


Spring 2016

Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association
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Spring 2016

Volume 39, Number 2

President’s Message

Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) annual conferences are both rites of passage and rites of solidarity. As rites of passage, they move us forward as individuals and as an organization towards new states of becoming. As rites of solidarity, they also serve to reaffirm and re-confirm us as informed and caring members of a special organization. Leading the ASA forward into more visible manifestations of its mission of regional inclusivity at the upcoming Shepherd University conference will be keynote speaker Frank X Walker. I know Frank from his visits to Virginia Tech several years ago. He is an amazingly kind person and a visionary, characteristics that have led him to create the term “Affrilachian” and then develop an identity constituting it. He is the founding editor of *Pluck: The New Journal of Affrilachian Art & Culture* and one of our nation’s leading poets. In 2006 he received the prestigious Lannan Literary Fellowship in Poetry Award and was named Poet Laureate of Kentucky in 2013. His keynote presentation, titled “Escape from Negro Mountain: Writing History, Righting Wrongs,” on Friday evening will more than likely evoke a standing ovation and, more importantly, solidly affirm this conference’s goal of moving diversity and inclusivity to the front of our consciousnesses. And it needs to be there. As Silas House said in his conference keynote in 2014, “Too

often we as a region sit by and allow discrimination to happen, and we have to stop that. It happens blatantly, and perhaps more troublingly, it happens subtly. We can change this.” What Sylvia Shurbutt and Rachel Meads and their supporting staff are doing this March through the keynote, various plenaries, and in panel presentations is making strides in just that—changing the image, the perception, and the substance of Appalachian studies to capture what is and has been ethnically and racially really “there.” And then giving us intellectual, organizational, and activism tools and strategies to intentionally confront the issues, the contexts, the values, and the historically-derived ideologies that perpetuate these subtle but

significant racially divisive conditions so that what we say we are is actually who we are. Our conferences are also about reaffirming our sense of identity. This year Shepherd University again offers many opportunities for doing just that. Check the online program as it becomes available at appalachianstudies.org. Shepherdstown evokes a palimpsest of American history superimposed on Appalachian and West Virginia history (or vice versa). In so doing it invites all of us to meet our friends, enjoy each other’s fellowship, and attend sessions. Don’t forget the Silent Auction and the business meeting with lunch on Saturday. Having a strong attendance at this meeting is

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

critical to the ongoing success of the ASA. Several significant changes in by-laws and other ASA procedures will be discussed. Please don't forget to vote for ASA officers and steering committee members using the electronic ballot (see announcement in this issue of Appalink) or by surface mailing the enclosed ballot. This year we have a fantastic opportunity to participate in a well-planned, well-conceptualized, and well-envisioned conference that, as formulated by the organizers, "will focus on the changing face of the region, the diverse groups that constitute who we are, the educational and community institutions that either accommodate or react to the changes that challenge us and call for our best selves, and our efforts to protect the very mountains that are the principal source of our commonality and identity." Please come and be part of this opportunity and please look me up when you do.

-Anita Puckett, President



APPALINK

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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. 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 Fall 2016 edition is August 1, 2016.

Eryn Roles, Editor
Mary Thomas, Managing Editor
Christopher Leadingham, Asst. Managing Editor

Appalachian Studies Association
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755

JAS Editor's News

As I begin my second term as editor of *JAS*, I am very excited about the work we are doing with the journal. Will Hatcher, the editor of the forum on sustainable economic development in Appalachia, and I are looking forward to sharing our first installment of the forum with you. It will be sent to the press soon and you should look for it online and in your mailboxes in mid-July. Ours is a region and an interdisciplinary field always concerned with economic development issues, the eradication of poverty, environmental pollution, and social justice. But, at this point in history, the topic of sustainable economic development has never been more timely or important to Appalachia, especially Central Appalachia. As coal jobs disappear with technological change, competition from cheaper alternative fuel sources, and increasing pressure to address the health problems, environmental and climate change issues created by coal fired electricity plants, the central Appalachian region is undergoing an economic transition of epic proportions. Since the mid-1980s, the coal economy has been shedding jobs as MTR and other lower-labor-demand production systems were implemented. But, now, even politicians and government leaders—longtime apologists and defenders of the coal industry—are starting to admit that the region's dependence and glorification of coal must end.

The Appalachian Studies Association, as an organization with scholars, educators, artists, and activists, should play a role in helping to build the new economy in Central Appalachia—ideally one that does not destroy the land and people that it is meant to serve, nurture and preserve. I take pride in the fact that many of us in ASA have been partnering with communities in the region to share

our visions, inventory our assets, dream dreams, and build an alternative future—long before our political leaders admitted that this was necessary. This, to me, is a defining feature of the Appalachian studies enterprise—a commitment to a place and its people, a desire to partner with them to make positive social (political, economic) change. The two-year forum on sustainable economic development in *JAS*, which kicks off in spring 2016 and continues through fall 2017, seeks to contribute to that tradition and, more practically and concretely, to provide a place to share experiences and information, initiate conversations, present case studies, and articulate best practices that will benefit Appalachian citizens—activists, community organizers, development practitioners, educators, students, government leaders alike—as we forge a new future together.

When future generations look through the archives at the *JAS*, I hope they find that our journal was responsive to the times in which we lived and acted responsibly toward the region we serve. Specifically, I hope they find that the journal was a source of information, debate, and social connection that helped build a new, more just and sustainable economy. Will Hatcher and I need your help to make this dream a reality, though. Please share your scholarly articles and research, teaching or community notes that are relevant to building a new economy in Appalachia with us, and circulate the call for papers (available at www.appalachianstudies.org/journal) to your colleagues. Encourage everyone to join the conversation about how to make a better future for Appalachia. We have three more issues to put together. Let's make them good ones.

