



Fall 2016

Volume 40, Number

1

### ***President's Message***

As I sit down to write this message, it occurs to me what a privilege it is to be writing as the representative of the Appalachian Studies Association's active and vibrant membership. Just weeks ago, on July 30 - 31, the ASA Steering Committee and staff met on a mountaintop (literally) just outside Blacksburg, VA for our summer retreat. While others staying at the Mountain Lake Lodge were enjoying *Dirty Dancing* weekend (the lodge was the setting for filming the 1987 movie), your Steering Committee was deep in conversation, tending to the business of our organization.

First of all, on Friday some of us had the pleasure of touring the Virginia Tech campus, site of our March 9 –12, 2017 conference, *EXtreme Appalachia*, and the next day we all heard about the emerging plans for the conference. We could not be more excited about what is shaping up to be a provocative and stimulating conference! From the Intergenerational Organizing and Activism Pre-conference Workshop to renowned climatologist and climate

In fact, we welcome your participation in the process – See Carol Boggess's Call for Nominations for filling upcoming officer vacancies in this issue of Appalink, or look at the list of committees on ASA's website and let us know where you'd like to serve!

The second day of the Steering Committee retreat was our usual summer business meeting with a heavy focus on sustainability considerations. Jordan Laney aptly reminded us that sustaining the organization is not enough. What we must focus on is continually *developing* a more vital, visionary organization that is well resourced, enjoying a secure financial future. I recommend reading Jeff Spradling's Finance and Development Report in this issue for a fuller understanding of the issues that impact ASA's ability to claim secure financial footing not least of which is its over-dependence on the annual conference as its major source of funding. The Steering Committee committed to actualizing the Ad Hoc Development Committee that we voted to form last year and to charge that committee with creating a five-year plan for ensuring

change activist, Dr. James Hansen's keynote, to the plenary and carefully selected series of documentary films on creative responses to EXtreme issues, to the public forum on New Rural Economies, to photography, fiber arts and local knowledge and skills exhibits, to the performance by Dori Freeman, we love the focus on impassioned commitments to the region and its people and communities! It is also obvious that Anita Puckett, Emily Satterwhite, Serena Frost, and the 2017 Program Committee have taken great care not only to create a great program, but also to arrange meeting facilities and amenities that will be ultimately accommodating, right in the middle of the gorgeous Blue Ridge Mountains. This is a conference that you and your colleagues will not want to miss!

At the retreat, the Steering Committee took most of one day, with the help of facilitator Lori Baker-Lloyd, Executive Director for University Organizational and Professional Development at Virginia Tech, to reflect on the state of the ASA and our place in it. Starting with a look back at the 2008 - 2013 long-range plan, *The Road Ahead*, we discussed the organization's vision and the two overarching themes of the 2008 - 2013 plan, engagement and sustainability, still as relevant today as they were eight years ago. A vibrant organization needs to be resourced for ultimate sustainability and growth and needs to be continually seeking new ways to engage its membership base, and to reach potential members and affiliated others in its work.

Lori led us in exploring important drivers of engagement in any organization: clear goals and direction; care shown in myriad ways, especially to new members; offering opportunities for connections and growth; helping members internalize the organization's mission and vision; and placing value on diversity. As an extension of that last point, Lori helped us to consider

that ASA will have secure funding for short-term and long-term needs. If you have experience, expertise, or just plain interest in becoming involved in this ad hoc committee, please let me know. We welcome your involvement!

I cannot end this missive without putting in a plug for ASA 2018, *Re-stitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond Its Borders*, April 5 – 8 in Cincinnati. The conference host will be Cincinnati's Urban Appalachian Community Coalition, and our focus will be on fostering collaboration in sharing the many ways we are all working toward common goals for Appalachians both inside and outside the region. The coming year will be one of intense planning for the 2018 conference. Joy Leane Gritton, Omope Carter Daboiku, the UACC, and I invite you to join our planning team.

If you have read this to the end, the theme you have discovered is *engagement*. There are so very many ways we all can contribute to, and get more from our organization, from attending the conferences to joining a committee to helping with resource development and conference planning to just sharing your ideas. Isn't there a way you could become more engaged in *our* ASA? Your Steering Committee, staff and I hope to hear from you with your ideas for energizing *our* organization and your eagerness for more meaningful involvement.

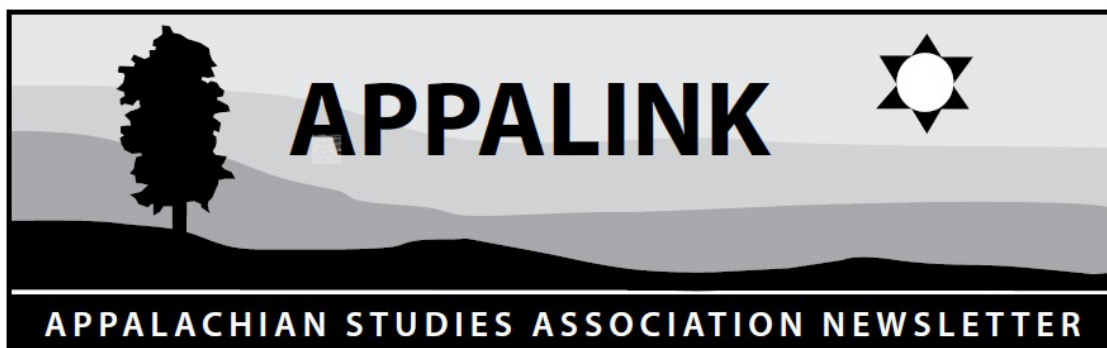
With best regards,  
Debbie Zorn, President,  
([debbie.zorn@uc.edu](mailto:debbie.zorn@uc.edu))

