

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼[RSS](#) **Spring 2019****Volume 42, Number 2***President's Message*

It seems hard to believe, as gray skies blanket the region and the mercury drops, but spring is on the way! And bringing with it the promise of our next gathering. In March we convene in Asheville, North Carolina, where an excellent team has worked for years to prepare this feast of Appalachian riches. And a feast it is, with fiction, poetry, music, dance, and film features, as well as discussions highlighting international and cross-cultural perspectives on mountain studies and sacred spaces. All these plus exhibits, special programming for K-12 teachers, and the ASA's first Innovation Expo, as well as a cornucopia of concurrent sessions and many opportunities to gather and socialize.

For these riches, special thanks go to the 2019 program committee, including conference chair Carol Boggess and program chair Kim Reigle. Their team has not only navigated all the challenges inherent to putting on the annual conference, but also done so at a particularly difficult moment in the organization's history. Controversy, while neither new nor unhealthy for our

Thanks also go to Carson Benn, an at-large Steering Committee member, who has generously stepped in to temporarily assist with the job of the Membership chair role left vacant when Rachel Terman moved to Finance chair. I encourage everyone to thank Carson for helping with this vital role.

In exciting news, the ASA 2021 team from Ohio University has undertaken a new software initiative that will improve the conference proposal submission and review process, as well as the conference design and program navigation processes. Thanks especially to Nick and Tiffany Arnold for leading this effort. Nick is generously donating his time and professional skills to this project. We hope to have the new software up and running in time for the 2020 conference in Lexington, and it will certainly be in place for the 2021 conference in Athens. Please thank Nick and Tiffany for making this important contribution to ASA.

Our excellent staff members in the Marshall University office, Mary Kay Thomas and Ann Bryant,

organization, is by its very nature disruptive. Organizing a large-scale gathering is never an easy task, and doing so in the wake of controversy is especially difficult. I encourage everyone to thank Carol, Kim, and the whole Asheville team for their excellent and generous volunteer work under difficult circumstances.

Hearty thanks also go to Rachel Terman and the excellent team she has assembled in a newly robust Finance Committee. This crucial committee suffered a leadership vacuum for more than a year before Rachel generously stepped into the breach. In recent months a wonderful set of volunteers has joined the Finance Committee, where they have formed a Development Subcommittee--chaired by Aaron Guest--and has begun actively working to shift the organization away from its outdated funding model. As ASA's membership grows and diversifies, we need a new and more flexible financial model that will enable us to build capacity and better meet our members' and our region's needs. This work is especially important since the funding landscapes for important supporters such as the Appalachian Regional Commission have changed in recent years. The new Finance team is already bringing great energy and creativity to meeting these challenges. Here too, I encourage everyone to thank Rachel, Aaron, and all members of the committee for their excellent volunteer leadership.

Another special thanks goes to Michele Morrone, ASA vice-president. Michele has done an outstanding job reviewing the organization's bylaws and suggesting needed changes. The Steering Committee has approved these changes, most of which simply update and modernize, correct small mechanical errors, and bring the bylaws in line with current practices. It has been several years since our

continue their dedicated service to this organization. It would be simply impossible for ASA to function without them. In wonderful news, these two fine professionals have recently moved to new and more comfortable office spaces. Thanks go to Marshall University for supporting Mary, Ann and ASA by making this move. I encourage all members to thank Mary and Ann for all they do on our behalf, and also to thank Marshall University for its generous ongoing sponsorship and support.

A few final thoughts as I prepare to "pass the compass" of the ASA presidency into Michele Morrone's highly capable hands. I would like to thank everyone who has supported the organization and me personally this past year, including all members of the Executive and Steering Committees, Mary and Ann, the 2019 Program Committee, my colleagues and students at the University of Kentucky, my family, and more members than I can count who have reached out to me or responded generously to my requests for help and guidance.

A voluntary association can be only as strong as its membership. I find myself frequently inspired by the dedicated service so many members bring to ASA. Within an organization this large and democratic there will always be disagreements and tensions. These are signs of democratic health, as any historian worth her salt well knows. What binds us together in spite of our differences is our common commitment to strengthen our beloved region, to grow hope, healing, justice, and resilience within it. Again and again, I have seen that commitment enacted by members this year.

It has also seemed to me that our recent disagreements have had more to do with questions of *strategy*—how to get where we want to go—than with differences in *vision*. My history training is helpful here too: I

bylaws received such careful attention, and Michele's efforts have been a real service to the organization. I encourage everyone to thank Michele for undertaking this substantial and important task.

