

Get ready for the ASA Conference at Ohio Univ. - March 16-19!

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Spring 2023

Volume 46, Number 2



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I cannot believe it has been almost a year since you elected me to the position of President. I will be handing over the Compass to a new leader in just a few months. As we approach our annual conference, I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with the members of the Steering Committee and the National Headquarters, as well as serving you.

We are on the homestretch towards the 46th annual Appalachian Studies Association conference. We are excited to be on the campus of Ohio University and in the city of Athens on March 16-19, 2023. The planning committee has put forward a great effort to ensure that

you have an enriching and enjoyable experience. You can find details about registration, accommodations, the silent auction, and more by visiting [ASA's website](#).

As we continue to reimagine the future of the Appalachian Studies Association, I encourage each member to make their voice heard. The passage of time brings forth new ideas and recommendations that we as leaders must consider. We view ourselves as more than stewards but leaders with great responsibility. Addressing our membership and community needs is at the core of our work. It is easy to manage, but leadership requires a much greater sacrifice. We recognize that change is inevitable, but within that change lies the opportunity for growth. We are presented with a great opportunity not only to sustain the culture of Appalachia but to imagine it in the 21st century. What will the impact of new and old communities be as the region opens up digitally and physically? What new hybridity will emerge or be rediscovered? There is no greater vehicle than the Appalachian Studies Association to help us navigate these exciting opportunities.

The pace is steady and intentional. We must continue to work together to further the impact of the Association. I charge the membership with holding the organization accountable for the relentless pursuit of its mission and vision.

Ricardo Nazario y Colón
President, Appalachian Studies Association

OUR MISSION



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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH MESSAGE

I am writing to you on the eve of the beginning of Black History Month 2023. To our Appalachia Studies Community, to acknowledge the pain, hopelessness, and rage being experienced yet again, following the violence many have since witnessed and or heard about, inflicted upon Tyre Nichols, a human being, Black.

Be assured that as an Association of Scholars and Practitioners, ASA rejects violence and all forms of hatred. These events—including the deep sorrow we feel as a nation and community over the death—are a constant reminder that many communities across the country remain challenged by injustice, and we are experiencing the tragic consequences again.

Our humanity compels us to express empathy to the family and friends of Tyre Nichols and all associated either directly or indirectly with this incident. Our hearts rightfully ache for our friends who may have or are experiencing intense emotional distress over Mr. Nichols' death.

Black History Month was established to fill a gap in the historical narrative of our nation, thus creating an opportunity for people of all ethnic and social backgrounds to discuss the Black experience. ASA is committed to advancing the discussion around the Black experience. We welcome scholarship, presentations and other forms of practical and intellectual inquiry. The 2023 national theme designated by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History is, 'Black Resistance.'

I look forward to engaging in critical discussions that will offer us a greater understanding of our society. I hope that each member of our community leverages the full scope of their discipline to bring forward debate, learning, and the recognition that there are ways of communicating a point of view that maintain relationships, respect differences, and move communities closer together instead of further apart.

So, I encourage us all to take the time to engage with friends, colleagues, and others as we mark the 97th national observance of Black History Month.

Sincerely,
Ricardo Nazario-Colón Ed.D.
President
Appalachian Studies Association

46th ANNUAL ASA CONFERENCE

AppalachiaFest: From Surviving to Thriving

March 16-19, 2023

Ohio University, Athens, Ohio



Preliminary Program

News

**Camp Happy Appalachee
Annual LGBTQ Gathering
ASA Conference 2023**



Camp Happy Appalachia... where the torch-song meets the campfire in the mountains!

In co-sponsorship with the University of Kentucky Appalachian Center, Ohio University LGBT Center, and Ohio University Libraries, ASA will host the 11th mostly-annual (since the first CHA at ECU in 2011) LGBTQ reception at the [2023 conference](#).

This lunch gathering will be held on **Friday, March 17, 2023, from 11:45 am-1:00 pm in the [Ohio University Alden Library CoLab](#)** and welcomes all LGBTQ-identifying folks and allies in an inclusive, comfortable, and private environment.

