jodie Childers, University of Virginia

- "The Drowning of Shaw," Anthony Farris, Shepherd University
- "Colonial as Chimera: Progress & Persecution at Woodbury, Tennessee's Colonial Shirt Factory," KIMBERLY GUNTER, Fairfield University
- "'The Project Isn't Over Yet': Arthurdale and the Resilience of Rural Communities," Mary Linscheid, Arthurdale Heritage, and Elizabeth Satterfield, Arthurdale Heritage

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.13. PANEL: "Appalachian Women Writers"**

**Convener:** Dylan Haynes, Marshall University

-  "Mother, Once Removed: The Role of Absent Mothers in Lee Smith's Oral History," Megan Krupa, East Tennessee State University
- "Publish, Not Perish: Harriette Arnow's War with the Publishing Industry," Matthew D Sutton, Morehead State University
- "Re-Empowerment through Re-Examination: Mary Noailles Murfree's *The Erskine Honeymoon* and Moving Beyond Appalachia," Eric M. Dillon, Marshall University

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.14. PANEL: "Work of Our Hands, Work of Our Pens"**

**Convener:** Cat Pleska, Marshall University

- "900 Degrees Celsius: The Poetry in the Language of the Appalachian Working Class," Cat Pleska, Marshall University
- "Worlds Between," Karen Salyer McElmurray, Spalding University Low Residency
- "Risking the Self: A Reading of Creative Work," Justin Wymer, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- "'From Around Here?'" Sarah Einstein, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

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**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.15. PANEL: "Harm Reduction + Pregnancy: Access to Care in Southern Appalachia"****Convener:** Lesly-Marie Buer, Hellbender Harm Reduction

- "Introduction to Harm Reduction + Pregnancy," Lesly-Marie Buer, Hellbender Harm Reduction
- "Harm Reduction + Pregnancy in Western North Carolina," Bayla Ostrach, Fruit of Labor Action Research & Technical Assistance, LLC
- "Suboxone/Subutex at Southern Appalachian Pharmacies: An Audit Study," Caroline Znachko, University of Tennessee
- "Suboxone/Subutex at Southern Appalachian Pharmacies: An Audit Study," Callie Tucker, University of Tennessee
- "Suboxone/Subutex at Southern Appalachian Pharmacies: An Audit Study," Haley Harrold, University of Tennessee
- "Suboxone/Subutex at Southern Appalachian Pharmacies: An Audit Study," Kirby Renalds, University of Tennessee

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.16. PANEL: "Black Appalachia and Historical Memory"****Convener:** Ellen Holmes Pearson, University of North Carolina Asheville

-  "Visible Man: Phil Carter Confronts the Disappearing of History," John Hennen, Morehead State University Emeritus
-  "Monuments in Black Appalachia: Chapter Two – Community Involvement and Mural Design," Gregory Galford, Virginia Tech, and Vonnia Harris Davis, Affrolachia.org
-  "Troubled Waters: Proslavery Thought and Black Space Making at White Sulphur Springs," Seth Garcia, University of Kentucky

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.17. PANEL: "Keeping Stories Safe: Holding Space for Appalachian Voices in the Efficiency Era"****Convener:** Natalie Sypolt, Pierpont Community and Technical College

- Natalie Sypolt, Pierpont Community and Technical College
- Kari Gunter-Seymour, Women of Appalachia Project
- Laura Morris, Furman University
- Amy LeAnn Richardson, Independent
- Neema Avashia, Independent

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**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.18. PERFORMANCE: "Untelling: Sharing from the New Literary & Arts Magazine (2/3)"****Convener:** Melissa Jørgenrud Helton

- Tyler Barrett
- Rick Childers,
- Hilda Downer
- Morgan Gilbert
- Marc Harshman
- Silas House

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.19. PANEL: "Our Land, Our Home: Engagement and Strategy for Legislative Action in Appalachia"****Convener:** Parson Brown, The Alliance for Appalachia

- "Guiding the Alliance: Coordination and Logistics for Collective Impact," Lyndsay Tarus Deitrick, The Alliance for Appalachia
- "Outreach, Development, and the 'Our Land, Our Home' Initiative," Taysha DeVaughn, The Alliance for Appalachia
- "Storytelling, Strategy, and the Democratic Process," Parson Brown, The Alliance for Appalachia
- "Building a Culture of Inclusion and Care in Advocacy," Darryl "Dee" Parker, The Alliance for Appalachia
- "Building Bonds: Connection, Trust, and Longevity in Coalition Work," Laura Miller, The Alliance for Appalachia

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.20. WORKSHOP: "Building Water Resilience Through Action: A Participatory Tabletop Exercise (TTX) for Flooding Events"****Convener:** Deborah Thompson, LiKEN Knowledge

- Deborah Thompson, LiKEN Knowledge,
- Madison Mooney, LiKEN Knowledge
- Michelle Carroll-Cole, LiKEN Knowledge

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.21. WORKSHOP: "West Virginia Creative Network: Creating Effective Artist Profiles"****Convener:** Cassidy Dickens, West Virginia Creative Network

- Cassidy Dickens, West Virginia Creative Network
- Mary Roy, West Virginia Creative Network