One substantive and exciting bylaws development is the addition of a new Special Collections Committee to be chaired by the archivist/historian, a longstanding Steering Committee position. A team spearheaded by Gene Hyde has done first-rate work organizing the new Special Collections Committee. Rachel Vagts joined the Steering Committee as archivist/historian this past fall, and she will chair the Special Collections Committee once the bylaws changes have been finalized. Rachel and Gene also deserve our thanks for making this new initiative possible.

know that every valuable effort in US history has faced parallel challenges. Figuring out how best to strategize toward a worthy shared vision is never easily nor uncontentiously done. Journeys to better futures always hit bumps. Always. But I also know that they can succeed. When we stay the course, pulling together toward our joint vision of a sustainable region rich in justice, health, beauty, and inclusivity, we can accomplish great things.

I am more convinced than ever that this organization, our Appalachian Studies Association, has a key role to play in our region's journey toward the bright future we envision. I am honored to have been part of its leadership team. Thank you for entrusting me with the ASA presidency this year, and for the support so many of you offered while I held that office.

Next stop? See you in Asheville!

Kathy Newfont, ASA President

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OFFICER AND STEERING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations and Voting

The election for ASA officers and Steering Committee members is now open. You can vote online at <https://tinyurl.com/ya45rvxk> or use the QR code with your phone. There is an option on the ballot to write-in candidates for every position. Contact Michele Morrone at morrone@ohio.edu with questions.



Vice-President/President Elect and 2022 Conference Chair

Tim Ezzell is a Research Scientist at the University of Tennessee Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment. He is also affiliated with the University of Tennessee Political Science Department, where he teaches in the Masters of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) program. He chairs the University of Tennessee's Appalachian Community of Scholars. Tim holds degrees in history and urban and regional planning from Auburn University and the University of Tennessee. He has worked extensively with communities throughout Appalachia promoting sustainable growth, asset-based development, and citizen-driven planning processes. Tim was the principal investigator and primary author of the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) Strategies for Economic Improvement study, one of the agency's largest and most recent mixed methods research efforts and is currently leading an assessment of tourism across the thirteen state ARC Region. Tim has participated in the ARC sponsored Appalachian Teaching Project since 2002, and represents the University of Tennessee in the Consortium of Appalachian Centers and Institutes. In recognition of these efforts, he has been named both an Appalachian Teaching Fellow and an Honorary Appalachian Research Fellow by the ARC.

At-Large Steering Committee Members (select 2)

Emily Blair is a queer Appalachian poet and blue-collar scholar originally from Fort Chiswell, Virginia. She earned a BA in English from Virginia Tech in 2015 and an MA in English from the University of Louisville in 2015.

She currently teaches community college and lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her first chapbook of poetry, *WE ARE BIRDS*, is available from Dancing Girl Press and focuses on same-sex relationships. Her academic work largely engages with queer Southern women's poetry and literature, as well as Appalachian identity and conceptions of space.

Caleb Pendency is a PhD Candidate and the English Fellow at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. His dissertation, *Animate Literacies*, looks to animacy theory, queerness, and new materialist thought in order to reimagine literacy less as an ability and more of a lively force emerging out of places like Appalachia. Outside of his interests in the queer, rurality, Appalachia, identity, and literacy, Caleb enjoys all things nature and his cats.

Secretary

Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt is Director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities at Shepherd University. She is also a Professor of English. She has been University Department Chair, West Virginia State Advisory Council of Faculty Chair and Legislative Coordinator, and English Education Specialization Coordinator at Shepherd. She has served as the Director of Voices from the Misty Mountains and the Power of Storytelling National Endowment for the Humanities Teacher Institute (2013, 2016, 2017, and 2018), and she was the 2006 West Virginia Professor of the Year and a Georgia STAR Teacher. Sylvia was the 2015 ASA President and 2016 Conference Chair. Sylvia is editor of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers (Volumes 1-XI)*, articles, chapters, and books.

Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (Select 1)

Danielle Dulken is a reproductive justice activist and organizer from the mountains of western North Carolina. A graduate of Western Carolina University, Danielle earned an MA in History at American University and is now a doctoral candidate in the Department of American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. Danielle's work pushes open the interstitial location of people of color in Southern Appalachia to disrupt the region's entrenched whiteness and seek a new ontology for the Mountain South. Her research and personal affiliations have helped Danielle build a robust network of community workers and organizers in western North Carolina and beyond. Danielle is also a trained oral historian. Danielle sits on the board of a North Carolina based reproductive justice organization and is an active member of the Oral History Association, American Studies Association, and Appalachian Studies Association. Her writing will appear in the forthcoming anthology, *Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to*

Hillbilly Elegy.

Emily Deubel is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Kentucky pursuing a bachelor's degree in Public Health while also minoring in Appalachian studies. Her future goals are to attend the University of Kentucky's Medical School and become a doctor so that she can provide better medical care throughout Appalachia. Emily was born and raised in Rockcastle County, which is in Appalachia, so she knows first-hand how difficult it can be to receive medical care in the region. In addition to this, she would also really like to get involved in Y'ALL because Appalachia is her home, and she is passionate about making it the best place that she can for current and future generations.

