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Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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APPALINK

The Newsletter for the

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Fall, 2003

Volume 27, Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thomas Plaut

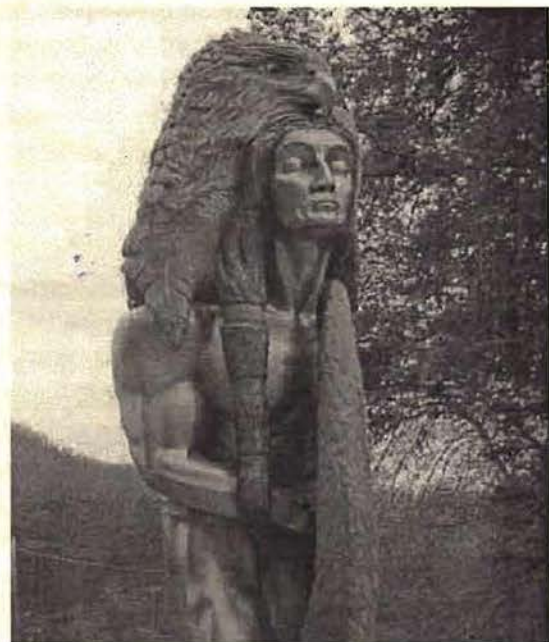
The Appalachian Studies Association is honored to have the Eastern Band of the Cherokee join us in planning and hosting our March 26-28, 2004 annual meeting. Tribal members, especially Co-Program Chair Carmaleta Monteith, have put in many hours to assure that Cherokee, NC will be a conference site where we will gather not only to share our work and stories, but to listen and learn about this particular mountain place, the wounds inflicted on its environment and people, and how they are working to overcome what they have come to call "historical trauma."

Appalachia's stories of the past year contain a familiar mix of tragedy and challenge, combined with encouraging examples of community action and problem solving at the local level. There was the terrible and repeated flooding in southern West Virginia that resulted from coal mining pushing mountaintops into surrounding valleys and streams. CBS got the attention of mountain people, from United Mine Workers to family farmers and academics, when it announced plans for "The Real Beverly Hillbillies." This "reality TV" series would relocate a southern mountain family to Hollywood, presumably to amuse the nation. Sent into retreat by a storm of public criticism (which included a strongly worded letter from the ASA via Past President Gordon McKinney), CBS says the program is "still in the concept stage." Not to be deterred in its efforts to use mountain folk for national entertainment, its executives took a hankering to a native of Palestine—West Virginia that is. Private First Class Jessica Lynch was wounded, captured and rescued on camera during the war in Iraq. The New York Times reported that "Short of the search for weapons of mass destruction, the most relentless hunt of the Iraq war may be for the rights to tell the story of Pfc. Lynch...CBS even dangled the possibility of a chance for Private Lynch and her friends to be co-hosts on an MTV music special." While the media

maneuvered, Ms. Lynch's neighbors quietly worked on some improvements to her mountain home, where she returned in late July.

In other regional news, researchers from the University of Kentucky and Pennsylvania State University reported that some of the damage suffered by Appalachian people is self-inflicted. They found 173.1 cancer deaths per 100,000 in Appalachia in a 1994-98 study period, compared to a national rate of 166.7. The lung cancer death rate for rural Appalachians was 57.2, which is 17% higher than the national rate of 48.9. The researchers concluded that smoking was a major factor contributing to the disparity in rates. A number of community-based health partnerships in Appalachian North Carolina have developed successful programs for reducing smoking, especially among youth and pregnant women.

President's message continued on next page.....



