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From the President

Dear ASA Membership,

It is my pleasure to provide you with this update from the President's desk. For the last six months, the Steering Committee and I have been in robust conversations and actions about the future of ASA. I have shared before that my goal is to improve services for the benefit of the membership and organization.

We are currently revisiting and examining the 2013 outcomes of the strategic plan. The goal is to ensure that there are no outstanding actions and that we comply with any ongoing commitments that may have

The 2023 ASA conference will be at Ohio University. Registration is now available via the website. I want to thank all the conference committee members, particularly Michele Morrone, Conference Chair, Tiffany Arnold, Program Chair, and Patti Malloy, Local Arrangements.

We are looking forward to another great conference. We have identified a good host site for the 2024 conference but continue to welcome any interest for 2024 and beyond. As we continue to solidify the financial

arisen from completing the previous strategic plan. To your delight, we have completed the refresh of our website. If you have yet to notice, please take a moment to visit. While it may take you a few visits to familiarize yourself with the new layout, you will likely love it. Please see the ASA in Action section; this area will continue to grow with dynamic content.

future of the Appalachian Studies Association, we are investigating new revenue streams and advancement opportunities. We will share more details on the strategy in future communications.

Thank you.

**Ricardo Nazario-Colón, President
Appalachian Studies Association**

Mission Statement



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



45th Annual Conference Recap



Making, Creating, and Encoding: Crafting Possibilities in Appalachia
West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

Seeing conference time come is bittersweet. Of course, the planning committee is elated to see all the hard work they've done come to fruition, but the event is like seeing a child go off to college. You are proud and full of love, but also, you'll miss them and the things you've done together over the years.

I believe I can speak for my entire planning committee family when I say that we were honored to welcome the 45th Appalachian Studies Association conference to the campus of West Virginia University in March of 2022. Hosting the first face-to-face conference since 2019 came with a lot of pressure and responsibility, and choosing to "change things up" a bit with an opening ceremony and awards presentation on the first night, a maker space, pop-up performances, and forgoing a banquet was a risk; we believe that risk paid off for the 669+ attendees who came out to share their visions of "Making, Creating, and Encoding: Crafting Possibilities in Appalachia."

Highlights of the conference included a reading by writer Deesha Philyaw, author of *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies*; two fabulous plenaries—one featuring Appalachian craftivism and the other a panel of Appalachian social media notables; and a maker space that allowed attendees, as well as visitors from the community, to witness demonstrations of crafting, to shop from Appalachian makers, and to even hand print their own tote bags and bandanas.

Thank you for all those who came out, despite the uncertainty and anxiety caused by COVID-19. Thank you for continuing to support ASA and Appalachia. Now, on to the 46th annual conference and Athens, Ohio!

**- Natalie Sypolt, Chair
2022 Conference**



46th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 16-19, 2023



Join us March 16-19, 2023 for AppalachiaFest: From Surviving to Thriving.

The theme of the conference is to highlight the continued progress in a wide variety of areas including health, education, and cultural resilience.

The conference is more than just an academic program, it involves the community, businesses, and organizations. The program kicks off on Thursday with several small group events including an **African American Heritage Tour**, a tour of the former **Ohio State Psychiatric Hospital**, and a field trip to the site of a success story treating acid mine drainage from an abandoned mine.

Following in West Virginia University's footsteps, the opening ceremony will be a celebration that features one of our amazing community partners: **Passion Works**, which is a collaborative community studio where people with and without developmental differences make art together. The opening ceremony will also include ASA's annual awards. After the

Start the day healthy on Saturday by participating in the **Fun Run** which will take you on the bike path through Ohio University's campus. On Saturday, we are especially excited about the author's plenary featuring **Robert Gipe, Carter Sickels, Lesly-Marie Buer, and Crystal Good**, who will be talking about writing on health and social justice in the region.

Saturday evening is **AppalachiaFest** in uptown Athens! You can meet the **Appalachian Hell Betties**, our local roller derby team, attend a spoken word event with the **Women of Appalachia**, and come to the drag/burlesque show at the **Southeast Ohio History Center**. We are asking you to pre-register/pre-pay for some of the events, including the drag/burlesque show if possible. This will allow us to ensure that the space can accommodate the maximum number of people. Register for these special events here: <https://commerce.cashnet.com/ohio-conference13>.

We are trying something new with the **Silent Auction** this year. Instead of

ceremony we are inviting you to visit our local craft beverage purveyors, especially the **West End Ciderhouse** who is creating a signature cocktail for the conference, and the **West End Distillery** who are opening their doors for tastings of locally distilled spirits from local ingredients.

Of course, there will be plenty of presentations, performances, and plenaries throughout the conference. As you are on your way to meeting rooms, be sure to stop by the **Health and Wellness Fair** on Friday to meet with local organizations and maybe even get a health screening. Friday night come to the Athena Theatre to screen the film "**Dark Waters**" and hear from one of the attorneys involved in this case.

conducting the auction with paper forms, we are running the auction online. You will be able to scan a QR code for the item you are interested in and keep track of bids throughout the conference without coming back to the silent auction room. This also means that we will mainly be using credit or debit cards for the auction instead of cash. If you have an item you would like to donate to the silent auction, you can do so at: <https://appalachianstudiesassociation.betterworld.org/donate-an-item>

We cannot wait to see you in Athens in March!

- **Michele Morrone, Conference Chair,
Appalachian Studies Association**

Logo created by Nicki Mazzoca and Passionworks.