~ Shaunna L. Scott, *JAS* Editor

Visit us online!
www.appalachianstudies.org



2016 ASA CONFERENCE

WELCOME!

How exciting it is to be able to welcome our colleagues in the Appalachian Studies Association to Shepherd University and to Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Shepherd University is often called the gateway to Appalachia. As you walk down German Street, you will see that the town rests on a high bank of the Potomac River and in the shadow of the Blue Ridge. While we are within an hour's drive of Washington and Baltimore urban areas, we also have a rural distinction and a historic richness that goes back to the Washington brothers, George and Charles, who surveyed much of the area and whose family homes dot the rolling fields. To walk the streets of Shepherdstown, West Virginia's oldest town, is to walk through the history of a region that still lives large in our imagination and our common Appalachian and American iconography. While you are here, we invite you to explore historic Martinsburg, Harpers Ferry, Antietam Battlefield, the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, and the places and monuments that reflect the richness of the region, all within a narrow circumference of the town. The West Virginia Humanities Council has allowed us to offer a variety of special programs, plenaries, tours and events for you while you attend the conference, and the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and GTM Civil War Center will be open for you to explore and research while you are here. Special tours of Harpers Ferry, Antietam Battlefield, and the Martinsburg Roundhouse and Civil War sites will be offered to ASA participants, as well as events and tours of Shepherdstown itself. The diversity of the "voices" of Appalachians that we have brought to the conference will both entertain and enlighten you. Our keynote speaker is past Kentucky Poet Laureate, writer, and cultural/social activist Frank X Walker, whose keynote address will be "Escape from Negro Mountain: Writing History, Righting Wrongs." Cherokee storyteller Lloyd Arneach will open the conference on Friday with a traditional Cherokee blessing and share stories from Appalachia's indigenous peoples, the first Appalachians. Affrilachian poets Ricardo Nazario y Colón, Kelly Norman Ellis, and Bianca Spriggs will share their poetry, echoing those "coal black voices" that just a few years ago brought a new dimension to Appalachian literature and to our understanding of a diverse Appalachia. Writer, editor, folklorist, and performer John Lilly will share "Lessons from Goldenseal: Reflections on Preservation of History and Folklife," while award-winning storyteller Adam Booth will enthrall us with stories of the region. Cultural and multicultural ethnographic intersections of Appalachian clogging and African-American dance will be explored by dance scholars Matthew Olwell, Emily Oleson, and Becky Hill, in the special panel "Appalachian Percussive Dance Traditions in Historical and Cultural Context: Researching The Meaning of Buck Dance *and* Reel 'Em Boys, Reel 'Em." One of the highlights of the conference will be the photographic art of Builder Levy, an award-winning photographer, whose books, *Images of Appalachian Coalfields*, *Builder: Levy Photographer*, and *Appalachia USA*, have revolutionized the understanding of the region. Finally, your conference presentations, papers, panels, workshops, films, music, dance, community events, and posters—your voices from the Misty Mountains—will provide for us all a fresh look at the "Unity and Diversity of a New Appalachia," one intrepid in recognizing and addressing the cultural, environmental, social, historic, and educational issues that affect our region, as well as the country and the world.

Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Conference Chair

Rachael Meads, Program Chair

David O. Hoffman, Local Arrangements and Program Committee

HIGHLIGHTS

The 2016 ASA Conference will be held at Shepherd University, a public liberal arts university of approximately 4,000 students, offering a range of baccalaureate and graduate programs and a doctorate in nursing practice. Shepherd University's Appalachian Studies Program (see <http://www.shepherd.edu/appalachian/>) features a minor and a graduate

Y'ALL NEWS

Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners is a committee seeking to connect young people in Appalachia by breaking past the walls of institutions and encouraging engagement, leadership, activism, and collegiality among young people in Appalachia.

To keep up with the latest news and opportunities from Y'ALL please join our public Facebook group Y'ALL (Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners) and "follow" our Instagram account @yall4asa. Y'ALL will be sponsoring the following special events at ASA 2016:

Session 6.1. ASA Committee Sponsored Roundtable Session:

"Y'ALL Professional Advancement Discussion." This roundtable will focus on professional advancement with the intention of providing attendees with knowledge of resources to be successful in their professional and scholarly endeavors within Appalachia. In this panel we will support efforts of young people to more fully understand professional development within the trans-disciplinary world of Appalachian studies. We hope to broaden and deepen critical discussions about the unique places and work Appalachian scholars, artists and activists navigate. Guests participating in this conversational, intergenerational roundtable include: Steve Fisher, Robert Gipe, Lora Smith, Sandy Ballard, and Shaunna Scott.

Session 11.3. ASA Committee Sponsored Roundtable Session:

Y'ALL. "Building an Intersectional Youth Movement in Appalachia." Across the Central Appalachian region, young people are working together to build inclusive communities. Groups like the STAY Project (Stay Together Appalachian Youth) and Y'ALL (Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners) are working together to form regional networks that intentionally hold space for youth voices in Appalachia. We realize that our panel does not represent every perspective of building inclusive

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degree, the West Virginia Fiction Competition, the yearly Anthology of Appalachian Writers, the Appalachian Heritage Festival, and the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project, which this fall brought Nikki Giovanni to campus and to the eastern panhandle. These programs and projects are funded by Shepherd University, the Shepherd University Foundation, the West Virginia Center for the Book, and the West Virginia Humanities Council.