Celebrating her family's and Appalachian heritage, Madison County, North Carolina's Sheila Kay Adams sang ballads on the Washington Mall in this year's Folklife Festival. Other musicians, including North Carolinian Laura Boosinger, West Virginia's Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz, and Kentucky's Randy Wilson, joined her. UNCA Historian Dan Pierce appeared in a PBS documentary exploring the life of the turn of the century Japanese-born photographer and trail maker George Masa. Novelist James Still's biography is taking shape in the capable hands of Mars Hill's Carol Boggess. Mars Hill College's commitment to regional studies and service was highlighted by the dedication of the Liston Ramsey Center, which will include its existing Appalachian archives and provide resources for scholars in the community and on the campus. The Just Connections team in the eastern Tennessee/southwestern Virginia area had its first annual meeting in June, enabling community leaders and academics to explore in greater depth university-community based organization collaboration and experiential education. Tal Stanley took conference members to the Meadowview community close by the Emory and Henry campus, where residents are providing experiential learning for his students while organizing around issues of health care and economic renewal. In like fashion, the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project's Aubrey Raper introduced Mars Hill College students to Western North Carolina family farmers moving from tobacco growing into organics and other fruits and vegetables for local markets. Students are assisting in the evaluation of the ASAP program's impact. With the support of the Appalachian Regional Commission, eleven colleges are researching ways to build a sustainable future for the region's communities; we will hear about the work done in at least three of these institutions at the March 2004 conference.

In July, my wife and I ventured west to Nevada and the Four Corners (another American region). We heard a number of comments mirroring what we often hear at home in the Southern Mountains, about land ownership and land uses; community and resident access to National Forest and National Park lands and policy making; debates about the impacts of tourism, logging, mining and development on the environment. In reflecting on the diverse and often angry array of opinions we had heard across the southwest, my wife commented wistfully, "if only there could be some dialogue, maybe they could find some common ground."

One of the challenges for the ASA is to provide a place for listening and dialogue, which are the prerequisites and paths for finding common ground. At the March 2004 conference, we are planning opportunities for local people (both Native American and Anglo), environmentalists, and federal agency representatives to discuss such issues as the Lake Fontana/North Shore access and land use issues.

President's message continued on next column

Another challenge for ASA members is to provide solid data, generated from good research and experience, which make informed debate possible. We will hear from women who have developed collaborative initiatives at the county level to improve health and access to health services. We will hear about grass roots economic development, from experiments in family farming to craft cooperatives. We will hear from students who have learned how to employ Library of Congress and other online resources to study water and air quality in their communities. We will continue our collective, ongoing dialogues about regional research and the study and pedagogies of place.

This year's conference is titled "Building a Healthy Region: From Historic Trauma to Hope and Healing." In Western North Carolina there are a dozen county-level collaborative groups working to overcome past trauma by focusing on improving health and access to health services. They will have some stories to tell at the conference. The people of Swain and Jackson counties have a story to tell about the north shore of Lake Fontana and "The Road to Nowhere." The Cherokee will have their stories, and some dances and songs to share. We look forward to *your* music, dances, knowledge, skills and stories.

ASA WEBSITE UPDATE

www.appalachianstudies.org

Appalachianstudies.org has grown over the past few months to meet the needs of ASA. The website now hosts a new, more interactive discussion board. ASA members, and anybody interested in Appalachian studies, can now register for an account and exchange private or public messages with like-minded activists, scholars, and students. The discussion board also includes a place where individuals can post upcoming events.

Improvements have been made to the online newsletter to make it more accessible and interactive. Users can now register to be notified by e-mail when new stories are posted. The Association is currently working on ways to keep the online newsletter up to date with news related to the Association.

Plan to check into the discussion board and the online newsletter for up-to-the-minute conference news. Why not use the website to arrange car pools, room sharing agreements, panel discussions, or informal get-togethers? ASA Headquarters is now working on online conference registration. In time for the 2004 conference, ASA members will be able to register and pay fees with a credit card, all online! The website will also host an "ASA Store," where members and the public can purchase back issues of the Journal of Appalachian Studies, ASA Mountain Hero(in)es T-shirts, and ASA memberships.

