

APPALACHIAN CENTER AND APPALACHIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

IT ALL STARTS HERE

Message from the Directors

Dear friends,

As we close out the semester, we look forward to seeing you at many of our upcoming events. We're looking forward to our Friendsgiving and Graduation Celebration at the Appalachian Center on Dec. 11 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. Come celebrate our accomplishments and enjoy good food with friends.

While this semester may almost be over, we have many exciting opportunities on the horizon next semester. Be sure to check out our calendar and website for upcoming programming. Also, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn via the links at the bottom of this newsletter.

Happy Holidays from the Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program!

Jennifer Cramer, Ph.D.
Appalachian Studies Program Director

Kathryn Engle, Ph.D.
Appalachian Center Director

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Sharing Work on Appalachia in Progress \(SWAP\) Presentations](#)

[December SWAP Presentations](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 2 | 12:30 - 2:00 PM
Zoom or Appalachian Center
624 Maxwelton Court, Lexington, KY 40506

Join us! This year's SWAPs will showcase the research conducted by recipients of the 2025 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia and the UK Appalachian Center Eller & Billings Student Research Award, as well as other scholars and students sharing their research.

Dec. 2 Presenda

Holden Dillman, 2025 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia, "RITE to Belong: Phenomenological Insights into Self-Esteem, Identity, and Support Among Appalachian SGM Youth."

Jimmy Robinson, 2025 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia, Collaboration and Control: Some Insights on "Let's Grow Together."

Select this link for full listing of 2025-2026 Sharing Work on Appalachia in Progress (SWAP) presentation series.

Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC) Book + Bake Sale



Book + Bake Sale

Thursday, Dec. 4 | 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Gatton Student Center, 2nd floor
160 Ave. of Champions, Lexington, KY 40508

Help the Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC) fundraise. The group will be selling gently used books and baked goods on the second floor of the Gatton Student Center on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET.

Join us for Coffee Hour at the Appalachian Center

Drop-In Coffee Hour

Thursday, Dec. 4 | 10 - 11 a.m.
Zoom or Appalachian Center
624 Maxwellton Court, Lexington, KY 40508

Students, faculty, staff and community members: join us for coffee and light refreshments. Meet others interested in the region and learn about the Appalachian Center and the Appalachian Studies Program. Coffee Hour is a casual space to exchange ideas about programs, discuss regional issues, share research and connect with the community.



Coffee Hour typically meets every other week on Thursday at 10 a.m.

Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program Friendsgiving and Graduation Celebration

APP Annual Friendsgiving Celebration

Thursday, Dec.11 | 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Appalachian Center

624 Maxwelton Court, Lexington, KY 40508

Join the Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program for a seasonal event celebrating friendship and this year's graduates. Program to present the December APP graduating minors and certificate recipients begins at 4 p.m. with Friendsgiving immediately to follow. Feel free to bring a dish to share.



Additional information including the link to sign up to bring a dish may be found on the [webpage linked here](#).

AppalachiaCorps Summer Internship Program - Upcoming Information Sessions

AppalachiaCorps is a student internship program through the UK Appalachian Center that pairs students with opportunities for experiential learning in eastern Kentucky and the greater Appalachian region.

AppalachiaCorps serves a three-fold purpose:

- providing students with unique work and learning opportunities
- strengthening UK's land-grant commitment to the Appalachian region
- building capacity and networks of relationships between Appalachian organizations

The AppalachiaCorps program is currently accepting student inquiries regarding Summer 2026 placements. Please submit an inquiry form through the Appalachian Center and Appalachia Studies Program [webpage linked here](#) and be sure to attend an information session in the Spring semester.



The image is a promotional flyer for the AppalachiaCorps Internship Program. It features a stylized map of the state of Kentucky in the center, with the word "APPALACHIA" written across it. Below the map, the text "APPALACHIACORPS" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, in a smaller font, is the tagline "PREPARING APPALACHIAN LEADERS OF TOMORROW". At the top of the page, the text "APPALACHIACORPS INTERNSHIP INFO SESSIONS" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM" in a smaller font. Below this, there is a line of text that reads "The AppalachiaCorps program is currently accepting student inquiries regarding Summer 2026 placements. Please submit an inquiry form on our website and attend an info session." To the right of this text, there is a list of five dates and times for info sessions, each enclosed in a rectangular box: "THU → JANUARY 29 @ 4:30PM", "THU → FEBRUARY 12 @ 4:30PM", "THU → FEBRUARY 26 @ 4:30PM", "THU → MARCH 26 @ 4:30PM", and "THU → APRIL 2 @ 4:30PM". Below this list, there is a paragraph of text that reads "AppalachiaCorps is a student internship program through the UK Appalachian Center that pairs students with opportunities for experiential learning in eastern Kentucky and the greater Appalachian region. AppalachiaCorps serves a three-fold purpose:". To the right of this paragraph, there is a bulleted list of three items: "• providing students with unique work and learning opportunities", "• strengthening UK's land-grant commitment to the Appalachian region", and "• building capacity and networks of relationships between Appalachian organizations". At the bottom of the page, there is a QR code on the left, and on the right, there is the logo for the College of Arts and Sciences, which includes a stylized 'UK' monogram and the text "College of Arts and Sciences" and "Appalachian Center and Appalachia Studies Program".