---

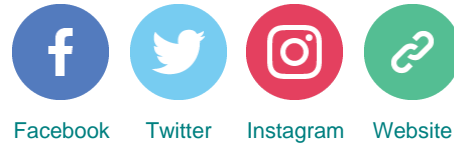
**MISSION STATEMENT**  
***The mission of the Appalachian Studies Association is to promote and engage dialogue, research, scholarship,***

management of implicit bias, a practice that we hope to exemplify as an organization that has so clearly indicated a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Putting engagement into practice is not without challenge, and we have just begun to scratch the surface of exploring how those can be more fully manifested in the ASA. As our committees work on concrete plans for engaging our members more meaningfully in the life of the organization and reaching out to potential members, partners, affiliates and like-minded individuals, we welcome your input on how we should be thinking about these challenges.

***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.***



Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions, announcements, and/or news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the members of the ASA. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to Eryn Roles at [roles1@marshall.edu](mailto:roles1@marshall.edu). Space is limited, and all submissions are subject to editing. Paid advertisements will be considered for inclusion. Contact the managing editor for rates. Deadline for Spring 2017 edition is December 1, 2016. Eryn Roles, Editor. Mary Thomas, Managing Editor. Chris Leadingham, Asst. Managing Editor  
Appalachian Studies Association  
One John Marshall Drive  
Huntington, West Virginia 25755



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](mailto:roles1@marshall.edu).

## ***ExTREME Appalachia!***

40<sup>th</sup> Annual Appalachian Studies Conference  
March 9-12, 2017  
Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Proposals may be submitted via [www.appalachianstudies.org](http://www.appalachianstudies.org)  
between August 22 and October 7, 2016.

**Anita Puckett** | Conference Chair, Past President | [apuckett@vt.edu](mailto:apuckett@vt.edu)

**Emily Satterwhite** | Program Chair | [satterwhite@vt.edu](mailto:satterwhite@vt.edu)

**Serena Frost** | Local Arrangements Chair | [sdfrost@vt.edu](mailto:sdfrost@vt.edu)

2017 Program Committee: *Beth Bingman, Theresa Burriss, Susan Clark, Joy Gritton, Tony Harkins, Karen Hudson, Bob Hutton, Jennifer Herald Koster, Doug Reichert Powell, Barbara Ellen Smith, New River Valley community liaison Andy Morikawa, and Y'ALL representative Jordan Laney*

- **Keynote by renowned climatologist James Hansen**
- **Plenary**, "Extreme Appalachia! Rage and Renewal," designed by Barbara Ellen Smith and Steve Fisher
- **Performance by Dori Freeman**, Southwest Virginia singer/songwriter
- **Intergenerational activism workshop** by Virginia Organizing
- **Fiber arts exhibits** featuring Virginian coverlets and quilts
- **Local Knowledge and Skills** exhibit, residents of the New River Valley

**This year we will begin at 9am on Friday**, so please plan your travels accordingly. Sunday's lunch will feature closing reflections on highlights of the conference delivered by top scholars, organizers, and artists.

We are working to offer **child care** and tween-friendly spaces (for more information, email [satterwhite@vt.edu](mailto:satterwhite@vt.edu)) and free "home-stays" for **senior citizens** (for more info, email [apuckett@vt.edu](mailto:apuckett@vt.edu)).

## ASA REPORTS

### **Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report**

Being aware of our own implicit bias, both as individuals and as an organization, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee has proposed, and the Steering Committee has approved, a double session to be held early in the 2017 conference as a training for awareness of our own racism and classism. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will make arrangements for this. Sessions will be submitted to continue this process during the conference. In addition, open slots will be held on Saturday and Sunday for discussion of issues that may have arisen since proposals were submitted, such as the recent movement among several states to roll back LGBT civil rights or the defunding of various programs at regional universities.

The Committee requested, and received support for, gender inclusive language in registration materials and by-laws, a place for preferred pronoun on name-tags, designation of all-gender restrooms, and proactive efforts to address the needs of those with disabilities. The Membership Committee is working on collecting demographic data on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, and life work within the ASA membership, with a view toward increasing diversity.

Last year, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee recommended that each conference have a Community Liaison as a member of the Program Committee. Virginia Tech has pioneered this position for the 2017 conference, and it will be added to the by-laws. The role of the Community Liaison is to foster a more inclusive dialogue between the academic conference host and the local community, for the betterment of both ASA and the community. The 2018 conference in Cincinnati is actually hosted by a community organization. - *Susan Spalding*, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair, [susan\\_spalding@berea.edu](mailto:susan_spalding@berea.edu)

### **Scholarship Committee Report**

#### Continuing Challenge to ASA Members

Each year the ASA awards a number of scholarships to those that need assistance to attend our annual conference. Since 2003, our funders have made it possible for 793 community and 1,002 student members, a total of 1,795 individuals, to participate in the annual conference.