Call for Participation

From the Office



It is a lovely beginning to fall here on campus at Marshall University, the home to the Appalachian Studies Association headquarters, and the big news here is the [new website](#). If you haven't had a chance to look at it, please do. We are so pleased with the beautiful design and ease of use. Many big thanks to Caleb Pendygraft for the

gorgeous design layout, and to Aaron Nelson, our web manager, for all his technical expertise and work. And finally, this feat so long in the works, would not have been possible without the talent, hard work, and dedication of two Marshall journalism students who have interned with us over the past few semesters, Lumina Fioravante and Kayden Fox. And a special thanks to Ann Bryant from Mary for managing the many facets of the project. We have many more plans to expand the content and offerings on the site, so stay tuned as we announce new additions.

Another work in progress here, begun by our intern, Lumina Fioravante, is growing ASA's social media presence. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for up-to-date information about the Conference, Meet Ups, and other Appalachian events and information. (Click on the icons below to access and follow our social media sites!)

As the year's end begins to creep onto the horizon, we look back over this year and want to offer our gratitude again to the 2022 Conference planning group for the amazing conference. It was a much needed reunion with our ASA family after the last few years of COVID-19. It was a truly phenomenal conference, and the conference team outdid themselves with the programming and hospitality. We had many wonderful comments from members about their experiences at the conference.

We are also looking forward to the next time we will all gather together again for the conference in Athens, Ohio, March 16-19, 2023. The Ohio University conference team hosted the ASA Steering Committee back in July, and we were able to tour the beautiful, inviting campus there, and learn all the fabulous plans the group has in store for us. We hope you will join us as we explore the theme, "AppalachiaFest: From Surviving to Thriving."

Ann E. Bryant, Office Manager
Mary Kay Thomas, Executive Director





ASA Internship

Throughout my life, stories have become a lifeline for me. The fascination with escaping my reality stemmed from the countless stories my Grandpa Rick told me as a child in the hours before bed. These stories were filled with characters that taught lessons of bravery, honesty, kindness, and love. Later, in my teenage years, I found myself clinging to the pages of books, wishing I could dive into these other worlds and escape my life in Appalachia. Books filled me with a yearning to see, experience, and live anywhere in the world outside of the heavenly hills. However, in my twenties, my perspective changed.

This year I was privileged enough to finally venture outside the Appalachian mountains, which was breathtaking. I flew to the west coast to explore Arizona, California, and Nevada. Although these three states I traveled to were beautiful and exciting in their own ways, I could not help but miss the lush trees and whistling winds of the Appalachian mountains. Throughout that week, I realized what

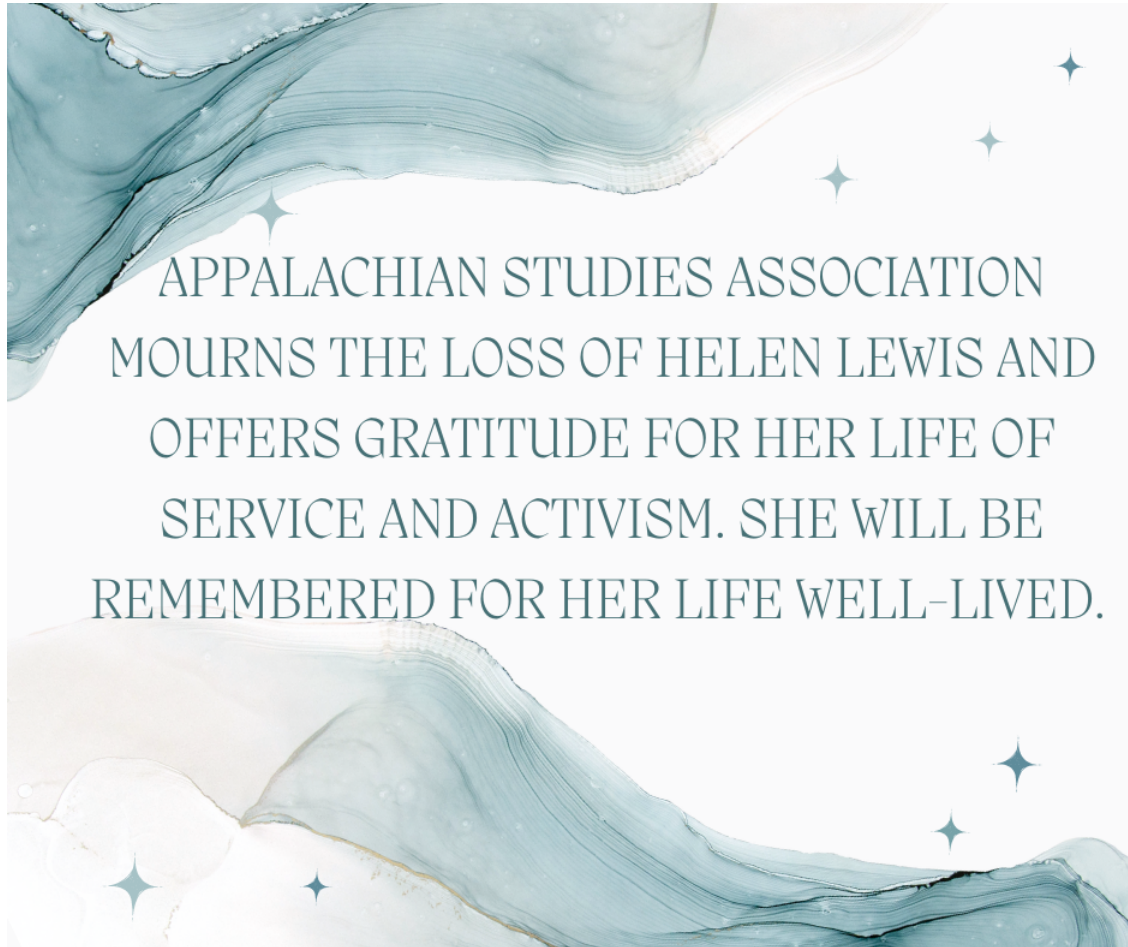
I have lived in a few different regions around West Virginia, including Oak Hill, Mount Hope, Beckley, Charleston, and now Huntington. Oak Hill will always have a special place in my heart because it is where I spent most of my childhood. It is a tiny town with a low population but a lot of heart and charm. If you are ever in the area, I would recommend driving through it to see all the large wooden bear sculptures representing different local businesses!

