



College of Arts and Sciences

*Appalachian Center and
Appalachian Studies Program*

2022–2023



CLASS OF 2023 - Graduating Seniors



Eleni Karelis- Minor

Eleni Karelis is graduating with a BA in English with the Creative Writing Option. Originally opting to minor in Appalachian Studies to feel closer to home in a new city, her big takeaway from her minor degree is that the experience of being Appalachian, though undeniably unique, is more applicable to the rest of the world than one may think. Following graduation, Eleni will be pursuing an MA in Creative Writing at the University of Westminster in London, England.



Meggie Wilson- Minor

Meggie Wilson is from Irvine, Kentucky. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Appalachian Studies. Meggie's biggest takeaway from working in the Appalachian Studies program is a new appreciation for her community and an understanding of how special it is to be Appalachian. After graduation, Meggie will continue attending the University of Kentucky to obtain her master's degree in Library Science.



Josh Rister- Minor

Josh Rister is from Lewis County, Kentucky and is graduating with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in Appalachian studies. Throughout his time as an Appalachian Studies minor, Josh has learned much of the deep cultural heritage he hails from, learning how to better serve the region he loves in many ways. Whether it be through song, through his work, or simply through his person. Moving forward Josh is hoping to get married soon, continuing his work to help others in any way he can.



Trey Coburn- Minor

Trey Coburn is a senior from Ashland, KY graduating with a dual degree in Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology and Biology. Trey's favorite part about his involvement in the Appalachian Studies community is the further understanding of the region of which he calls home. Trey also appreciates the tight-knit community cultivated through the Appalachian Studies department and their combined passions for Appalachia in varying disciplines. Upon graduation Trey is attending UK's college of medicine where upon graduation he plans to practice medicine in Appalachia.



Nelonna Branham- Minor

Kylie McCurdy- Minor

Ella Webster- Minor



Haley Mays- Certificate

Haley Mays is graduating with a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, with a minor in Health Advocacy and a certificate in Appalachian Studies. Haley's biggest takeaway is an overall greater understanding of the area that I'm from and what it means to be Appalachian. After graduation, she will be attending graduate school at UK to obtain her master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology.



Michael Buoncristiani- Certificate

Michael Buoncristiani is from Wayne County, KY. Michael will be graduating in Neuroscience, Biology, and Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology this Spring at UK. He is minoring in Microbiology and receiving a certificate in Appalachian Studies. In the fall, he will be attending Medical School at UK. He highly recommends the Appalachian Studies program for any student who wants to understand more about this great region. According to him, the opportunities from the department are vast and provide an incredible experience for any student at UK.



Graduate Student Affiliate Graduates



Edward Lo, PhD

Geology

Dr. Edward Lo is graduating with a PhD in Geological Sciences with a Certificate in College Teaching and Learning. Edward served as a teaching assistant for APP 200 and taught his own course on Geoscience and Environmental Justice in Appalachia in the spring 2022 semester. Teaching at App Center has allowed him to work closely with rural Knox County and to appreciate how stories in Appalachia often reflect global trends. Upon graduation, he looks forward to being a LTJ postdoctoral fellow with the App Center integrating traditional ecological knowledge with geological studies.



Chris Leadingham, PhD

History

Dr. Chris Leadingham is graduating with a PhD in History. Chris served as a teaching assistant for APP 200 and taught his own APP 300 course. The Appalachian Center is one of his favorite places on campus. It is filled with so many wonderful people working on so many interesting and exciting projects. It is a fun and vibrant and supportive place that is so important to our campus community. Thanks to Dr. Engle and Dr. Kingsolver for working so hard to make this such a special place! Chris and his wife Kegan are expecting a baby this summer! He is looking forward to becoming a dad. He received a one-month research fellowship at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University for May 2024. He plans to take care of his new baby and continue working on his research in the meantime.



Julia Miller, PhD

Sociology

Dr. Julia Miller completed her PhD in Sociology. Her dissertation titled “Let’s Not do Anything Drastic: Processes of Reproducing Rural Marginalization in Education Policy Decision Making” examined school consolidation in Appalachian Ohio. Dr. Miller served as a teaching assistant for APP 200 and was a James Brown Award recipient. She is an Assistant Professor at Fairmont State University in West Virginia where she teaches courses related to Appalachia.



Kevin Slovinsky, MA

History

Kevin Slovinsky is graduating with a Master's Degree in History. His time at the Appalachian Center has shown him what it means to be an activist scholar by connecting him with people who have modeled how to both do scholarly work and maintain deep connections to communities in Appalachia. Kevin is hoping to work with LiKen Knowledge in connecting community organizers in East Kentucky to scholars.