Again, in 2016, we did not have enough funding to provide registration for everyone who submitted an application for a scholarship. We received 196 scholarship applications, amounting to \$23,800 in requests. Scholarship donations from individuals, the ASA Silent Auction, the ARC, and others, including, for the second

year, a special call to our members and Appalachian centers, raised \$18,733.16 of the needed \$19,900. Rather than cut some applicants, ASA decided to award scholarships to everyone who requested one, leaving us with a shortage of \$1,166.84. Everyone who was awarded a scholarship and attended the conference received membership, a subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, and access to conference activities.

How do we meet the continuing challenge to fund scholarships? The good news is that the 2016 Silent Auction raised \$5,100 for scholarships—a record amount. ASA is already in talks with ARC to increase grant funds to \$15,000 for the upcoming conference. Of course, there is no guarantee that ARC will agree or will continue to fund scholarships. We still need your help

**The Challenge to ASA Members—Help Us Kick-Up Scholarships by making or increasing your donation.**

You may do this by adding a donation to your conference registration (see [www.appalachianstudies.org](http://www.appalachianstudies.org)) or mailing it directly to the Appalachian Studies Association, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. Please make checks payable to ASA and mark scholarship in the memo.

The ASA is deeply appreciative for the support from all of our scholarship funders who have made it possible for many individuals to attend the conference who would otherwise be left out. - *Mary Kay Thomas*, Executive Director, [mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu)

## **Finance Committee Report**

It's about membership!

A memorable quote from the poet William Blake is "*Bring out number, weight, and measure in a year of dearth.*" These days, it seems that we are constantly worrying about money in every corner of public life, and it forces organizations such as ours to be vigilant and resourceful in meeting the needs of our members.

In the case of the Appalachian Studies Association, our financial reliance on conference revenues is affected by annual attendance. As colleges and universities tighten travel budgets for our members, we must ensure that ASA stays ahead of that trend. We are at a point where we must move away from too much reliance on conference revenue to support the operations of the ASA. While the conference will always be a key to our organization's success and certainly is a point of pride for all of us, such a dependency puts us at the mercy of external factors beyond our control. Therefore, we need to enhance our efforts to fund organizational activities and programs. While we do have some solid and predictable sources of revenue, they are not enough to meet the full demands of ASA members.

The heart of what we do is expressed in the word “membership.” ASA exists because each and every one of us sees value in our membership. It follows, then, that all of us can help the organization by promoting ASA membership to others. Each person we recruit to the organization improves us financially and as a community. Membership spurs committee members to organize a conference, publish an academic journal, and offer fellowships.

And let’s not forget that active members lend their time and talent to ensure that our work is accomplished! We have many dedicated and passionate individuals who give generously of their time and talent to ensure that ASA’s work is done. Their dedication brings us important traditions like the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction, which so richly expresses our generosity and creativity as an organization. Bringing us this important tradition is no small feat, and the same is true with planning a conference, publishing the journal and newsletter, and serving on the Steering Committee. This important work is why we always need members to get involved in running the organization.

At the heart of all this activity is membership. Not only will ASA benefit from your efforts to recruit new members, we will also benefit if you become involved in the work of our organization. The years of dearth we might experience due to external factors will be much less to worry about if our membership remains strong...and active. - *Jeff Spradling*, Finance Committee Chair, [jeffrey.spradling@uky.edu](mailto:jeffrey.spradling@uky.edu)

### ***Journal of Appalachian Studies Editor's Report***

We are happy to report that things are basically going well with the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. The first issue of our two-year forum on Sustainable Economic Development should have hit your mailboxes in July. It includes essays by Richard York and William Schumann as well as a round table on the Colonialism Model organized by Barbara Ellen Smith and Steve Fisher. Special editor, William Hatcher and I have received compliments and congratulations from many of our readers, and are gratified that you are enjoying this forum. However, nothing –not even with the help of Mary Thomas, Linda Spatig, Chris Leadingham, and William Hatcher-- is perfect! To the organizers and contributors to this excellent round table, the staff, extends our apologies for failing to maintain the preferred order of publication for the pieces. There was a lack of communication between ourselves and University of Illinois Press. We have noted this pitfall and will do our best to sidestep it in the future. I have a great supportive staff and I am confident that they will keep us straight on the path in the future.

The Fall 2016 issue was sent to press on time and we are currently working on the Spring 2017 issue, which will mark our third installment in the forum on Sustainable Economic Development. We have a good pipeline of content for both the forum and articles not related to it. Remember that we are accepting article and review submissions on *any* topic; they do not have to focus on economic development. One of the important reasons that we chose to pursue a forum, rather than devoting an

entire issue to a single topic, was to keep the door open for all submissions. We do not wish to slow down the review and publication of anyone's work, regardless of scholarly interest. That said, it has been suggested that the *JAS* run similar forums in the future. Pedagogy has emerged as a candidate for the next forum. If you have ideas for future forum topics, or, if you are against forums, special issues, etc.—please let me know. The *JAS* is here to serve the Appalachian studies community and, so we welcome your ideas.