Sophia Enriquez (she/her/hers), from Appalachian Ohio, is a PhD student in ethnomusicology at the Ohio State University. Her dissertation topic investigates Latinx music in Appalachia and notions of musical and cultural hybridity. She is a graduate teaching associate in the OSU School of Music and serves as a Graduate Teaching Fellow through the University Center for the Advancement of Teaching. Sophia is active in the OSU Appalachian Studies Network and the Latinx student cohort "BELLA" (Balancing Education, Life, and Latina Awareness). Sophia holds a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Folklore and is pursuing a graduate minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She also enjoys performing traditional South American music with the OSU Andean Music Ensemble and performing locally in Columbus, Ohio as part of a female folk trio.

Program Chairperson-Elect (2022 Conference Program Chair)

Write-in

2021 Program Committee (need 4)

The 2021 conference will be hosted by Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Write-in

Bylaws Revisions

The following is a listing of revisions, corrections, and additions to the bylaws. We will open the floor to discussion of these amendments at the Business

Meeting on March 16th at 1:00 pm (see the program for location).

ARTICLE IV.

Section 2.

Change “historian/archivist” to archivist historian to match title in Article IX. Add one sentence: “The archivist historian will also be the Special Collections Committee Chair.”

[Justification: Special Collections Committee is new and needs to be in the bylaws](#)

ARTICLE VI.

ITEMS C:

Revise to be consistent with the Articles of Incorporation related to lobbying
Change to “No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Nor shall the corporation directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any way in any political campaign on behalf of or opposition to, any candidate for public office.”

[Justification: Statements pertaining to lobbying should be consistent with the Articles of Incorporation for ASA’s tax status.](#)

ARTICLE VII

Section 1.

Add “gender identity”

[Justification: To enhance diversity and inclusion.](#)

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 2 a. Regional Rotation

Revise to read:

Conference sites shall be selected on the basis of a scheduled regional rotation system, starting with the Appalachians portions, as defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission, of the following states...

[Justification: To clearly delineate the political boundaries of the region.](#)

Section 2. b. Spatial Considerations

Change: heading to:

Spatial Considerations *and Financial Sponsorship*

Replace: Entire paragraph under 2 b with:

The conference host should be familiar with the space and financial needs of the conference. This information can be found in the conference guidelines.

[Justification: Most of the language in this section is actually conference policy rather than bylaws. We have developed conference guidelines that can be modified and revised without amending the bylaws.](#)

Section 2d. Auxiliary Services

Renumber: 2c

Section 2e. Type of Site

Renumber: 2d

Section 4.

Revise to read:

With the exception of the Annual Conference and Annual Business Meeting, business of the association may be conducted through teleconference or by electronic means.

[Justification: This modernizes the bylaws](#)

ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS

Section 4a. Nominations and Elections

Delete: "shall be appointed by the president each year"

[Justification: This is unnecessary language.](#)

Section 4c.

Revise to read:

A slate of officers and committee members shall be selected by the nominating committee. A ballot with biographical information on each nominee, shall be printed in the pre-conference issue of *Appalink*. Space shall be provided on the printed ballot for write-in candidates. Additionally, an electronic ballot will be sent to all current members via the association listserv. Ballots must be returned to the chairperson of the nominating committee for tabulation. The Chairperson of the Nomination Committee counts all *electronic and paper* ballots and reports results to the membership at the annual business meeting and publishes results in *Appalink*. Tied elections will be voted upon by members present at the annual business meeting.

[Justification: This language modernizes the bylaws.](#)

ARTICLE X: DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 1. President/Conference Chairperson (Immediate Past

President/Immediate Past Conference Chairperson)

Revise and Reformat to read:

[a. The President's term consists of four years:](#)

1. One year as President-Elect
2. One year as President
3. One year as Conference Chair
4. One year as Past Conference Chair

b. The President shall (Year 2):

1. Preside at all meetings of the association and steering committee;
2. Perform other duties as may be prescribed by these bylaws or assigned to this position by the association or by the steering committee;
3. Provide steering committee leadership;
4. Implement the long-range plan;
5. Direct fundraising efforts and serve as spokesperson for the promotion of the association and its goals;
6. Coordinate the work of the officers and committees to promote association objectives; and
7. Mentor the President-Elect.

c. Shall as Conference Chair (Immediate Past President) (Year 3):

1. Work with program chair to collaboratively envision the conference program and host the conference; and
2. Raise money for their conference year.

d. Shall as Past Conference Chair (Year 4):

1. Participate as a member of the Steering Committee;
2. Mentor current Conference Chair; and
3. Provide final conference report and budget to Steering Committee.

Justification: This is mostly a formatting change and is proposed to clarify the duties of the president throughout their tenure.

Section 2. Vice-President/President Elect.