Special Plenary Sessions

Plenary I. Welcome from Shepherd President Dr. Mary Hendrix and presentation by Lloyd Arneach, Cherokee Blessing and Stories from the Original Appalachian Storytellers.

Plenary II. "SkyTruth, an Environmental Watchdog for the World" featuring John Amos, SkyTruth President, and David Manthos, SkyTruth Communications Director.

Plenary III. Builder Levy Photography Exhibit Preview & Reception.

Keynote Plenary IV. Frank X Walker, "Escape from Negro Mountain: Writing History, Righting Wrongs."

Plenary V. "Appalachian Percussive Dance Traditions in Historical and Cultural Context: Researching the Meaning of Buck Dance and Reel 'Em Boys, Reel 'Em."

Plenary VI. "Storytelling in Appalachia," with Adam Booth.

Plenary VII. "Builder Levy and the Face of Appalachia," A Conversation with the artist, Builder Levy, Jack Spadaro, and Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt.

Plenary VIII. "Lessons from Goldenseal: Reflections on Preservation of History and Folklife," John Lilly, folklorist and long-time editor of West Virginia's *Goldenseal* magazine explores the past, present and future of how history and culture are documented.

Plenary IX. "Affrilachian Voices: Readings by the Affrilachian Poets, in Celebration of Twenty-Five Years," presented by Frank X Walker, Kelly Norman Ellis, Ricardo Nazario y Colón, and Bianca Spriggs.

Voices from the Misty Mountains Showcase Concert

The Performing Arts Series at Shepherd University and the ASA are proud to showcase the rich diversity of the region through an evening of dance, music, and storytelling. Hosted by award-winning liar and storyteller Adam Booth, the concert will feature Good Foot Dance Company; Cherokee storyteller Lloyd Arneach; and contemporary honky-tonk band Blue Yonder featuring award-winning songwriter John Lilly, steel guitarist Russ Hicks, bassist Will Carter, and Jupiter Little.

This event is sponsored by the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd University (PASS) in partnership with the Appalachian Studies Association. It is made possible with the financial support of the West Virginia Humanities Council and the Shepherd University Foundation.

Concert Tickets are available now at the Shepherd University Bookstore by calling 304-876-5219 or online at <http://www.shepherdbook.com>. \$15 general admission; \$10 ASA conference registrants/Shepherd staff/senior citizens; \$5 kids under 18. Free for

Shepherd students with valid Rambler ID.

For more information, contact Rachael Meads at rmeads@shepherd.edu; Saturday, March 19, 8:00 p.m.; Frank Center Theater, West Campus Drive.

Social Activities

Celtic/Appalachian Music Jam Session at O'Hurley's General Store; for more information go to <http://www.ohurley.com/>; 205 E. Washington Street; Thursday, March 17, 7:00 p.m.

Old Time Appalachian Square Dance; Town Run Brewing Company, 202 E. Washington St.; Friday, March 18, 9:00 p.m.

Recreational Opportunity

Biking on the C&O Canal; for more information go to <http://www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm>; located across the Potomac Bridge; March 17-20, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Research Opportunities

George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, research facilities available; for more information visit <http://www.shepherd.edu/civilwar>; 136 W. German Street; March 17-19, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies (CLS), research facilities available; for more information see <http://www.byrdcenter.org/>; 213 N. King Street; March 17-19, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Tours

Shepherdstown Self-guided Tour; for more information see <http://shepherdstown.info/>; maps are available at Shepherdstown Visitor's Center, 129 E. German Street; March 17-20, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Storer College Tour, Harpers Ferry; departure from Erma Ora Byrd Hall steps; reservations required, contact SShurbut@shepherd.edu; for more information go to <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/learn/historyculture/storer-college.htm>; Thursday, March 17, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Shepherdstown Historic Walking Tour with Jim Surkamp; departure from the Shepherdstown Visitor's Center; for more information about Shepherdstown go to <http://shepherdstown.info/>; Friday, March 18, 9:00 a.m.-10 a.m.

Guided Tour of Antietam Battlefield, with Dr. James Broomall, Civil War Institute Director, German Street, departure from Erma Ora Byrd steps; reservations required, contact SShurbut@shepherd.edu to make reservation; for more information go to <http://www.nps.gov/anti/index.htm>; March 18, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Shepherdstown Mysteries Walk, departure from front steps of McMurrin Hall, (\$10/person); for more information go to <http://www.shepherdstownmysterieswalk.com/>; Friday, March 18, 9:00 p.m.

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Historic Martinsburg Trolley Tour: Civil War Settings, Round House, Martinsburg; departure from Erma Ora Byrd Hall steps; for reservations, contact Sylvia Shurbutt at SShurbut@shepherd.edu; Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Little House Open for Tours, Princess Street, between High Street and German Street; visit http://www.shepherd.edu/libweb/shwebsite/historic_tour/littlehousebarn_campus.html for more information; Saturday, March 19, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Y'All News continued from page 3

communities and intersectionality in youth movement work. We encourage those voices often left out such as youth of color, queer and transgender youth, and low income youth to come and participate in our discussion. Please join us!

Y'ALL Comm Meet and Eat, Shepherd Dining Hall, Saturday, March 19, 6:45 p.m.-800 p.m.
All those interested in the work of Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners are invited to attend this meeting and dinner. Vegetarian options will be provided.

Y'ALL/STAY/IG2BYITM Mixer, Town Run Brewing Company, 202 E. Washington St.; Saturday, March 19, 9:30 p.m.
Join Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners, Stay Together Appalachian Youth, and It's Good to Be Young in the Mountains folks to socialize, network, and learn about the work of other young people doing important work in the region.