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**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.22. PANEL: "Food Practicalities in the Appalachian Region"****Convener:** Beth Vanlandingham, Carson-Newman University

- "The Appalachian Food Justice Institute: Raising up Human Resources for Food System Change," Dylan Upperman, West Virginia University
- "Appalachian Women Foodways Practitioners: Reclaiming Cultural Identity, Power and Pride," Nina Nicholson, Appalachian State University
- "A Local Food Impact Report for Northeast Tennessee," Emily Bidgood, Appalachian RC&D Council

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.23. PANEL: "Progressive Social Histories"****Convener:** Anthony Farris, Shepherd University

-  "The Harlan Project: Contraception Experimentation in Kentucky's Coal Country," Hallie Knipp, Clemson University
- "Progressivism in the Coal Fields: How Twentieth Century Progressivism Led to the West Virginia Mine Wars," Laynie Miller, West Virginia University
- "The Turning of the Auger: Moving from Death Prevention to Health Promotion in Coal Mining," Kristen Montgomery, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 9:30AM-10:45AM. Session 7.24. PANEL: "Highlights from the Forthcoming JAS Themed Issue—Women, Gender, and Feminism in Appalachia: Intersecting and Emerging Scholarship"****Convener:** Krystal Carter, Appalachian State University

- "Women, Gender, and Feminism in Appalachia: Intersecting and Emerging Scholarship," Rachel Terman, Ohio University, and Krystal Carter, Appalachian State University
- "Butched Embodiment: Gender Identity, Working the Land, and Metronormative Politics," Hannah Krull, University of Buffalo
- "Holla!: Black Girlhood Pedagogies in an Abolitionist Appalachian Classroom," LeAnna Luney, Berea College
- "Holla!: Black Girlhood Pedagogies in an Abolitionist Appalachian Classroom," Gale Greenlee, Berea College
- "A 'Slice of Heaven': The Cosplaying of Rural Life with #Homestead Tradwives in Appalachia," Emily Cobb, Clemson University

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**SATURDAY. 10:00AM-11:00AM. Morning Snack Break. Second Floor Atrium Memorial Student Center, Outside Don Morris Room.**

## CONCURRENT SESSION 8

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.1. PANEL: "Regionally-Associated Issues on Education: Perseverance and Prospects"**

**Convener:** Adam Jordan, College of Charleston

-  "The Role of Public Educators in Climate Related Disaster Resilience: A Literature Review," Adam Jordan, College of Charleston, and Kasey Jordan, College of Charleston
-  "Appalachian Cultural Perspectives on Education," Jacob Shull, Marshall University, and Monica DellaMea, Marshall University
-  "Using Design- and Place-Based Learning to Support Environmental Science Education in Appalachian Communities," Jillian Swaim, North Carolina State University, and F. Andrés Téllez, North Carolina State University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.2. ROUNDTABLE: "Jimmy Morrow's Legacy: Art, Religion, and Appalachian Storytelling"**

**Convener:** Savannah Bennett, East Tennessee State University

- "Testimony in Paint: Jimmy Morrow, Religious Freedom, and Appalachian Faith," Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand, Middle Tennessee State University
- "A Long Line of Prophets," Rebecca Proffitt, Reece Museum, East Tennessee State University
- "Morrow," Scott Honeycutt, East Tennessee State University
- "Painting the Liminal," Rebecca Adkins Fletcher, East Tennessee State University
- "On Morrow and Culture: A Study Prompted by an Untitled Snail Divination Painting," Thomas Alan Holmes, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.3. ROUNDTABLE: "Under the Influence of Abby: Queer and Trans Writers on Safety in Appalachian Publishing"**

**Convener:** Doc McLemore, Independent

- Stacy Jane Grover, Independent
- Doug Van Gundy, West Virginia Wesleyan College Low-Residency MFA Creative Writing

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- Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr., Independent
- Jonathan Corcoran, Independent
- Doc McLemore, Independent

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.4. PANEL: "WMMT's *Calls from Home* Retrospective"**

**Convener:** Jared Hamilton, M.A.R.S. Collective

- "*Calls from Home* – Participant," Michelle Griffin, *Calls from Home* Participant
- "Before *Calls from Home*," Virgil Pinkerton, Pre-*Calls from Home* WMMT DJ
- "Before *Calls from Home*," Ronald Brunty, Pre-*Calls from Home* WMMT DJ
- "*Calls from Home* - 2000s," Amelia Kirby, Former *Calls from Home* DJ
- "*Calls from Home* 2010s," Sylvia Ryerson, Former *Calls from Home* DJ
- "*Calls from Home* Today," Beckie Rose-Bowan, Current *Calls from Home* DJ

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.5. PANEL: "Writing as Gathering: Care, Community, and Collective Witness"**

**Convener:** Samantha Ratcliffe, University of Kentucky

- "Hill Writers Collective Reading," Samantha Ratcliffe, University of Kentucky
- "Kari Gunter-Seymour Reads from *Dirt Songs*," Kari Gunter-Seymour, Independent
- "Jim Minick Reads from *The Intimacy of Spoons*," Jim Minick, Independent
- "Matthew Sidney Parsons Reads from *Holy Land*™," Mathew Sidney Parsons, Independent

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.6. PERFORMANCE: "A Reading from Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel Volume 28: Appalachian Mountain"**