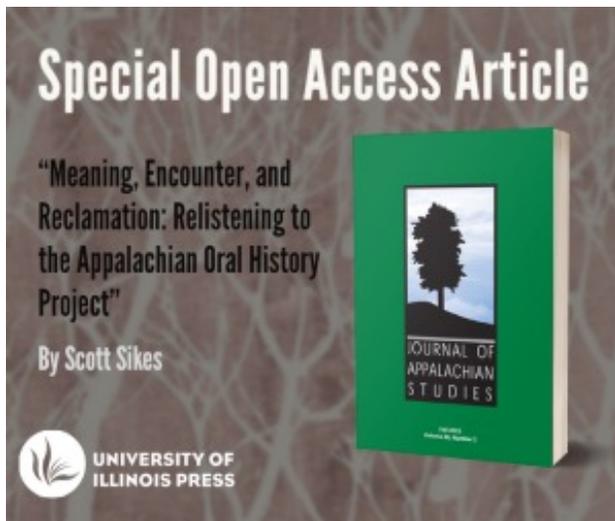
Contact Tammy Clemons (tammy.lynn.clemons@gmail.com) for more information about the event or to join the private LGBTQ* Appalachian Studies group on Facebook.

There is also a brief history of the annual gathering in the last issue of the *ASA Appalink* newsletter (Vol. 46 Issue 1):

History of Camp Happy Appalachia



Follow us on LinkedIn



Thanks to University of Illinois Press for offering a free access article from *Journal of Appalachian Studies* as part of the American Historical Association Annual Conference: **“Meaning, Encounter, and Reclamation: Relisting to the Appalachian Oral History Project,”** by Scott Sikes.

If you like this article and want to read more about Appalachian Studies, [become a member of Appalachian Studies Association today!](#) All members receive a digital subscription to the Journal.

Access the article:
<https://scholarlypublishingcollective.org/ui/p/jas/article/27/1/106/284077/Meaning-Encounter-and-Reclamation-Relisting-to>

Read Now



The Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities announces two exciting Teacher Institutes, both giving teachers accepted to the institutes, stipends of approximately \$1,000. The **Voices from the Misty Mountains Teacher Institute, July 10-21, 2023** funded by the WV Humanities Council, features Artist Frank X Walker and Scholars Dr. James Broomall, Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, Ethnomusicologist Rachael Meads, Storyteller Adam Booth, and 2007 WV Professor of the Year Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt.

The institute will explore the power of place and the importance of telling our stories. Voices from the Misty Mountains Teacher Institute is open to all K-12 teachers from all disciplines.

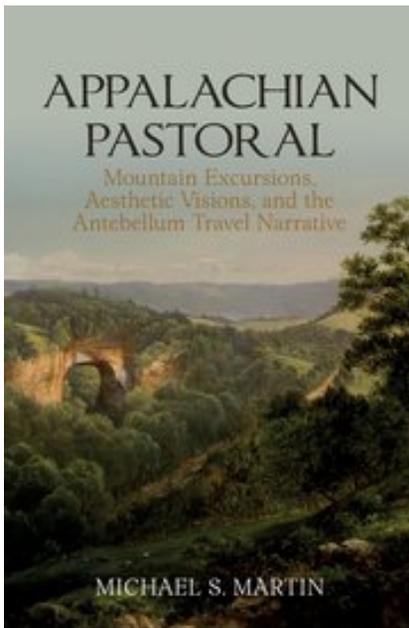
For information, click the box below.

Teacher Institute

The **People Powered Project for the Teaching of Social Studies and Civics**, funded by the Benedum Foundation, offers one of two introductory workshops **June 28 or 30, 2023**, exploring experiential learning, student citizen civic engagement, and utilization of primary documents of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education.

For information about the People Powered Project, click the box below.

People Powered Project



New from Clemson University Press:

[Appalachian Pastoral](#)

From the publisher:

- This book is the first book-length, critical study of antebellum literature written on the Appalachian region.
- The book incorporates ecological or environmental literary criticism as its primary method of interpretation.
- The book argues that Appalachian regional identity existed much earlier than scholars generally attribute regional affiliation occurring.
- The book makes fresh correlations between British and Continental landscape traditions and the Appalachian region.