As I take pride in my hometown, I take pride in being an intern for the Appalachian Studies Association. My work with ASA has been very challenging, fulfilling, and rewarding. Before my internship with ASA, I was lost in the world of Public Relations (PR). The PR career has so many different routes that can be taken, and ASA helped me hone my skills and catapult me in the direction I want to go. A considerable part of this internship involved creativity, and helping develop ASA's new website made me realize my passion for web design and creating digital content. I honestly cannot thank the Appalachian Studies Association, especially

truly made me feel at peace: the comfort of home, the smell of pepperoni rolls, tales of Mothman, the beauty of the New River Gorge, and the kindness and hospitality that comes from a small town.

Mary Thomas and Ann Bryant, for giving me this fantastic opportunity I will cherish forever.

**- Kayden Fox, Intern
Appalachian Studies Association**



News

**A Brief History of Camp Happy Appalachee¹ ...
“where the torch-song meets the campfire in the
mountains!”**



The 2022 Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) conference marked the 10th (mostly) annual "Camp Happy Appalachia (CHA)" LGBTQIA+ reception since the inaugural event held at the 2011 conference. This gathering welcomes all LGBTQIA+ identifying folks and allies in an inclusive, comfortable, and private environment in partnership with ASA, the University of Kentucky (UK) Appalachian Center, and local conference organizers and campus communities.

In 2009, my partner Timi Reedy and I organized some local diversity workshops and resources with support from the Appalachian Community Fund (ACF) LGBTQ Initiative, including a short-lived social network called "Camp Happy Appalachia." Timi and I co-presented at the 2010 conference and attended some of the panels focused on queer identity in Appalachia. It was clear from the presentations, audience feedback, and casual conversations that there was a significant need for more targeted resources for the Appalachian queer community.

We decided to reach out to the local planning committee of the 2011 conference at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) about including an LGBTQIA+ networking reception to foster dialogue and relationship-building. We also received funding support from the ACF LGBTQ Initiative and partnered with the Program Coordinator for the ECU-SAFE program,

The reception always includes a good variety of high-quality food, and it is a valued space that often provides a free healthy meal and important social support for queer and allied youth attending the conference. Sharing leftover food continues as an intentional goal since the very first event. When possible, we direct leftovers to other conference activities, and participants are always welcome to take food with them. The only non-catered CHA event was in 2021 when ASA organized an entirely virtual conference due to the pandemic.

When possible, we seek to collaborate with campus LGBTQIA+ resource centers, which sometimes co-host in their spaces, as well as related ASA constituents and programming. For example, the second CHA in 2013 gathered in the same location as the "Queer Appalachia" art exhibit featuring life-size quilt portraits. Similarly, organizers of the 2019 ASA conference allocated a space for the Queer Caucus to gather/relax throughout the conference, which also served as the location for the CHA reception.

Camp Happy Appalachia is just one aspect of ASA's commitment to ensuring inclusion of LGBTQIA+ communities within Appalachian studies, which includes the Queer Caucus, Y'ALL, and increasing representation of LGBTQIA+ scholarship and participants throughout the conference program and presentations. Furthermore, CHA owes its existence and continuance to the visionary contributions of ASA

which offered the use of their campus "safe space" for the gathering.

This first event included a brainstorming session to document existing resources that I compiled and shared as a crowd-sourced bibliography with everyone as follow-up. Participants enjoyed the food and fellowship, and they were especially pleased that the reception was incorporated into the formal conference program and hoped it would continue as an annual event. We donated leftovers to the STAY Project fundraiser organized by Ada Smith later that same evening.

I continued coordinating CHA with conference organizers each year with fiscal sponsorship from the UK Appalachian Center when I became a doctoral student. We attempted to organize a second annual CHA reception for the 2012 ASA Conference, which was included in the program but unfortunately did not happen due to some logistical mix-ups. The annual event resumed in 2013 and has continued annually every year except for the 2020 conference cancellation due to the COVID-19 quarantine.

CHA attendees represent a diversity of gender and racialized identities as well as a broad age range and demographic of conference participants, including high school students, undergrads, graduate students, faculty, and community members. Average attendance at the annual reception has been about 20 people with more than 30 participants some years. Some people reported that it was their first time attending the ASA conference and that the reception made them feel welcome and wanting to come back again. Many participants over the years have also joined the related Facebook group that I co-manage, which currently has 156 members and serves as a private network for sharing scholarly, activist, artistic, and social resources, events, etc.

members like Kate Black, Jeff Mann, and the late Okey Napier (aka Ilene Over) who published and presented LGBTQIA+ scholarship, literature, and performance as early as the 1990s. It is this legacy that CHA strives to maintain and honor and that also makes possible the most recent *Journal of Appalachian Studies* (Vol. 28, No. 1) as the first queer-themed issue in its history.