**Convener:** Sherry Cook Stanforth

- Jim Minick, Independent
- Scott Hanna, West Liberty University
- Roberta Schultz, Southern Appalachian Writers Cooperative
- Cat Pleska, Mountain State Press
- Siegrid Tuttle, Independent
- Pam Campbell, Independent

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.7. PANEL: "Public History in Smyth County, VA"**

**Convener:** Matt Prater, A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

- Matt Prater, A. Linwood Holton Governor's School
- Mark Archibald, The Settler's Museum of Southwest Virginia
- Blaine Schubert, Don Sundquist Center of Excellence in Paleontology at East Tennessee State University

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- Tracy Prater, Friends of the Museum of the Middle Appalachians
- Ryan Comer, Appalachian School of Law and The Saltville Foundation

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.8. ROUNDTABLE: "Rooted and Rising: Belonging and Identity for Gen Z Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Jessie Baty McMillan

- Isabella Workman, Hollins University
- Zuri Dooley, Hollins University
- Skye Claiborne, Hollins University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.9. WORKSHOP: "Teaching Demon: Using Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead* in Literary Studies"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Khristeena Lute, SUNY Adirondack

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.10. ROUNDTABLE: "Remembering Gurney Norman: An Open Story Circle"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Paulette Hansel, Southern Appalachian Writers Cooperative

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.11. ROUNDTABLE: "West Virginia People's Flood Relief Fund: Organizing in the Wake of FEMA Budget Cuts & Failing Infrastructure"**

**Convener:** Becks Lipshultz, Independent

- Becks Lipshultz, Independent
- Gray Buchanan, Independent
- Griffin McMorrow, 100 Days in Appalachia

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.12. PERFORMANCE: "Care and Community: 2025 Appalshop Summer Documentary Institute Film Screening"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Garrett Blaize, Appalshop

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.13. WORKSHOP: "Once Upon a Time in Abolitionist Appalachia: Using Research and Storytelling to Fight for a Future Free of Police and Prisons"**

**Convener:** angie luvara, Frostburg State University

- Emilia Germain, Frostburg State University
- Beth Howard, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)
- angie luvara, Frostburg State University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.14. PANEL: "Black Appalachian Healthcare: Research and Assessments"**

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**Convener:** Kenton Butcher, Bucknell University

- "Nourishing a Region: The Untold Legacy of Black Appalachian Wet Nurses in American Cultural and Medical History," E. J. Wade, Independent
- "Intersectional Healthcare Disparities: Racial, Gender, and Regional Struggles for Black Appalachian Women," Maria Morgan, Marshall University
- "Working the Roots of the Soul: A Qualitative Analysis of Bereavement in the Appalachian Mountain Focusing on Afrilachians," Sol Robinson, Maryville College, Annie Melhorn, Maryville College, and Tess Simpson, Maryville College

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.15. PANEL: "Carbon Offsets in Coal Country: A Masterclass of Fraud"**

**Convener:** Marian Moss, Coal River Mountain Watch & University of Tennessee

- Junior Walk, Coal River Mountain Watch
- Marian Moss, Coal River Mountain Watch & University of Tennessee

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.16. PANEL: "Life Commemorations, Individual and Collective"**

**Convener:** Joshua-Ray Jenkins, East Tennessee State University

- "Dying, Death, and Funeral Traditions in Appalachia," Adeline Rosenberger, University of North Georgia
- "'Always Remember' and 'Never Forget': Appalachian Coal Mining Disaster Memorials and the Language of 9/11 Remembrance," Jane Harris, Independent
- "Ballads, Tricksters, and Vernacular Justice: Remembering Sheriff Joe Dawson and "Sandy John" in East Tennessee," Joshua-Ray Jenkins, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.17. PANEL: "Ecological (Re)Considerations"**

**Convener:** Joey Aloi, Future Generations University

-  "Riparian Buffers as an Example of Appalachian Agrarianism," Joey Aloi, Future Generations University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.18. WORKSHOP: "Place as Case: Establishing Environmental Empathy through Nature Journaling in Appalachian Education"**

**Convener:** Jessica Osborne, Georgia Highlands College

- "Establishing Place as Case: Cultivating Empathy and Environmental Awareness in STEM Classrooms with Nature Journaling," Jessica Osborne, Georgia Highlands College, and Brandy Rogers, Georgia Highlands College

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**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.19. ROUNDTABLE: "Outracing Erasure: Challenges and Triumphs in Archival Work within Afro-Appalachia and Marginalized Appalachian Communities"**

**Convener:** Clory Jackson, The Brownsville Project

- Clory Jackson, The Brownsville Project
- K. Melchor Quick Hall, Solidarity Arts & Education Decolonial initiatives (SAEDi) Collective

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.20. WORKSHOP: "Nurse Narratives: Storytelling for Healing and Reflection in Appalachian Healthcare"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Karen Carver, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.21. PANEL: "Life on the Line: Resistance and Repression along the Mountain Valley Pipeline"**