Revise and reformat to read:

[a. The Vice-President/President-Elect's term consists of 4 years:](#)

1. One year as Vice-President/President-Elect
2. One year as President

3. One year as Conference Chair/Past-President
4. One year as Past Conference Chair

b. The Vice-President/President-Elect shall:

1. Assist the president;
2. Perform the duties of the president in that person's absence;
3. Review and revise the bylaws;
4. Prepare budget for conference they will chair two years from assuming this office;
5. Recruit a host for the conference in the year in which they will be Past-Conference Chair; and
6. Chair the nominating committee

c. The vice-president becomes president in the year following the term as vice-president/president elect and succeeds to the office of president should the office become vacant before the term expires.

Justification: This is mostly a formatting change and is proposed to clarify the duties of the president-elect throughout their tenure.

Section 4. Treasurer.

Revise and reformat to read:

a. The treasurer shall:

1. Provide financial oversight of association funds, accounts, and policy through the administrative office;
2. Present the annual statement and an assessment of the financial condition of the association at each annual meeting of the association and at other times when requested by the steering committee;
3. Examine the books and provide regular reports to the steering committee; and
4. Work with the association's Executive Director and CPA.

b. The administrative office shall:

1. Maintain custody of all funds of the association;
2. Keep full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures;
3. Disburse funds in accordance with the budget adopted by the steering committee;
4. Make no disbursements not included on or exceeding the line item in the relevant fiscal year's budget without the advice and consent of the treasurer; and

5. Provide the treasurer with an annual review and a full financial statement for association accounts at least annually.

Justification: This is mostly a formatting change and is proposed to clarify the duties of the treasure and the administrative office when it comes to finances

Section 5. Program Chairperson/Immediate Past Program Chairperson.

Revise to read:

In collaboration with the conference chair, the program chairperson shall:

1. Oversee the planning and efficient operation of all aspects of the annual conference;
2. Officiate at all meetings of the program committee;
3. Appoint up to 4 members to program committee;
4. Appoint a local arrangements chairperson and local arrangements subcommittee members;
5. Become Immediate Past Program Chairperson after the annual conference; and
6. Serve on the program committee for the next conference and assist with program continuity in an advisory capacity.

Justification: This is mostly a formatting change and is proposed to clarify the duties of the program chair throughout their tenure.

Section 8. Archivist/Historian Special Collections Committee Chairperson

Revise to read:

The archivist/historian shall be the committee chairperson for the Special Collections Committee and be responsible for maintaining the association's timeline and for collecting and preserving documents related to the activities of the Appalachian Studies Association in the association archives at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky.

Justification: This clarifies duties of this office

Section 16. Communication Committee Chairperson or Co-chairpersons.

Revise to read

The Communications Committee Chairperson or Co-chairpersons, appointed by the ASA President, shall be responsible for ensuring that information for all association communication formats is submitted for publication in print or online and is completed in a timely manner.

Justification: This includes a co-Chairperson to participate in duties of the communication committee

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES

Section 9. Communications Committee.

Revise to read

a. **Membership.** The Communications Committee shall consist of the Chairperson or co-chairpersons and committee members responsible for public relations. In addition, the Communications Committee chairperson may appoint three (3) additional ASA members to the committee who will serve as liaisons to all other standing committees, ensuring strong communication among committees and consistent reporting to the membership.

Justification: This adds a committee co-chair to assist with the duties of this committee.

b. **Duties.** The committee will request, collect, and report information for Appalink, the ASA website and social media. The committee will coordinate with ASA President, Conference Program chair, and Local Arrangements Chair for release of conference news.

Justification: This adds social media and modernizes this bylaw.

Section 11. Executive Committee.

Revise to read

a. **Membership.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the ASA President, past ASA President, Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, ASA Executive Director (ex-officio), and the Office Manager (ex-officio).

Justification: This includes the office manager as an ex-officio member of this committee

Section 15. Special Collections Committee

1. **Membership.** The Special Collections Committee shall consist of a chairperson, who also serves as the Archivist/Historian, up to five other members appointed by the ASA president to a three year rotating term, and the Editor of the *Appalachian Curator* who shall be an ex-officio member of this committee.
2. **Duties.** Publishing the *Appalachian Curator* digital publication. The committee will also work in collaboration with the Communications Committee to maintain information regarding archives and resources on the ASA website.
3. Members of the *Appalachian Curator* editorial board will be appointed by

the current editor of the *Appalachian Curator* who is appointed by the ASA president, and will be approved by the remaining members of the editorial board.

Justification: This is a new committee.

ARTICLE XII: BUDGETS AND APPROPRIATIONS

Section 2. Authority.

Add this sentence to the end of the paragraph:

Additionally, the president and the treasurer must sign all contracts that are made on behalf of ASA by a conference host organization for a conference or any other event.

Justification: This enhances communication between ASA and conference/event hosts.

ARTICLE XVI. AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Add:

f. Minor, no substantive changes, such as formatting and typos, can be done without membership voting, but must have Steering Committee approval.

Justification: This will allow for formatting and typographical errors to be corrected without membership voting.

g. Bylaws shall receive a comprehensive review every 5 years at the Steering Committee retreat.

