



College of Arts and Sciences

*Appalachian Center and
Appalachian Studies Program*

2021–2022



CLASS OF 2022 - Graduating Seniors



Emily Deubel - Minor

Emily Deubel is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a minor in Appalachian Studies. Emily has worked at the Appalachian Center and been involved in the Appalachian Studies Program since freshman year. During her time in the program, she learned the importance of home, place, and culture. Through her education at Appalachian Center she also learned how to be an advocate for herself and her community in regard to issues facing Appalachians. Upon graduation, Emily will matriculate into the University of Louisville School of Medicine. She plans to return to Rockcastle County, her home, after her medical training is complete.



Sam Belza - Certificate

Sam Belza is graduating this spring with a bachelor's degree and departmental honors in History and Anthropology and a certificate in Appalachian Studies. Through their involvement with the Appalachian Studies program, Belza has gained an appreciation for Appalachia's diverse culture and communities. This program helped Belza reach outside their comfort zone and take new risks both inside and outside the university. Belza will be staying at UK to pursue a master's in Cultural Anthropology through the University Scholars Program, and they hope to continue researching food pathways and accessibility after graduation.



Danica Moon - Minor

Danica Moon is graduating with a B.A. in Political Science, a minor in Appalachian Studies, and an undergraduate certificate in Sexuality Studies.

She maintains that Appalachian Studies has been the most impactful thing she has studied while at UK, in terms of personal development. No other classes have been more eye opening as to how America and the world functions, and how we should operate as people within them. The rich history of labor organizing, resilience in the face of hardship, and the ongoing work to counter negative stereotypes of the region made her a better, more mindful academic and person who is proud to have Appalachian roots. Danica is also quite thankful to all the faculty and staff within Appalachian Studies, including Dr. Engle, Dr. Kingsolver, and Dr. Komara.

Danica will be living in Lexington as she takes a gap year next year. While she may pursue opportunities within the Office of LGBTQ* Resources where she currently interns, mainly she's hoping to recover from being in school for 17 years. She is considering attending divinity school or pursuing a masters degree in Higher Education, Gender and Women's studies, or Appalachian Studies.



Courtney Martin - Minor - graduating August 2022

Courtney is graduating with a BLS in Natural/Physical/Mathematical Sciences with a minor in Biology, Psychology and Appalachian Studies.

Courtney has deeply enjoyed being a part of the Appalachian Studies program while at the University of Kentucky. She has enjoyed learning more about the region she is from, fostering relationships with faculty/staff/students who are also from the area, and having the opportunity to conduct research specific to Appalachia through awards offered by the App Center.

After graduation, Courtney will be attending UK in the fall pursuing a Master's of Public Health.



Caleb Purdue - Minor

Caleb Purdue is so excited to be graduating from the University of Kentucky with a BA in theatre; minors in Trumpet Performance, Vocal Performance, and Appalachian Studies; a certificate in Musical Theatre; and a medallion from the Honors College, indicating 4 years of involvement in that program and the successful completion of an Honors Thesis. Through his involvement in the Appalachian Center, Caleb has learned a great many lessons. Perhaps chief among them is his takeaway that in order to truly support and build up marginalized, disenfranchised, undervalued, and misunderstood communities both in Appalachia and across America more broadly, we must truly engage with the people of said communities, uplift their values, and trust in their ability to understand (far more deeply than an outsider could) what is best for the places that they love and call home. Upon graduation, Caleb will remain in Lexington for a year, hopefully working in a professional theatre internship with a Lexington-based company and certainly beginning work on one of his passion projects: a collaborative theatre piece centering around Appalachian voices and detailing the disproportionate ways in which the opioid crisis has affected Appalachia and its people. The following fall, Caleb plans to pursue a Master's degree in Appalachian Studies (likely from either East Tennessee State University or Appalachian State). Caleb is so grateful for his time in the Appalachian Studies program and is excited to see the ways that it will grow and flourish even further in the future!



Madison Tackett - Minor

Madison is from Virgie, Kentucky. She will be graduating with a degree in Kinesiology Exercise Science, a minor in Appalachian Studies, and Honors. She is attending the University of Kentucky College of Medicine this fall. The Appalachian Studies minor has expanded her love for the region and her desire to practice medicine in Appalachia.