**Convener:** Jacob Hileman, West Virginia University

- "Place and Protest: How the 'Stop MVP' Movement Navigated Uneven State Repression Over Space and Time," Cameron Baller, Virginia Tech
- "Bringing Coal to the Fore: Talking Coal, Understanding Risk along the Mountain Valley Pipeline," Maggie Davis, University of Southern California
- "Visions of the Future Empower Resistance to Fossil Fuel Infrastructure: Accounts from Communities Fighting for Justice along the Mountain Valley Pipeline," Alaina Kinol, Northeastern University
- "Appalachian Environmental Justice, Resistance, and the More-Than-Human Community," Lucy Thompson, Pennsylvania State University (PSU)

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.22. PERFORMANCE: "Hollers and Hoods: Girls Like Us- An Original Page-to-Stage Performance"**

**Convener:** Andrea Fekete, Independent

- Andrea Fekete, Independent
- Tuesday Taylor, Independent

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.23. PANEL: "Representation and Connection in Appalachian Literature"**

**Convener:** Michael Martin, Nicholls State University

- "'Puppet, Pawn, Plaything': Appalachian Masculinity in *Sunrise on the Reaping*," Cassandra Whisenant, West Virginia University, and Clara Monson, West Virginia University
- "'Us Poor Folk Dabble Here and There:' Appalachia and Witchcraft in *The Once and Future Witches* and *Verity Vox*," Hilary Brewster, Marshall University

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- "Recording Northern Appalachia: Biospheric Relations, Deep Ecology, and Susan Fenimore Cooper's *Rural Hours*," Michael Martin, Nicholls State University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.24. PANEL: "Appalachian Environments: The Natural and the Constructed"**

**Convener:** Shannon Bell, Virginia Tech

- "The Forest Botanicals Region Living Monument: Transforming Perceptions of the Appalachian 'Coalfields,'" Shannon Bell, Virginia Tech, and Zoe Brooks, Virginia Tech
- "Teaching Engineering History in Appalachia," Mo WenJuan, West Virginia University and Susie Huggins, West Virginia University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.25. PANEL: "Ghost Stories and the Macabre on Appalachian College Campuses"**

**Convener:** Carrie Rogers, Western Carolina University

- "The Murder in Moore: The Story of a Haunted Building at an Appalachian University," Carrie Rogers, Western Carolina University, and Karissa Finely, Western Carolina University
- "In the Shadows of The Ridges: Hauntings, Social Justice, and the Importance of Storytelling," Amy French, Bowling Green State University
- "Kentucky Campus Ghost Stories: Lessons of Belonging and Place," James W. Thomas, Butler University

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.26. PANEL: "Battling Systems of Oppression"**

**Convener:** Meghan Moore-Hubbard, Kennesaw State University

- "The Light at the End of the Tunnel: New Archival Discoveries on the Convict Labor Which Built the Western North Carolina Railroad," Ashley McGhee Whittle, UNC Asheville Ramsey Library Special Collections
- "A Country that Bombs Its Own People: The U.S. in West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and Philadelphia," Meghan Moore-Hubbard, Kennesaw State University
- "'My Ignorance was a Privilege': Illuminating African American Civil War Histories through Critical Archive Pedagogy in Franklin County, Virginia," Sarah Plummer, Virginia Tech

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.27. ROUNDTABLE: "Appalachian Youth Voices"**

**Convener:** Michael Tierney, Step by Step

- "Enabling Youth Voice," Michael Tierney, Step by Step
- "Engaging Youth Voice in Urban Communities," Michael Farmer, Step by Step

**Saturday. 11:00AM-12:15PM. Session 8.28. PANEL: "East Tennessee State University Graduate Research"**

**Convener:** Ron Roach, East Tennessee State University

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- "Between Two Worlds: Navigating Veteran and Civilian Cultures," Jeremy Dubhros, East Tennessee State University
- "Reframing Decline: Cultural Adaptation and Community Identity in Telford, Tennessee," Jeff Banks, East Tennessee State University
- "Growing Roots: Heritage Skill Education and Youth Development in Johnson County, Tennessee," Ophelia Thornton, East Tennessee State University
- "Community, Conversation, and Care: Black Barbershops as Informal Mental Health Networks," Craig Charles, East Tennessee State University

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**Saturday. 12:00PM. Silent Auction Closes.**

**Saturday. 12:00PM-5:30PM. Silent Auction Items Pick Up, John Marshall Dining Room, Memorial Student Center.**

**Saturday. 12:15PM-1:30PM. Camp Happy Appalachia Luncheon. First Floor East Hall.**  
*Sponsored by: University of Kentucky Appalachian Center and Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest*

**Saturday. 12:15PM-1:30PM. Lunch on Your Own.**

**Saturday. 1:00PM-2:15PM. PLENARY 2: "Soulful and Gothic: Appalachian Musical Traditions Returned, Reclaimed, and Reimagined," A Conversation with Aristotle Jones and Clover-Lynn, Moderated by Paul L. Robertson.**

**Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation, Auditorium 116.**

Join us for an extended conversation with contemporary regional musicians **Clover-Lynn** ("hillbillygothic"/*Clover-Lynn and the Hellfires*) and **Aristotle Jones**, for a discussion of musical and representational intersections in Appalachia. Topics will include the relationship of "traditional" Appalachian music forms to both pop cultural and subcultural genres (like Soul, Go-Go, Gothic, and Punk-Alternative), with personal reflections on how these forms are (or can be) appreciated both within and outside of Appalachian regional spaces.