In other news, we welcome Wendy Welch as our new book review editor and thank Kathryn Santiago for her valuable service to the journal in that capacity. We bid editorial board members, Rodger Cunningham, Eddy Pendarvis, and Marianne Worthington, a fond farewell and thanks for their many years of service to *JAS*. Finally, we wish to welcome to the editorial board Rebecca Fletcher, Doug Reichert Powell, and Rachel Terman. We all look forward to working with you in the future.

All of us in the Appalachian studies community also owe a special debt of gratitude to Jo. Brown, who retired from West Virginia University's library system at the end of July 2016. As most of you know, Jo. has been the force behind one of our community's most valuable assets for over 20 years the Appalachian studies bibliography. This tool has been a help to everyone, but especially to newcomers and emerging scholars in the field. Jo. has been working feverishly in recent months to bring the bibliography up to date. Though WVU libraries have agreed to keep the 1994-2016 Appalachian studies bibliography online for at least a year, they will no longer provide staff time to the bibliography.

The ASA will be exploring how we can maintain our online access to the 1994-2016 bibliography for the long-term future. And we should all be engaging in a conversation about how to provide tools like the bibliography to our students and other newcomers to Appalachian studies. The Steering Committee is brainstorming on how to use contemporary technology to share our knowledge and our labor to update an easily-accessible bibliographical resource for future generations of Appalachian studies scholars. If you have ideas or are willing to participate in this endeavor, please contact me or any other Steering Committee member.

I now bid you farewell from a café in Bloomington where I'm using the complimentary Wi-Fi because lightning struck my house last week and I've lost internet connectivity for almost a week while waiting for a technician. So, I am pondering what accessibility even means these days. I look forward to seeing you in person in Blacksburg in March 2017. - *Shaunna L. Scott*, Journal Editor,  
[Shaunna.scott@uky.edu](mailto:Shaunna.scott@uky.edu)

## ***Education Committee Report***

The ASA Education Committee is soliciting nominations for the following:

### **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 post-secondary (college or university) teaching and one for K-12 teaching. Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee. The winner in each category will receive \$250. Candidates may be nominated or may self-nominate via the nomination form available on the ASA website. The deadline for preliminary nominations is November 1, 2016. By December 1, the Education Committee will invite finalists' nominators to submit a full nomination packet by January 31, 2017. Submission requirements are detailed on the ASA website. Send nomination materials to the chair of the ASA Education Committee, *Theresa Burriss*, at [tburriss@radford.edu](mailto:tburriss@radford.edu).

Given the success of the Pedagogy Session at the 2016 ASA Conference and participants' desire to continue the discussion, the Education Committee would like to offer another one for the 2017 Conference. If you are interested in participating in a round-table discussion on teaching Appalachian studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and want to be included in the program, please contact *Theresa Burriss*, Education Committee Chair, [tburriss@radford.edu](mailto:tburriss@radford.edu)

### **Y'ALL Committee Report**

Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners (Y'ALL) is a committee within ASA dedicated to those who are "young" in the Appalachian studies community, not necessarily in age, meaning those new to the community, in precarious or transient positions, or representationally marginalized. We strive to foster inter-generational connections, so we welcome all to join our events at the conferences and to follow Y'ALL on Facebook, Instagram (@yall4asa), and Twitter. We would like to welcome our new co-chair Lesly-Marie Buer and send our deepest appreciation to Kathryn Engle and Skye McFarland. Kathryn has "cycled off" as co-chair while Skye continues to coordinate our social media. Please let us know if you would like to be featured in an Instagram "takeover."

We have a lot planned for ASA 2017 from grassroots training on Thursday to a wide range of panels and our annual meet & eat. Our newsletter is available at [www.appalachianstudies.org](http://www.appalachianstudies.org) with ways for you to get involved.

Thank you for all you do. We look forward to seeing you soon!

*Jordan Laney* ([jjlaney@vt.edu](mailto:jjlaney@vt.edu)) & *Lesly-Marie Buer* ([leslymarie.buer@gmail.com](mailto:leslymarie.buer@gmail.com)),  
Y'ALL co-chairs

### **Communications Committee Report**

As you know by now, Appalink has gone digital! We are very excited to undergo this new process and want to assure our membership that the choice wasn't made lightly. As Debbie Zorn expressed earlier in this issue, the organization is focusing on sustainability considerations. Fully digitizing Appalink has been a talking-point for

many years. We hope you find it easier to interact with and encourage you to engage with our other digital spaces. We are on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We hope to engage our users more often and more efficiently in the future. Thanks for taking this step with us! - *Eryn Roles*, Communications Committee Chair, [roles1@marshall.edu](mailto:roles1@marshall.edu).

## APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION 2016 AWARD WINNERS

Submitted by Brittany Means Carowick, Awards Chair

### **The Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award**

The Williams/Brown Award is given to an individual who has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia, Appalachian studies, and/or the Appalachian Studies Association.