Officer & Steering Committee Election

[Click here to VOTE!](#)

Nominees

Treasurer

M. Aaron Guest is an Assistant Professor of Aging at the Center for Innovation in Healthy and Resilient Aging at Arizona State University. He earned his PhD in Gerontology from the University of Kentucky and his MPH and MSW from the University of South Carolina. He teaches courses on programs and services for older adults, research methods, and cultural factors influencing aging. His research interest focuses on the built and social environments that influence aging, particularly among rural LGBTQ populations. An interest that developed while at the University of Kentucky, where he completed work focusing on LGBTQ Aging in Appalachian Kentucky. His work focusing on Appalachia has appeared in the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, *Y'All Means All* (PM Press), and the *International Handbook of Social Work and Sexualities* (Routledge). He has presented on Appalachian research at the Appalachian Studies Association, American Public Health Association, Gerontological Society of America, and Southern Gerontological Society.

He has been active in the Appalachian Studies Association since 2015. He has previously served on the Finance Committee (2018-2023), the Development Subcommittee (2018-

2019), and as a member of Y'ALL. He has served as the Treasurer of the Appalachian Studies Association since 2020. While at the University of Kentucky, he participated in the Graduate Appalachian Research Community, serving as the Symposium Chair in 2019. He looks forward to continuing the work to stabilize the Appalachian Studies Association's finances and develop a sustainable business plan.

Born in Athens, Georgia, Aaron split his time growing up between upstate South Carolina beneath the Blue Ridge Mountains and Northeast Georgia. He now lives in Phoenix, Arizona but remains connected to the Appalachian region through his work and service.

Y'ALL (Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners) Representative



Garrett Blaize is a community-based researcher and organizer-administrator working to resource and build institutions that serve our movements, people, and communities. Their research over the past year has focused on conducting a participatory assessment with Central Appalachian parents and childcare workers to envision more just alternatives to currently existing childcare infrastructure inspired by Helen Lewis' pedagogy.

They serve as the staff lead for grant-making and philanthropic partnerships at the Appalachian Community Fund, as youth programs administrator at Alternate Roots, and as the Treasurer of Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, who they represent on the Coordinating Committee of the Alliance for Appalachia.

[Click here to VOTE!](#)

Committee Reports

Diversity and Inclusion

Considering ways to be more involved with ASA? Ready (or beyond ready) to continue the complication of understandings of Appalachia as a homogenous place? We would love to engage with you!

Whether you are in a space to fully commit to all visioning and planning actions or currently only have the capacity to share your presence at the annual virtual committee meeting (or find yourself somewhere in between), please contact Justin-Ray Dutton (current committee chair) at justinraydutton@gmail.com to explore ways your experiences and expertise may continue the transformations from surviving to thriving in Appalachia.

Justin-Ray Dutton
Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

The Future of the Finance Committee in ASA

Your Finance Committee has been hard at work undergoing a period of self-reflection to identify better how our work can support the Appalachian Studies Association. As with anything, something once ideal may no longer serve the same purpose as the organization progresses. Such is the case with the current Finance Committee structure.

For a while now, the Finance Committee has operated under dual roles: Development/Donation Generation and Financial Oversight. Doing so has made it challenging to excel at either. Thus, we will make the following recommendations to the Steering Committee and the general membership for approval during a bylaw's revision:

1. Split the Finance Committee into two committees: Finance Committee and Advancement Committee.
2. The new Advancement Committee will be responsible for identifying grant and gift funding to further the association's work and address budget gaps.
3. The Finance Committee will maintain the financial oversight of the association.
4. The Treasurer of the Association will lead the Finance Committee. It will consist of the Executive Committee of the Steering Committee, the Advancement Committee Chair, and the Executive Director of the Association (ex-officio). Doing so will address a confusing situation in which the Finance Committee Chair and the Treasurer have overlapping responsibilities.
5. The Advancement Committee will be a new member-populated committee consisting of an Advancement Committee Chair and ASA Members. The Treasurer and Executive Director of ASA (or their designee) will serve ex-officio.