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## CONCURRENT SESSION 9

### Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.1. PANEL: "Trans Appalachian Writers in Conversation"

**Convener:** Rae Garringer, Independent

- Rae Garringer, Independent
- Stacy Jane Grover, Independent
- Dade Lemanski, Independent
- Carter Sickels, North Carolina State University

### Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.2. PERFORMANCE: "Appalachia and Beyond"

**Convener:** Karen Salyer McElmurray, Independent

- "Axis Mundi," Karen Salyer McElmurray, Independent
- "Place and Displacement: Annie Woodford Reads New Work," Annie Woodford, Wilkes Community College
- "Lost Places Here and Everywhere," Cathryn Hankla, Professor Emerita Hollins University
- "Shoals, Eddies, and Falls on Shaver's Fork: An Appalachian Ecology of Friendship," Gordon Johnston, Mercer University

### Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.3. WORKSHOP: "Communicating Ecological Research to the Public: Teaching through the Lens of the Mountain Valley Pipeline"

**Convener:** Jamie Lau, Radford University

- Jamie Lau, Radford University
- Katelyn Meyer, Radford University
- Falon Westbrook, Radford University
- Cara Rossmeisl, Radford University
- Atlas Davies, Radford University
- Timothy Thornton, Radford University

### Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.4. ROUNDTABLE: "Women Miners as Organizers in Appalachia"

**Convener:** Jessie Wilkerson, University of Mississippi

- Kipp Dawson, Independent
- Libby Lindsay, Independent
- Marat Moore, Independent

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**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.5. PANEL: "Creative Pedagogical Praxis in Appalachia"****Convener:** J. Michael King, University of Pikeville

- "The Power of Storytelling: Transforming the Classroom Experience," J. Michael King, University of Pikeville
- "Rural Teachers and Learners Engaging in Place-Based Pedagogy: A Central Appalachian Summer Enrichment Experience," Amy Azano, Virginia Tech, and Annie Shaba, Virginia Tech
- "The Ground We Share: Community Voices and Multi-Modal Work in Appalachia," Amanda Biviano, Radford University, and Dan Woods, Radford University

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.6. ROUNDTABLE: "A Museum as Community: Using the Past to Build Connections"****Convener:** Mackenzie New-Walker, West Virginia Mine Wars Museum

- "Memory and Material Culture in the West Virginia Coalfields," Ethan Karnes, George Washington University, and Faith Leone, University of Michigan
- "Artifacts, Archives, and Monuments," Shaun Slifer, West Virginia Mine Wars Museum
- "Archaeology and Community," Kenny King, West Virginia Mine Wars Museum

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.7. ROUNDTABLE: "Power of a Place in Composition Pedagogy: Place-Based and Alternative Pedagogies in Composition Courses"****Convener:** Sarah Morris, West Virginia University

- "Writing to Know Place: Appalachian Composition Pedagogies," Morgan DePue, Appalachian State University, Sarah Morris, West Virginia University, and Michael Vozniak, Glenville State University

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.8. PERFORMANCE: "A Home in the Dark: Appalachia, Art, and Necessity of Meaning"****Convener and Presenter:** Kristin Steele, Marshall University**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.9. ROUNDTABLE: "Power of Place, Power of First Peoples: Eastern Siouan Peoples and the Shaping of Appalachia"****Convener:** Sam Cook, Virginia Tech

- "Eastern Siouan Migrations, Diasporas, Place-Making, and Resilience: A Brief Overview," Sam Cook, Virginia Tech
- "Indigenous People of Virginia's Interior: The Matrilineal Landscape," Victoria Persinger Ferguson, Monacan Nation/Virginia Tech
- "Listing Hits with the Hit Lists: The Deep Impact of Virginia's Race Integrity Act of 1924 on the Monacan People," Edward Anthony Polanco, Virginia Tech

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- "'Issues' of Virginia: Trauma and the Race Integrity Act, 100 Years Later," Alicia Aldaz, Monacan Nation/Virginia Tech

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.10. PANEL: "Appalachia in Gaming"****Convener:** J.M.L. Whittington, University of Central Florida

-  "Wild, Wonderful, Weird West Virginia: Paranormal Appalachia in Games," J. M. L. Whittington, University of Central Florida
- "Serious Play: Exploring the Potential of Gaming in a Changing Political and Digital Landscapes," Rowen Lloyd, Shawnee State University
-  "The People, the Place, the Pine Guard: Community and Representation in the Adventure Zone: Amnesty," Kallel Peterson, Marshall University

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.11. PANEL: "Appalachian Health Disparities: New Evidence, Emerging Trends and Solutions"****Convener:** Robert C. Miller, Mayo Clinic/Indiana University School of Medicine

- "Appalachian Health Disparities: New Evidence, Emerging Trends and Solutions," Robert C. Miller, Mayo Clinic/Indiana University School of Medicine
- "Rising Rates of Endometrial Cancer and Obesity in Eastern Kentucky and Their Relation to Appalachian Health Disparities," Tessa Wrightson, Marian University College of Medicine
- "Colorectal Cancer Disparities in Appalachian Kentucky," Lindsay A. O'Shaughnessy, Indiana University School of Medicine

