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Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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# Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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## President's Message

Is it my imagination or is Appalachia more visible in mainstream U.S. news these days than in the past? Recently there has been a fairly steady stream of reports, articles, and blogs about Appalachia in relation to everything from black lung disease, mountaintop removal, and fracking to Emmy nominations for a miniseries on the Hatfields and McCoys. Reading these pieces I sometimes find myself recalling last spring's Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) conference in Indiana, PA. In a session titled "Creating an Appalachian Play," writer and activist Silas House referred to what he called "New Appalachia—capital N, capital A."

Those words stuck with me. House used them to introduce a discussion about his collaboration with students and staff at Berea College to write and produce a play featuring a real case of discrimination against a gay couple that occurred in Hazard, Kentucky in the summer of 2011. During that same summer—what House called "the summer of hate"—a lesbian couple in Harlan County reported that people shot fireworks at them; a gay man was beaten in Harlan; and vehicles belonging to an interracial couple in Berea were spray-painted with racial slurs. Noting that what's happening in Appalachia today (New Appalachia) is also what's happening in the U.S. today, Silas said the hateful incidents in Kentucky pained him so much **because** they happened in Appalachia—a place he loves.

So what else do we know about New Appalachia? In addition to social discrimination such as what happened in Kentucky, we know there is ongoing environmental and economic exploitation. Coal companies continue to reduce numbers of employees while they increase profits by using machine- and explosion-driven mountaintop removal coal mining, a process that ravages the beauty and livability of the land as well as the health of local residents. Internationally recognized, award-winning West Virginia activist Marie Gunnoe traveled to Washington, D.C. this past summer—along with others—to speak with national leaders about mountaintop removal mining. As part of her presentation, she asked,

"Why is it acceptable to depopulate our communities and culture, poison our water and air and leave us to die in a post mining wasteland for temporary jobs and energy?"

To illustrate water pollution in areas near mountaintop removal mining, Gunnoe planned to use a photograph of a five-year-old girl in a bathtub of brown water as part of her testimony. According to Aaron Bady's *Huffington Post* blog posted on June 5, 2012, the photo was taken by photojournalist Katie Falkenberg who wrote the following caption for it: "Erica and Rully Urias must bathe their daughter, Makayla, age 5, in contaminated water that is the color of tea. Their water has been tested and contains high levels of arsenic. The family attributes this water problem primarily to the blasting which they believe has disrupted the water table and cracked the casing in their well, allowing seepage of heavy metals into their water, and also to the runoff from the mountaintop removal sites surrounding their home."

Gunnoe was not allowed to use the photograph at the hearing, and afterwards she was questioned by U.S. Capitol Police for nearly an hour on suspicion of child pornography. Clearly "the real obscenity," as Bady wrote, is not the photograph of the child in the bathtub, but "that people drink that water, that they have no choice but to bathe in it and to bathe their children in it."

In other recent news, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reported findings from a new study on black lung disease. In a story about the study, National Public Radio (NPR) reported that the last black lung study of surface coal miners (released in 2002) found an illness rate of less than 2 percent, with an advanced disease rate of only 0.1 percent. By contrast, the current study found five times that rate, and perhaps more surprisingly, found high levels of disease among young miners and those who had not worked underground. According to NPR's report, the study notes that "findings suggest that current federal permissible dust exposure limits might be insufficient to protect against disease or are not being adequately controlled to prevent

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excess dust exposure." The highest disease levels were found among miners in Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia, and Southwestern Virginia.