Building a Healthy Region: From Historical Trauma to Hope and Healing

Twenty-Seventh Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

March 26-28, 2004

Co-hosted by the Eastern Band of the Cherokee and Mars Hill College
at Cherokee High School in Cherokee, North Carolina

Mark your calendars! This year's program continues our exploration of last year's theme "Building a Healthy Region" with an emphasis on how the people of Appalachia have emerged from historical trauma to gain greater control over their communities and future. While encompassing the diversity of past conferences, this year will focus on regional developments in health, environment and land use, local economies, education, politics and policy-making, and cultural traditions. This year's location is strikingly different—Cherokee High School. Its students will serve as special hosts. Come to the conference and share your stories, your work, and your wisdom with people from all over Appalachia. In addition to papers, posters, panels, roundtable discussions, exhibits, readings, book signings, videos and websites, this year's conference will feature a Cherokee welcome ceremony on Friday night. A plenary session on Saturday morning will outline a key concept in current Native American analytical thought: historical trauma. Presentations will follow on how historical trauma is being overcome at the local level through economic, health, and educational initiatives. Of course we will have song and dance, and tours of heritage sites as well as group hikes in the forests; some people might even squeeze in a private excursion to the casino! If you are interested in a pre or post-conference tour of Cherokee sites or the Lake Fontana North Shore, note the opportunities that will be listed on the conference registration form. Preliminary program and registration materials will be available in January and on the ASA website. For further information contact Carmaleta Monteith in Cherokee (carmaleta@msn.com) or Carol Boggess in Mars Hill (cboggess@mhc.edu).

ASA Bylaws - Conference Rotation

ASA Bylaws have been amended to change from a state to a regional conference rotation pattern according to an ASA membership vote at the 2003 annual business meeting. The new rotation, beginning with the southern region, will go into effect immediately.

FOR OUR HISTORY: LIST OF ASA AWARD RECIPIENTS NEEDED

Howard Dorgan, ASA Historian

Help! Help! Help! One of the first tasks I have been asked to perform as the new historian is to compile complete lists of two ASA awards, with the name and year the respective award was given: The Cratis Williams Service Award (later the Cratis Williams/James Brown) and the Carl Ross Student Paper Award. I have run into great difficulty with this task, particularly relative to the Carl Ross Award.

Please, if you know of a recipient and date for any of these awards e-mail (dorganch@appstate.edu) that information to me. Don't assume that I know any particular recipient. I will post what I have in APPALINK or on our web page. So immediately start feeding this information to me, even if you were the winner in question.

ASA Thanks the Appalachian Consortium and Individual Scholarship Contributors!

Every year individuals and organizations make it possible for folks with no institutional support to attend our conference. Last year we were able to provide \$5,331 in scholarships for individuals to attend the conference in Richmond, KY.

In Kentucky, this past year, we were able to raise \$2,176 to fund scholarships for the 2004 conference in Cherokee. The Silent Auction, sponsored by the Appalachian Consortium, brought in \$1,576 of that amount. The Consortium has been successfully raising funds for the benefit of the ASA Scholarship Fund since 1998 (see the column in this issue about how you can help with next year's event). Conference attendees contributed \$600 of that amount by sending designated funds with their conference registration. Watch for our upcoming preliminary program for the opportunity to once again help community and teacher participants attend our conference.

ASA would like to thank the Appalachian Consortium and everyone who helps support attendance at our conference through scholarships! Well Done!

A Call for Help in Making the 2004 ASA Silent Auction a Success

We're at it again, making plans for the forthcoming 2004 ASA Silent Auction. This is our first 03/04 call for your help; and since last year's receipts fell far below previous years, this is an urgent plea for the type of commitments necessary to return us to the level of our earlier successes. Please help! The work of all of our ASA membership is essential if we are to continue to grow the scholarship fund for those participants who otherwise would not be able to contribute to the exciting programs that make our gatherings so richly diversified and valuable. We especially want to continue to increase participation of the community activist and student groups.