Plans for the next CHA reception at the 2023 ASA conference at Ohio University are already underway. On behalf of Camp Happy Appalachia attendees and supporters over the years, I share our collective gratitude for the continued support from ASA, the UK Appalachian Center, and host campuses for making this valuable, intergenerational networking reception an annual tradition.

Note

¹The name "Camp Happy Appalachia (CHA)" incorporates several individual and collective plays on words that reflect and complicate queer/Appalachian identities. Queer-associated notions of "camp" and "campiness" are perhaps the most obvious, and "happy" is both a synonym for "gay" as well as "pride." "Appalachia" is a play on "Appalachian" and represents both the playfulness and contention of "correct" pronunciation and claims to authenticity. Combined, the phrase creates another nuanced play on words and metaphor for symbolic spaces like "summer camp" where people might come to understand, accept, and embrace parts of themselves that their regular reality might not foster.

Tammy L. Clemons is a cultural anthropologist, adjunct instructor, and media artist based near Berea, Kentucky. She and her partner are also queer ecofeminist sustainability activists and off-the-grid homesteaders with deep Appalachian roots.



Anthology of Appalachian Writers

The *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* is a publication that encourages a long-established tradition of storytelling, love of language, and creative expression associated broadly with

the region of Appalachia. Though the principal mission of the anthology is to provide a venue for publication of new writers, it also provides a collection of literature and scholarship that contributes to an understanding and appreciation for the region.

For consideration and inclusion in Volume XV, original unpublished **fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and essay submissions should relate in some respect to the work of Barbara Kingsolver and her poetry and stories about the environment, sustainable living, patriarchal abuse, gender, family, and social justice issues, as well as socially engaged fiction. For an understanding of Barbara Kingsolver's work, please see the current AHWIR Kingsolver website resources link at <https://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/kingsolver/links>, click on the essay "Challenges of the Global Village and the Ties that Bind: The Writing of Barbara Kingsolver"**

The anthology is supported by the [Shepherd University Foundation](#) and **The West Virginia Center for the Book**. The *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* is part of the **Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities**.

Submission Deadline: December 1, 2022; (photography submissions due 12/15/22).

Editorial Board of Anthology of Appalachian Writers: Senior Managing Editor, Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Appalachian Heritage Writers Project Director and Director of Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities; Senior Editors David O. Hoffman and Mary Barker; and 2022 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and WV Common Read Author Barbara Kingsolver

Submissions: To submit any original, unpublished work of fiction, poetry or nonfiction to the Kingsolver volume, **send an electronic copy, along with the information below, to Dr. S. Bailey Shurbutt, sshurbut@shepherd.edu.**

All submissions must be in **submission format noted below**.

Name:

Title of Submission:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone:

Brief Biography (limit 100 words):

Format for Submissions: No page numbers, double spacing, Word documents only, 5000-word maximum limit.

Committee Reports

ASA Scholarship Reports

2022 ASA BIPOC Registration Scholarship Report

The BIPOC Membership Scholarship was extended to include conference registration beginning with the 2022 conference¹. We had a total of \$1,925 in funds available for BIPOC conference registration scholarships that included access to the conference and membership in the ASA.

We initially received five applications and added two late applicants. The committee awarded BIPOC conference registration scholarships to all seven applicants: one student and six non-students. Six non-students utilized the award by attending the conference using a total of \$990 of the \$1,925 available, leaving \$935 to roll-over to the 2023 conference. Additional funds collected from the non-student membership fee earmark will be added to the roll-over once the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year is closed in late October².

All scholarship award recipients who attended the 2022 ASA conference will receive an ASA annual membership, an electronic subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, and the ASA newsletter, *Appalink*. In this way, recipients continue to benefit from the award—receiving access to current research literature and to a community of scholars, learners, and activists.

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

²Beginning in August of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, \$5 of every non-student membership was earmarked for the BIPOC Membership Scholarship fund.

2022 ASA General Scholarship Report

A general registration scholarship covers registration for the conference and includes membership. In 2022, we awarded 13 out of the 25 eligible applicants—4 students and 9 non-students. With only \$1,066.99 in available funding and expecting that some awardees would either decline the scholarship or not attend the conference, we over awarded scholarships by \$858.01 for a total of \$1,925.00. The 12 applicants who did not receive the scholarship received notification in time to pre-register for the conference at the lower, pre-conference rate.

To receive the final award of conference registration and membership, awardees must attend the conference. Of the 13 awardees, 9 utilized the award and attended the conference. The final amount awarded in registration scholarships, for the 9 recipients who attended, was \$1,375.00, leaving \$308.01 in unfunded scholarship registrations and no carry-over to the 2023 conference. ASA will provide the same benefits to the unfunded awardees as they do to fully funded awardees, including membership in the association and an electronic subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*.

All 2022 awardees who utilized the award by attending the conference received membership in the association with a 2022 electronic subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* and the ASA newsletter, *Appalink*. In this way, recipients continue to benefit from the award—receiving access to current research literature and to a community of scholars, learners, and activists.

**-Mary K. Thomas, Executive Director
Appalachian Studies Association**

Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee has remained diligent stewards of our financial well-being. The Appalachian Studies Association continues to stay solvent while weathering the impacts of COVID-19 on the nonprofit and membership association landscape.