T-shirts! Y'ALL will be sponsoring a screenprinting station at the conference. Bring t-shirts, sweatshirts, canvas bags, or any other items you would like printed! Donations for scholarship funds will be accepted at the printing station.

Howard Dorgan Silent Auction

Since Howard Dorgan launched the silent auction in 1998, this annual fundraiser has supported student and community-member participation at Appalachian Studies Association conferences. With the 2016 conference swiftly approaching, the silent auction team seeks your active participation: It's time to get crafty, call in a favor, bake a cake, or clean out the garage. The silent auction welcomes crafts, quilts, woodwork, memorabilia, pottery, homecanned and baked goods, event tickets, music, documentaries, artwork, books, getaway opportunities, and more. This year's conference theme is "Voices from the Misty Mountains: Diversity and Unity, a New Appalachia" and we hope that the 2016 silent auction will reflect the many people, talents, and traditions that the Appalachian Studies Association celebrates.

If you have items to contribute, please email your silent auction team at appalstudies@gmail.com, as we are tracking donation items to best advertise the upcoming auction. We are also actively

promoting auction items on our Facebook event page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/163855633967246/>) that features select donations in an informal online exhibit of regional arts and crafts. We look forward to celebrating the creative talents of the ASA membership and its many friends.

We're happy to answer any questions about silent auction logistics, including where to drop off items at the conference and details about tax deductions. Keep an eye out for silent auction representatives at the registration table in Shepherdstown: we will be ready and waiting to process your donation(s) when you check in. If you are not planning on attending this year's conference, but have items to contribute, please let us know. We'll be glad to trouble-shoot shipping or other creative transport of your proposed donations.

Thanks in advance for your support. As former scholarship recipients, we can attest to the importance of this fundraising effort. We are proud to belong to an association that values and facilitates the involvement of students and community members. We look forward to seeing you in Shepherdstown. Be sure to bring your auction items and your wallet. Let the donating, bidding, and fundraising begin!

Jesse Edgerton and Meredith Doster
2016 Silent Auction Co-Chairs
appalstudies@gmail.com
(828) 337-1553

NEH Summer Seminar for Teachers

Voices from the Misty Mountains: Appalachian Writers and Mountain Culture

July 10-30, Shepherd University

Shepherd University invites applications from public school teachers and graduate students to attend the second NEH Summer Seminar for Teachers offered in the state of West Virginia. The seminar runs from July 10 to 30, 2016, and has partnered with the Contemporary American Theater Festival and the Appalachian Studies Program at Shepherd University, a gateway to Appalachia located in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. The seminar features some of the most dynamic writers, storytellers and activists in Appalachia, whose works and words can be translated into the public school classroom: Frank X Walker, author of *Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers, The Journey of York*, and *Affrilachia*; Silas House, author of *A Parchment of Leaves, The Coal Tatoo*, and *Clay's Quilt*; Storyteller Adam Booth; Music and Culture Scholar Rachael Meads, and others. Shepherd University sits on a high bluff on the Potomac River, some 65 miles NW of Washington, DC; Shepherdstown is listed on the historic registry, was surveyed by the Washington brothers, and is an exciting, contemporary living museum with its Colonial

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historic buildings and Civil War era regional sites. Applications from all levels of public school teaching, librarians, and counsellors will be welcome, as will those from graduate students intending to teach. Storytelling, drama, and music workshops, history and culture discussions, as well as literary discussions will be part of the seminar, cap-stoned at the end with an extraordinary "Appalachian Road-trip" that takes seminar participants into the heartland and coalfields of the region. For information, see <http://www.shepherd.edu/neh/> or contact Seminar Director Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt at SShurbut@shepherd.edu. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2016.

e-Appalachia Award Nominations

Please take the time to send nominations in for the e-Appalachia Award. This 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 e-Appalachia Award is increasingly gaining prestige among those in the field. Nominations should be made to Eryn Roles, Communications Committee chair, at roles1@marshall.edu before March 1, 2016.

Graduate EDPD Course Credit Available

Public school teachers will be able to receive university credit for conference attendance in Shepherdstown, through Shepherd University's Office of Continuing Education. Karen Rice is the director of that office, as well as the Life-long Learning Program at Shepherd. Two course syllabi have been created for teachers attending the conference, one focusing on the interdisciplinary

nature of the conference and the other focusing on Storer College. Teachers signing up for the latter will receive a copy of Dawne Burke's book, *An American Phoenix*, and Burke will be the teacher of record for that experience. Teachers who wish to focus on the interdisciplinary nature of the conference will work with Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt. Teachers who are from a state other than West Virginia, can contact Director Rice at KRice@shepherd.edu.

Online Voting: Coming Spring 2016

The steering committee is piloting a new online voting initiative this spring. In early March, the ASA Secretary will send out an electronic ballot with the roster of steering committee nominees via email. All members are encouraged to participate by either paper ballot included in this issue of Appalink or by the forthcoming electronic vote. As in previous years, paper ballots may be turned in at conference registration or mailed directly to Mary Thomas, ASA Executive Director, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. The steering committee is eager to increase participation in the annual membership vote. Please feel free to use the voting mechanism that works best for you. The steering committee will solicit feedback about the online voting option later this spring. Thanks, in advance, for participating in our shared association work. For more information about voting, please email ASA Secretary Meredith Doster at appalstudies@gmail.com.

