

# APPALACHIAN CENTER AND APPALACHIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

IT ALL STARTS HERE

## Message from the Directors

We have an exciting semester ahead for the Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program. We look forward to visiting with folks during our Coffee Hour events every other Thursday this semester. Our SWAP series continues with more cutting-edge research from our graduate students. The Appalachian Research Symposium and Arts Showcase is celebrating 15 years with the upcoming conference in February. We're also finalizing some plans for some big events towards the end of the semester, so stay tuned for that.

As we look ahead to our 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2027, we're thankful for all the incredible people who have made an impact on the Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program through the decades. We will be sharing more information about our anniversary celebrations and how you can be a part of setting the stage for the next 50 years of Appalachian Studies at UK.

**Jennifer Cramer, Ph.D.**  
Appalachian Studies Program Director

**Kathryn Engle, Ph.D.**  
Appalachian Center Director

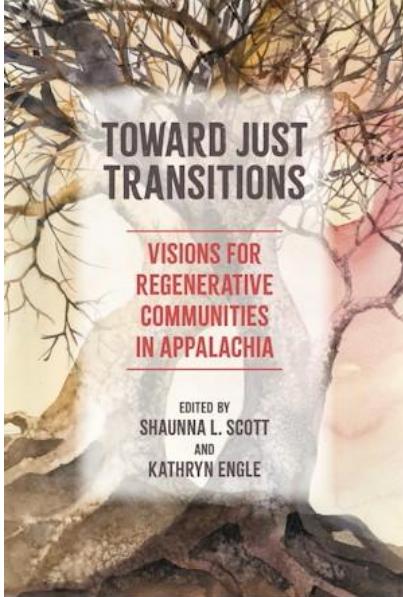
## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Appalachian Center Director, Kathryn Engle, releases new book

Kathryn Engle, Ph.D., Director of the Appalachian Center, has just released a book coedited with Shaunna Scott, Ph.D., emerita professor of sociology and former Director of the Appalachian Studies Program.

Congratulations, Dr. Engle and Dr. Scott!

[Here is a link to the University's press release for the book.](#)



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## Join us for Coffee Hour at the Appalachian Center

### Drop-In Coffee Hour

Thursday, Jan. 15 and 29 | 10 - 11 a.m.

Zoom or Appalachian Center

624 Maxwelton 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. Additional information may be found [here](#).

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## Sharing Work on Appalachia in Progress (SWAP)

### January SWAP Presentations

Tuesday, Jan. 20 | 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Zoom or Appalachian Center

624 Maxwelton Court, Lexington, KY 40508

Join us! This year's SWAPs showcases 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.

### January 20 Presentations:

- Nicole Marks, 2025 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research in Appalachia, "and the Creek Don't Rise: Disasters, Climate, and Resiliency in Appalachia"
- Zach Hackworth, 2025 UK Appalachian Center Eller & Billings Student Research Award, "Tuning a Generalized Ray-Tracing Forest Light Simulator for Kentucky Forests"

### SWAP - Sharing Work on Appalachia in Progress 2025-2026 Schedule

## 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](#) and be sure to attend an information session in the Spring semester.

AppalachiaCorps informational sessions will be offered on the dates listed below. Additional information including Zoom registration links may be found [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



The image is a promotional flyer for the AppalachiaCorps Internship Info Sessions. It features a blue background with a white map of Kentucky and the text 'APPALACHIACORPS' and 'PREPARING APPALACHIAN LEADERS OF TOMORROW'. Below this, it says 'APPALACHIACORPS INTERNSHIP INFO SESSIONS VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM'. It notes that the program is accepting student inquiries for Summer 2026 placements. A list of dates and times for the info sessions is provided in a table:

THU → JANUARY 29 @ 4:30PM
THU → FEBRUARY 12 @ 4:30PM
THU → FEBRUARY 26 @ 4:30PM
THU → MARCH 26 @ 4:30PM
THU → APRIL 2 @ 4:30PM

Below the table, the text states: '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:'. It then lists three bullet points: '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, there is a QR code and the text 'appalachiancenter.uky.edu/appcorps'.

## 15th Annual GARC Research Symposium & Arts Showcase Registration Now Open

**15TH ANNUAL  
APPALACHIAN RESEARCH  
+ ARTS SYMPOSIUM**

**University of  
Kentucky**  
February 28, 2026

HOSTED BY THE GRADUATE  
APPALACHIAN RESEARCH  
COMMUNITY

**theme**  
interdependent  
possibilities

register,  
submit a  
presentation,  
& learn more



<https://bit.ly/garcsymp>

**keynote**  
**Dr. Abby Mack**

Assistant Professor of  
Anthropology, UK  
Hopesick: Reckoning  
with Care, Community  
and Recovery in  
Central Appalachia



College of Arts  
and Sciences  
Appalachian Studies Program

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** for additional details as they come available.

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

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](mailto:michelle.roberts@uky.edu).