Last year, our sixth auction, brought in only \$1,576, about half of each of the three previous auctions. The Snowshoe conference, our best so far, brought in \$3,324.90; \$920.00 of that from the "Not So Silent Auction." What happened in 2003? We're not sure. The actual number of items on display last year was slightly higher than in 2002; however, the number of "big ticket" items was lower. We had more books, but fewer quality craft items. I have talked to committee members about taking advantage of the fact that for 2004 we will be in Cherokee and in the middle of that Native American craft industry. I also want our workers to reach out to local specialty merchants.

However, we still must depend very heavily on our regular members to contribute those wonderful collectibles that every year enrich our displays of bid items, and this is where I want your help. In truth, we need to have more of our membership make an individual investment in this project. Consider our artists such as Bill Work and Pat Banks who have submitted their splendid paintings, and also remember that we have benefited greatly from the efforts of Carol Baugh and Phil Obermiller in finding musical instruments that became very popular as big-ticket items. Then, also don't forget those very popular walking canes that Charles Kilby of Ashe County, NC has contributed for four years. Charles brings us in between forty and fifty dollars for each of his canes. I'll even use myself as an example of what you might be able to do. The first time I placed in the auction several of my black and white Appalachian religion photographs, I thought I might be lucky if they received bids of a couple of dollars each. Now I usually put up ten or twelve of these photos and receive bids of \$12.00 to \$25.00 each, regularly bringing in about \$150 to \$200. Then I put a lecture up for bid and bring in another \$100 or so. Be brave! Put up some of your artistic or scholarly accomplishments. You might be surprised by the revenues generated.

Believe it or not, this will be our seventh annual auction. Help us to make it the very best to this point. I, for one, won't forget your kind efforts, and the individuals who benefit from these scholarship funds will thank you. Some have even come up to the individuals working the auction and thanked us. When that happens it makes us feel very good.

You may start sending in bid items anytime. Direct correspondence or questions to: Howard Dorgan, 747 Stadium Drive, Boone, NC; or dorganch@appstate.edu; or (828) 264-4361. In my next appeal, I will name "point persons" to answer your auction questions or help in getting your items to the conference.

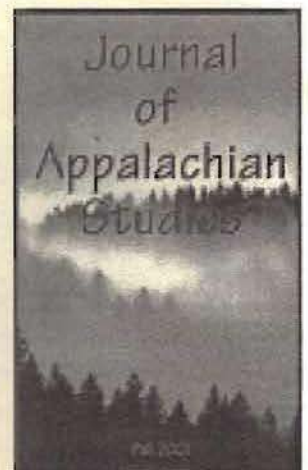
What worries me about the low receipts for 2003 is that our enthusiasm for the silent auction might be falling. I, of course, hope for just the opposite. Don't abandon this good cause. Instead, make your own efforts grow.

Howard Dorgan, Professor Emeritus
Appalachian State University

Call for Proposals: *Journal of Appalachian Studies*

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of ASA, the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* is initiating a series of comprehensive articles assessing the current state of Appalachian Studies and how its scholarship has developed over the past two and a half decades. These articles will be featured in future issues of the journal. Topics may include both critical commentaries on disciplines (e.g., Appalachian literature, history, folklore, etc.) and on interdisciplinary topics (e.g., activism, health, environment, etc.).

Proposals may be submitted at any time and should be limited to three pages and should include a thematic outline, an indication of what literatures will be addressed, and a statement suggesting why such changes in the field are significant. Send to Mary Thomas, Managing Editor, *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755.



FACES OF APPALACHIA

MARSHALL RECEIVES \$150,000 TO SUPPORT NEH CHALLENGE GRANT!

On September 24, 2003, Marshall University President Dan Angel announced the university has received \$150,000 to support *Faces of Appalachia* – a comprehensive initiative by Marshall University and the Appalachian Studies Association to advance the study of ethnicity and gender in Appalachia.

The grant awards - \$125,000 from the West Virginia Legislature and \$25,000 from the West Virginia Humanities Council – represent the first matching funds for a \$500,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant.