CRYPTOGRAM

YLB QTKW FC JX CLBNLBKW; YLBKB FC ZTYLFZE F QSPI. FZ
EKBBZ NSCYGKBC LB JSIBC JB QFB WTVZ; YT CYFQQ VSYBKC
LB QBSWC JB; LB KBCYTKBC JX CTGQ. NCSQJ 23:1-3

And here is your hint: C = S

Answer found on Page 11

ASA BUSINESS & REPORTS

Finance Committee Report

Revenues for the ASA come primarily from membership dues and conference registrations. Fortunately, we have seen growth in both our ranks and in conference attendance. Though we do see occasional dips in these numbers, overall ASA's paid conference attendance and membership grew from 629 in 2001 to 768 in 2015. In today's dollars, that difference represents nearly \$21,000 in revenue. It is also important to note that ASA has averaged a year-end cash balance that is about half this amount. However, we are beginning to cut into that average cash balance because of the much needed addition of a full time person in the Association office and the inevitable rise in operational expenses.

Last year, the steering committee opted for a nominal increase in membership dues to help ASA keep pace with its expenses. At the end of this fiscal year (FY 2016), I estimate that we will continue to carry a cash balance similar to previous years, but that won't continue unless we are mindful of revenue generation.

In terms of membership fees, our low cost enables us to be very inclusive of students and others who continue their professional engagement with often limited institutional money to support their involvement in Appalachian studies. If we simply go to the well and raise membership dues each time more money is needed, then we could easily begin to winnow our numbers due to affordability. Certainly, one of the great things about the ASA's annual conference is the opportunity for students and faculty to present their work at a diverse and vibrant venue. I believe our reasonable costs for membership and the conference are a reason why our numbers continue to be strong. Thus, we must use this option sparingly to generate more revenue.

A second option is to encourage new membership and conference attendance. Our growth in this area has been about nine additional people a year. Each additional person who attends represents \$100-150 in additional revenue for ASA. And this number seems somewhat unpredictable from year to year. For instance, there were 791 conference attendees (including scholarship recipients) in FY 2013, 761 in FY 2014, and 710 in 2015. The drop in 2015 represents a big hit in revenues. Perhaps this is a reflection of reduced travel budgets at universities or maybe it is an issue of conference timing or travel distance. Regardless, the preference would be to increase our membership and conference attendance each year. As universities tout the need to prepare students for careers that include professional presentations, writing, and research, it seems that we have a lot to offer students who want to develop these skills in an open and inclusive environment that provides many opportunities for collaboration and mentorship.

Another important focus is the building of an endowment that will help fund programming and support the organization's operations. Donations to ASA for the program endowment will ensure a long term revenue stream. While the corpus is modest at this time, continued support by members and potential donors

will enable us to continue our good and important work. Too, gifts to the ASA to support scholarships are also an excellent way to promote the organization. These gifts enable more students to gain the benefits of participation in a professional conference. On behalf of the finance committee, I extend my sincere appreciation to our membership for their continued support of our thriving organization.

~ Jeff Spradling, Finance Committee Chair

Diversity and Inclusion Report

The diversity and inclusion committee will present a session for the ASA conference at 4PM on Friday afternoon, March 18. The session, focused on college-community partnerships, is titled: "Diverse Voices Working for Positive Change in the Mountains: Community Partnerships with Education." The purpose of the session is to offer examples in which community members work with faculty and staff to set an agenda and to achieve goals for the betterment of the community. The hope is to encourage more such partnerships. The intent is to broaden representation in ASA beyond academics, bringing community members and their views and issues to the organization.

The committee put forward nominees for ASA committees and the steering committee, with the goals of encouraging representation of the full spectrum of populations in the Appalachian region in leadership roles in the organization and of working consistently toward making ASA more diverse of in terms of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, and life work.

The diversity and inclusion committee requests that all members of ASA look for ways at the annual conference to include newcomers in sessions, events, and informal discussion, and consider ways to widen participation.

~ Susan Spalding, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair

Communications News

We continue to take content and editing suggestions for the website. We are also taking volunteers for new Communications Committee members. If you are interested in helping please consider this committee. Please contact Eryn Roles at roles1@marshall.edu.

~ Eryn Roles, Communications Committee Chair

Bylaws Changes

Please read carefully. The ASA membership will vote on the following changes at the annual ASA conference during the business meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 1:00-2:15 at the Student Center, Storer Ballroom. See bylaws at <http://appalachianstudies.org/policies/bylaws2015.pdf> for comparison purposes.

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RATIONALE: The following changes to the bylaws, recommended by the steering committee, address six key issues: 1) establishing Y'ALL as a standing committee with its chairpersons as members of the steering committee (in place of the current student steering committee members); 2) clarifying the evolving/rotating roles of the individuals elected to the positions of Vice President/President Elect and Program Chair Elect; 3) specifying the maximum number of at-large steering committee members (8) as a result of the recent bylaw change to increase the term of at-large members to 4 years; 4) changing the term of the Program Chair Elect to a 2-year term, elected at the same time as the President Elect with whom the individual will serve as leadership for a specific future conference; 5) changing the term of program committee members to a 2-year term, elected in the year following the election of the Program Chair Elect for a specific future conference; and 6) changing the number of education committee members to at least 5. Numbers 4 and 5 above will have the effect of establishing two concurrent program committees and Program Chairs Elect, elected to plan for the needs of different future conferences.