**Connie Brosi, University of Kentucky**

### **Weatherford Awards (awarded for the previous year, or 2015)**

Berea College and the ASA annually present the Weatherford Awards to honor published works that “best illuminate the challenges, personalities, and unique qualities of the Appalachian South.”

**Non-Fiction: *Studying Appalachian Studies: Making the Path by Walking*, by Chad Berry, Phil Obermiller, Shaunna Scott (University of Illinois Press)**

**Fiction: *Trampoline* by Robert Gipe (Ohio University Press)**

**Poetry: *FANNY SAYS* by Nickole Brown (BOA Editions)**

### **The Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award**

The Lewis 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.

**The Origin Project, founded by Adriana Trigiani with Nancy Bolmeier-Fisher and Grace Bradshaw**

### **Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching**

The Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching—sponsored by the Robinson Scholars Program at the University of Kentucky—honors individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people.

**K-12: George Reynolds, Knox County, Tennessee**

**Post-Secondary: Carol Boggess, Mars Hill University**

### **The Jack Spadaro Documentary Award**

The Spadaro Award recognizes the best film, video, radio, television, or other media presentation on Appalachia or its people.

**Overburden, directed by Chad Stevens**

### **The Carl A. Ross Student Paper Award**

"The Influence of Local Spatial Stratification on Poverty in Appalachia" by **Pierce Greenburg**, Washington State University

### **The e-Appalachia Award**

The e-Appalachia Award honors an outstanding website that provides insight on Appalachia and its people, or provides a vital community service to Appalachians.

### **Appalshop**

### **Gates-Carawan Artist Award**

This new award honors an individual for artistic potential or artistic contributions to Appalachia in the realms of visual, oral, musical, literary, or other arts. See <http://appalachianstudies.org/awards/> for additional details.

**First award to be presented in 2017.**

### **Wilma Dykeman Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship**

The Wilma Dykeman Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship Award provides \$4,000 to support research related to gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia.

**Not enough financial support to award for 2016.**



**2017 HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION: “EXTREME” FUNDRAISING**

Since Howard Dorgan launched the silent auction in 1998, this annual fund-raiser has supported student and community-member participation at ASA conferences. With the 2017 auction on the horizon, the silent auction team needs your help to translate this year’s conference theme into an unforgettable experience: “Extreme Appalachia!” calls for out-of-the-box donations, enthusiastic bids, and cutting-edge fund-raising. The silent auction welcomes crafts, quilts, woodwork, memorabilia, pottery, home-canned and baked goods, spirits, event tickets, music, art, getaway opportunities, gently-used and new books, and more—the sky is the limit! Start brainstorming and gathering your auction items now to help ensure the 2017 Howard Dorgan Silent Auction reaches its goal of raising \$6,000 in support of conference scholarships. If you would like to get involved, please email silent auction co-chairs Jesse Edgerton and Meredith Doster at [appalstudies@gmail.com](mailto:appalstudies@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you—and your silent auction items—in Blacksburg! More information about logistics and volunteer opportunities to follow. Stay tuned for our Facebook campaign in January 2017.

**Seeking volunteers to fill Treasurer's position beginning in  
March 2017**

WANTED: Someone with an interest in money management and a good signature to run for the office of ASA Treasurer. Position available March 2017. All volunteers considered. Contact Kristin Kant-Byers ([kkant2@uky.edu](mailto:kkant2@uky.edu), Subject: ASA Treasurer) for more

## Call for Officer and 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. Self-nominations are also accepted. ASA is seeking nominations for the following elected positions:

**Two At-Large Members (2017-2021)** are elected by the membership for four-year terms. There are currently seven at-large members on the Steering Committee with two being elected each year for four-year terms. The Steering Committee members transact any necessary business, form standing committees, and approve the annual budget. The Steering Committee meets twice a year for face to face meetings and has several additional meetings as needed by telephone.

**One Y'ALL Steering Committee Member (2017-2019)** serves for two years and is expected to attend all Steering Committee meetings. The two 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.

**Program Chairperson Elect #1 (2019 Program Chair for conference in North Carolina)** recruits and assembles program committee members and local arrangement committee members for the 2019 conference. The following year this person becomes Program Chairperson (2018-2019) and, with the program committee, oversees the operation of the annual conference in cooperation with the Local Arrangements Chair and committee. Following his or her term, the Program Chairperson serves one year as Immediate Past Program Chairperson (2019-2020).

**Vice President/President Elect (2020 Conference Chair for conference in the central region)** chairs the nominating committee (2017-2018) and negotiates for conference support at the region site including Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia. As the 2018-2019 president, this person presides at all meetings, directs fundraising, serves as a spokesperson, serves on the Steering Committee as Conference Chair for one year after his or her term as president (2019-2020), and remains on the Steering Committee for an additional year as Past Conference Chair (2020-2021).

**Program Chairperson Elect #2 (2020 Conference Program Chair for conference in the central region)** recruits and assembles program committee members and local arrangement committee members for the 2020 conference. In the second year of office the Program Chairperson Elect leads the conference program organizing for

his/her conference and assists the President with negotiations for conference support. In the third year the Program Chairperson Elect becomes Program Chairperson of the 2019-2020 conference and in the fourth year, serves as Immediate Past Program Chairperson.