NEH Challenge grants are designed to assist the recipient in raising substantial financial support over a given period of time. The terms of the grant require Marshall University and the ASA to raise three times the grant amount in matching funds (\$1,500,000) during the next three years to build a \$2 million endowment to support this program in perpetuity.

If fully funded, the endowment will support a distinguished chair in ethnicity and gender in Appalachia, three annual post-doctoral fellowships in Appalachian ethnicity and gender, an annual summer conference on diversity in Appalachia for K-12 teachers, and salary and benefits for a half-time coordinator of research who will work in the ASA regional office.

THE “CARING CONNECTION”

Show your Support for *Faces of Appalachia*

Howard Dorgan

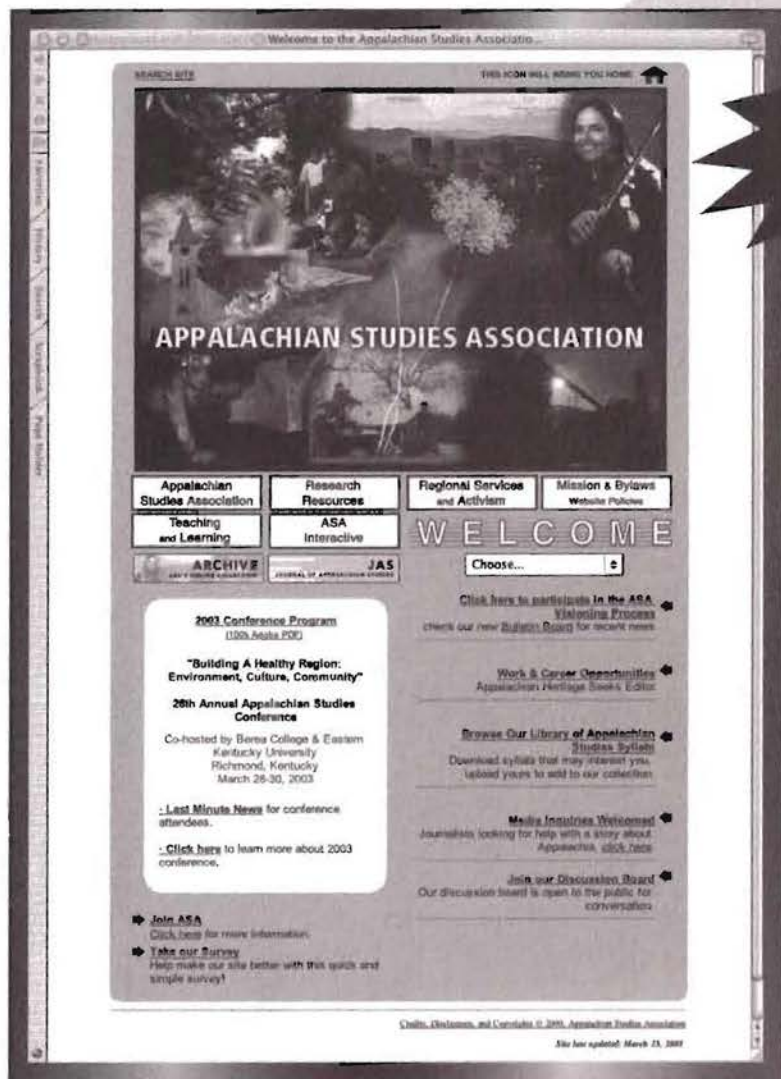
The “Caring Connection” is being instituted to help us do two things: (1) raise a little money for matching funds for the NEH grant that Marshall in collaboration with ASA has been awarded, and (2) give ASA members a chance to recognize others in the ASA who have contributed to the Appalachian Studies movement, either through scholarship or leadership in the work of the ASA. On the conference registration form, each member will be given an opportunity to honor one or more individuals with a “Caring Connection” emblem. For each such recognition, the honorer will contribute a minimum of \$5.00 to go towards the matching fund for the grant. A member could be honored by several individuals, ending up with several emblems attached to the ribbon on his/her nametag.