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.12. PANEL: "Community Calls: An Interdisciplinary Approach to *Demon Copperhead*"****Convener:** Megan Krupa, East Tennessee State University

- "From Mother(ed) to Mother(ing): Maternal Absence and Filial Outcomes in *Demon Copperhead*," Megan Krupa, East Tennessee State University
- "Gender Definition in Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*," Thomas Alan Holmes, East Tennessee State University
- "Let the Child Speak: Trauma, Voice, and Resilience in Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*," Phyliss Thompson, East Tennessee State University
- "*Demon Copperhead* as Seen through the Lens of an Appalachian Addictionologist," Joyce Troxler, East Tennessee State University

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**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.13. PERFORMANCE: "Living Here: Alumni of Booker T. Washington School Exhibit Featuring 16 Alumni from the Black Grade School in Washington County TN, 1940-1964"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Skye McFarland, McKinney Center

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.14. ROUNDTABLE: "A Place for Us to Gather: Challenging and Sustaining Community Literacies in Times Such as These"**

**Convener:** Brittany Beeker, Clemson University

- Brittany Beeker, Clemson University
- Emily Cobb, Clemson University

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.15. ROUNDTABLE: "Encounters with Gurney Norman's Work – What Can You Add to the Big Picture? Who Else Has Heard Your Gurney Norman Stories?"**

**Convener:** Robert Gipe

- Jesse Montgomery, Berea College
- Joshua Brooks, Berea College
- Lainey Vazquez, Berea College
- Jordan Daniel, Berea College
- Elias Birchett, Berea College
- Frank X Walker, University of Kentucky

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.16. PANEL: "The West Virginia Creative Network: Building WV's Arts Entrepreneurship Infrastructure"**

**Convener:** Renee Margocee, West Virginia Creative Network

- "West Virginia Creative Network Introduction and Brief History," Renee Margocee, West Virginia Creative Network
- "West Virginia Creative Network Arts Entrepreneurship Infrastructure Build High-Level Overview," Domenica Queen, West Virginia Creative Network
- "West Virginia Creative Network Membership Program Development and Membership Cultivation," Cassidy Dickens, West Virginia Creative Network
- "Collaborating to Build a Statewide Arts Entrepreneurship Virtual Platform," Joey DiGangi III, WD Strategies

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.17. PANEL: "Look Down, Listen Up, Gather Round: 35 Years of Earth Literacy in Southern Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Beth Vanlandingham, Carson-Newman University

- "Earth Literacy for an Era of Crisis, Anxiety and Opportunity," Mitzi Wood-Von Mizener, Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center

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- "What in the World Are You Doing Over There? A History of Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center," Beth Vanlandingham, Carson-Newman University
- "Film: Walking the Narrow Ridge: The Path to Sustainability," Bill Nickle, Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.18. WORKSHOP: "Rooted in Resilience: Bringing the Community Resiliency Model to Appalachian Schools and Communities"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Jon Dance, Virginia Tech

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.19. WORKSHOP: "That Voice You Hear Is Appalachia Wanting to Speak: A Prompt-Shop"**

**Convener:** Frank Lehner, Naridus, LLC, Bottom Dog Press

- Nancy Koerbel, University of Pittsburgh
- Frank Lehner, Naridus, LLC, Bottom Dog Press



**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.20. PANEL: "Reading Appalachian Literature as Social Commentary: Coal Wars, Metaphorical Snakes, McDonald's Biscuits, and Trans Archives"**

**Convener:** Atticus Mason, University of North Carolina Asheville

- "What a Weight to Carry: Physical, Emotional, and Social Dirtiness in Kettle Bottom," Clare Pierce, University of North Carolina Asheville
- "The Snake is Already Inside the Box: Sin, Snakes, and Systemic Racism in *Those We Thought We Knew*," Charli French, University of North Carolina Asheville
- "Time to Make the Biscuits: Food as Resilience in *Gay Poems for Red States and Tore All to Pieces*," Erica Abrams Locklear, University of North Carolina Asheville
- "Trans-ing the Appalachian Archive: Exploring Ancestral Identity in *Tar Hollow Trans*," Atticus Mason, University of North Carolina Asheville

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.21. PANEL: "Pride in the Mountains: Building LGBTQ+ Belonging and Visibility in Central Appalachia"**

**Convener:** Cara Ellis, Pikeville Pride

- Cara Ellis, Pikeville Pride / Morehead State University
- Sarah Ratliff, Pikeville Pride / University of Pikeville
- Joshua Thacker, Pikeville Pride / Big Sandy Community and Technical College
- MaryAnn Fletcher, Pikeville Pride

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.22. PERFORMANCE: "Field Notes from the Mountains: Photographing Pop-Up Medicine in Appalachia"**

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**Convener:** Lisa Di Bartolomeo, Sierra Club

- "Field Notes from the Mountains: Photographing Pop-Up Medicine in Appalachia," Judy Jenks, The Jenks Initiative, LLC
- "Quilting for Community: Finding Joy in Fighting Climate Change through Art," Lisa Di Bartolomeo, Sierra Club, and Carolyn Helenski, Independent
- "'Don't Quote Me!' and Other Family Directives," MJ Sharp, Independent

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.23. PANEL: "Conflict, Resistance, and Reimagining in Regional Education"**