**The Treasurer (2017– 2020)** 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.

**The Secretary (2017– 2020)** records the minutes of all meetings of ASA and the Steering Committee; posts approved minutes to the electronic archive; and maintains a copy of the ASA by-laws, articles of incorporation, and Robert's Rules of Order.

**Four At-large Program Committee Members (for 2018 conference in Cincinnati)** help prepare the call for participation, review submitted abstracts, and compile the 2018 conference program. Each conference program committee includes up to four at-large members who serve for one year (2017-2018) and are elected by the ASA membership.

**Four At-large Program Committee Members (for 2019 conference in Asheville)** help prepare the call for participation, review submitted abstracts, and compile the 2019 conference program. Each conference program committee includes up to four at-large members who serve for two years (2017-2019) and are elected by the ASA membership.

**How to Make a Nomination:** Make sure the nominee is willing to serve and understands the commitment involved. Write a one hundred-word biography of the nominee that includes his or her involvement in Appalachian studies and/or ASA. This paragraph will be included in the spring *Appalink*. Self-nominations are welcome. Send your nomination(s) to *Carol Boggess*, ASA Vice-President/President Elect: [cboggess@mhu.edu](mailto:cboggess@mhu.edu) by November 15, 2016.

---

## Call for Award Nominations

## **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](mailto:badbranch3@gmail.com), by December 1, 2016.

## **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 deadline for preliminary nominations is November 1, 2016. By December 1, 2016, the Education Committee will invite finalists' nominators to submit a full nomination packet. Full nomination packets must be submitted in a single PDF file as an attachment to an e-mail to the chair of the ASA Education Committee, Theresa Burriss, at [tburriss@radford.edu](mailto:tburriss@radford.edu), by January 31, 2017.

Selection of the award winners will be made by the ASA Education Committee. A short preliminary nomination form is available on the ASA website.

## **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](mailto:TC-Lafrance@wiu.edu) by January 15, 2017. 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. The selection process consists of two steps: 1) Nominations should include a statement regarding the individual's specific contributions to the region and/or the individual's C.V./résumé. 2) Following a review, the committee will request additional information about one or more finalists before selecting the award recipient.

Send nomination materials to John Hennen, Associate Professor of History, Department of Religion and Culture (0227). Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061 or email [johnch51@vt.edu](mailto:johnch51@vt.edu) by January 15, 2017.

### **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 or its people, accompanied by 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](mailto:ballardsl@appstate.edu) by January 31, 2017.

### **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. One award is given annually to recognize the best film, video, radio, television, or other media presentation on Appalachia or its people.

The winner will be awarded \$250. Nominations should be made by January 31, 2017



to Jack Wright at [jwright@ohio.edu](mailto:jwright@ohio.edu) or to Jack Wright, 5616 Marion Johnson Rd., Athens, OH 45701. Technical and submission requirements are detailed on the ASA website.

### **THE e-APPALACHIA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING WEBSITE**

The e-Appalachia Award is given annually in recognition of an outstanding website 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 made to Eryn Roles, Communications Committee Chair, [roles1@marshall.edu](mailto:roles1@marshall.edu), by January 31, 2017.

### **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 in honor of Grace Toney Edwards. The subject matter of nominated books must be Appalachian or set in Appalachia and originally published in 2016.

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 December 1, 2016. If copies will be delayed, the nomination letter must specify the expected delivery date. For further information, visit [www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/weatherford](http://www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/weatherford) or visit the ASA website.

### **WILMA DYKEMAN "FACES OF APPALACHIA" POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

The Wilma Dykeman “Faces of Appalachia” Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, which provides \$4,000 to support research related to gender, race, and/or ethnicity in Appalachia, is awarded in years in which adequate funding is available from the fellowship’s endowment fund. Members of the Appalachian Studies Association who have earned a doctoral degree from an accredited institution within the past seven years are eligible to apply. This award will be presented in 2018 or when investments allow for the full amount to be awarded.

**Submission requirements for each award available at:**

<http://appalachianstudies.org/awards/>

## Appalachian Women in Film and the Appalachian Movie Database Meredith McCarroll

With the support of the Wilma Dykeman “Faces of Appalachia” Postdoctoral Fellowship, I was able to engage in an examination of representations of Appalachian women in film and to continue to create and populate the Appalachian Movie Database. At the Appalachian Studies Association Conference in March 2016, I presented this work in progress, offering an overview of the work that this fellowship is enabling, and focusing on patterns of female types during one period in order to ask whether a new resource on Appalachian film can help us understand trends in female cinematic representation. When I set about trying to write a book about Appalachian film (*Unwhite: Appalachia, Race, and Film*, forthcoming from University of Georgia Press), one of the first people that I spoke with was Jerry Williamson—the godfather of Appalachian film. While writing *Southern Mountaineers in Silent Films* (1994) and *Hillbillyland: What the Movies Did to the Mountains and What the Mountains Did to the Movies* (1995), Williamson curated an extensive list of films about mountaineers, which is housed in the W.L. Eury Appalachian Collection at Appalachian State University (available online at <http://www.collections.library.appstate.edu/southernmountaineersfilmography>). The list, in its current state, is an eighty-two-page document with full bibliographic information and two to three sentence plot synopses for one thousand films. The list begins with 1904’s *The Moonshiner* and ends in 1995 with *Nell*. Although it is impressive in its scope, the list is neither cataloged nor indexed, limiting the ways that an audience can interact with and access the information.