Alexandra Willcutt

Gage O'Dell

Minor



Madison Roark

App Center Student
Worker/AppCorps



Graduate Student Affiliates - 2022



Magenta Palo

MFA Curatorial Studies

Magenta Palo is graduating with her MFA in Curatorial Studies and a graduate certificate in Fundraising and Development. Through her work with the Appalachian Center, she has been inspired by the creativity of and connectedness to tradition and history that the region has. She has worked on developing her graphic design skills and loved spending time with the cut out of Dolly and the hundreds of house plants in the Center. Her next steps after graduation are to work with UK's Cooperative Extension Service as a Fine Arts intern and then begin her career as a curator. She hopes to spend the next year researching traditional healing traditions and craft practices, gardening, laying on the beach, and making art of her own.

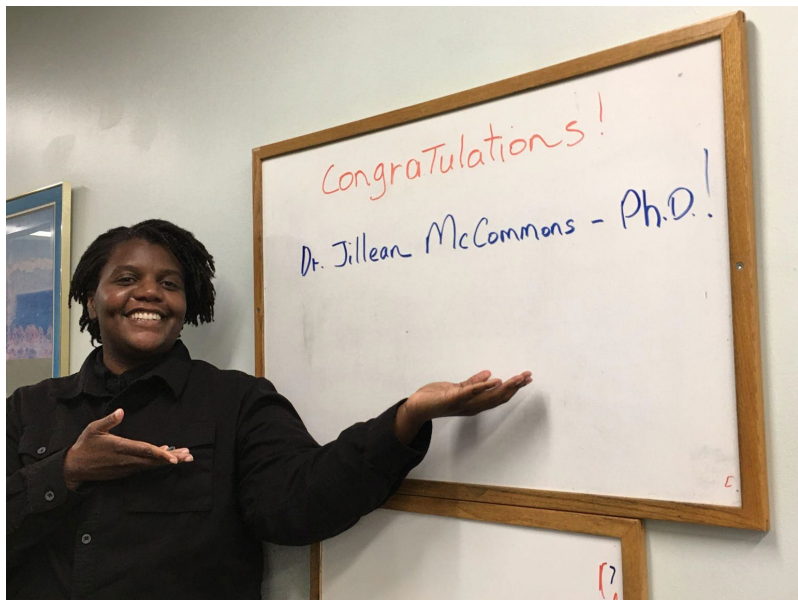


College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding TA Award

Sia Beasley

PhD Anthropology

Sia Beasley is graduating with a PhD in Anthropology. Her dissertation focuses on obstetric and maternity unit closures in rural Appalachia. She is very grateful for the support from the Appalachian Center at UK. Presenting and attending SWAP talks was formative for her as a researcher and she learned a lot and was inspired by her peers' insights on Appalachia. After graduation, Sia will be pursuing a career in local-level rural health.



Jillean McCommons

PhD History

I'm graduating with a Ph.D. in History. My area of focus is twentieth century Black Appalachian history.

The Appalachian Center supported my research through the 2018 Eller Billings Student Research Award and SWAP. I was also a committee member for the Appalachian Studies Conference where I worked in collaboration with the Center.

After graduation, I will begin a tenure-track position at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia as Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies.

I'm grateful for the ways the Appalachian Center has supported my research and I look forward to working together again in the future.



Erfan Saidi Moqadam

Erfan is graduating with a PhD in Anthropology. As a recipient of James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia he was supported and encouraged to conduct ethnographic research as part of his dissertation in a rural setting in Appalachia. Erfan has accepted a teaching position at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia, where he will anthropology courses.



Annie Koempel - PhD

Annie will be graduating in May with her Ph.D. in Anthropology and continuing to work as Community Engagement Core Program Manager in UK's Superfund Research Center.

Dissertation: WE CAN STILL FEED OURSELVES:
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, AID, SICKNESS, AND
HEALTH IN EASTERN KENTUCKY



2021-2022 Awards & Recognitions

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Ambassador of the Year
Award Winner 2022



**COURTNEY
MARTIN**

Senior; Biology

 Office of
Undergraduate Research

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Ambassador of the Year
Award Winner 2022



**EMILY
KEATON**

Senior; Sociology, Philosophy, Peace
Studies, English and Social Science
Research with minors in Appalachian
Studies, Psychology, and Cognitive
Science

 Office of
Undergraduate Research

2022 COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES FACULTY AND TEACHING AWARDS

Congrats to Our Appalachian Center Affiliates!