We believe this proposed structure will assist us in advancing the work of ASA. We continue to recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The operating budget of the Appalachian Studies Association has remained static for several years now, yet costs continue to climb. We have continued to do our best to keep costs low, but we can no longer escape the economic realities of the world. It is also not fair or just to continue to allow ASA Staff to shoulder the financial cost of maintaining the organizational headquarters through the purchase of things like paper towels, pens, cleaning supplies, etc., out of their pocket.

For the sustainability of ASA, we must diversify our funding streams and identify sustainable increases, based on inflation, of our member and event dues. In my opinion, the proposed structure will assist us in making headway into a sustainable Appalachian future where ASA remains a committed source of Appalachian community, scholarship, practice, and activism.

I hope you will consider joining us in these efforts. We welcome your recommendations, suggestions, and service to these efforts.

Aaron Guest, ASA Treasurer

Journal of Appalachian Studies



Thank you to Mary Thomas, Ann Bryant, Christopher Leadingham, Carson Benn, and Matthew Sparks for their work on the journal this year.

Thanks to all of you who support the work of the journal by submitting and reviewing articles! Our regular Fall 2022 issue has been released with four articles and a research note, plus some great book and media reviews.

Our Spring 2023 issue will be a regular issue and our forthcoming themed issue on Black Appalachia edited by Wilburn Hayden, is in progress for Fall 2023.

We are moving forward with two more planned themed issues. The first is related to an environmental stewardship field school, and another is on material culture in Appalachia. Other proposals are welcome, and we will be updating the call with more specific criteria to make the process smoother.

As always, please consider submitting your work to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*! Please email me (scottr@missouri.edu) or Ann Bryant (mullins88@marshall.edu) to volunteer as a reviewer or with any questions you may have.

Rebecca R. Scott, JAS Editor

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.**



We need your help with the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction! Donate items today!

- **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.**

If you have items to donate, please complete the form at the link below. You will need to upload a picture of the item(s) that you are donating. Donate your items below.

[Donate Items](#)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Appalachian Curator

A newsletter about Appalachian special collections and archives | ISSN 2642-8822

The ASA Special Collections committee met Monday, January 23, 2023 to discuss projects and member news.

First, the committee offered congratulations to Scott Sikes for his recent article, "Meaning, Encounter, and Reclamation: Relistening to the Appalachian Oral History Project" in the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. ASA has made Scott's article a special open access article, so those without subscriptions may enjoy it.

Travis Rountree has taken on a new role with ASA as Vice President. The Special Collections Committee appreciates his time with us and the work he did on the committee. Congratulations to Travis!

Conference update: The committee's proposal was accepted. Student member Jed DeBruin, a fourth-year PhD candidate and graduate instructor in the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky, and Jeremy Smith, Director of ETSU's Archives of Appalachia, will both be presenting on the panel. Jed will discuss his research into Black Farmers in Kentucky, and Jeremy will discuss ETSU's response to Kentucky's flooding.

Gene Hyde shared updates from the [Appalachian Curator](#). The ninth issue was printed in December. So far, 700 visitors have been to the *Curator's* site. Gene Hyde, UNC-Asheville, and Liz Harper, Western Carolina University, are preparing the next issue. If you have an idea that you'd like to see in the *Curator* or would like to write an article for the *Curator*, please reach out to Gene (gghyde@unca.edu) or Liz (harpere@email.wcu.edu).

Our guest speaker was Matt Strandmark, archivist at University of Kentucky. Matt spoke about a new project to make Appalachian circulating and special collections throughout the region more accessible to researchers. Plans are still in development.

Stewart Plein
Curator, Rare Books & Printed Resources
West Virginia University

Mark Your Calendars

46th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference
March 16 - 19, 2023 at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio

AppalachiaFest: From Surviving to Thriving

For further information contact:
Michele Morrone, Conference Chair, morrone@ohio.edu
Tiffany Arnold, Program Chair, arnoldt2@ohio.edu
Patty Malloy, Local Arrangements Chair, malloyp@ohio.edu

47th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference
Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina
TBA

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

to stay up-to-date on ASA news and events



Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions, announcements, and news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the membership of ASA. Space is limited and all submissions are subject to editing.

Paid advertisements will be considered for inclusion.
Contact the managing editor, Mary K. Thomas at mthomas@marshall.edu for rates.

Email submissions to 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 Bryant

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