

APPALACHIAN CENTER AND APPALACHIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

IT ALL STARTS HERE

Message from the Directors



Jennifer Cramer, Ph.D.
Appalachian Studies Program Director

Hello and welcome to another school year!

I'm Jennifer Cramer, and I am the new Director of the Appalachian Studies Program here at UK. I have been working hard this summer to learn the role, and I have found our community to be patient, caring and a lot of fun. I look forward to getting to meet you at the Appalachian Center very soon. I'm still learning, but if you have any questions about the program, I am here to help!

Speaking of the Appalachian Center, consider this an open invitation to come visit us at our lovely old house. We have a front porch with rocking chairs, a cozy living room and even a conference table where we do a little meeting and a little eating! We love to see our space alive with conversation and collaboration. You are always welcome!



Kathryn Engle, Ph.D.
Appalachian Center Director

Welcome back!

I want to send out a heartfelt THANK YOU to Professor Ann Kingsolver who served as our Appalachian Studies Program Director for the past four years. Professor Kingsolver shepherded the Graduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies to completion and several students have already completed the certificate. Professor Kingsolver has been a steadying force at the Appalachian Center for many years and an incredible mentor and friend to many.

We are excited to welcome Professor Jennifer Cramer into the Director position. Professor Cramer will be a great addition in this new role and we are so excited to have her as a leader of our team!

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kickoff the Semester with the Appalachian Center!

[Welcome Back - Appalachian Center Open House](#)

Friday, September 5 | 4 - 5 PM

Appalachian Center

624 Maxwellton Court, Lexington, Ky. 40506

Celebrate the start of the Fall 2025 semester with food, games and a special recognition of the AppalachiaCorps 2025 cohort.



AppalachiaCorps Summer Internship Program

[AppalachiaCorps](#) is a student internship program through the University of Kentucky Appalachian Center that pairs students with opportunities for experiential learning in Eastern Kentucky and the greater Appalachian region. AppalachiaCorps serves a threefold 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

We are pleased to share the organizations where the AppalachiaCorps 2025 cohort interned this past summer:

- Kentucky Court of Justice, Family Court Division
- ARH Paintsville
- Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky
- Big Sandy Healthcare, Hope Dental Clinic
- ARH Highlands
- Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN)
- Williamson Health and Wellness Center - Behavioral Medicine Clinic
- Big Sandy Healthcare, Inc.
- Pikeville Medical Center

For more information, visit the [AppalachiaCorps webpage](#).

Join us for Coffee Hour at the Appalachian Center

Drop-In Coffee Hour

Thursday, September 11 | 10 - 11 AM

Zoom or Appalachian Center

624 Maxwellton 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 10:00 a.m.



Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC)

Introducing your 2025-2026 GARC Officers:

- President: Michelle Roberts
- Vice President: Megan Hall
- Secretary/Treasurer: Arshiya Jeelani
- Social Chair: Casey Byrd

CHECK THIS OUT

[Gaines Center accepting applications for mini-grants for 2025-2026](#)

[Registration is now open for the 10th annual Kentucky Rural Health Summit](#)

[Cooking Up Collaboration with SFDL Sept 3](#)

[Commercialization and Innovation Leadership Program now accepting applications](#)



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

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Appalachian Studies Program Director

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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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