Like all, economic challenges such as inflation have affected the Association. We have adapted to these changing market conditions and have worked to identify new sources of support and revenue. In the coming months, we hope to share exciting new programs around Organizational/Agency Membership and increased opportunities to support our growing endowment and scholarship fund.

Thanks to careful planning and cost-cutting in previous years or savings, we have come out of the last two years relatively intact.

- Aaron Guest, Treasurer

Diversity & Inclusion

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee is excited for the opportunities the next year will provide to move from surviving to thriving. As a fundamental branch of ASA's executive leadership, we are actively seeking increased participation and suggestions from all ASA members!

With Travis Rountree's transition to a new role with ASA, Justin-Ray Dutton has assumed the position of committee chair. Cognizant of his identities as queer, white, neurodiverse, able-bodied, and of survivable SES status, Justin-Ray aims to expand the representation of D&I Committee Members, notably in terms of leadership. Please reach out to justin-ray.dutton@mail.wvu.edu if you would like to be involved in any way.

**- Justin-Ray Dutton, Chair
Diversity & Inclusion Committee**

2022 Howard Dorgan Silent Auction Wrap Up



The 2022 Howard Dorgan Silent Auction returned to in person status this year at the ASA conference held at West Virginia University.

As auction chair I'm happy to say that this year's event was a big success. Planning started months in advance and donations were gathered from near and far. There were some wonderful items available from homemade spirits, to quilts, handmade West Virginia glass and pottery from our local artisans, and some wonderful cryptid designs featuring WV folklore and our famous monsters, Mothman and the Braxton County monster, Braxie.

Conference attendees and local folks stopped by to shop! The auction items were arranged into themed displays. The staff at the WVU MountainLair, (student union) made sure everything ran smoothly. We tried something new this time. "Buy it Now" tables were set up and fully stocked with lots of great items. This proved very popular. Shoppers enjoyed having the opportunity to see something and purchase it on the spot.

Bidding was strong and in the final hours we were able to wrap things up for a grand total of **\$3,475.96**. One of the items that attracted a lot of attention was a working 1920s still which found a new home at East Tennessee State University in their distillery collection at the Reece Museum!

All in all, it was a lot of fun and a big success. My thanks to everyone who donated, shopped and supported ASA scholarships with your gifts and purchases! Let's do it again next year in Ohio!

**- Stewart Plein, Chair
Howard Dorgan Silent Auction**

HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION

Get Involved!

- **Donate**
- **Participate**
- **Volunteer**
- **Bid Often!**



New this year!

- **Donate items:** Complete the online form and upload a photo via the link in the comments, then bring the item with you to Athens!
- **In-person mobile bidding:** Via an online portal with your mobile device using a credit card.



Journal of Appalachian Studies



We have an upcoming special issue on Black Appalachia being edited by Wilburn Hayden for spring 2023, and several articles ready for the following issue. We also have several exciting proposals for themed issues that the editorial board will be discussing this fall.

As always, we invite authors to submit their work in the field to the journal, and we always need reviewers. If you are interested in being a reviewer for the journal, please contact Rebecca Scott at scottrr@missouri.edu or Christopher Leadingham at Christopher.leadingham@uky.edu.

**- Rebecca R. Scott, Editor,
*Journal of Appalachian Studies***

About JAS



Special Collections Committee's Response to the Flooding in Kentucky

Following the devastating flooding in Kentucky, the ASA Special Collections Committee extended assistance on a number of fronts, individually and institutionally, specifically concerning Appalshop in Whitesburg and Hindman Settlement School in Hindman.

Two committee members have been engaged in weekly response phone calls coordinated by the Kentucky Arts Council with others from across Appalachia. Discussions on funding sources, volunteers, best practices, and other recovery topics continue to be part of this weekly discussion. Members of the committee, including a professor at UVA Wise, was on the ground assisting recovery in the early stages. The director of the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University has been instrumental in coordinating East Tennessee State's response offering freezer storage for damaged archives and a curator from West Virginia University is collecting books on Appalachia to replace those lost at Hindman.

The effort from the Kentucky Arts Council and the Special Collections Committee is ongoing.

**- Stewart Plein, Chair
Special Collections Committee**

ASA Award Recipients

Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award

No winner

Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award

Cecil Gunganus

Carl A. Ross Appalachian Graduate Student Paper Award

Kelsie Burks Mayes, *Batesville, Georgia: Timber and the Decline of Yeomanism in a Southern Appalachian Community*

e-Appalachia Award for Outstanding Media Source

William H. Turner and Ted Olson, *Sepia Tones: Exploring Black Appalachian Music*

Jack Spadaro Documentary Award

Mike Costello and Amy Dawson, *"Homegrown Foodways in West Virginia: Documentaries from the Dinner Table."*

Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Sophia M. Enriquez

Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies sponsored by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, ETSU

K-12: Zachary Greene, of J. Frank White Academy

Post-secondary: Rosann Kent, of University of North Georgia

Gates-Carawan Artist Award

no winner

Weatherford Awards

Fiction: *My Monticello* (Henry Holt) by Jocelyn Johnson

Poetry: *The Girl Singer* (University Press of Kentucky) by Marianne Worthington

Non-Fiction: *The Harlan Renaissance: Stories of Black Lives in Appalachian Coal Towns* (West Virginia University Press) by William H. Turner

Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Postdoctoral Fellowship Reports

Finding Refuge: Refugee Workers, Poultry Processing and the Journey to Belonging in Appalachia