**Outstanding
Teaching Award
Behavioral and
Social Sciences
Shaunna Scott**



**Promotion of
Diversity or
Inclusion Award
Crystal Wilkinson**



**Outstanding
Undergraduate
Research
Mentoring Award
Kathy Newfont**



**Excellence in
Teaching Large
Courses Award
Melanie Goan**





Dr. Carol Mason

University Research Professorship



Crystal Wilkinson

NAACP Image Award



Dr. Rosalind Harris
Happy Retirement!

We would like to celebrate Dr. Rosalind Harris' career contributions and especially her visionary contributions to UK's Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies. She has served on endless committees, mentored generations of community engaged scholars, and always brought the insightful spark to the center of any conversation about inclusive and sustainable futures. She continues to make a difference in so many lives at so many levels, whether through the healing circles she helped organize in Lexington's schools or the food justice and economic justice work she has always brought to the table wherever she goes. She has served as a member of the Kentucky Legislative Research Committee on Poverty, and she helped organize the Black Belt Action Network. Dr. Harris served as President of the Southern Rural Sociological Society and as Council member of the Rural Sociological Society and has won many awards for both her teaching and her community service, including the George Washington Carver Public Service Award and the Outstanding Community Development Educator Award. In Appalachian Studies and the Appalachian Center, we have benefited from her powerful voice for equity in the academy, her scholarship and mentorship, and her encouragement of innovative collaborations that help communities thrive and be more justice whether within or beyond UK. Her example will long inspire the central role of students and community members in the work of the Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program. We celebrate and thank you, Dr. Harris!

2022 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research

- Jed DeBruin, Department of Geography, College of Arts and Sciences: “From Past to Present: Black Farming in Appalachian Kentucky”
- Allen Fletcher, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences: “Women, Politics, and Education Reform in Southern Appalachia, 1920-1970”
- Bonnie Lewis, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education: “The Risks of Remembering: Teaching Hard History in Appalachian Classrooms”
- Mai Nguyen, Department of Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences: “LGBTQ* Youth and Mental Health in Rural Appalachia”

2022 Eller and Billings Student Research Award

- Megan Buland, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment: "Exploration of the Orchid-Fungal Symbiosis in White Fringeless Orchid - A Federally Threatened Species"
- Courtney Martin (undergraduate), Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences: "Assessing Cancer Literacy and Risk Behaviors among Appalachian Kentuckians through an Oral History Approach"
- Sarah Tomke, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment: "Status Assessment of Kentucky's Largest Salamander, the Eastern Hellbender"



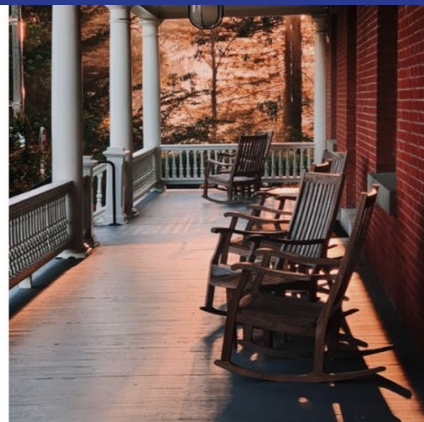
Gathering on the Porch

September 22nd, 2021

4:30pm-6:30pm

UK Appalachian Center

624 Maxwellton Ct.





Sharing **W**ork on **A**ppalachia in **P**rogress

12/8/21

02/16/22

03/02/22

3/30/22

04/13/22

4/20/22

12-1:30 at the UK Appalachian Center and via Zoom



December 8th, 2021

- KC Vick, Sociology, "Meaningful methods: Learning through community-based participatory action in a South Appalachian cancer cluster study"- 2021 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia
- Courtney Martin, Biology (undergraduate), "Assessing Cancer Literacy and Risk Behaviors among Appalachian Kentuckians through an Oral History Approach"- 2021 Eller and Billings Student Research Award

February 16th, 2022

- Madeline Dunfee, Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, "The Influence of Social Networks on Appalachian Adults' Type Two Diabetes Self-Management"- 2021 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research
- Sarah Tomke, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, "Determining the Distribution of Eastern Hellbenders in Kentucky using Environmental DNA (eDNA) Methods"- 2021 Eller and Billings Student Research Award