Justification: This will ensure that the bylaws are kept up to date and not the sole responsibility of the President-Elect on an annual basis.





Who are you? What does a day in the life look like?

My name is Amanda Jo Slone. I am a writer and educator from Pike County, Kentucky. I serve as an Associate Professor of English at the University of Pikeville and the editor of the literary journal, *The Pikeville Review*. I am also currently enrolled in the doctoral program in Educational Leadership at Northwest Nazarene University. I have three children--seventeen-year-old twins, Corey and Adrianna, and seven-year-old Adam. The kids and I love to travel, and they are involved in several extracurricular activities, so no two days are the same for us. My favorite days are the ones that we can spend together outside, either up in the hills or at the baseball field.

What do you love about ASA?

ASA has given me the opportunity to network and meet friends and colleagues throughout the region. I have received tons of support from members of the ASA. I love the way the organization serves as a common thread for academics and creatives and gives us space to share ideas and learn.

What's your affiliation with ASA? What role do you play in ASA?

I have been a member of ASA for several years. I am currently serving as co-chair of the Communications Committee with Roger May.

Where do you see our organization going?

I hope to see the organization grow and incorporate even more voices and ideas from around the region.

What ASA Conference has been your favorite, and why?

This is a tough question! I've been to every conference since 2009. It is always my favorite conference of the year. I enjoyed the conference in Shepherdstown because it gave me an opportunity to explore an area I had not visited before. Also, I had a opportunity to present "Kiss My Grits: Badass Women in Appalachian Literature" with Savannah Sipple and Karen McMurray that year. That was a fun and meaningful discussion.

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

I think one thing we can do is to strive to make the organization, conference, and resources more accessible to folks who have an interest and passion for Appalachia but are not in academia.

ASA Member Spotlight : Roger May



Who are you? What does a day in the life look like?

My name is Roger May. I'm a photographer and writer from Mingo County, West Virginia. I live in Charleston, West Virginia with my fiancée, water activist and writer Karan Ireland. I'm an early riser. I like to get up and make a pot of coffee and read for a while before I head to my day job. In the evenings, I'm working on various projects, coaching basketball, and enjoying downtime.

What do you love about ASA?

One of the things I love about ASA is how it has connected me to so many people I now count as some of my closest friends. The annual conference is such a great place to connect with folks and to see firsthand some of the hard work they've put in come to fruition.

What's your affiliation with ASA? What role do you play in ASA?

I'm currently serving as co-chair of the Communications Committee with Amanda Jo Slone.

Where do you see our organization going?

I see the ASA continuing to grow and getting more young folks involved.

What ASA Conference has been your favorite, and why?

I've enjoyed all the conferences I've attended, but perhaps Virginia Tech is my favorite. That's where Karan and I met!

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

That's a big question, but I think continuing to involve young folks is what I'd like to see more of. And I don't mean just having them attend conferences and workshops, but actually listening to them, and in some cases, getting out of the way so they can lead.



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

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



An Intern's Perspective

Victoria Kate Bostic

Appalachia. The buzzword many love to utilize, but not all know how to properly pronounce. The culture some are eager to exploit and make light of without taking the time to research it properly. Many have traveled here, albeit with well-meaning intentions, while few have succeeded in fairly and factually representing us and our culture. To this end, with positive representations being at times few and far in between, it is important to celebrate and embrace the instances when Appalachian culture is being expanded, educated, and enlightened in a positive light. The Appalachian Studies Association has done just that and to a "t."

The Appalachia I know, I found through the kneading of my mother's fingers into our family's famous pepperoni rolls. I discovered it while spending my childhood in West Virginia state parks like Watoga, Canaan Valley, and Lost River. I learned to cook from the numerous cookbooks my family has had for decades, some for centuries. I was raised around the fires under apple butter kettles and living rooms filled with rocking chairs. Most of the bedding I own are handmade quilts that each come with their own story and warmth of love. The idea of attending an entire conference dedicated to this culture, to this life, is a dream. The idea of working for the organization that cultivates such an environment is a completely heightened level of validation and representation I have never felt.

Being an outsider-insider, that is, new to ASA, but well versed in Appalachia, I have the privilege of having a clean slate perspective when it comes to this organization. Having a vast amount of experience in not only being an Appalachian, but in conference managing, conducting, and attending, this internship looked to be the perfect fit. Coming into the rustic and very tenured basement of Old Main here at Marshall University, I really had no expectations to go from for the experience of this internship position. Being fully prepared to handle Starbucks orders and dry cleaning errands, I was met with a much warmer, yet just as caffeinated, embrace.

Through the processes of proofreading the conference program, *Appalink*, and other tasks essential to the functioning of ASA, I have gotten to know the organization through the magic that happens behind the scenes. Just from an office perspective, I have never experienced a semi-professional work atmosphere such as I have with ASA. Walking into the office you are not only greeted with a certified Safe Space sticker, but a staff made up entirely of women. As a bisexual woman, within my own experiences, I have never felt so at peace and welcome in an environment such as this. Going into any new experience, unpaid or otherwise, I always assess how much of myself I'll have to hide back or disassociate from while being there. So far, this is the first professional academic setting where I haven't had to. I can only expect this

to be expanded and enhanced upon when we hold our conference in Asheville.

