

APPALACHIAN CENTER AND APPALACHIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

IT ALL STARTS HERE

Message from the Directors



Kathryn Engle, Ph.D.
Appalachian Center Director



Jennifer Cramer, Ph.D.
Appalachian Studies Program Director

Friends,

We're through the hump of the semester and looking to the holidays. As we continue through uncertain times, many folks will be feeling the strain in the region and beyond. As always, we have snacks and food stocked at the Appalachian Center, so stop by between classes. I know food banks are stocking up as the colder weather approaches. The Herald-Leader had a [recent article](#) listing food banks seeking donations in central and eastern Kentucky.

Dear friends,

November means Thanksgiving. I love to eat, so this has always been my favorite holiday. I have been known to stop at three different houses, and you *must* get a plate at each. My favorite item is a strange Kentucky delicacy called "Banana Croquettes." It's a banana covered in mayonnaise and rolled in nuts. I learned that, because the trains carrying bananas often stopped at a station in Western Kentucky before heading out to the rest of the country, the locals had to invent all sorts of

Our annual Friendsgiving meal will be here before you know it, on Dec. 11, so mark your calendars. I hope everyone has a smooth second half of the semester and I look forward to seeing you at the Appalachian Center sometime soon!

things to do with those bananas, and this is one of them!

Thanksgiving is also, as the name suggests, a time to give thanks. As I learn more about the wonderful Appalachian Studies community at UK in my role as Director, I find myself giving thanks for each of you. We are a phenomenal community of caring and curious folks, and every interaction with this community is a treat. Thanks for all you do!

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Join us for Coffee Hour at the Appalachian Center](#)

[Drop-In Coffee Hour](#)

Thursday, Nov. 6 and Nov. 20 | 10 - 11 a.m.

Zoom or Appalachian Center

624 Maxwelton Court, Lexington, KY 40506

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.



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

[Fall SWAP Presentations](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 18 and 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.

[Nov. 18](#)

Megan Hall, 2025 James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research in Appalachia,
"Interlocking Disasters: A Western North Carolina Case Study."

Dan Hayes, 2025 UK Appalachian Center Eller & Billings Student Research Award,
"Development of a Low-Cost 3D-Printed Two-Point Discrimination Tool!"

Dec. 2

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.](#)**

**[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 Maxwellton Court, Lexington, KY 40506

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.



[Graduate Appalachian Research Community \(GARC\)](#)



The University of Kentucky's Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC) is an official graduate student organization promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on Appalachian research.

Our mission is to foster a supportive community in which students from various disciplines learn from each other's findings, discuss research obstacles and successes, can have a venue to present their Appalachian-based research and collaborate.

Upcoming Events:

GARC Book + Bake Sale - Dec. 4

15th Annual Appalachian Research Symposium & Arts Showcase - Feb. 28

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

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

UK Center for Appalachian Research in Environmental Sciences (UK-CARES) presents COMPASS Virtual Workshop: Introduction to Strategic Science Communication

Grounded in science communication research and practice, this interactive virtual workshop is an opportunity to practice communicating with diverse audiences. Over the course of three hours, COMPASS trainers guide you through techniques and tools that help you prepare for strategic communication, then support you as you apply what you've learned through facilitated group discussions and activities, including practice sessions with other participants in breakout rooms.

By the end of the workshop, you will have:

- A stronger understanding of the science behind science communication.
- Experience using the Message Box, COMPASS's signature tool for breaking down complex topics into digestible, effective messages.
- A draft COMPASS Message Box of your own, on a topic of your choosing.
- Feedback on your draft messages from peers.

This workshop will be offered twice:

Wednesday, Nov. 12 | 9 a.m. - noon EST

Thursday, Nov. 13 | 1 - 4 p.m. EST

[Link to register.](#)

The deadline for registration is **Monday, Nov. 10, 2025 at 5 p.m. EST**. Please note that each workshop date is limited to 30 participants. So register early!

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Kelly Kenney at (859) 323-4587 or via email: kelly.kenney@uky.edu.

APP Faculty Affiliates in the News

[Group Exhibit at the Pam Miller Downtown Art Center curated by Frank X Walker - thru Nov 1](#)

CHECK THIS OUT

[Appalachia in the Bluegrass Concert Series - Fridays at noon in the Niles Gallery](#)

[ACTION book panel - Cancer in Appalachia: A Collection of Youth-Told Stories - November 7](#)

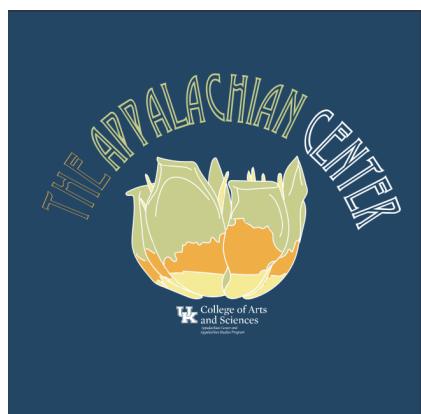
[Mildred Haun Conference Call for Papers - Abstracts due November 15](#)

[Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching - Nomination deadline extended to November 15](#)

[Environmental Sectors Career Fair \(sign-up via Handshake\) - November 18](#)

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

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

[Give](#)



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