In 2020-21, I received the Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Postdoctoral Fellowship for my project titled, "**Finding Refuge: Refugee Workers, Poultry Processing and the Journey to Belonging in Appalachia***." In the past three decades, the growth in the poultry industry has led to increased migration into rural Appalachian towns. My project explores the social and spatial factors

Preliminary findings highlight the need for specific resources, such as translation services and legal assistance, but also the critical role that mutual aid and support within immigrant and refugee networks play in meeting basic needs and securing resources as newcomers' transition to life in these rural towns. A sense of belonging and feelings of community were highest within faith-based groups. However,

shaping refugees' and immigrants' experiences of community life. Many studies of immigrant and refugee experiences in relation to meat and poultry industries have focused on larger, urban environments or, regionally, in the U.S. Midwest or South. Focusing on rural Appalachian towns, many of which have small population sizes, not only expands this regional perspective but also creates the opportunity to explore whether smaller, rural spaces present unique challenges and/or opportunities for fostering belonging and inclusive communities.

Building on previous research exploring forms of immigrant racialization and criminalization generated through immigration law and workplace raids, this project used feminist geographic methodologies to ask, what are the social and spatial factors inhibiting and facilitating belonging and inclusion in poultry towns? As a form of community based participatory action research, this project centralized refugee, immigrant, and English Language Learning (ELL) community members as the subjects defining the terms and leading the discussion about community life and what is often termed "integration." The project focused on the least studied social aspects of integration, including a sense of community, belonging, security, and wellbeing. Integration explicitly departs from assumptions of assimilation, and instead seeks to understand the dynamic relationship between immigrant and refugee community members and longer-term residents (Marks 2014).

With additional support from the National Geographic Society, and despite many COVID-19 delays, between 2021 and 2022, I conducted 51 semi-structured, in-depth interviews, two focus groups, and many instances of participant observation. Community members learned about the project through collaborations with local leaders, local translators or by interacting with the research team in public spaces or community events. Interviews included an equal number of women and men, ranging in age from 18 to 65 years, from 7 countries and U.S. territories, and with varying legal statuses. An equal number of the interviews were conducted in English to those with the assistance of translators.

feelings of inclusion within the geographically delineated towns (and so-called 'host' communities) were detrimentally impacted by language barriers and experiences of racism and discrimination related to skin color and legal status. Shared resources, such as schools, educational settings as well as public recreational spaces, created opportunities for interaction that have enabled some bonds of friendship, a sense of community, and belonging to emerge. The structure and demands of the poultry industry directly inhibited some traditional markers of integration such as language acquisition, but were also places of connection and community.

Community meetings to discuss preliminary findings and formulate action plans with community collaborators are forthcoming in fall of 2022, which will also shape the direction of future research. I am excited to continue this project and I am both honored and grateful to have received support from the Appalachian Studies Association.

*Research was presented at the 2022 ASA Conference. The Session title was "All My Friends Here are Ghosts¹:" Experiences of Hyper Visibility and Invisibility among Immigrants and Refugees in an Appalachian Poultry Town.

- Cynthia Gorman
2020-2021 Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Postdoctoral Fellowship Recipient

Note

¹"Isabella." Interview conducted by author, 9/19/21.

Reference

Marks, Jessica, A. 2014. Rural Refugee Resettlement: Secondary Migration and Community Integration in Fort Morgan, Colorado. *New Issues in Refugee Research*, Research Paper No. 269. Switzerland: UNHCR Policy Development and Evaluation Service. <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/research/working/5326c7cd9/rural-refugee-resettlement-secondary-migration-community-integration-fort.html>

Animate Literacies, Animating

Appalachia: Reading, Writing, and Queer Survival in the Mountain & Callin' Down the Spirit: A Pagan Memoir in Appalachia

Spring 2022: The students in my inaugural course, "**Appalachian Cultures**," at Massachusetts Maritime Academy on the canal of Cape Cod, were assigned an individual project that focused on a significant Appalachian who impacted the region for the better and preserves our future. Among those included the namesake of my Fellowship, Wilma Dykeman. During the student's presentation, I realized how the work of Appalachian scholars and writers such as Dykeman can reach across regions. To that end, since being awarded this fellowship I've had the opportunity to explore gender, sexuality, and identity in Appalachian contexts through various facets. I'd like to note a few particular advances in my research.

I applied to the Dykeman Fellowship to help further my 2019 dissertation research and because of this opportunity, the University Press of Kentucky has contracted me with not just one book but two. The first, the progression of my dissertation, titled, ***Animate Literacies, Animating Appalachia: Reading, Writing, and Queer Survival in the Mountain***, and the second tentatively named, ***Callin' Down the Spirit: A Pagan Memoir in Appalachia***. The latter emerged from another research project where I utilized the fellowship to write my recent article in the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, "**Comin' Out the Broom Closet: Appalachian Pagans and Their Queer Future Worlding**" (Pendygraft 2022). Below I'll briefly outline where my research* has landed.

First, a major thesis of *Animate Literacies* argues that conventional notions of literacy sponsorship — the mechanisms of literacy acquisition — fail to account for all the complexities of meaning making and power relations in queer lives, especially in othered places like Appalachia. By understanding more multivalent factors of literacy in places like Appalachia, which in our cultural narratives frequently is misthought of as "backwards" or illiterate, my project seeks to expand the scope of literacy sponsorship. By listening to,

To this end, it's my goal that by writing with the queer Appalachia oral histories I collect, I am able to enrich and supplement existing literacy theories. In the process of writing *Animate Literacies* I develop a theoretical framework of literacy that makes room for the literacy practices of queers who oftentimes have to survive in places where their livelihood is jeopardized, and do so through creative literacy practices. A critical part of this theoretical development is drawing from place-based theories in Appalachia as well as drawing from new materialist thinkers and writers. Ultimately, this book project builds a theory of literacy out of the oral histories that understand place, specifically Appalachia, as a critical factor to be accounted for insofar as literacy and literacy sponsorship is concerned.