Victoria grew up in the hills of West Virginia, eats only pepperoni rolls and apple butter runs through her veins. She is currently working toward both her bachelors and masters in sociology as a junior at Marshall University.

ASA 2019 Conference

The 42nd ASA Annual Conference: **AppalachA'veille: Engage. Sustain. Innovate.**

The 2019 conference is fast approaching. Asheville is ready. Twenty-seven years have passed since ASA gathered here to explore "Diversity in Appalachia." Much has changed in that time--the diversity has increased, so has the town's population (by 40 percent). This fast-evolving mountain city is home to a vibrant urban landscape amidst the ageless hills of Appalachia, hence this year's theme: "AppalachA'veille." ASA is also changing--becoming a larger organization and more diverse; yet over the past forty-one years, our mission has remained the same. Our conference welcomes all people who have an interest in and commitment to the Appalachian region. Please join ASA in Asheville and western North Carolina for an exciting four days this spring, March 14-17.

The University of North Carolina Asheville and Mars Hill University are sponsoring the gathering on the campus of UNCA. University students will serve as hosts. We are expecting close to 1,000 attendees, with about 650 of them presenting on a wide variety of topics relating to all aspects of life in Appalachia. Said themes will include: Appalachian identity, regional history, literature, language, music, film, drama, and readings. Presenters will explore topics such as the state of the economy, the concerns of educators, the protection of the environment, contemporary approaches to food and farming, the challenges of health care, and the potential power of community activism. The projects, papers, panels, and performances will generate discussions, questions, new ideas, and creative responses. We also look forward to the spirit of Y'ALL, the awards banquet, music and dance, the silent auction, the exhibit room, and fellowship with colleagues and friends.

The Steering Committee and the Program Committee are adding to the conference experience. Committee meetings and the annual business meeting will move the Association forward. The new special collections initiative will present a display of western North Carolina library collections throughout the conference. The Education Committee is offering a Friday workshop for educators, "Teaching with Primary Sources." The two conference plenaries will stretch our geographical and cultural identity. The first, an extension of the International Mountain Studies Symposium sponsored by Appalachian State University, is titled "From the Alps to Asheville to South Africa: A Conversation Forging New International Connections in Mountain Studies." The second is a special roundtable session titled "Sacred Spaces, Thin Places: A Discussion of Identity and Sacred Place for Cherokees and Appalachian People."

A unique event on Saturday, the Innovation Expo, will provide conference goers an opportunity to talk with area organizations and businesses that engage with their community, sustain cultural and environmental resources, and innovate in ways that improve Asheville, western North Carolina, and the Appalachian region. The North Carolina Humanities Council is sponsoring the Expo as well as the special keynote event later that afternoon. "Western North Carolina In Fact and Fiction" will present a reading and

conversation time with Lee Smith and Ron Rash, moderated by Wiley Cash. The publishers' reception will follow. Later that evening we will reconvene at a historic spot in downtown Asheville, the YMI Cultural Center, for *Affrilachia y el Caribe*--a poetry reading featuring Frank X Walker, Ricardo Nazario-Colon, and Shauna M. Morgan. We will conclude the evening with a square dance, called by Phil Jamison of Warren Wilson College.

At Sunday lunch, we will close the 42nd ASA Conference with a dramatic presentation of Lee Smith and Ron Rash stories by Barbara Bates Smith and Jeff Sebens. Before saying thank-you and goodbye, we will spend a short time reflecting on our experiences in AppalachA'veille and thinking ahead to the 2020 ASA conference.

Plan now. The preliminary program online provides you: the Explore Asheville link, a conference registration form, an application for parking, and a list of hotels. Note the tours, field trips, and workshops. Biltmore tickets are also available at a special rate. Please reserve so we can gauge the interest level. Need ideas for researching the area? Pick up a copy of *27 Views of Asheville: A Southern Mountain Town in Prose and Poetry*. Check out Rob Neufeld's online magazine, *The Read on WNC* and David Whisnant's blog, *Asheville Junction*. If you are interested in the town of 100 years ago, read Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward Angel*.

We hope to see you in Asheville this March.