Meanwhile, some elected state representatives from these very areas have been actively opposing the Obama administration and EPA's efforts to address these environmental and health issues. According to Gunnoe's testimony in Washington, the only people in Appalachia who support mountaintop removal mining are those making money on it. She accused the coal industry of perpetuating a lie that there is a "war on coal," that coal mining jobs are under attack. Calling this a "false crisis," she referred to figures in a recent *Charleston Gazette* article. *Gazette* reporter Ken Ward noted that coal mining jobs have increased by 7.4 percent since 2009 when Obama came into office. But politicians are not using these facts to guide their actions. According to Gunnoe, "The facts that mountaintop removal is killing us are in the 19 health studies that have been compiled. This committee, Congress, the coal industry, and the Obama administration continue to ignore these studies and continue to allow the blowing up of our mountains and the poisoning of our waters and air to get the coal that currently powers about 36% of America's electricity."

Turns out that New Appalachia is a lot like Old Appalachia. The region may be more visible than in the past, but writer Denise Giardina's description of West Virginia as a national sacrifice area still holds true and I would argue its truth for the region as a whole. The recent instances of economic and environmental exploitation are deeply disturbing and discouraging, especially knowing how long this kind of exploitation


has existed and how people both inside and outside the region have played, and continue to play, a role in perpetuating it. Current instances of social discrimination are disturbing as well. Sometimes they take a different form than those in the past, dealing with issues we may be less familiar with, but they are just as intolerable and damaging, to individuals and to communities.

Still, what is also true of both New and Old Appalachia is that courageous, hard-working individuals and organizations fight back, even in political contexts where the prevailing mindset is not sympathetic—and is sometimes actually hostile—to calls for reforms to counter blatant, even life-threatening, inequalities. Building on the work of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) activists who take their inspiration and methods from civil rights activism of the past, Silas House and others at Berea wrote and produced a play about LGBT discrimination. In spite of a weakened labor union with fewer members and less activism than was true of Old Appalachia, Maria Gunnoe and others took their case against mountaintop removal mining to officials in Washington. Following in the footsteps of many before them (Steve Fisher's important volume on *Fighting Back in Appalachia* comes to mind), researchers and writers—from bloggers to book authors—focused their work on these and other important Appalachian issues.

As president of the Appalachian Studies Association, I find it heartening that our organization and its members are an important part of this legacy of fighting back—through writing, performing, researching, and other forms of activism. The organization continues to play that role today. At the recent ASA conference where I heard about the new play in Berea, I attended a scientific and highly informative plenary session about hydro-fracking. I joined in with a large audience singing "Which Side Are You On?" led by activist and songwriter Si Kahn.

As we continue to highlight and study Appalachia's rich history, it is also important to keep an eye on what's happening today—on New Appalachia. In a reformulation of the popular slogan, we need to think historically, act today. And even in these fractured, tense times, we should work together, finding common causes on behalf of our region, our country, and our world.

~ Linda Spatig, ASA 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 Mary Thomas at [asa@marshall.edu](mailto:asa@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 2013 edition is December 1, 2012.

Eryn Roles, Editor  
Mary Thomas, Managing Editor

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



**Visit us online!**

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

Facebook icon | Twitter icon

## Communities in Action, Landscapes in Change

Appalachian State University and its Center for Appalachian Studies are gearing up to host the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Appalachian Studies Conference to be held March 22-24 in Boone, North Carolina. Those of you who attended the last ASA meeting at ASU in 1998 will remember torrential rains turning to snow. The 2013 program committee has placed an order for a mild, early spring in Boone to mimic the warm weather we all enjoyed last March in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Knowing Boone, however, you might want to hedge your bets by packing a raincoat and a parka. Sue Keefe, our 1998 Program Chair and a member of the 2013 Program Committee, remembers kayakers paddling down campus's aptly named Rivers Street that weekend. While we won't go so far as to recommend that you tie a kayak on top of your car, we will suggest that you come prepared for whatever the Blue Ridge Mountains in late winter send our way. Fortunately, the registration desk, sessions, breaks and receptions, the exhibit hall, and the silent auction will all be housed in our Plemmons Student Union. Conference attendees will only have to walk short distances across a mall to the venues for conference meals, the keynote address, and the plenary panel discussion. Our library, a new addition to campus since 1998, houses the W. L. Eury Appalachian Collection and is adjacent to the student union. We hope you will visit the Collection during your time in Boone.