The display ribbon and emblem for each recognition, along with a card that either lists the honorer or communicates an “anonymous” recognition, will be included in registration packets. Members will be able to recognize any person in the association, including persons who have faithfully worked exhibit tables and through that work become important to us. We hope this program will be rewarding to both honorers and honorees.



APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION O F F I C I A L W E B S I T E

WWW.APPALACHIANSTUDIES.ORG



**VISIT OUR
ONLINE ARCHIVES
or TAKE A SURVEY**

*View photographs from past
conferences at our Archives Page*



Since 1977, ASA has been vital to the understanding of the Appalachian region and its people. Our new Archives Page will help tell the story of ASA.

With your help, we will be creating web pages important to the institutional history of ASA. The Share Memories link offered on the Archives page is a discussion board that allows visitors to post memories of ASA. This forum will help connect ASA's collective memory and will provide input for the drafting of ASA's historical narrative.

So please don't be shy and give the discussion board a visit. The board has forums for not only discussing memories of ASA, but also for posting area events and special happenings.

YOUR HOME PAGE: WWW.APPALACHIANSTUDIES.ORG

ARCHIVES PAGE: www.appalachianstudies.org/archives
DISCUSSION BOARD: www.appalachianstudies.org/discuss

ASA Officer Nominations 2004

The ASA Bylaws outline the annual nomination and election of officers. Any member of the association may nominate a fellow member to serve. This year the association is seeking nominations for the following balloted positions:

The Vice President/President Elect (2004-2005) chairs the nominating committee and the scholarship committee, and negotiates for conference support at future sites. The vice president becomes president the following year. The president of ASA presides at all meetings, directs fund-raising, serves as spokesperson, and serves on the steering committee for one year following his or her term. Traditionally, the president elect resides in the state of the upcoming conference: OH in 2006.

The Program Vice-Chairperson/Program Chairperson Elect (2004-2005) assists the program chairperson, negotiates the future conference, and becomes the program chairperson the following year (OH in 2006). The program chairperson oversees the operation of all aspects of the annual conference. This includes officiating over the program committee and overseeing local arrangements. Following his or her term, the program chairperson serves one year on the program committee.

Secretary/Appalink Editor (2004-2006). The secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the association and the steering committee; and shall maintain a copy of the association bylaws, articles of incorporation, and *Robert's Rules of Order*. The secretary shall be responsible for the publication of *Appalink*.

Treasurer (2004-2005; remainder of term) The treasurer shall provide financial oversight of association funds, accounts, and policy through the administrative office of the association located at Marshall University. The administrative office shall have custody of all the funds of the association; shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures; and shall make disbursements in accordance with the budget adopted by the steering committee, and shall make disbursements of \$500 or more

with the advice and consent of the treasurer.

The administrative office shall provide the treasurer with an annual audit and a full financial statement for association accounts at least annually. The treasurer shall present this statement and an assessment of the financial condition of the association at each annual meeting of the association and at other times when requested by the steering committee. The treasurer will examine the books, provide reports to the steering committee and maintain IRS documents with the assistance of the administrative office.

Three At-Large Members of the Steering Committee (2004-2006). The steering committee includes all elected and appointed officers and six at-large members, elected by the membership and serving two-terms. Three new at-large members are elected each year. The at-large members transact any necessary business, form standing committees, and approve an annual budget. The committee meets at least twice each year.

The Program Committee prepares the call for papers, reviews submitted abstracts, and compiles the conference program. A subcommittee handles local arrangements. The program committee includes four at-large members, elected by the ASA membership, serving for one year. The nominating committee is currently seeking program committee members for the 2005 conference to be held in VA.

How to Make a Nomination

1. Make sure the nominee is willing to serve and understands the work involved!
2. Write a one-paragraph biography of the nominee that includes his or her involvement in Appalachian studies and our association. This paragraph will be included with the spring ballot.
3. Send the paragraph to Melinda Wagner, chair of the nomination committee: Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142 or email to mwagner@radford.edu. Please note ASA nominations in the subject line or on envelope. Submit nominations no later than 12/30/03.