Carol Boggess, 2019 Conference Chair

ASA REPORTS

Child Care Grant Pilot Program*

Creating an inclusive conference is a priority of the Appalachian Studies Association. While all are welcome at the conference, we understand the financial burden of seeking child and/or dependent care during conference events. With this grant program, we hope to offset the cost of the conference for those with dependents. We have a limited amount of funding and submitting an application does not ensure a grant, however, we encourage all those with child care expenses to apply. The Appalachian Studies Association does not sanction or recommend child care providers. Further, we do not assume responsibility or liability for child care services of any sort. Selection of a care provider is entirely the applicant's responsibility. During our first year of the pilot program, the Appalachian Studies Association will offer grants of up to \$100 USD in the form of reimbursement for documented expenses for child care to assist ASA members who have these costs during the conference. The grants are intended to help offset the cost of child care to support attendees with children to attend the conference, however, attendees are wholly responsible for making their own arrangements for child care. To apply, please send the information requested in the "Application" section below to Jordan Laney (jlaney@vt.edu) no later than February 28, 2019.

* The pilot program will only be to provide grants for child care at the ASA 2019 Conference, based upon the terms of the generous donation we received that is funding this pilot program. It is the hope of ASA to continue this program after the 2019 conference and expand the grant to cover any dependents for which attendees incur care provider expenses while attending the conference. If you are interested in

volunteering to help with this initiative or have suggestions on funding sources please contact Jordan Laney at jlaney@vt.edu. For more information visit:
<http://appalachianstudies.org/annualconference/childcaregrant.php>.

Finance Committee Report

Greetings from the newly reorganized and re-energized Finance Committee! We are happy to report our existence this year and even more so to report the establishment of an ad hoc Development Subcommittee through which we plan to increase the ASA's fund-raising efforts in order to improve the sustainability of our association. Plans are already underway for some new opportunities to get involved in the ASA, and we hope to announce those in the coming year. If you have ideas about development and fund-raising or just want to get more involved, please contact us (Rachel Terman, Finance Committee chair, terman@ohio.edu) or join us at our Finance Committee meeting at the conference on Friday, March 15, 2019, at 8:30 am.

Special Collections Committee

We are pleased to announce the recently formed Special Collections Committee! Rachel Vagts is serving as committee chair, and a new set of bylaws for the committee is part of the upcoming ASA bylaws revision.

As part of the committee's charge, we're publishing a new *Appalachian Curator* newsletter. It will be a free, online newsletter with an ISSN and a triannual publication schedule, and we plan on having the first issue out in time for the ASA conference in March. The editorial board is Gene Hyde (UNC-Asheville) as editor, Liz Skenes (Western Carolina University) as assistant editor, with Dustin Witsman (Appalachian State University) completing the editorial board. We are formatting the newsletter and working on the first issue now. There will be much more about this in the near future.

The *Appalachian Curator* will feature a regular column listing new acquisitions in Appalachian Special Collections, and the editorial board is requesting a list of recent acquisitions in your collections that have Appalachian content. Ideally, it would be great if you would send a brief description and a link to the finding aid for each new collection. Collection updates may be sent to Gene at ghyde@unca.edu.

Rachel Vagts, archivist/historian

From the ASA Headquarters

Greetings from Appalachian Studies Association headquarters. We just sent the latest issue of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* to our publisher, University of Illinois Press, to begin the editorial and layout process so we can get it to you. This article is the continuation of the inaugural *From the ASA Headquarters* from the last *Appalink* issue letting everyone know what is going on here, and answering some frequently asked questions that are coming in.

Before I get into the questions, I want to mention two new additions to our headquarters and recognize one last time our fabulous, and now a former graduate assistant, Dee Nguyen. Dee graduated in December and so is sadly no longer here at the office. We miss her greatly and are thankful every day for all the hard work she put into the Association. With her departure we have welcomed Hafsa Tahir as our new graduate assistant, who is already a great help to all of us here, as she quickly and expertly is learning how to assist Mary and I with the finance tracking and the many different jobs to keep all the conference materials organized and prepared for the upcoming conference. We also have an intern this semester, Victoria Kate Bostic, who is helpful wrangling the many different jobs we have given her so far, including her enthusiasm, and hard work getting donations for the silent auction. Please be sure to welcome them to ASA if you see them at the Conference.

1. What's new with ASA?

AppalachA'ville is the big thing at the moment, we are so glad to get calls and emails every day from people who want to attend and be involved. It has also been a true pleasure and inspiration to work with the Asheville conference group. We work with Carol Boggess, the conference chair and Kim Reigle, the program chair, nearly every day as the conference gets closer and closer, and each day we are in awe of their skill, dedication, and selflessness, not to mention unending grace under the enormous pressures of putting on this conference. Gratitude to them is simply not sufficient for all they have done for Mary and I, and this Association, and also for the community of Asheville, that waits to greet us all. But gratitude is a good start, so I encourage everyone to take time to thank them both at the conference, and after, for all they have done, and all they continue to do.

One of the other things we're super excited about is Roger May and Amanda Jo Slone coming on board as co-chairs for the communications team. They are really helping bring about a revitalized outreach for our Association, including an active online presence, by making ASA more visible on social media, which we hope will get more people involved with the Association, and keep our current members more informed as to what is going on. So if you haven't followed ASA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr, you should do so today to keep up-to-date with the latest happenings.