The 2013 conference theme is Communities in Action, Landscapes in Change. The program committee, chaired by Kathy Olson of Lees-McRae College in neighboring Banner Elk, North Carolina, has reflected that theme in its selection of keynote speaker William Ferris, the Joel Williamson Eminent Professor of History and adjunct professor in the curriculum in folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Ferris is senior associate director of the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is widely recognized as a leader in Southern studies, African-American music, and folklore. Dr. Ferris served as the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities during the Clinton administration. Before leading the NEH, Dr. Ferris was the founding director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi where he was a member of the faculty for eighteen years. While there, Dr. Ferris co-edited the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (UNC Press, 1989), a project that inspired many other regional studies encyclopedias, including the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (University of Tennessee Press, 2006).

The 2013 program committee is planning to offer tours of sites in and around Boone and neighboring Blowing Rock that intersect with our theme of action and change. Tours may include visits to small farms; study of early twentieth-century art and architecture in Blowing Rock; observation and discussion of second-home and steep-slope development in Watauga and Avery Counties; and alternative energy's impact on campus. Following Eastern Kentucky University's lead at the 2011 conference, the

committee is also working to provide an opportunity for conference attendees to participate in a local service project. Included in the program, as always, will be a healthy dose of music and dancing. We anticipate a convivial and intellectually stimulating thirty-sixth annual conference and look forward to welcoming you to our campus, our community, and our Blue Ridge Mountains.

~ Katherine E. Ledford, Conference Chair

## Awards Presented at 2012 Conference

### 2011 Weatherford Awards

Non-Fiction – *Dear Appalachia: Readers, Identity, and Popular Fiction since 1978* by Emily Satterwhite  
Fiction – *Night Woods* by Charles Frazier  
Poetry – *Tennessee Landscape with Blighted Pine* by Jesse Graves

### 2012 Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award

Thomas S. Plaut

### 2011 Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award

Peggy Kemner

### 2011 Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award

Irma Gall

### 2012 Carl A. Ross Student Paper Award

Jonathan Buchanan

### 2011 e-Appalachia Award for Outstanding Website

*e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*

### 2011 Jack Spadaro Documentary Award

*The Last Mountain* directed by Bill Haney

### 2012 Wilma Dykeman "Faces of Appalachia" Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Jan Rezek

## Call for 2013 Award Nominations

### The Carl A. Ross Appalachian Student Paper Competition

is open to students in two categories: middle/high school and undergraduate/graduate students. The authors of the winning papers will receive \$100 each. Costs of attending the conference are the winners' responsibility. All papers must adhere to guidelines for scholarly research. To submit a paper for consideration for the 2013 competition, e-mail a Microsoft Word copy of the paper by December 8, 2012, to Joette Morris Gates at: [kywoman102950@gmail.com](mailto:kywoman102950@gmail.com). Middle/high school papers should be 12 – 15 pages in length; Undergraduate/graduate papers should be 20 - 30 pages in length. Students submitting papers must be enrolled in courses at the time of the conference. To verify their student status, students can submit one of the following to the mailing address below by **December 15, 2012**: a copy of a schedule of classes or

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transcripts indicating enrollment for the spring 2013 term or a letter from a faculty advisor verifying the student's status for spring 2013, which should include the faculty member's email address, phone number, and mailing address. Students who wish to present their papers at the conference must also submit a Proposal for Participation following the submission guidelines. Questions should be addressed to Joette Morris Gates, [kywoman102950@gmail.com](mailto:kywoman102950@gmail.com).

#### **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. There is a two-step nomination process. 1) Nominations should include a statement regarding the individual's specific contributions to the region 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 Emily Satterwhite, Associate Professor, 344 Lane Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0227 or by e-mail to [satterwhite@vt.edu](mailto:satterwhite@vt.edu) before **January 14, 2013**.