March 2nd, 2022

- Emma Kiser, Department of History, "Protecting Old-Growth Forests in the Mountain South"- 2021 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia
- Benjamin Rhodes Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, "An Evaluation of Red Spruce Reforestation on Mined Lands and Old Field Sites in the West Virginia Highlands" - 2021 Eller and Billings Student Research Award

March 30th, 2022

- Magenta Palo, School of Art & Visual Studies, Curatorial Studies, "Women's Work: Redefining Appalachian Traditions"
- Forrest Yerman, Howard University, Department of English, "The Affrilachian Poets and An Affrilachian Renaissance"

April 13th, 2022

- Zachary Hackworth, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, "A Five-Year Evaluation of Mammalian Herbivory Impacts on Surface Mine Reforestation Plantings in Southeastern Kentucky" - 2021 Eller and Billings Student Research Award
- Briana Snyder, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, "Bat Foraging on West Virginia Mined Land Restored via the Forestry Reclamation Approach" - 2021 Eller and Billings Student Research Award

April 20th, 2022

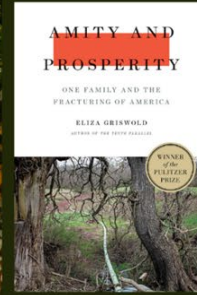
- Jeri K. Howell, Department of Community & Leadership Development, "Significant Life Experiences of Kentucky Youth Climate Activists"
- Junyi Lv, USC Annenberg School for Communication, "How Places Argue: Coal Towns' Multimodal Argumentation in Energy Transition"

Eliza Griswold

2019 Pulitzer Prize Winner

10/05/2021 @ 6:00pm

Via Zoom or tune in at the Appalachian Center



College of Arts
and Sciences

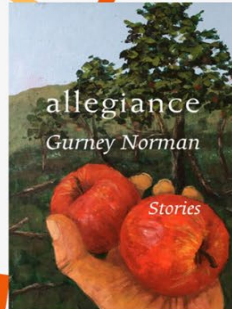
Appalachian Center & Appalachian
Studies Program

Department of Sociology



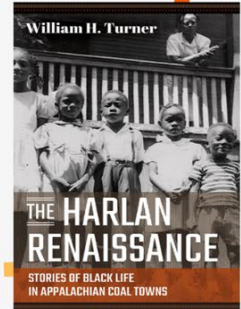
University of
Kentucky

Center for Appalachian Research
in Environmental Sciences



Join us in Celebrating
A&S Hall of Fame Inductees
Gurney Norman and Bill Turner

JOIN US AT THE APPALACHIAN CENTER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14
5-6PM



**Acting Together
Beyond the
Academy: Partnering
Sustainably for
Social Change
Workshop**

**Workshop with Sasikumar
Balasundaram, Ph.D.**

October 18, 2021 @ Noon

Lunch Provided

Space is Limited. RSVP on Event Page

UK Appalachian Center
624 Maxwellton Ct.



College of Arts
and Sciences

Appalachian Center & Appalachian Department of
Studies Program

Environmental & Sustainability
Anthropology Studies



Gaines
Center



*Yes, You Can
Come Home Again*

EMILY HUDSON

JOIN US AT THE WILLIAM T. YOUNG

LIBRARY UK AA AUDITORIUM

OR VIA ZOOM

NOVEMBER 1, 2021 @ 5PM



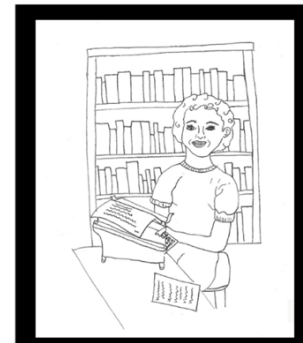
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Appalachian Center and
Appalachian Studies Program



The Commonwealth
**INSTITUTE FOR
BLACK STUDIES**



College of Arts
and Sciences
African American and Africana Studies



Artwork by Magenta Palo



Lend-A-Hand Center Fall Creek Cleanup and Resource Fair

Saturday, October 16th, 2021

10:00am -4:00pm

Meet at the Lend-A-Hand Center

3234 KY 718 Walker, KY

Call 606 622-1385 to pre-register (spaces are limited)