- 1) **Article IX, Officers, Section 1a, Elected Officers:** Clarifies the 4 rotating roles assumed by the person elected as President Elect (Vice-President (President-Elect)/President/Conference Chairperson (Immediate Past President)/Past Conference Chair), as well as the 3 rotating roles assumed by the persons elected as Program Chairperson Elect (Program Chairperson Elect/Program Chairperson/Immediate Past Program Chairperson); changes "student Steering Committee member" to "Y'ALL Steering Committee member." Revisions result in the renumbering of Article IX, Section 1.
- 2) **Article IX, Officers, Section 3, Term of Office:** Clarifies the term of office for the Vice-President (President Elect)/President/Conference Chairperson (Immediate Past President)/Past Conference Chair; changes the term of office of the Program Chairperson Elect/Program Chairperson/Immediate Past Program Chairperson to a total of 4 years with 2 years serving as Program Chairperson Elect; changes the possible number of at-large members from 4 to 8 (due to previous change in term of office); changes "student Steering Committee member" to "Y'ALL Steering Committee member"; clarifies how appointed members are appointed to the steering committee: "Appointed officers are appointed by the President in consultation with the Nomination and Executive Committees." Revisions result in the renumbering of Article IX, Section 3.
- 3) **Article X, Duties of Officers, Sections 1, 5, and 6:** Changes nomenclature to be consistent with Article IX; specifies the role of the Program Chairpersons Elect over the 2 years they will serve in this role. Updates language in Article X, Section 1 to specify the rotating roles of the President/Conference

Chairperson (Immediate Past President)/Immediate Past Conference Chair. Article X, Sections 5 and 6 specify the roles of the Program Chairpersons Elect/Program Chairpersons/Immediate Past Program Chairpersons.

- 4) **Article X, Duties of Officers, Section 19, Y'ALL Steering Committee Members:** Changes "Student Steering Committee members" to "Y'ALL Steering Committee members." Adds general description of Y'ALL Committee members, deleting "See Article XI, Section 1b" to read "The Y'ALL Steering Committee members act as co-chairs of the Y'ALL committee and work collaboratively with the President in support of the conference."
- 5) **Article XI, Committees, Section 1, Steering Committee:** Changes the number of at-large Steering Committee members to 8 with a term of 4 years; changes "Student Steering Committee members" to "Y'ALL Steering Committee members." Deletes Article XI, Section 1b, as Y'ALL members now chair a standing committee. This deletion results in the renumbering of Article XI, Section 1.
- 6) **Article XI, Committees, Section 2, Program Committee:** Specifies recommended changes to the timing of the election and term of office for the Program Chairpersons Elect/Program Chairpersons/Immediate Past Program Chairpersons ("shall serve a 4-year term in service of a specific future conference, and shall be elected concurrent with the Vice-President who will serve as Conference Chairperson for that conference"); the timing of the election and term of office of at-large program committee members ("At-large program committee members for a conference shall be elected in the year following the election of the Program Chairperson Elect. At-large program committee members shall serve a 2-year term"); the maximum number of additional Program Committee members appointed by the Program Chair ("up to 4"); as well as the duties of the Program Committee.
- 7) **Article XI, Committees, Section 10, Education Committee:** Incorporates recommendation that the Education Committee should have at least (rather than up to) five members in addition to the chair.
- 8) **Article XI, Committees, Section 13, Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners (Y'ALL) Committee:** Section added to describe membership ("2 co-chairpersons and a minimum of 4 members") and duties of the Y'ALL committee.

~Debbie Zorn, Vice President

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Officer Nominations

The following individuals have been nominated for ASA offices. Be sure to vote. The ballot is included in this issue of *Appalink* and may be turned in at conference registration or mailed to Mary Thomas, ASA Executive Director, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. The ballot also will be distributed via email for electronic voting.

Vice President/President Elect (2016-2017); President (2017-2018); Conference Chairperson/Immediate Past President (2018-2019); Past Conference Chair (2019-2020):

Carol Boggess

Carol Boggess is professor emeritus at Mars Hill University in Western North Carolina. She has made her “home” in the mountains since 1980 when she and her husband moved to a farm in Yancey County, north of Mars Hill and Asheville. Research associated with her PhD at University of Kentucky led her to the major writing project of her career, the literary biography of Appalachian writer James Still (1906-2001). Conducting interviews of Still’s wide network of friends and extensive research in archives and collections has provided her a look into the heart of the region during the twentieth century. Her special teaching interest at Mars Hill University has been Southern and Appalachian literature; she also helped establish and initially directed the university’s interdisciplinary program for regional studies. As a faculty fellow in the Liston B. Ramsey Center during 2010, she and a student explored the Bascom Lamar Lunsford ballad collection and created a teaching unit that introduces undergraduates to the university archives and to mountain music. Carol has been an active member of the Appalachian Studies Association for sixteen years and served as program co-chair for the 2004 annual conference in Cherokee. She is looking forward to bringing the 2019 conference to the Asheville area.

Vice Program Co-Chairs/Program Co-Chairs Elect (2016-2017); Program Co-Chairs (2017-18 for conference in Cincinnati, Ohio); Past Program Co-Chairs (2018-2019) assist the program chairperson, help organize the next conference and negotiate for conference support (2016-2017); serve as program co-chairs (2017-2018) and past program co-chairs (2018-2019):

Joy Leane Gritton is a Kentucky native who seeks through her community service, teaching, and research to empower and inspire others to contribute their time, energies, talents, and intellect to collaborative community building, particularly in Appalachian Kentucky. Gritton has worked to encourage the practice of service learning and participatory research in higher education, fostering Morehead State University’s on-going collaboration with the Haldeman Community Center in Rowan County. For the past three years she has co-coordinated the center’s after

school program, which offers enrichment activities, tutoring, and nutritious snacks to children free of charge. In addition to staffing the Haldeman program, her students have worked on service assignments ranging from large scale murals to oral history projects, and have presented their community-focused research and projects at ASA for over a decade. Gritton is founder and coordinator of the Eastern Kentucky Arts Project, which promotes greater awareness of arts resources in Eastern Kentucky, and serves as coordinator of Morehead State University’s interdisciplinary Appalachian Studies program. Her research addresses the relationship between the arts and social welfare, sustainable and culturally sensitive economic development, and healthy cross-cultural relations in a pluralistic society; her forthcoming book, *Allen Eaton: American Art and Progressive Reform*, is a synthesis of these interests.