#### **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 or organization's specific contributions to the region or its people, accompanied by at least two letters of support. Send nomination materials to Patricia Beaver, Director, Center for Appalachian Studies, Appalachian State University, University Hall, Boone, NC 28608 or to [beaverpd@appstate.edu](mailto:beaverpd@appstate.edu) before **February 1, 2013**.

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

The award's name honors the activist and whistleblower, Jack Spadaro, who has spent his entire 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. Nominations should be made before **February 1, 2013** to Jack Wright at [jwright@ohio.edu](mailto:jwright@ohio.edu) or to Jack Wright, Ohio University School of Film, 378 Lindley Hall, Athens, OH 45701. Technical and submission requirements are detailed at <http://www.appalachianstudies.org/association/awards/>.

#### **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. Nominations should be made to Roger Guy, Website Committee Chair, [roger.guy@uncp.edu](mailto:roger.guy@uncp.edu), before **February 1, 2013**.

#### **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." Three awards are now given: one in nonfiction, one in fiction, and one in poetry, presented in honor of Grace Toney Edwards. 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. The only requirement is that the subject matter of the books be Appalachian or that they be set in Appalachia. All nominations for the Weatherford Awards must be made by **December 31, 2012**, and all entries must be originally published in 2012. Each nomination in any of the three categories must include seven copies. Please send seven copies to Sheila Lyons, Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, CPO 2166, 205 North Main Street, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404. For further information about these awards, visit our website at [www.appalachianstudies.org/association/awards/](http://www.appalachianstudies.org/association/awards/) or <http://www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/weatherford/default.asp>.

#### **Cryptogram**

JGQGW TSMRN NLYN YVPYAA OWSMX SE USPPFNNGT  
UFNFKGJV UYJ ULYJOG NLG HSWAT. FJTGGT, FN FV NLG SJAD  
NLFJO NLYN GQGW LYV. - PYWOYWGN PGYT

*Clue: U = C*

Answer appears elsewhere in *Appalink*.

#### **ASA 2012 Conference Scholarships**

Last March's Silent Auction raised \$3,110 for scholarships to the 2013 conference in Boone, NC. In addition, Howard Dorgan's family asked that donations be made to the scholarship fund in Memory of Howard, adding another \$290 for the 2013 conference. This past year, we were able to award 159 registration scholarships for a total of \$13,200 to student and community applicants.

The ASA provides scholarships to those unable to attend because of financial reasons. Our funds are limited so we continue to prioritize our scholarships according to those with the most need. We ask applicants to first seek financial assistance from their own institutions or organizations before applying for an ASA scholarship. If institutions or organizations cannot provide funds, then applicants should go ahead and apply. The online scholarship application form will be available at [www.appalachianstudies.org](http://www.appalachianstudies.org) beginning **December 3, 2012**.

#### **Call for Officer Nominations**

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

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**Two at-large members** (2013 – 2016) are elected by the membership for three-year terms. There are six at-large members on the Steering Committee with two being elected each year for three 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.

**Vice President/President Elect** (2016 conference chair, northern region) chairs the nominating committee (2013 – 2014) and negotiates for conference support at the central region site. As the 2014 – 2015 president, this person presides at all meetings, directs fundraising, serves as a spokesperson, and serves on the steering Committee as conference chair for one year after his or her term as president (2015 – 2016).

**Vice Program Chair/ Program Chair Elect** (2015 Conference Program Chair, for conference to be held at East Tennessee State University) assists the chairperson, helps organize the next conference (2014), and negotiates for conference support. The following year this person becomes program chairperson (2015) 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 on the program committee.

**Four Program Committee Members** (for 2014 conference in Huntington, WV) help prepare the call for participation, review submitted abstracts, and compile the 2014 conference program. The Program Committee includes four at-large members who serve for one year (2013 – 2014) 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 100-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* that includes the ballot.

Send your nomination(s) to Chris Green, ASA Vice-President/President Elect: [greenchr@berea.edu](mailto:greenchr@berea.edu) by November 15, 2012.