2. How can I get more involved with ASA?

We are always in need of volunteers. Currently, we need a volunteers for two important positions. As Rachel Terman moved into the position of Finance chair the Membership chair position on the Steering Committee needs to be filled. We also need an editor for *Appalink*, as Eryn Roles, our fabulous editor, will be stepping down. We appreciate all the hard work she has done, and are looking for a volunteer to succeed her. If you are interested in volunteering please email me at: mullins88@marshall.edu.

Also, the Silent Auction is a vital funding source for the scholarship fund for ASA. Please consider donating items or volunteering to help work the event at the conference.

And finally, Mary and I invite any of our members that are close by our headquarters here at Marshall University, to stop by the office and see how the day-to-day of running the Association works. We would love to see you.

Journal of Appalachian Studies Report

Shaunna L. Scott

The first order of business for the *Journal* this spring is to fill the position of book review editor, which has been so ably executed by Wendy Welch. The editorial board wishes to thank Wendy both for her service and her kind offer to assist with the transition. Please share the ad (below) with colleagues who might be interested, and consider applying yourself. As the ad states, forward questions you may have about the position to Wendy Welch, Shaunna Scott or Christopher Leadingham.

On Friday, March 15, 2019 at 10 am at the ASA conference in Asheville, North Carolina, editors representing this journal, the *Appalachian Journal*, and regional academic presses, including Ohio University Press, University of Illinois Press, University of North Carolina Press, and University Press of Kentucky, will be holding a panel designed to assist young scholars in preparing their writing for publication. Please encourage students and colleagues new to the field to take advantage of this opportunity.

Finally, if you are interested in serving the journal as an editorial board member, manuscript, book or media reviewer, please email Shaunna Scott at Shaunna.scott@uky.edu and cc: Ann Bryant at mullins88@marshall.edu with your name, contact information, credentials, and a summary of topical expertise.

***Journal of Appalachian Studies* Seeks Book Review Editor**

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* is now accepting applications for the position of **Book Review Editor**. This is an unpaid, volunteer position.

The Book Review Editor will be expected to identify suitable reviewers for a wide range of recently published books in Appalachian studies, and to coordinate the writing and editing of commissioned reviews for publication in the journal.

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* is published twice per year by the University of Illinois Press on behalf of the Appalachian Studies Association. Reviews for inclusion in the spring and fall issues of *JAS* are due to the assistant managing editor on December 15 and May 1, respectively. The review editor should plan to submit five reviews per issue of the journal.

The Book Review Editor will work collaboratively with other *JAS* editors to ensure that word count and content requirements are observed, and that deadlines are met. Qualified persons willing to serve in this position are encouraged to apply. Prior experience is preferred, but not required. Also important is a commitment to Appalachian studies and familiarity with Appalachia and the literature documenting and representing our region.

If you have questions concerning this position, you may contact the Associate Editor, Chris Leadingham at christopher.leadingham@uky.edu, the current Book Review Editor, Wendy Welch at director@swvagmec.com, or the journal editor Shaunna Scott at shaunna.scott@uky.edu.

Applications should include a letter of interest outlining relevant experience and qualifications, a curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation.

Please send application materials to Ann Bryant, assistant managing editor, by mail to Appalachian Studies Association, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. Applications may also be submitted electronically to mullins88@marshall.edu.

Application materials must be submitted electronically or postmarked by **Monday, April 1, 2019**.



2019 HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION

Happy New Year! The Howard Dorgan Silent Auction is in the midst of securing donations for the 2019 conference in Asheville. Although we have secured some promises for donations, there can never be too many items to auction in order to raise money for this great purpose. All silent auction proceeds go toward providing scholarships for students and community members to attend the annual conference. Donations include woodworking, books, pottery, local food and spirits, music, films, crafts, and any other item you think may be of interest to conference participants. If you have items that you wish to donate or if you would be interested in helping with the auction please email silent auction chair, Tiffany Arnold at arnoldt2@ohio.edu.

Appalachian Studies Association is now on Tumblr. Follow us today! And, if you haven't yet, find us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram and follow us there. If you have questions regarding our social media accounts, or suggestions for posts or content, contact our office manager, Ann E. Bryant at mullins88@marshall.edu



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Forty-second Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

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

AppalachA'ville: Engage. Sustain. Innovate.

Carol Boggess, Conference Chair, asa2019@mhu.edu

Kim Reigle, Program Chair, kreigle@mhu.edu

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

Forty-third Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 12-15, 2020, University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

Appalachian Understories: Growing Hope & Resilience from Commonwealth to Global Commons

Kathy Newfont, Conference Chair, kathryn.newfont@uky.edu

Jennifer Cramer, Program Chair, jennifer.cramer@uky.edu

Forty-fourth Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 11-14, 2021, Ohio University
Athens, Ohio

Michele Morrone, Conference Chair, morrone@ohio.edu

Tiffany Arnold, Program Chair, arnoldt2@ohio.edu

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