Jennifer Herald Koster is an Urban Appalachian living in Northern Kentucky. She has earned a Bachelor’s in Political Science and a Master’s in English from Northern Kentucky University. Currently, she is focused on Appalachian research—particularly focusing on improving first year college outcomes (centered around composition) for Appalachian students, as part of her PhD work at the University of Cincinnati. Jennifer is happy to be a full-time Lecturer at Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Eastern Kentucky. Recently, Jennifer became involved with the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition and looks forward to working with the group to develop and expand their initiatives.

Program Committee Members (for 2017 conference at Virginia Tech) help prepare the call for participation, review submitted abstracts, and compile the 2017 conference program:

Beth Bingman lives on a farm near Dungannon, Virginia. Now “retired,” her professional career included teaching in elementary schools and as a community college adjunct, serving as associate director of the Center for Literacy Studies at the University of Tennessee, and most recently working as Managing Director of Appalshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky. Currently she is active in economic revitalization efforts in southwest Virginia as well as conducting research on a racially integrated camp established in Knoxville in 1950, and continuing efforts to learn the guitar. She holds a PhD in adult education and has published in both adult education and Appalachian studies.

Tony Harkins is an associate professor of history and the director of the popular culture studies major at Western Kentucky University. He teaches world history, 19th-20th century United States history, American studies, and popular culture studies. He is the author of *Hillbilly: A Cultural History of an American Icon* (Oxford University Press, 2004) and the co-editor with Doug

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Reichert Powell and Katherine Ledford of the “Media” section of the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (University of Tennessee Press, 2006). Last year he contributed “Colonels, Hillbillies and Fightin’: Twentieth-century Kentucky in the National Imagination” to the special “Building a History of Twentieth-Century Kentucky” issue of *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*. He first attended the Appalachian Studies Conference in 1996 at Unicoi State Park and served from 2006-2008 on the ASA Conference Steering Committee and on the Weatherford Award Committee in 2007.

Karen Hudson has degrees in folklore, and historic preservation, and has spent nearly three decades identifying, documenting, and analyzing cultural landscapes across Kentucky. Vernacular architecture, the Appalachian cultural landscape, and the politics of historic preservation, have been her primary areas of interest. She is currently completing a book manuscript, *Back and Forth Flies the Shuttle: The Built Environment & Daily Life of a Southern Mountain Settlement School, 1899-1949* (working title), for the University Press of Kentucky. Karen is particularly interested in helping to reveal important lessons for today’s regional activists that are embedded in Appalachia’s historic buildings, landscapes, spaces, and material culture. Karen serves on the Board of Trustees of the Pine Mountain Settlement School (Harlan County, KY).

Doug Reichert Powell is an associate professor of English at Columbia College Chicago, where he teaches writing, American literature, and cultural studies. He is the author of *Critical Regionalism: Connecting Politics and Culture in the American Landscape* (North Carolina, 2007); co-editor, with John Paul Tassoni, of *Composing Other Spaces* (Hampton, 2009), a collection of essays on place and writing pedagogy; co-editor, with Katherine Ledford and Anthony Harkins, of the “Media” section of the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (Tennessee, 2006); and most recently contributed the essay “Imagining Appalachia: Three Landscapes” to the collection *Studying Appalachia Studies: Making the Path by Walking* (Illinois, 2014). He first attended the Appalachian Studies Association meeting in Morgantown in 1995, and served on the program committee for the 1999 meeting in Abingdon.

Two At-Large Steering Committee Members (2016-2020):

Lesly-Marie Buer, MA, MPH, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology and holds a graduate certificate in gender and women’s studies from the University of Kentucky. She spent one year as the committee chair and two years on the steering committee of the annual Appalachian Research Symposium and Arts Showcase held at the University of Kentucky. Her dissertation research is focused on women’s encounters with substance abuse treatment in Central Appalachia. Ms. Buer has published on substance use in Central Appalachia in journal articles, conference proceedings, and film reviews as well as presented at multiple national conferences. She has received several grants and fellowships from the University of Kentucky in

support of her research in Appalachia.

Gabriel Piser is a PhD candidate in the interdisciplinary doctoral program of the Department of Comparative Studies at The Ohio State University. He specializes in the areas of environmental studies, political theory, contemporary social and environmental movements, and critical pedagogy. His dissertation research examines the diverse effects of resource extraction-based development (EBD) on landscapes and people in Appalachia, and how emerging discourses and practices are changing the trajectory of development in the region. Alongside his work as a scholar, he has many years of experience in participatory and experiential education, regional sustainability consultancy, leadership and facilitation training, and ecological literacy program design. He has offered workshops on urban and rural sustainability, white supremacy and anti-racism, protest emergency medicine, and non-violent direct action activism. Over the past decade he has run workshops at the US Social Forum in Atlanta, Georgia, for activists in Valencia, Spain, for students at colleges across the country, for community members in Philadelphia, and for attendees at numerous social justice conferences and events. He has also worked as a professional photographer, blacksmith, silversmith, caterer, bike messenger, and urban gardener.