Hannah Gibson, MA

History

Hannah is graduating with an MA in History. Working with the App Center taught her the importance of incorporating an increased emphasis on place in the classroom to create a more inclusive and engaging experience for every student. Beginning in the fall, she will be teaching rhetoric and composition at UK.

In Memoriam

In Memory of Helen Matthews Lewis

1924-2022

Dr. Helen M. Lewis earned her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Kentucky in 1970 and was one of the earliest pioneers of Appalachian Studies. Her legacy of fighting for social justice in the Appalachian region and beyond will continue for generations to come.



Why Study Appalachia?

Appalachia is a region and a place. Real and mythical, beautiful and devastated, geological and political, rich in resources and a poverty pocket, a place to exploit, a watershed for the eastern seaboard and destroyed and polluted headwaters.

Weekend cabins and homes in the holler. Yesterday's and tomorrow's people. Hillbillies and folks. Bluegrass and hip hop. Poets and politicians. Professors and protesters, preachers and prophets. A model and a warning signal for the nation.

So if you want to study Appalachia, here is what you do.

Start where you live: Interview your elders, map your community, write your local history. Who lives where and why? Who owns the land, minerals, resources? Who is rich and who is poor? Who has power and who is powerless? Who are the story tellers, the poets, the singers? Who is in jail, who is sick, who is angry and who is throwing the bodies in the river and who is pretending it is not happening?

Who is speaking truth to power, who is feeding the hungry, who is healing the sick? Who is writing the poetry, saving the stories, saving the land, singing the songs?

Find out who you are. What is your place in this place?

-Helen Lewis

In Memoriam

Maureen Celia Mullinax



2022-2023 Awards & Recognitions



Dr. Shaunna Scott

Appalachian Studies Association
Stephen F. Fisher Award for
Excellence in Teaching

&

Retirement after 33 years of
teaching at UK



Dr. Dwight Billings

UK College of Arts & Sciences Hall
of Fame Inductee



Dr. Carol Mason

University Research Professorship

Upcoming four-year term as Otis A.
Singletary Chair in the Humanities



Dr. Jennifer Cramer

Chellgren Endowed Professor



Dr. Kenton Sena

UK Alumni Association Great
Teacher Award



Crystal Wilkinson

University Research Professor



Dr. Loka Ashwood

"Energy Ownership and Organizational Structures in the Just Transition: Reclamation, Remediation and Rejuvenation for Eastern Kentucky" funded through the UK Energy Research Priority Area



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

JAMES S. BROWN GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR RESEARCH ON APPALACHIA

 College of Arts
and Sciences
*Appalachian Center and
Appalachian Studies Program*

- Bradley Firchow, Rural Physician Leadership Program- “Emerging Health Trends in Accredited and Unaccredited Local Health Departments in Kentucky: Community Health Needs Assessments in Aggregate”
- Allen Fletcher, History- “Women and the Politics of Education in Twentieth Century Appalachia”
- Arshiya Jeelani, History- Mary Jane in the Mountains: “The Social, Political, and Environmental Effects of Marijuana Growth in Appalachia”
- Courtney Martin, Kinesiology and Health Promotion- “Identifying Changes in Support of ICU Survivors after Hospital Discharge based on Geographic Location”
- Ryley Butler Modaff, Social Work- “The Impact of Stigma in Community Implementation of Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT)”
- London Orzolek, Anthropology- “Higher Education in Appalachia: Examining Engagement, Success, and Inclusion for First-Generation and Low-SES Students”
- Jimmy Robinson, Sociology- “Taking the Rural with You: Rural Artists in the City”
- Kopana Terry, Historic Preservation- “Place, Identity and Natural Disaster: The Storm That Changed A Town and Its People”



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

ELLER AND BILLINGS RESEARCH AWARD



College of Arts
and Sciences

*Appalachian Center and
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- Peyton Coburn, Biology, Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology- “Characterization of Chemotherapy-Induced Heart Disease Utilizing Human Induced Stem Cell-Derived Cardiomyocytes as a Model”
- Madeline Duff, Neuroscience- “Cardio-otolaryngology in Floyd County, Kentucky”
- Rachel Sneed, Plant Pathology- “Assessing Endophyte Frequency Distributions in Kentucky Appalachia and the Effect of *Epichloë brachyelytri* in the Chemotypic Diversity of *Brachyelytrum erectum*”