**Convener:** Paula Rymer, Marshall University

-  "The Life Story of Louise Taylor Told through Textiles: Showcasing the Style Evolution of a Johnson City Socialite with a Heart for Service," Grace Jonas, East Tennessee State University
-  "The Battle for the Classroom: Culture, Class, and Race in the Kanawha County Textbook War," Ethan Tackett, Ohio University
- "Going to the Mountains: Three Women who Shaped Regional Reform at Berea College," Emma Patterson, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

 **Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.24. WORKSHOP: "Making Logic Models Work for Appalachia: A Hands-On Workshop for Nonprofit Practitioners"**

**Convener:** Jason Immekus, University of Louisville

- "Building Better Programs: Developing and Using Logic Models to Strengthen Nonprofit Impact in Appalachian Communities," Jason Immekus, University of Louisville

**Saturday. 2:30PM-3:45PM. Session 9.25. PERFORMANCE: "Untelling: Sharing from the New Literary & Arts Magazine (3/3)"**

**Convener:** Melissa Jørgenrud Helton

- Jennifer Browne
- Jody DiPerna
- James Engelhardt
- Kari Gunter-Seymour
- Kelsey Helton
- Megan Hutchinson

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**Saturday. 3:30PM-4:30PM. Afternoon Snack Break. Second Floor Atrium Memorial Student Center, Outside Don Morris Room.**

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## **CONCURRENT SESSION 10**

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.1. PANEL: "Spiritual and Communal Activism"**

**Convener:** Julius Malin, University of Basel

- "Devotional Resistance: Religious Rituals and Ecological Grief in the Wake of the Mountain Valley Pipeline," Julius Malin, University of Basel
- "Fred Rogers: Appalachian Preacher," Tobias Harkleroad, Virginia Theological Seminary
- "Dorothy Day in West Virginia: The Catholic Worker Farm and the Experiment in Sustainable Community," Billy Gardner, Marshall University

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM Session 10.2. ROUNDTABLE: "Seeing and Being Seen: Collaborative Community-Nonprofit-Scholar Water Documentation as Environmental Work in West Virginia"**

**Convener:** Maggie Davis, University of Southern California

- "MVP Audit: Review and Evaluation of Third Party Inspection Reports of Stream and Wetland Crossings," Mariah Clay, West Virginia Rivers Coalition
- "Send in that Photo: Documentation and Accountability along the Mountain Valley Pipeline Route," Maury Johnson, Independent
- "Producing Knowledge Together: Researching Pipeline Governance through Collaborative Community-Scholar Environmental Monitoring," Maggie Davis, University of Southern California

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.3. WORKSHOP: "Telling the Story of Appalachian Waters through Images and Text: Photovoice as a Tool for Community Awareness and Advocacy"**

**Convener:** Mary Brydon-Miller, University of Louisville

- Mary Brydon-Miller, University of Louisville
- Jason Immekus, University of Louisville
- Nicolas Zegre, West Virginia University
- Sheri McGuffin, Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation
- James Stapleton, Cowan Community Action Group

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**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.4. PANEL: "Growing Access: Integrating Land, Policy, and Conservation in Appalachian Foodways"**

**Convener:** Ashley Cavender, Appalachian RC&D Council

- Ashley Cavender, Appalachian RC&D Council
- Bethany Gray, Appalachian RC&D Council
- Emily Bidgood, Appalachian RC&D Council

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.5. WORKSHOP: "Beyond the Pyramid: Weaving Autoethnographic Narratives of Appalachia"**

**Convener and Presenter:** Leslie Cook, Appalachian State University

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.6. PANEL: "Glitter in Them/Their Hills:**

**Appalachian Drag Performance, Power, and Publics"**

**Convener:** Jacob Kopcienski, Appalachian State University

- "Drag Soundscapes: Regional Aesthetics, Local Publics, and Municipal Power," Jacob Kopcienski, Appalachian State University
- "Every Creek and Holler," Beulah Land, Blue Ridge Pride, Sylva Pride, Sylva Belles Drag
- "Queens, Kings, and Things of the Cloth: Drag and Spiritual Expression," Beck Banks, Warren Wilson College

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.7. PANEL: "Raising Yourself in Appalachia: Resilience in the Face of a Parentless Childhood"**

**Convener:** Kathy Paxton, Marshall University

- "Raising Yourself in Appalachia: Why is this Important?," Kathy Paxton, Marshall University
- "Raising Yourself in Appalachia: How Did We Get Here?," Maddisen Ellisen, Harvard Medical School
- "Raising Yourself in Appalachia: Who?," Corynn Hawkins, Marshall University

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.8. ROUNDTABLE: "Monuments Across Appalachia: What Key Histories Are Missing from the Public Landscape?"**

**Convener:** Emily Satterwhite, Virginia Tech

- Sarah Plummer, Virginia Tech
- Victoria Ferguson, Monacan Indian Nation and Virginia Tech
- Bob Hutton, Glenville State University
- Mackenzie New-Walker, West Virginia Mine Wars Museum
- Morgan Younge, Independent
- Anthony Harkins, Western Kentucky University
- Barbara Ellen Smith, Emerita, Virginia Tech