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**CFP for Filson Historical Society Mini-Conference highlighting  
Copland's *Appalachian Spring* - due Feb. 1**

April 10, 2026 Filson Historical Society Conference on Appalachian Spring

On April 11th, 2026, the Louisville Orchestra and Louisville Ballet will celebrate Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring with a full orchestral performance and new choreography. Originally titled Ballet for Martha—until the iconic modern dancer-choreographer, Martha Graham, renamed it—Appalachian Spring will be central to this conference's exploration of both the history of the work itself and the legacy of the Appalachian region, whose history and identity shape Kentucky and other Ohio Valley states.

We seek academic papers on artistic collaboration and “the myth of the solitary author.” Conceived from 1943 through 1944, the score was written by Copland, the dance work choreographed by Graham, and the sets created by Isamu Noguchi. Martha Graham gave the score its name after being inspired by poet Hart Crane's work, The Bridge, and the line, “O Appalachian Spring!”

Crane's poem and Graham's choreography do not refer to a season, but rather a stream of water, the landscape. Copland drew on American folk traditions and Elder Joseph Brackett's 1848 Shaker song, "Simple Gifts." Thus, papers on the cultural production and commodification of Appalachia, folk culture as inspiration in global context, and the myth of the American frontier will also be considered in the context of artistic creations.

Appalachian Spring premiered at the Library of Congress in 1944, commissioned by Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, raising and engaging questions of private-public funding and the history of the arts in the United States. Although Graham had the idea of the Civil War in her mind when she first conceived the work, it became a metaphor for America, detached from any particular era. Thus, the work became a staple of Cold War State Department tours between 1955-1989 as the nation portrayed itself on the international stage. The intersection of art, politics, and warfare

can also be examined in the context of the work and its performance in Louisville coinciding with the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

**After the conference on Friday, participants will be offered complimentary tickets to the performance in Louisville on Saturday evening, and lodging Thursday-Sunday. Participants will be responsible for all transportation costs and meals other than the conference offerings on Friday.**

Proposals are due Sunday, February 1st and can be sent to [FilsonConference2026@gmail.com](mailto:FilsonConference2026@gmail.com).

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## APP Faculty Affiliates in the News

**Crystal Wilkinson** has been chosen by the UK Libraries National Advisory Board as the recipient of the [2026 Medallion for Intellectual Achievement Award](#).

### 2025 UK Sustainability Showcase Awardees

#### [\*\*Sustainability Champion Award\*\*](#)

**Kenton Sena**, Senior Lecturer in the Lewis Honors College

**Lauren Cagle**, Associate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies, and Director of the Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment

The Sustainability Champion Awards, now in its fourth year, celebrates UK community members who have made significant contributions to sustainability at the University of Kentucky in recent years.

#### [\*\*Sustainability Challenge Grant\*\*](#)

**Lindell Ormsbee**, Professor, Civil Engineering and **Kenton Sena**, Senior Lecturer, Lewis Honors College, "Digital Stormwater Learning Lab: An Innovative Framework for Stormwater Monitoring, Management, and Education"

**Kenton Sena**, Senior Lecturer, Lewis Honors College, **Rebekah Radtke**, Associate Professor, School of Interiors, and **Matt Strandmark**, Education Archivist & Appalachian Studies Academic Liaison, UK Libraries, "SOS (Save Our Seeds): An Appalachian Heritage Seed Project"

The Sustainability Challenge Grant program is designed to engage multidisciplinary teams from the university community in the creation and implementation of ideas that will promote sustainability on campus and in the local community. Five teams of University of Kentucky faculty and staff were selected to receive Sustainability Challenge Grants totaling more than \$150,000.

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## CHECK THIS OUT

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

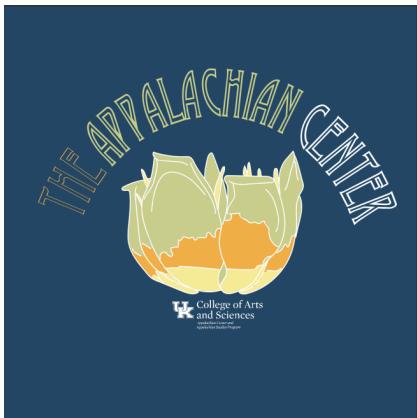
[\*\*SRSA Post-Conference Opportunity, SERA 49: Heir Property Annual Meeting - Feb. 3\*\*](#)

[\*\*UK-CARES Pilot Project Program - Submit Letter of Intent by Feb. 13\*\*](#)

[\*\*UK College of Arts & Sciences Summer 2026 Undergraduate Research Awards application now open - Deadline Feb. 14\*\*](#)

[\*\*UK Sustainability Research Fellowship Application Window Now Open - Due Mar. 1\*\*](#)

## 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.

[Give](#)



Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program | 624 Maxwellton Court, Lexington, KY 40506 | 859-257-4852

University of Kentucky | 120 Patterson Drive | Lexington, KY 40506 US

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