## From the ASA Historian

### Howard Dorgan Silent Auction

*First and foremost, I Remember Howard and his Silent Auction*

...  
In 1996 Howard and I first met at the ASA Conference held at Unicoi in Helen, GA

...  
In 1998 Howard initiated the Silent Auction and immediately recruited me to help

...  
In 2000 Howard received the Williams-Brown Service Award

...

In 2000 Howard retired from Appalachian State University

...  
In 2001 Howard conceived the Not-So-Silent Auction and enlisted the aid of an auctioneer. This event provided much needed entertainment as we were snowed in at Snowshoe and it generated \$1,000 for scholarships

...  
In 2002 Howard put himself up for auction and I won him (this winning bid got me Howard for one day at my college to lecture and conduct outreach with the local Appalachian residents—Howard paid all his expenses from Boone, NC to Dayton, OH)—the bid sheet read “A free lecture by Howard Dorgan to be delivered at your institution at a date and time to be negotiated.”

...  
In 2003 Howard wrote “Since we started [the Silent Auction] at the Boone conference in 1998, we have raised approximately \$13,750, all of which has gone into the Scholarship Fund to help individuals who without such assistance would not be able to participate in our conferences.”

...  
In 2003 Howard and others published “Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going? A History of the Appalachian Studies Association.” *Appalachian Journal* 31.1 (Fall 2003): 30-85

...  
In 2005 Howard approached Philis Alvic and me about co-chairing the Silent Auction, due to health concerns he felt it was time for him to take a more behind the scenes role

...  
In 2006 Howard was recognized for his contributions in the Fall *Appalink* Newsletter which read “Howard Dorgan created the ASA Silent Auction in 1998 and since that time, primarily due to his devotion and dedication, the ASA Silent Auction has raised approximately \$21,000 for scholarships. The 2006 ASA Steering Committee, therefore, believes it is only befitting that the Silent Auction now become known as the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction.”

...  
In 2007 Howard and I met at the ASA Conference in Maryville, TN—while we talked from time to time over the telephone this was the last time I saw Howard

...  
In 2012 Howard passed and it was reported that since 1998 the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction had raised a little over \$39,000 for scholarships in large part due to Howard’s dedication to ASA

...  
In 2013 Howard will be with us in spirit as we continue his legacy “*The Howard Dorgan Silent Auction.*”

ASA extends many thanks to Howard’s family who have requested that you consider making a contribution to the Silent Auction. In Howard’s memory, let’s make this the most memorable year for the ASA Silent Auction.

~ Carol Baugh  
Co-Chair, Howard Dorgan Silent Auction  
ASA Historian

## 2013 Appalachian Studies Association Howard Dorgan Silent Auction

This is a reprint from the Fall 2005 Appalink – it was the last request Howard wrote for the Silent Auction.

“Greetings! It’s that time of the year again, when I customarily send out an initial call for ASA Silent Auction bid items. Several fine art items have already been donated to the auction but we still need handmade items from regional craft persons and artisans, autographed books from Appalachian writers, videos, music, original paintings, small antiques, and novelty items.... Once again please support scholarships by donating time or items....

You can contact me at.... Howard Dorgan”

Please honor Howard and his contributions to ASA by donating items or your time to assist with the Silent Auction. For the 2013 Silent Auction we are looking for quality raffle items—items that will bring in the big bucks for scholarships.

~ Co-Chairs, Philis Alvic and Carol Baugh

### Cryptogram Answer

Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.—Margaret Mead

## ASA Business

### Growing the ASA Endowment Fund

In 2008 the Appalachian Studies Association committed to establishing an endowment fund. This small act was a big statement: *We are here to stay!* Growing the ASA endowment fund is a commitment toward the sustainability of our organization and will allow us to better fulfill our Mission that is “driven by our commitment to foster quality of life, democratic participation and appreciation of Appalachian experiences regionally, nationally, and internationally.” Through many kind donations, we have collected \$8,277.03, and it is now time to take the next step toward continued growth of the fund. To this end, the Steering Committee voted in March 2012 to raise the membership fees by five dollars (beginning with 2013 memberships), earmarking the increase for the Endowment Fund. The Steering Committee is excited about this step as a way to engage in long-term planning and to foster ASA’s ability to better fulfill our Mission for years to come.