Next, *Callin' Down the Spirit* is a future manuscript that I envision as an exploration, a storytelling of paganism that exists in the Appalachian region, albeit not readily known to the general public. Raised in the knobs of Kentucky, I grew up around pagans and spiritualists, with folxways passed down through my kin. My experiences and participation in these communities, bolstered by the funding from the Dykeman Fellowship allowed me to travel to and write in these pagan spaces, leading to my recent article, *Comin' Out the Broom Closet* (Pendygraft 2022). In it, I provide "a lexical survey of pagan-worlding, a queer neologism that I coin here as a creative, enacted performance of place-based veneration that resists anthropocentrism." My framework of pagan-worlding centers around four axioms, queering their implications in Appalachia: "I suggest that the future of Appalachia requires a multiplicitous understanding of the world around us, one that sees non-human actors as critical players and demands that we queer how we relate to the land." The memoir, my hope, will expand these ideas through my own lived experience. My gratitude can't be expressed enough to the Appalachian Studies Association and the Dykeman Fellowship because I was able to reach this

engaging with, and recording queer stories, I am also queering the methodologies of literacy research. Another goal of compiling queer oral histories in Appalachia is to expand the theoretical scope of literacy studies altogether. It is through the stories I collect that I propose literacy involves much more than reading and writing alone. A critical element of queer scholarship, generally speaking, is the possibilities that queerness entail.

point in my scholarship, written for my Appalachian communities.

*Research was presented at the 2022 ASA Conference. The session title was "Comin' Out the Broom Closet: Appalachian Pagans and Their Queer Future Worlding."

- **Caleb Pendencygraft**
2021-2022 Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Postdoctoral Fellowship Recipient

Reference

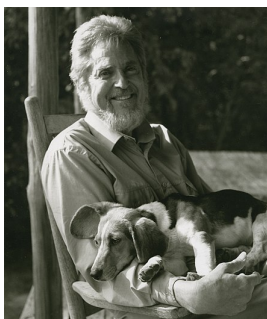
Pendencygraft, Caleb. 2022. Comin' out the broom closet: Appalachian pagans and their queer future worlding. *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 28 (1): 49-69.

Call for Award Nominations

For more information, please visit the ["Awards"](#) page on the ASA website.

Awards

Award winners will be announced at the 2023 ASA Conference Awards Ceremony.



GATES-CARAWAN ARTIST AWARD

The Gates-Carawan Artist Award recognizes an individual for artistic potential or artistic contributions to Appalachia in the realms of visual, oral, musical, literary, or other arts. With this award, the ASA seeks to recognize and cultivate artists who are working in the spirit of the award's namesakes, independent filmmaker Bob Gates and activist musicians Guy and Candie Carawan—socially conscious artists who supported and encouraged the work of other regional artists.

The winner will receive a physical award produced by a regional artist and either a \$500 stipend (for artistic contributions) or the guidance of a mentor (for artistic potential). Nominators of a winning candidate with artistic potential will be strongly encouraged to develop a mentoring plan with the winning artist.

Nominations may come from any ASA member. Submission requirements are detailed on the ASA website. Send nomination materials to Scott Goebel, Gates-Carawan Artist Award Selection Committee Chair, badbranch3@gmail.com, by **December 1, 2022**.



STEPHEN L. FISHER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The ASA Award for Excellence in Teaching seeks to honor individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. There are two awards: one for college or university teaching and one for public school teaching.

The winners in each category will receive \$250. Candidates may be nominated or may self-nominate. The nomination process has two steps; the preliminary nomination deadline is **November 1, 2022**. Based on these nominations, the Education Committee will notify the finalists' nominators by December 1, 2022, at which time they will submit a full nomination packet that is due January 31, 2023.

Preliminary nomination forms, available on the ASA website, must be submitted as an attachment to an e-mail to the chair of the ASA Education Committee, Ted Olson, at olson@etsu.edu, by November 1, 2022. Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee.



CARL A. ROSS APPALACHIAN STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

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

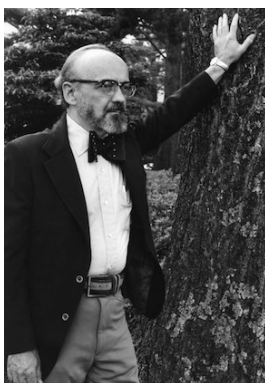
The authors of the winning papers will receive \$100 each. All papers must adhere to guidelines for scholarly research. Students who wish to present their papers at the conference must also submit a conference proposal following the submission guidelines. The cost of attending the conference is the responsibility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

Submissions should be sent in Microsoft Word attachments via e-mail to the selection chair, Casey LaFrance, at TC-LaFrance@wiu.edu by **January 15, 2023**. Papers submitted to the undergraduate/graduate competition must have been completed during the current or previous academic year and must include proof of student status during the current or previous academic year; documentation may consist of a letter from a faculty advisor (including faculty advisor's e-mail, phone, and address), a schedule of classes, or a transcript.