Center for Appalachian Research
in Environmental Sciences



SPRING 2022 APPALACHIAN FORUM SPEAKER SERIES

GEOSCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN APPALACHIA

JOIN US VIA ZOOM OR AT THE GATTON STUDENT CENTER ROOM 331
11 am-12:15 pm

February 15- Dr. Ann Harris
Hazard Community and Technical College

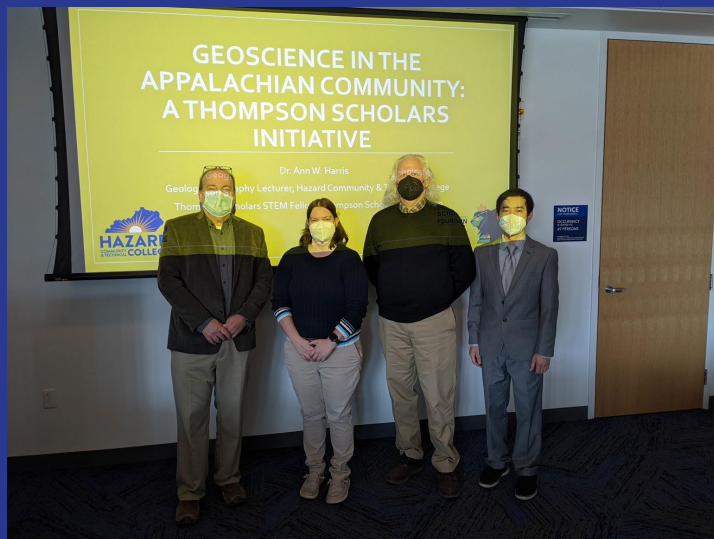
Geoscience in the Appalachian Community: A Thompson Scholars Initiative

March 8- Nate Siggers
Williamson Health and Wellness Center

Cool, Blessing or Lack of Purpose? A Perspective from a Mingo County Community Activist

April 19- Dr. Eva Lyon
Washington and Lee University

Assessing the Potential for Legacy Sediment Pollution in Dammed Streams Rockbridge County, VA







DR. AARON THOMPSON

UK DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY ALUMNUS
PRESIDENT OF THE KY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION MATTER TO KENTUCKY



UK College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology
Appalachian Center and
Appalachian Studies Program

E. BRITT BROCKMAN, M.D. SENATE CHAMBER

OR VIA ZOOM

MARCH 22ND, 2022 AT 2:30 PM





Appalachian Studies Association Conference



2022 LEND-A-HAND CENTER SPRING CREEK CLEANUP & RESOURCE FAIR

MARCH 26, 2022
10:00AM-4:00PM
MEET AT THE LEND-A-HAND CENTER
3234 KY 718 WALKER, KY
CALL (606) 622-1385 TO PRE-REGISTER
(REQUIRED, SPACES ARE LIMITED)



Center for Appalachian Research
in Environmental Sciences



Kentucky Water
Resources Research
Institute





APPALASIA

BANJO - DULCIMER - ERHU

Join us for a virtual performance and Q&A with Appalasia.
Featuring Mimi Jong, Jeff Berman, and Sue Powers,
Appalasia have created an evocative and ambitious
performance language for dulcimer, erhu, banjo, and vocals
that combines the influence of their folk-roots with original
composition and inspired improvisation.



Join us for a viewing session in the John Jacob Niles Gallery
April 1st, 2022 - 3:30PM
or tune in virtually via Zoom: <https://uky.zoom.us/j/83469552756>

This event is sponsored with generous support from the UK Appalachian Center & Appalachian Studies Program, the John Jacob Niles Center for American Music, Passport to the World's Year of Cultures Without Borders, the Gaines Center for the Humanities, and the Office of China Initiatives.

It is presented in association with the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology.



肯塔基大学中国项目办公室




**ASA
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE
TEACHING
CHAT**

**APRIL 27, 2022
12:00 -1:00 PM**

During these informal chats we will discuss pedagogy, successes, syllabi development, teaching resources, challenges, and other topics of interest to teaching about Appalachia on both the K-12 and post-secondary levels.

Virtual Via Zoom



Coffee Hour

Join us at the Appalachian Center
or via Zoom

Every other Thursday

10am 11am

01/20 02/03 02/17 03/03 03/31 04/14 04/28