~ Rebecca Adkins Fletcher  
Chair, Finance Committee

### Call for ASA Website Manager Applications

#### Scope of Work

The Appalachian Studies Association is seeking a part-time/as needed website manager. The website manager duties focus on maintaining an up-to-date and well designed website for the Appalachian Studies Association. The website manager provides website maintenance and design, is proactive in keeping the website up-to-date

and relevant, and responds to the requests of ASA website designees. The ASA prefers someone with knowledge of the Appalachian region and experience in Appalachian Studies so that they are able to detect topic-related problems on the website.

This is a part time position. In general it requires between two to three hours a month depending on the requests. There is a greater amount of work as deadlines approach surrounding the annual conference.

### Required Skills

- 1) Working knowledge of the following software:
  - Dreamweaver
  - Flash
  - Photoshop
  - Illustrator
  - Microsoft Office
- 2) Familiar with HTML and PHP
- 3) Must be able to upload files to the web server
- 4) Must be able to resolve technical issues with server technicians if necessary
- 5) Knowledge of SQL is a plus

### Services and Associated Deadlines

#### The website manager will:

- Use an implemented ASA website task calendar. This calendar will anticipate annual, monthly, and weekly updates to the website and provide a guide for maintaining a website that is a professional communication tool for the ASA constituency and leadership.
- Respond to and acknowledge requests from ASA designees to update the website in a timely manner, and be responsive to the feedback of the ASA leadership concerning the website’s design and layout.
- Keep the ASA website content up-to-date in terms of grammar and style.
- Regular tasks and their associated deadlines: Routine requests (updates, text, page deletions, photo changes) should be acknowledged immediately and completed within 48 hours of an emailed request. The web manager will send an email notifying the Executive Director that the change has been completed.
- Unique requests (form creation or database reports) will be acknowledged immediately and completed within 72 hours of an emailed request. The web manager will send an email notifying the Executive Director that the change has been completed.

Please submit letter of application addressing the qualifications contained in position requirements, resume, costs for services, and terms for payment to Mary Kay Thomas, Executive Director, Appalachian Studies Association, [mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu). Review of applications will begin on September 17, 2012, and continue until position is filled.

### Call for JAS (Co-) Editor

The search committee for the editor of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies (JAS)* has extended the deadline for

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applications to **November 30**. We invite applications from individuals and from two-person teams of co-editors. We seek in particular teams that combine individuals from different disciplines and career stages.

As the organ of the Appalachian Studies Association, JAS offers ASA members access to new research and to reviews of major books and other media productions in the field, as well as research notes, community notes, and teaching notes describing practical applications of research. Every year one issue of the JAS includes a bibliography of Appalachian books and articles published during that year. At present, JAS consists of two issues each year, which are published together as a single volume.

The JAS (co-)editor receives support in his/her editorial duties from several other individuals, some on staff in the ASA office at Marshall University and others who serve in a variety of capacities that facilitate the production of each issue of JAS. These include the managing editor, associate editor, three assistant editors, a book review editor, media review editor, and bibliographic editor (all currently in place), and the editorial board of advisors, all of whom help to ensure that the journal publishes work that provides significant new research, theory, critiques, and insights. In addition, the (co-)editor works with the staff and editorial board to identify steps needed to achieve the journal's purposes more effectively in the face of changes in the field of Appalachian Studies, in scholarly journal publication, and/or in ASA membership.