CRATIS D. WILLIAMS & JAMES S. BROWN SERVICE AWARD

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

Nominations, due to the chair of the selection committee by **January 15, 2023**, should include the following:



"Chris Williams, Photo 2," Appalachian State University Digital Collections

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

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

Send nomination materials to Jinny Turman at jt8zn@uvawise.edu by **January 15, 2023**.



HELEN M. LEWIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

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

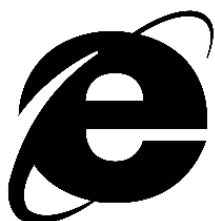
Send nomination materials to Sandy Ballard, Belk Library, Box 32026, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608, or to ballardsl@appstate.edu by **January 31, 2023**.



JACK SPADARO DOCUMENTARY AWARD

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

The winner will be awarded \$250. Nominations should be made by **January 31, 2023** to Tom Hansell at hansellts@appstate.edu. Technical and submission requirements are detailed on the ASA website.



THE e-APPALACHIA AWARD

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

The winner will be awarded \$250. Nominations should be sent to Sophia Enriquez by emailing asa@marshall.edu with "e-Appalachia Award" in the subject line, by **January 31, 2023**.



WEATHERFORD AWARDS

The ASA and Berea College annually present the Weatherford Awards to honor published works that "best illuminate the challenges, personalities, and unique qualities of the Appalachian South." The Weatherford Awards are named after Willis D. Weatherford Jr. and Sr. for their contributions to the region. The late Alfred Perrin began the award in 1970. Three awards are presented annually for nonfiction, fiction, and poetry, the latter in honor of Grace Toney Edwards. The subject matter of nominated books must be Appalachian or set in Appalachia and originally published in 2022.

Anyone may nominate, but nominations in any of the three categories must include seven copies. Nominations and copies must be received by Chris Green, Director, Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, CPO 2166, 205 North Main Street, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404, by November 1, 2022. If copies will be delayed, the nomination letter must specify the expected delivery date.

For further information, visit the ASA website or click the button below.

[More Info](#)



WILMA DYKEMAN "Faces of Appalachia" POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2023-2024)

The Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, which provides \$3,000 to support research related to gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia, is awarded annually when funding is available (funding is available for the 2023 - 2024 award). Members of the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) who have earned a doctoral degree from an accredited institution within the past seven years are eligible to apply. Fellowship applicants must have been members of ASA for one year prior to applying and must maintain membership throughout the course of the fellowship period. No person may receive the fellowship more than one time.

Please send applications to Mary Thomas at mthomas@marshall.edu by **December 31, 2022**. Althea Webb is the Wilma Dykeman Committee chair, and may be contacted at althea_webb@berea.edu. The award winner, as well as other applicants, will be notified early in the spring 2023 semester. Award winners will be announced at the spring 2023 ASA conference awards ceremony.

For more information about the award and details on the application process, please visit the ASA website or click the button below.

This award is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

[More Info](#)

WILMA DYKEMAN “Faces of Appalachia” POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP* (2023-2024)



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Elections & Appointments

New Steering Committee Members & Officers

Elected Positions

Vice President/President Elect, 2022 – 2025
Travis Rountree

Secretary, 2022 – 2025
Sylvia Shurbutt

Y’All Steering Committee, 2022 - 2024
Maxwell Cloe

Appointed Positions

Education Chairperson, 2022 – 2026

Ted Olson

Diversity and Inclusion Chairperson, 2022 - 2026

Justin Ray Dutton

Call for Officer & Steering Committee Nominations

Your nominations are needed for ASA officers and Steering Committee members. The ASA bylaws call for the annual nomination and election of officers. Any member of ASA may nominate a fellow member to serve.

ASA is seeking nominations for the following elected positions:

Vice President/President Elect is a three-year term. This person chairs the nominating committee (2023-2024). During the second year as the 2024-2025 President, this person negotiates the conference location, presides at all meetings, directs fundraising, serves as a spokesperson, and serves on the Steering Committee. This person serves their final year as Past President (2025-2026).

One **Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2023-2025)** to serve for two years. Y'ALL Steering Committee members act as co-chairs of the Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners committee and work collaboratively with the President in support of the conference.

Treasurer (2023-2026) provides financial oversight of the association's funds, accounts, and policy through the administrative office. The treasurer presents an assessment of the financial condition of the Association at each annual meeting and at other times when requested. The treasurer examines the books, provides reports, and maintains IRS documents with the assistance of the administrative office. The treasurer, working with the association's Executive Director and CPA, files all forms required by the Internal Revenue Service in a timely and accurate fashion.

How to Make a Nomination:

- Make sure the nominee is willing to serve and understands the commitment involved.
- Write a 100-word biography of the nominee that includes their involvement in Appalachian studies and/or ASA. This paragraph will be included in the spring Appalink with the ballot. You may also submit a photograph.
- Self-nominations are welcome.

Send your nomination(s) to Travis Rountree, ASA Vice President:
trountree@email.wcu.edu by December 15, 2022.

Mark Your Calendars

46th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 16-19, 2023
Ohio University
Athens, Ohio

AppalachiaFest: From Surviving to Thriving

Michele Morrone, Conference Chair, morrone@ohio.edu
Tiffany Arnold, Program Chair, arnoldt2@ohio.edu
Patti Malloy, Local Arrangements Chair, malloyp@ohio.edu



47th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

TBA

Follow ASA on Social Media



Appalink is published twice a year.
We welcome submissions, announcements, and/or news.
Email submissions to Anne Chesky Smith at anne.chesky.smith@gmail.com.
Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1.
Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

Editors: Anne Chesky Smith, Mary Kay Thomas, and Ann E. Bryant

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