Fall 2022 Events



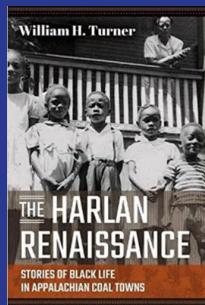
Mighty Harlan County

Film Screening and Discussion with Filmmaker
Jared Hamilton on the Blackjewel Coal Mining
Strike of 2019

November 9, 2022

3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

UKAA Auditorium @ William T. Young Library



October 17th, 2022 - 5:00PM
WTY - UK Athletics Association Auditorium

DR. WILLIAM TURNER THE BLUES ON BLACK MOUNTAIN: STORIES FROM THE HARLAN RENAISSANCE



Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief Trips

In Partnership with the Housing Development Alliance, Hazard, KY

September 17th
October 15th



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

October 22, 2022
10:00am - 4:00pm



Living Beyond Survival:

Political ecology & mutual aid through
simultaneous crises

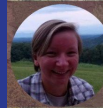
oct. 14 | 3:30pm | CB122



Crystal Felima
Anthropology & AAAS

Kat Smith

Kentucky Student
Environmental Coalition



Kathryn Engle
Appalachian Center &
Appalachian Studies

Shaunna Scott
Sociology



DO
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MANY Mountains
« Festival de Otoño »



MALINA BROTHERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
NILES GALLERY - 6:00PM

MANY Mountains
« Festival de Otoño »



APPALASIAN IN CONVERSATION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
6:00PM
DONOVAN HALL - BASEMENT

MANY Mountains
« Festival de Otoño »



**SOUP BEANS & SPICE!
APPALACHIAN/LATINX
FOODWAYS WORKSHOP**
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
1:00-3:00PM
FUNKHOUSER KITCHEN - RM 207

MANY Mountains
« Festival de Otoño »

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MALINA BROTHERS
SEPTEMBER 20TH
NILES GALLERY - 6:00PM

SPANISH SPELLING BEE
SEPTEMBER 22ND
ESPORTS THEATER - 5:30-7:00PM

**SOUP BEANS & SPICE!
APPALACHIAN/LATINX FOODWAYS WORKSHOP**
SEPTEMBER 28TH
FUNKHOUSER KITCHEN - 1:00-3:00PM

SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING
THE MOUNTAIN FIESTA: BRIDGING THE GAP
& BUILDING COMMUNITY IN RURAL APPALACHIA
SEPTEMBER 26TH
NILES GALLERY - 5:00PM

APPALASIAN IN CONVERSATION
SEPTEMBER 27TH
DONOVAN HALL, BASEMENT - 6:00-7:00PM

SALSA DANCING WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 28TH
ALUMNI GYM - STUDIO A - 5:30-7:00PM

PICK-UP SOCCER GAMES
SEPTEMBER 28TH
JOHNSON CENTER FIELDS - 7:00-10PM

CORNBREAD & TORTILLAS
SEPTEMBER 29TH
GATTON STUDENT CENTER
WORSHAM CINEMA - 7:00PM

**TALL DARK & HANDSOME
APPALACHIA IN THE BLUEGRASS SERIES**
SEPTEMBER 30TH
NILES GALLERY - NOON

MANY MOUNTAINS FALL FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 30TH
UK APPALACHIAN CENTER LAWN - 1:00-5:00PM

FESTIVAL LATINO DE LEXINGTON
COURTHOUSE SQUARE - DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON - 5:00PM-11:00PM

APPALACHIAN FLATFOOTING DANCE WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 7TH
NILES GALLERY - NOON

<https://appalachiancenter.as.uky.edu/many-mountains>

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MANY Mountains
« Festival de Otoño »

1:00 PM - Sophia Enriquez, Mexilachian Music

2:00 PM - Andean Instruments Demonstration

2:45 PM - Flatfooting w/ Carla Oover

3:35 PM - Corn/Maiz String Band

4:00 PM - UK Bluegrass Ensemble

MANY MOUNTAINS FALL FESTIVAL!
SEPTEMBER 30TH - 1:00PM-5:00 PM
UK APPALACHIAN CENTER LAWN
MUSIC! FOOD! COMMUNITY! FREE AND OPEN TO ALL!

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MANY Mountains
« Festival de Otoño »

CORNBREAD & TORTILLAS
SEPTEMBER 29TH
GATTON STUDENT CENTER - WORKSHOP CINEMA
7:00PM FREE! - OPEN TO ALL!