Through my continued work, and especially at the ASA conferences, I have come to know other scholars working around Appalachian film, and have come to understand that the Southern Mountaineer Filmography is clearly *the* resource to them. In the past few years, I have seen a handful of attempts to expand Williamson’s list—mostly in the form of blog posts or websites. These resources, unfortunately, tend to be short-lived, pointing to the difficulty in sustaining a project like this. As I came to know Jerry Williamson, he endowed me with the privilege and responsibility of extending the list, which has been dormant since his retirement in the late 1990s. With Williamson’s blessing, and with the support of the Dykeman Fellowship, I hope to transform this valuable document into an interactive educational resource available to the public, the *Appalachian Movie Database* (AMDB). The AMDB is an interactive digital project that will lead users into an experience of Appalachia through film in order to expand ideas about regional identity and representation.

The final project, an open-access website, will exist as a multimedia platform that allows students, educators, researchers, film viewers, and a general audience to sort data on nearly one thousand films by region depicted, chronology, character type, region filmed, director, and narrative characteristic. Resisting a static and one dimensional approach to presenting Appalachia in film accomplishes three objectives: 1) empowers a user to navigate the vast resources and data collected in an active position rather than passively receiving a story from the perspective of the collector/curator, 2) complicates the way that one sees cultural production as linear and progressive, and 3) allows for multimedia presentation of a region that suffers from monolithic representation.

In consultation with librarians and information technology consultants at Appalachian State University, I selected the Omeka database. As I began to transfer the Southern Mountaineer Filmography to this new platform, I was working in two ways—hoping both to get the information from the original list into a new format, but also to add new information for each entry. The AMDB enables a user to search the database for films set in a specific region, producing a geospatial rendering of cinematic Appalachia. One can search for character types, discovering the rise and fall of the Moonshiner’s Daughter or the steady presence of the Mountain Granny. As I continued to work my way through the one thousand films, I began to see generalized patterns that seem to align with socio-political trends to reveal the investment in portrayals of Appalachia. I began, specifically, to note the trends of female representations. I began to plot these trends, wondering why there was an upswing in images of Moonshiner’s Daughters

in movies of the 1910s. I wondered what those images did for the viewers of these films. What did it do to the imagined Appalachia on screen? The implications and opportunities for comparative analysis are vast and exciting. During this first stage, however, I worked to be diligent in my myopia. I had to resist complications and implications—at least until these films exist in the AMDB format. Then, I hope that students, teachers, scholars, and viewers alike can do all sorts of comparative work to understand—essentially—what the movies did to the mountains and what the mountains did to the movies. Although my broader goal has been the transferal of data, the emergence of trends in representation of Appalachian women compelled me to slow down and test out the growing database in order to demonstrate the broader American need to see Appalachian women in the same few roles over a century of film. The Dykeman fellowship enabled that informative detour, and ultimately invigorated the tedious work of data entry as I saw the ways that a dynamic database like the AMDB can help us trace the development of these types.

In *Hillbillyland*, Jerry Williamson writes about “hillbilly gals,” arguing, on the one hand, that they have a fair amount of autonomy. They fight back and talk back, resisting the traditional roles in which American women were cast. The images of the woman shooting the revenuer or the daughter taking over her father’s still are compelling to contemporary viewers (Williamson 1995, 225). While these images are present, I wanted to understand whether they were representative or anomalous. As I coded and entered films from this period, categorizing the role of the female in the plot, I was able to confirm that the vast majority of films in the 1910s draw on two primary images: the drudge and the wild woman, both in need of civilization. Of the seventy-eight films made between 1910 and 1914 that feature Appalachian women, only eight are presented as strong women—by my calculation. Far more frequent is the image of women who are weak, are objectified and trivialized, or are naive and in need of rescue. A common plot pattern involves a woman who is lured away from the mountains, proves to be unfit for city life, and returns to the mountains to be rescued by a mountain man. The 1914 films *Just a Song at Twilight* and *The Intruder* contain elements of this plot, representing mountain women as nearly incapable of survival outside of the mountains and without a man.

In *Hillbillyland*, Williamson asserts that “the vast majority of hillbilly gal silents... ended in traditional matrimony, with the former gals becoming ladies because they accepted the weaker role and financial dependency. Former hillbilly gals wound up trussed into ballgowns, stuck in some urban drawing room far away from wild mountain possibilities, and the audience was supposed to buy that outcome as a good one” (Williamson 1995, 234-35). To pair Williamson’s overview with specifics and statistics about female representation helps provide a more thorough understanding of female cinematic representation during this period. Once we can see patterns of representation, it becomes possible to understand the motivations for these patterns. It is in this collaboration between existing scholarship and a new database that exciting work may develop and new connections may be drawn.