Watch our website for details on how you can register online and pay by credit card for our 2004 Conference in Cherokee. See you there!

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award 2004

The Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award is given to an individual who has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia and/or the ASA. In most cases, the recipient is likely to be a member of the ASA; however, in the event of a significant contribution by an individual outside the association, the steering committee reserves the right to present the award to that individual. The award recipient is selected by the service award committee (appointed by the president) from nominations submitted by the membership, with the presentation made at the annual conference.

Nominations should include a statement regarding the individual or organization's specific contributions to the region, accompanied by at least two letters of support. Send nomination materials to Steve Fisher, P. O. Box BBB, Emory, VA 24327, or slfisher@ehc.edu. Nominations should be made no later than 2/01/04.

2003 Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award

The community service award of the ASA will be given to an individual or an organization that has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia through involvement with and service to its people and communities. In most cases, the recipient is likely to be a member of the association. However, in the event of a significant contribution by an individual or organization outside of the association, the steering committee reserves the right to present the award to that individual or group. If you nominate an organization, please identify a contact person. Award recipients will be selected by the service award committee (appointed by the president of the association) from nominations submitted by the membership, with the award presentation made at the annual conference. The committee reserves the right not to present an award if no suitable nomination is made.

Nominations should include a statement regarding the individual or organization's specific contributions to the region, accompanied by at least two letters of support. Deadline for nominations is 2/01/04. Send nomination materials to Pat Beaver, Director, Center for Appalachian Studies, Appalachian State University, University Hall, Boone, NC 28608, or email at beaverpd@appstate.edu.

Carl A. Ross Student Paper Award

The Carl A. Ross Award was established in 1988, the year of Carl Ross' death. This competition is open to students in two categories: 1) middle /high school; and 2) undergraduate/graduate. Student papers must adhere to the same guidelines and subject matter as other scholarly conference papers. The recipient(s) is/are selected annually by a multi-disciplinary committee composed of Appalachian studies scholars. The prize includes a certificate and \$100 to be awarded during the Saturday business luncheon at the ASA conference which will be held at Cherokee High School, in Cherokee, NC, March 26-28, 2004. Costs of attending the conference are the winner's responsibility. Students who want their papers to be considered for the conference program must submit a one-page abstract or proposal to Dr. Tyler Blethen by the deadline set for all other conference submissions. Winning this prize does not guarantee that the paper will be included in the conference program. By the same token, it is possible that a paper which does not receive the prize will, nevertheless, be selected for the conference program.

Students who wish to be considered for the 2004 Carl A. Ross Appalachian Student Paper Award should send four copies of a 20-30 page research paper by December 12, 2003 to: Tyler Blethen, Director, Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Questions should be addressed to Tyler Blethen at 828-227-3868 or blethen@wcu.edu. Please include a self-addressed stamped postcard or envelope if you wish to receive acknowledgment of receipt.

THANKS!!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE
WHO HELPED MAKE OUR
KENTUCKY CONFERENCE SUCH A
SUCCESS!**

**Another special thanks to the College of
Education and Human Services at
Marshall University for once again
providing additional support for a summer
graduate assistant to work on our
database.**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

MARCH 26-28, 2004

***BUILDING A HEALTHY
REGION: FROM HISTORICAL
TRAUMA TO HOPE AND
HEALING***

**CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL
CHEROKEE, NC**

**TOM PLAUT, PRESIDENT
CAROL BOGGESS & CARMALETA MONTEITH
PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS**

Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions for announcements and news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the membership of the ASA. Submissions should be sent by e-mail or regular mail to Mary Thomas at mthomas@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 the spring 2004 edition is 1/31/04.

- * Editor - Linda Spatig
- * Managing Editor - Mary Thomas
- * Production Editor - Roxane Dufrene

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

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