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MANY Mountains
« Festival de Otoño »

SALSA DANCING WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 28TH 5:30 PM
UK ALUMNI GYM - STUDIO A
OPEN TO ALL - NO PREVIOUS DANCE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED



THE SALSA CENTER
LATIN DANCE STUDIO


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MANY Mountains
« Festival de Otoño »

**THE MOUNTAIN FIESTA:
BRIDGING THE GAP &
BUILDING COMMUNITY IN
RURAL APPALACHIA**
DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING &
WORK-IN-PROGRESS DISCUSSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
NILES GALLERY - 5:00 PM



Spring 2023 Events







CELEBRATE

Black History Month

WITH GUEST SPEAKER SHARYN MITCHELL

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 | 3 - 4:15 pm
UKAA Auditorium | Young Library
Lunch Reception held at Appalachian Center, 624 Maxwelton Ct, 12-2pm

Sharyn Mitchell, former Research Services Specialist at Berea College Special Collections and Archives will present "We, Too, Were Here!" exploring the often hidden contributions of African Americans to Kentucky history.

 Libraries  College of Arts and Sciences  College of Arts and Sciences  **INSTITUTE FOR BLACK STUDIES**



COFFEE HOUR

Every Other Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
624 Maxwelton Ct. or Via Zoom

1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20



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

March 11, 2022
10:00am - 4:00pm

 **College of Arts
and Sciences**
Appalachian Center and
Appalachian Studies Program



COAL, CAGES, CRISIS:

A CONVERSATION WITH
**DR. JUDAH SCHEPT AND
DR. RUTH WILSON GILMORE**

SPEAKERS

DR. JUDAH SCHEPT &
DR. RUTH WILSON GILMORE



2-28-23
5 PM
WEBINAR

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

WEBINAR DISCUSSION OF
DR. JUDAH SCHEPT'S BOOK **COAL,
CAGES, CRISIS: THE RISE OF THE PRISON
ECONOMY IN CENTRAL APPALACHIA**

IN THE RISE OF THE US CARCERAL STATE,

Appalachia has become a pivot point of the prison boom. Central Appalachia is home to 16 prisons, 12 of which have been built in just the last three decades during the most accelerated period of mass incarceration. There are eight prisons alone in Eastern Kentucky. At the same time, the region has been home to visionary abolitionist organizing including the ongoing campaign to halt the building of U.S. Penitentiary - Letcher.

The Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies invites you to a virtual conversation with Dr. Judah Schept author of *Coal, Cages, Crisis: The Rise of the Prison Economy in Central Appalachia* (WU Press 2022) and Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore to consider the interplay between carceral developments, racial capitalist crises, and the conditions of possibility for making abolition geographies.

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER





Thursday, March 30 at 5:00 pm
Kindcaid Auditorium | Gatton College of Business and Economics

Dr. Karida L. Brown

Professor of Sociology, Emory University
Author of **Gone Home: Race and Roots through Appalachia**

Martin School of Public Policy and Administration
Miriam Jane Van Dyke Barager Endowment for Diversity and Inclusion

co-sponsors

Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program
College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment Office of Diversity
College of Arts & Sciences Department of Sociology
Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies
Graduate School Office of Diversity and Inclusion



MARCH TOWARD INCLUSION

FAMILY & COMMUNITY DIVERSITY WEEK

FREE FOOD | PRIZES | ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY: I'M PROUD OF WHERE I'M FROM

Pin your hometown (or state or country) on our giant maps and pick up a "Many People, One UK" sticker!

Tues. March 21 11:00am - 1:00pm
Gatton Student Center Table - Indoor Location 1

RSVP FOR LUNCH & LEARN!

Join us for an afternoon of learning about family & community diversity with UK Appalachian Center Director Dr. Kathryn Engle. Activities, swag, and FREE lunch will be provided!

Weds. March 22 11:30am - 1:00pm
Patterson Hall Room 119

Scan QR code or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/2nuP6ZeWH2>

College of Arts and Sciences
Office for Institutional Diversity

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE APPALACHIAN?