The (co-)editor's major responsibilities include (1) responding to manuscript submissions through communications with the author(s) and with reviewers; (2) soliciting high quality manuscripts and finding appropriate referees to assess them; (3) working with the managing editor to track all manuscripts, reviews, letters of acceptance or rejection, in terms of a general log as well as particular logs for each issue; (4) working with the assistant editors to "shepherd" manuscripts through the revision process for accepted papers; (5) working with the associate editor to make sure all articles meet professional standards for style and content; (6) working with the bibliography, book review, and media review editors to make sure that they have the time and resources needed to ensure timely publication of the bibliography, book reviews, and media reviews; (7) communicating with the editorial board through email for specific issues and at the annual editorial board meeting held during the ASA conference; and (8) reporting regularly to the ASA Steering Committee and to the ASA membership through reports published in Appalink.

If you are interested in applying for the (co-)editorship of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, please send a letter of application, a full C.V., and the names of three references by **November 30, 2012** to Mary Kay Thomas at [mthomas@marshall.edu](mailto:mthomas@marshall.edu). Please note in your cover letter if you seek to be the sole editor, a co-editor applying with another applicant (in which case please specify the other applicant's name), or a co-editor whom the committee would team with another applicant. Applicants

are encouraged to ascertain the potential availability of in-kind or financial support (secretarial, graduate assistant and/or course release) from their home institution, and the successful candidate(s) will be encouraged (but not required) to obtain such support. If you wish to speak informally with someone familiar with the editorial duties, feel free to contact Mary Kay at 304-696-2904 or Linda Spatig at 304-696-2875.

## Announcements

### **Women of Appalachia: Sisters in Science Conference**

Visit [www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/womenofappalachia](http://www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/womenofappalachia) for details. Conference Dates: **October 18-20, 2012**

Concurrent session presentations can take the form of paper presentations and roundtable discussions. Suggested topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Women Conservationists, Naturalists and other Environmentally-Focused Women
- Appalachian Women in Medicine: Homeopathy vs. Science and Everything in Between
- The Science of Appalachian Resource Management: Coal Miners' Daughters
- Embodiments/Representations of Science in Appalachian Literature and Art
- "Getting above Her Raisin": Female Achievement in the Appalachian Science Classroom
- History/Biography of Appalachian Women Scientists
- Innovation in Regional Science Education: How to Bring Modern STEM Pedagogy to the Appalachian Classroom

Our keynote speaker for the conference is Michelle Withers, Assistant Professor of Biology at West Virginia University. Dr. Withers' research focuses on improving undergraduate science education, particularly evaluating the efficacy of different teaching methods in enhancing student learning.

In addition, Dr. Diandra Leslie-Pelecky, the Director of the West Virginia Nano Initiative and Professor of Physics at the West Virginia University, will give a public lecture entitled "The Physics of NASCAR" at Ohio University Zanesville's Third Thursday event on October 18. Read more about her at <http://www.diandra.info>.

### **The Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Gretchen Moran Laskas Volume V**

To submit any original, unpublished work of fiction or poetry for consideration by the editors for the Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Gretchen Moran Laskas Volume V, send an electronic copy to Dr. S. Bailey Shurbutt, [sshurbut@shepherd.edu](mailto:sshurbut@shepherd.edu). If you have questions please feel free to contact:

Dr. S. Bailey Shurbutt  
AAW Managing Editor  
The WV Center for the Book  
The Shepherd University Foundation  
<http://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/anthology/>

Deadline for Submissions: **October 15, 2012.**





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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Thirty-Sixth Annual  
Appalachian Studies Conference**  
**March 22 – 24, 2013**  
Appalachian State University  
Boone, North Carolina

### **COMMUNITIES IN ACTION, LANDSCAPES IN CHANGE**

**Katherine Ledford**  
Conference Chair and Immediate Past President  
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**Thirty-Seventh Annual  
Appalachian Studies Conference**  
**March 28 – 30, 2014**  
Marshall University  
Huntington, West Virginia

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