Appalachia is a region unique and special, with a heritage and culture stretching back centuries and steeped in traditions that we attempt valiantly to maintain, and yet we are also a people and a region changing as rapidly as the technology that connects us across this land. The “voices” of Appalachians are diverse and spread far and wide, and they originate not just from the geographic region alone. We represent groups that are divergent yet common, whether we call ourselves Affrilachians, Appalachians, or Southern Mountaineers. The 2016 ASA Conference will focus on the changing face of the region, the diverse groups that constitute who we are, the educational and community institutions that either accommodate or react to the challenges that face us and call for our best selves, and our efforts to protect the very mountains that are the principal source of our commonality and identity. To become a member of ASA and attend all conference sessions, as well as receive Appalink and ASA journal, go to www.appalachianstudies.org/annualconference.

Highlights of the Conference

Escape from Negro Mountain: Writing History, Righting Wrongs
Frank X. Walker, past Kentucky Poet Laureate, writer, and cultural activist, will deliver the keynote conference address.

Cherokee Blessing
Lloyd Arneach, Cherokee storyteller, will open the conference with a traditional Cherokee blessing and share stories from Appalachia’s indigenous peoples, the first Appalachians.

“Coal Black Voices”
Affrilachian Poets Ricardo Nazario y Colón, Kelly Norman Ellis, and Bianca Spriggs will share their poetry, exploring those that just a few years ago brought a new dimension to Appalachian literature and to Appalachia.

“Lessons from Goldenseal: Reflections on Preservation of History and Folklife”
Writer, editor, folklorist, and performer John Lilly will share the “Lessons from Goldenseal.”

“Appalachian Percussive Dance Traditions in Historical and Cultural Context: Researching The Meaning of Buck Dance and ‘Reel ‘Em Boys, Reel ‘Em’”
Dance scholars Matthew Olwell, Emily Oleson, and Becky Hill will explore the cultural and multicultural ethnographic intersections of Appalachian clogging and African-American dance.

Special Environmental Plenary
John Amos and David Manthos from SkyTruth will share the environmental work of this extraordinary organization serving today as a world-wide watchdog for the environment.

Appalachian Photography Exhibit
Presented by Builder Levy, the award-winning photographer whose books, “Images of Appalachian Coalfields,” “Builder Levy, Photographer,” and “Appalachia USA,” have revolutionized our understanding of the region.

Storytelling in Appalachia, with Adam Booth
Award-winning master storyteller Adam Booth will enthral us with stories of the region.

NOTE: This project is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities. Front Cover photo: West Branch Susquehanna River by Nicholas A. Tonelli.
RECREATION AND RESEARCH EVENTS

Thursday, March 17
9 a.m.-5 p.m., March 17-19
George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War
136 W. German Street
Research Facilities Available.
www.shepherd.edu/civilwar
9 a.m.-5 p.m., March 17-19
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education (Byrd CLS)
213 N. King Street
Research Facilities Available.
www.byrdcenter.org
9 a.m.-7 p.m., March 17-20
Shepherdstown Self-guided Tour
Maps available at Shepherdstown Visitor’s Center, 129 E. German Street
shepherdstowninfo
9 a.m.-5 p.m., March 17-20
Biking on the C&O Canal Across the Potomac Bridge
www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm
1-4 p.m.
Storer College Tour
Harpers Ferry
Departure from Erma Ora Byrd Hall steps. Reservations required, contact Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt at sshurbut@shepherd.edu.
www.nps.gov/choh/learn/historyculture/storer-college.htm
7 p.m.
Celtic/Appalachian Music Jam Session
O’Hurley’s General Store, 205 E. Washington Street
www.ohurstley.com