COME TALK ABOUT IDENTITY & INTERSECTIONALITY

@ THE UK APPALACHIAN CENTER COFFEE HOUR
APRIL 20, 2023 FROM 10-11AM

College of Arts and Sciences
Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program

Indigenous Wisdom and Scientific Knowledge
A Campus Keynote from 2022 MacArthur Fellow

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

Author of "Gathering Moss" & "Braiding Sweetgrass"
April 6th, 2023 at 12:00pm UK Singletary Center For the Arts
Free and open to the public

Presented by

Lewis
Horm College

Student Sustainability Council

with support from

Transylvania University | Environmental Humanities Initiative | Crabtree-Cornell Family Fund for the Environment | UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment | UK College of Arts and Sciences | UK Gaines Center | UK Center for Equality and Social Justice | UK Center for the Environment | UK Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment | Departments of Philosophy, Sociology, Linguistics, and History in the UK College of Arts and Sciences | UK Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program | Urban Forest Initiative

College of Arts and Sciences

The Visiting Writers Series
Presents Winner of the Thomas & Lillie D. Chaffin Award for Excellence in Appalachian Literature and the Appalachian Book of the Year Award in Fiction

CHARLES DODD WHITE

When:
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
at 6:00 P.M.
Where:
UK Athletics Association
Auditorium, William T. Young
Library



Hosted in
Collaboration
With:



About the Author

Charles Dodd White is also the recipient of a Jean Ritchie Fellowship from Lincoln Memorial University, and an artist's grant from the North Carolina Arts Council. His novels are *HOW FIRE RUNS* (A Fall 2020 SIBA Okra Pick, IPPY GOLD MEDAL for Best Fiction in the South), *IN THE HOUSE OF WILDERNESS* (2018), *A SHELTER FOR OTHERS* (2014), *LAMBS OF MEN* (2010), and the story collection, *SINNERS OF SANCTION COUNTY* (2011). He has also edited the anthologies *DEGREES OF ELEVATION* (2010) and *APPALACHIA NOW* (2015). His newest book, *A YEAR WITHOUT MONTHS*, is a fragmented memoir available from West Virginia University Press. He teaches English at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tennessee.



THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD PRESENTS

KENTUCKY APPALACHIAN ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL

5-8 PM
FRIDAY, MARCH 31
HARRIS BALLROOM
FOOD • MUSIC • ART • SHIRTS

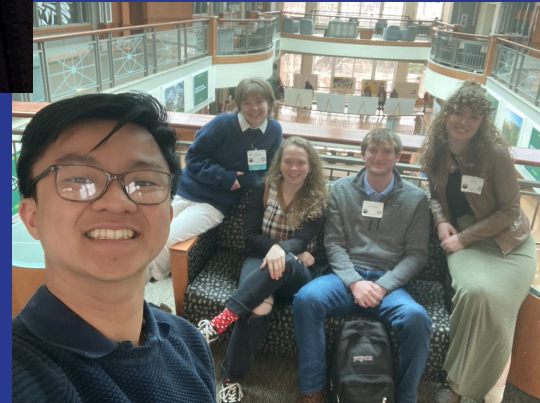
College of Arts and Sciences
For additional questions or accommodations contact
publicrelations@uksab.org

Student Activities Board
uksab.org

2023 Appalachian Research Symposium & Arts Showcase



Appalachian Studies Association Conference 2023





November 30th, 2022

- Allen Fletcher, Department of History, "Women and Progressive-Era Education Reform: 1900-1940" - 2022 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia Award
- Jed DeBruin, Department of Geography, "Sifting Through the Past: Black Farming Archives in Appalachian Kentucky" - 2022 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia Award

February 1st, 2023

- Jennifer Cramer and Allison Burkette, Linguistics, "The Social Life of Appalachian Englishes - A Book Project"
- Mack Thompson, Anthropology, "Disabled in Kentucky Oral History Project"

February 21st, 2023

- Kathryn Engle, Sociology, Kathryn Newfont, History, Zada Komara, Honors, Lindsay Shade, Community and Leadership Development, "Reflections from the Teaching Mountains Conference: Forging International Connections in the French Alps"



March 29th, 2023

- Sarah Tomke, Forestry and Natural Resources, 2022 Eller and Billings Student Research Award, "Assessing Occupancy and the Current Distribution of Eastern Hellbenders in Kentucky using Environmental DNA"
- Courtney Martin, Kinesiology and Health Promotion, 2022 Eller and Billings Student Research Award, "Assessing Cancer Literacy and Risk Behaviors among Appalachian Kentuckians through an Oral History Approach"

April 12th, 2023

- Bonnie Lewis, Curriculum and Instruction, James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research, "Doing the Work: Inquiry and Equity Based Social Studies in Charged Classrooms"
- Megan Buland, Forestry and Natural Resources, Eller and Billings Student Research Award, "Exploration of the Plant-Fungal Symbiosis in White Fringeless Orchid - A Federally Threatened Species"