AppalachiaCorps informational sessions will be offered on the dates listed below. Additional information including Zoom registration links may be found [linked here](#).

- Thu. Jan 29 4:30 PM ET
- Thu. Feb. 12 4:30 PM ET
- Thu. Feb. 26 4:30 PM ET
- Thu. Mar. 26 4:30 PM ET
- Thu. Apr. 2 4:30 PM ET

15th Annual GARC Research Symposium & Arts Showcase

Registration Now Open



15TH ANNUAL APPALACHIAN RESEARCH + ARTS SYMPOSIUM

University of Kentucky February 28, 2026

register, submit a presentation, & learn more

<https://bit.ly/garcysmp>

keynote
Dr. Abby Mack
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, UK
Hopesick: Reckoning with Care, Community, and Recovery in Central Appalachia

HOSTED BY THE GRADUATE APPALACHIAN RESEARCH COMMUNITY

theme
interdependent possibilities

College of Arts and Sciences Gaines Center for the Humanities Center for Health, Engagement and Transformation

2026 GARC Symposium

Saturday, Feb. 28 | Time TBD
Healthy Kentucky Research Building
760 Press Ave., Lexington, KY 40508

Alongside the UK Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program, the UK Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC) announces the University of Kentucky's 15th Annual Appalachian Research Symposium and Arts Showcase will be held Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026.

Abstract Submission
Due Jan. 23

Registration Deadline
Deadline Feb. 14

Continue to check the [Symposium & Arts Showcase page linked here](#) for additional details as they come available.

Additional information about GARC may be found on the [GARC webpage linked here](#).

To be added to the GARC listserv to receive email updates about events, resources, and opportunities please email GARC president Michelle Roberts at michelle.roberts@uky.edu.

APP Faculty Affiliates in the News

[Open Studio Nov. 7 Episode - Frank X Walker on his mentor, Gurney Norman](#)

[Kenton Sena, one of the FLASH Initiative's co-principal investigators, discusses impact of flash flooding modules for local youth at UK Robinson Forest Field Day in the Nov. 20 edition of UKNOW](#)

[Julie Zimmerman honored by the Rural Sociological Society and by the Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals](#)

CHECK THIS OUT

[Appalachian Research Day: Come Sit on the Porch - Submit Abstracts by Dec. 2](#)

[In the Lab - WaterStep Demonstration - Dec. 2](#)

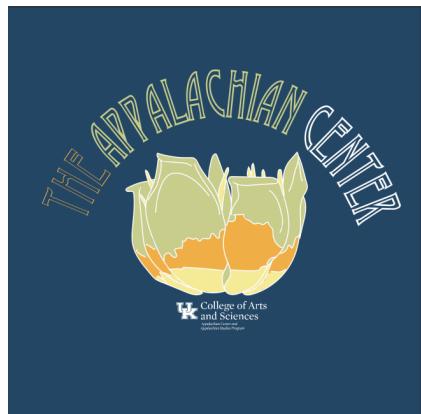
[Cages in the Coalfields: Development, Criminalization, and Incarceration in Central Appalachia - Dec. 5](#)

[Sustainable Futures Design Lab Meeting - Dec. 10 \(registration required and only 30 seats available\)](#)

[Gaines Center now accepting fellowship applications - Submit applications by Feb. 2](#)

[Together for Hope Seeks Director of Programs and Partnerships](#)

Appalachian Center to Celebrate 50 Years



Founded in 1977 with a Rockefeller Foundation grant, the [University of Kentucky Appalachian Center](#) supports the university's land-grant mission by fostering community-university partnerships in research, learning and engagement in Appalachia.

Check out future newsletters and the [UK Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies website](#) for details about the Spring 2027 event marking the center's 50th anniversary.

CONTACT US



For general questions or inquiries, call us:
859-257-4852

Jennifer Cramer, Ph.D.
Appalachian Studies Program Director

Kathryn Engle, Ph.D.
Appalachian Center Director

Shannon Markel
Department Manager

Make an Impact

Your gift helps us continue to provide transformative experiences for today's Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program students.

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