Friday, March 18
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction
Student Center, Ram’s Den
9-10 a.m.
Shepherdstown Historic Walking Tour with Jim Surkamp
Departure from Shepherdstown Visitor’s Center, 129 E. German Street
shepherdstowninfo
9 a.m.-noon
Historic Martinsburg Trolley Tour: Civil War Settings
Round House, Martinsburg
Departure from Erma Ora Byrd Hall steps. For reservations, contact Sylvia Bairly Shurbutt at sshurbut@shepherd.edu.
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction
Student Center, Ram’s Den, 202 N. King Street
10-11:15 a.m.
Plenary V: Appalachian Percussive Dance Traditions in Historical and Cultural Context, “Researching the Meaning of Buck Dance and ‘Reel ‘Em Boys, Reel ‘Em’”
Kremlins Hall
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tour of Little House
Princess Street
www.shepherd.edu/libweb/shwebsite/historic_tour/littlehousebarn_campus.html
10-11:15 a.m.
Plenary I: Welcome and Blessing
Erma Ora Byrd Hall Auditorium
Special welcome from Shepherd President Mary J.C. Hendrix and presentation by Lloyd Arneach, Cherokee blessing, and stories from the original Appalachian storytellers.
1-2:15 p.m.
Plenary II: Special Environmental Plenary, “SkyTruth, An Environmental Watchdog for the World”
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education Auditorium (Byrd CLS)
Presented by John Amos, SkyTruth President, and David Manthos, SkyTruth Communications Director.
2:15-3 p.m.
Plenary III: Builder Levy Photography Exhibit
Scarborough Library, Reading Room
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Plenary IV: Keynote
Frank Center Theater
Frank X Walker, “Escape from Negro Mountain: Writing History, Righting Wrongs.”
9 p.m.
Old Time Appalachian Square Dance
Town Run Brewing Company, 202 E. Washington Street
9 p.m.
Shepherdstown Mysteries Walk
Departure from front steps of McMurran Hall
Cost: $10 per person.
www.shepherdstownmysterieswalk.com
Saturday, March 19
9-10 a.m.
Shepherdstown Historic Walking Tour with Jim Surkamp
Departure from Shepherdstown Visitor’s Center, 129 E. German Street
shepherdstown.info
9 a.m.-noon
Historic Martinsburg Trolley Tour: Civil War Settings
Round House, Martinsburg
Departure from Erma Ora Byrd Hall steps. For reservations, contact Sylvia Bairly Shurbutt at sshurbut@shepherd.edu.
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction
Student Center, Ram’s Den, 202 N. King Street
10-11:15 a.m.
Plenary V: Appalachian Percussive Dance Traditions in Historical and Cultural Context, “Researching the Meaning of Buck Dance and ‘Reel ‘Em Boys, Reel ‘Em’”
Kremlins Hall
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tour of Little House
Princess Street
www.shepherd.edu/libweb/shwebsite/historic_tour/littlehousebarn_campus.html
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Plenary VI: Storytelling in Appalachia with Adam Booth
Erma Ora Byrd Hall Auditorium
2:30-3:45 p.m.
Plenary VII: Builder Levy and the Face of Appalachia
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education Auditorium (Byrd CLS)
A Conversation with the Artist, Builder Levy, Jack Spadaro, and Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt.
4:515 p.m.
Plenary VIII: Lessons from Goldenseal, “Reflections on Preservation of History and Folklife”
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education Auditorium (Byrd CLS)
John Lilly, folklorist and long-time editor of West Virginia’s Goldenseal magazine explores the past, present, and future of how history and culture are documented.
5:30-6:45 p.m.
Special Plenary IX: Affrilachian Voices, Readings by the Affrilachian Poets, in Celebration of Twenty-Five Years Erma Ora Byrd Hall Auditorium
Presenters: Frank X Walker, Kelly Norman Ellis, Ricardo Nazario y Colón, and Bianca Spriggs.
8 p.m.
Voices from the Misty Mountains Showcase Concert
Frank Center Theater
Hosted by Adam Booth featuring Blue Yonder, storyteller Lloyd Arneach, and Good Foot Dance Company. Tickets are available at the Shepherd University Bookstore by calling 304-876-5219 or visiting www.shepherdbook.com. For more information, contact Rachael Meads at rmeads@shepherd.edu.

CONFERENCE PLENARIES, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
All Appalachian Studies Association Conference (ASA) plenary and special sessions listed above are supported by the West Virginia Humanities Council and are free and open to the public, with the exception of the Saturday concert and the Mysteries Walk. Parking at Shepherd University is free and all lots are open. See www.shepherd.edu/wordpress-1/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/University-Parking-Map-West-Campus.pdf. Conference Events East Campus Lots A, B, C, and K, Keynote/Awards/Concert Events West Campus Lot G.

Conference Highlights Open to the Public and Supported by:
West Virginia Humanities Council
Shepherd University

West Virginia Humanities Council
Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Shepherd University, Conference Chair
Rachael Meads, Shepherd University, Program Chair
David O. Hoffman, Program Committee/Local Arrangements Coordinator
Monica Lingenfelter, Shepherd University Foundation

Local Arrangements Committee