Brittany R. Hicks, a West Virginia native, received a self-designed BA in Appalachian studies from Davis & Elkins College in 2007 and an MA in Appalachian studies from Appalachian State University in 2014. Her Master’s thesis, “Exploring ‘Nostalgia for the Future’: A History of the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, West Virginia,” situates Augusta in historical context, investigates the Center’s impact on participants, and describes the importance of experiential learning and the role of tradition in modern life. As a graduate student, she served as editorial assistant to *Appalachian Journal*. Under the guidance of Katherine Ledford, Hicks was a graduate teaching assistant, teaching Appalachia: An Introduction and Appalachian Stories. She worked with Patricia D. Beaver and Sandra L. Ballard as the assistant editor of *Voices from the Headwaters: Stories from Meat Camp, Tamarack (Pottertown) & Sutherland, North Carolina*. She served on staff at the Augusta Heritage Center of Davis & Elkins College for ten consecutive summers. In her current position as Assistant Director of the Augusta Heritage Center, Brittany coordinates the Augusta Festival, the WV Open Fiddle & Banjo Contest, Augusta’s Old-Time Fiddlers’ Reunion, a monthly square dance series, and evening activities during Augusta’s summer and fall workshops. She also oversees the Augusta Store, has been instrumental in building the craft workshop program, and assists with planning and implementation of Augusta’s programming year-round.

Travis A. Rountree is a doctoral student in the composition and rhetoric program at the University of Louisville. He earned

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his MA in English from Appalachian State University with a certificate in Appalachian studies and a BA in English with a minor in American studies from James Madison University. He has been published in the *Appalachian Journal* and *The North Carolina Folklore Journal*. His current research focuses on applying the intersections of collective and public memory and critical regionalism to the 1912 courthouse shootout in Hillsville, Virginia. In addition, he studies place-based pedagogies in the composition classroom. He has served on the Weatherford Award Committee for the past two years.

Anne Chesky Smith grew up in western North Carolina. She earned her MA in Appalachian studies at Appalachian State University (ASU) in 2010 with a concentration in sustainable development. While at ASU, she worked as the editorial assistant at *Appalachian Journal*. After graduating she served as the executive director of a non-profit history museum in Black Mountain, NC, the Swannanoa Valley Museum. In 2014, she relocated to Athens, GA, and is currently a graduate student in integrative conservation and anthropology at the University of Georgia researching anthropogenic landscape conversion in southern Appalachia. She has been a member of ASA since 2009 and hopes to help continue the scholarly and activist work of the Association.

One At-Large Student Steering Committee Member (2016-2018):

Ivy Brashear joined the staff of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) in February 2013 as a communications associate. She works primarily on MACED's Appalachian economic transition efforts. Before joining MACED, she was chief blogger at *The Rural Blog*, which is a product of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky. She has been a reporter at *The Hazard Herald* in Hazard, Ky., and at the *Times-Tribune* in Corbin, Ky. She's also been a filmmaker for the Appalachian Media Institute, a staff assistant with the Kentucky RIVERKEEPER, and served on the Leadership Development and Youth Engagement Working Group Committee for the Shaping Our Appalachian Region Initiative. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and Appalachian studies from Eastern Kentucky University, and is pursuing her masters degree in community and leadership development from the University of Kentucky. Ivy is now a board member for the New Economy Coalition, a member of WMMT's Community Advisory Board, and a member of the Kentucky Rural-Urban Exchange steering committee. She is also a member of the Stay Together Appalachian Youth Project, the Young Climate Leaders Network and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. She is a native of Viper, KY, a fifth-generation Perry Countian, and a tenth-

generation Appalachian.

Willa K. Johnson, from McRoberts, KY, is the daughter of a retired middle school teacher and coal truck driver. When Willa was 21, she along with four other young adults, formed the Stay Together Appalachian Youth Project (STAY) to help network young Appalachians together, to create leadership from within, and to change the narrative that our greatest regional export is "bright young minds". Willa has worked to teach young Appalachians how to tell the stories of their communities through place-based education and media literacy. She also served for a year as an Appalachian Transition Fellow with the Carolina Textile District, and educator for the Appalachian Media Institute. Willa now works as a Community Engagement Coordinator with the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative, where she is excited to connect the classroom to the community.

Jana (Katie) Teal has completed her minor in Appalachian studies at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. She participated in the Appalachian Teaching Project in 2014-15. She was one of nine students who represented the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center in Washington and she continues to be involved even though she has completed her course work. Katie became interested in Appalachian studies after spending her first summer in Dahlonega and getting to know members of the local community by visiting the farmers market. She grew up a Newnan, a town just south of Atlanta, but now has no plans of leaving the mountains. She hopes to make a career in Appalachia working with children and local, sustainable food. She feels a deep connection to the people and culture.

~Debbie Zorn, Vice President

Cryptogram answer :
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures he
makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul.
Psalm 23:1-3



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VOICES FROM THE MISTY MOUNTAINS: DIVERSITY AND UNITY, A NEW APPALACHIA

Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt
Conference Chair/Local Arrangements Chair
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Rachael Meads
Program Chair
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EXTREME APPALACHIA!

By "Extreme Appalachia!" we mean the impassioned commitments people have to the region, the land, and Appalachian communities, ways of life, and livelihoods. We also mean the ways extreme resource extraction and use have triggered these passionate commitments in the forms of community resilience and activism that will move the region forward into a positive and sustainable future. "Extreme" also references the power of the region's visual, performance, and literary arts to nurture, provoke, and inspire while grappling with a long and continuing history of misrepresentation and exploitation.

Anita Puckett, Conference Chair, apuckett@vt.edu
Emily Satterwhite, Program Chair, satterwhite@vt.edu
Serena Frost, Local Arrangements Chair