Looking broadly at Appalachian women, as they begin to populate the AMDB, we can understand the consistent portrayals of Appalachian women as representative of the role that Appalachia plays for the rest of the country. The women of Appalachia have tended to be the simplest representations of the place that the rest of the country needs to see as other. In the early twentieth century, filmmakers saw Appalachian women as a *tabula rasa* onto which the national imperative could be written. In the few years preceding the Eighteenth Amendment, the mountains were known to the rest of the nation as moonshining country. The slight majority of all films set in the mountains have something to do with moonshining. In 1912, as film was a new form that relied on simplistic representation, the mountaineer as moonshiner trope was a simple enough project to pull off. The image of the male moonshiner, in this period of tension about prohibition, is consistently negative. The women of these films, though, share a redemptive promise. Perhaps not the wives of the moonshiner—when they are there—but the daughters of the moonshiner occupy, consistently, a space that promises to the rest of the nation that Appalachia can be transformed. The transformation tends to play out on female bodies as they are cleaned and dressed and taught how to live by external standards and expectations, even within the mountains. These women—once drudging along with bent backs and dirty fingernails, often cowering in a dangerous familial arrangement—are saved by the revenuers and their natural beauty is revealed. Their wildness is

harnessed and often eroticized.

As I populate the AMDB with films made throughout the twentieth century, other images and types emerge. The Wild Mountain Woman, for example, seems to gain a foothold during periods in which women are more politically active, or as more rights are earned by women. The Mountain Granny is a consistent type that plays on imaginings of a mystical mountain experience, but this Mountain Granny is always one step away from a witch, and a viewer understands that she belongs tucked away in the mountains. Both figures exemplify what William Goodell Frost referred to when he called Appalachian people our “contemporary ancestors” (Frost 1899, 313). Always of the past, even in the present. As these roles become clear, and as patterns emerge, there is such promise for future work.

As this project continues—as the remainder of the films are entered and coded and mapped—I hope that the Appalachian Movie Database will serve as a resource to see these trends. I hope that scholars, educators, and the public will be able to see the ways that Appalachia has functioned for the viewers of films set in the region or somehow portraying the region. This glimpse into trends in representation confirms John Shelton Reed’s claim that “Appalachia has always served as the South’s South” (Reed 1986, 42). To be able to focus specifically on the representation of women reveals the ways that the most voiceless members of a community have been imagined and why.

Moving forward, I hope to understand not only the trends, but also the outliers. Why did *Norma Rae* exist as she did in 1979? Is she a part of a trend or an outlier? The ability to see these films in relation to other films of that moment, or to find other films with a strong and independent female lead, will lead to a deeper understanding of the national investment in Appalachian images.

At this stage, I am eager for collaborators, field testers, data entry volunteers, and general supporters. I will depend upon help from this community to correct, fill in, and test out the database as it is built. I am grateful to the Wilma Dykeman “Faces of Appalachia” Fellowship to help me get as far as I’ve gotten with this project, and for helping me imagine the ways that it might become a full and rich resource for a broad audience. I welcome questions and suggestions at [mmccarro@bowdoin.edu](mailto:mmccarro@bowdoin.edu).

#### References

Frost, William Goodell. 1899. Our contemporary ancestors in the southern mountains. *Atlantic Monthly* 83 (497): 311–19.

Reed, John Shelton. 1986. *Southern folk, plain and fancy: Native white social types*. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Williamson, Jerry Wayne. 1994. *Southern mountaineers in silent films: Plot synopses of movies about moonshining, feuding, and other mountain topics, 1904-1929*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1995. *Hillbillyland: What the movies did to the mountains and what the mountains did to the movies*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.



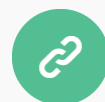
[Twitter](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Website](#)

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Fortieth Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 9-12, 2017 Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia

### ***EXTREME APPALACHIA***

Anita Puckett, Conference Chair, [apuckett@vt.edu](mailto:apuckett@vt.edu)

Emily Satterwhite, Program Chair, [satterwhite@vt.edu](mailto:satterwhite@vt.edu)

Serena Frost, Local Arrangements Chair, [sdfrost@vt.edu](mailto:sdfrost@vt.edu)

## Forty-first Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

April 5-8, 2018, Millennium Hotel and Resorts

Cincinnati, OH

### ***Restitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond its Borders***

Debbie Zorn, Conference Chair, [debbie.zorn@uc.edu](mailto:debbie.zorn@uc.edu)

Joy Gritton, Co-Program Chair, [j.gritton@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:j.gritton@moreheadstate.edu)

Omope Carter Daboiku, Local Arrangements Chair, [daboiku3@gmail.com](mailto:daboiku3@gmail.com)

*Copyright © 2016, Appalachian Studies Association, All rights reserved.*

#### **Our mailing address is:**

#### **Appalachian Studies Association**

One John Marshall Drive

Huntington, WV 25755

[www.appalachianstudies.org](http://www.appalachianstudies.org)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Appalachian Studies Association · One John Marshall Drive · Huntington, WV 25755 · USA

MailChimp