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**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.9. WORKSHOP: "No Cages in the Coalfields: Organizing Against the Prison-Industrial Complex in Appalachia"****Convener:** angie luvara, Frostburg State University, Critical Resistance - Central Appalachia

- Amelia Kirby, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Critical Resistance - Central Appalachia
- angie luvara, Frostburg State University, Critical Resistance - Central Appalachia
- Hilary Moore, Highwater Coaching, Critical Resistance - Central Appalachia
- Judah Schept, Eastern Kentucky University, Critical Resistance - Central Appalachia

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.10. PANEL: "Culture as a Lesson for Resistance"****Convener:**

- "Hannah Arendt's Appalachia," Dylan Haynes, Ohio University
- "Bows, Ballads, and Bootlegging: Appalachia's Cultural Mythos in *The Hunger Games*," Rachel Hampton, Marshall University, and Lauren Blair, Eastern Kentucky University

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.11. PANEL: "Healthcare and Caregiving in Appalachia"****Convener:** Breck Loudermilk, Marshall University

-  "Living and Dying in Appalachia: An Evaluation of Death Attitudes and Healthy Aging Practices in the Region," Tess Simpson, Maryville College, Sol Robinson, Maryville College, and Annie Melhorn, Maryville College
- "Nursing Stories from South Central Appalachia," Tabitha Quillen, East Tennessee State University, Karen Carver, East Tennessee State University, Alisa Hearl, East Tennessee State University, K. Christine (Christy) Hall, East Tennessee State University, and Florence M. (Flo) Weierbach, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.12. PANEL: "Appalachia Underground and at the Edges"****Convener:** Chandler Curtis, Rhode Island School of Design

- "Connection and Control: An Indie Filmmaking Craft Talk," Harrison McGinnis, Marshall University
- "Tending Kin: Queer Craft Futures in Siksiká-Appalachian SCOPY Leather," Luc Biscan-White, University of New Mexico
- "Post-Industrial Art in the Damaged Appalachian Landscape," Mark Watson, Clayton State University

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**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.13. PANEL: "Ecofeminism in an Appalachian Framework"****Convener:** Erin Presley, Eastern Kentucky University

- "Ecology, Autochthony, and Indigeneity in Susan Fenimore Cooper's *Rural Hours*," Joshua Ward, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- "Echoes of Horace Kephart's Hazel Creek in Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*," Erin Presley, Eastern Kentucky University
- "Reframing the Narrative of *Hawk's Nest*: An Ecofeminist Perspective on Hubert Skidmore's *Hawk's Nest*," David Powers Corwin, George Mason University

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.14. PERFORMANCE: "A Reading from the Literary Journal Appalachian Lit"****Convener:** Damian Dressick, Slippery Rock University

- "An Introduction to Appalachian Lit and its Writers," Damian Dressick, Slippery Rock University
- "Christina Fisanick Reads Her Work," Christina Fisanick, Pennsylvania Western University
- "Laura Jackson Reads Her Work," Laura Jackson, Independent
- "Julia Johnson Reads Her Work," Julia Johnson, The University of Kentucky
- "Annie Woodford Reads Her Work," Annie Woodford, Wilkes Community College

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.15. PERFORMANCE: "Poetry of Created Identities"****Convener:** TJ West, Independent

- "'Country Road Romance,' Queer Appalachia, and the Subversion of the Small Town Romance Narrative," TJ West, Independent
- "God in the Dirt," Luke Saunders, Marshall University
- "Poems by Late Contributors John McKernan and Ron Houchin," Andrea Fekete, Independent

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.16. WORKSHOP: "Appalachian Foodways -****Celebrating the 2026 Appalachian Foodways Practitioners"****Convener:** Candace Mullins, Grow Appalachia at Berea College

- Jasmine Thompson, Naturalist, Woolbank Conservancy, Crawford County, Pennsylvania

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.17. ROUNDTABLE: "Langston Education, Health & Community Roundtable"****Convener:** Rebecca Adkins Fletcher, East Tennessee State University

- "Langston: A History Lesson," Adam Dickson, Langston Centre

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- "Langston Community Health Task Force," Georgita Washington, Langston Community Health Task Force
- "North Side Elementary Community," Chad Moore, North Side Elementary School
- "Appalachian Community Engagement," Rebecca Adkins Fletcher, East Tennessee State University

**Saturday. 4:00PM-5:15PM. Session 10.18. PERFORMANCE: "Til Death do Us Part,"**  
**Convener and Presenter:** Jessie McClanahan, Marshall University

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**Saturday. 5:00PM-6:30PM. Publishers' Reception and Book Signing. First and Second Floors of the Memorial Student Center.**

*Sponsored by: West Virginia University Press*

**Saturday. 5:00PM-6:30PM. Newcomers' Reception. First and Second Floors of the Memorial Student Center.**

**Drag Show. TBA.**

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026**

**Sunday. 8:00AM-10:00AM. Take Down of Exhibit Hall and Registration. Don Morris Room, Memorial Student Center.**

**Sunday. 2:00PM-4:00PM. Appalachian Film Festival. Professional Development. Foundry Theater.**

- Author Ed Ashton (Mickey7 / Mickey 17)
- Featuring panel discussion and audience Q&A
- Moderated by WSAZ's Tim Irr
- Panel and Q&A with Ed Ashton and Guests

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