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Bridge Institute Grant Turns the Center’s Focus on West Virginia Teachers

Ten teachers and community leaders from the Eastern Panhandle were part of the BRIDGE Grant to study West Virginia history and culture, in order to take back and infuse into classrooms an understanding of the Appalachian and the West Virginian story. The Institute participants were each also given $500 mini-grants for professional development or to purchase materials and resources for their work with underserved students in the region. The project was immensely successful, utilizing ideas, content, and activities from four NEH Summer Institutes for Teachers which the Center secured in 2013, 2016, 2017, and 2018. The BRIDGE Institute served as a pilot for a West Virginia Teacher Institute project proposed to the Humanities Council on September 1, with the new grant bringing 20 West Virginia teachers to Shepherd next July 11-23, to study and learn about “Voices from the Misty Mountains and Reclaiming Our Story for a New Appalachia.” The Institute will include artists Silas House, Frank X Walker, Gretchen Laskas, Adam Booth, and teachers Dr. James Broomall, Dr. Ben Bankhurst, Rachael Meads, and Jessica Salfia—sharing West Virginia stories and changing children’s lives.

Appalachian Studies Students Go International in the Global Appalachia Program

Students in the Appalachian Studies Program will have the opportunity to explore their Celtic Roots next year in the Study Abroad Program and in the Travel Study Program. COVID-19 notwithstanding, two graduate students in the APST Certificate program are ready for their semester abroad to pursue their dual degree from Shepherd (M.A. in APST) and the University of the West of Scotland (M.A. in Creative Media Studies), studying for a semester in Ayr, Scotland, and benefiting from the partnership between Shepherd and UWS in this dual degree project that provides two M.A. degrees in relatively the same amount of time as one. Next year, undergraduates and graduate students both will have the opportunity to participate in travel abroad through the Celtic Roots course and practicum, traveling to World Heritage Sites in the English Lakes, the Scottish Highlands and Orkney Islands, and the Yorkshire Moors. For information about Celtic Roots travel, see https://worldstrides.com/custom/celtic-roots-global-appalachia-highlands-hebrides.
**Sue Stewart And Hansel Bailey Appalachian Studies Scholarship For Minors Supports The Interdisciplinary APST Program**

A $25K scholarship to encourage Appalachian Studies minors goes into effect next fall. The minor is interdisciplinary and works particularly well for students studying environmental science, history, English, political science, education, business, and other degrees where students plan to remain in the region and contribute to the growth of West Virginia’s and Appalachia’s economy. Any student with any major may apply for this scholarship upon the recommendation of a faculty member. Email the ASPT Center for application form: sshurbut@shepherd.edu. To read about the new scholarship and the two Appalachians it honors, Sue Stewart and Hansel Bailey, see www.shepherd.edu/news/dr-sylvia-bailey-shurbutt-creates-scholarship-for-appalachian-studies-minors.

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**Appalachian Studies Spring 2021 Courses**

**Appalachian Culture**  
41014/40798 APST 256/556  
(Core 2nd Tier Hum, MD) 3 credits  
Monday, 6:15-8:55 p.m.  
Knutti 203, Meads

**Art of Storytelling and Folktales**  
40616/40797 APST 345/545  
(Core 2nd Tier Arts, MD) 3 credits  
Tuesday, 6-8:40 p.m.  
Knutti 205, Booth

**West Virginia and Appalachian Region**  
40564 APST/HIST 309-01  
3 credits  
Tuesday and Thursday, 3:15-4:30 p.m.  
TBA, Bankhurst

**Celtic Roots**  
APST 430/530  
3 credits  
Monday and Wednesday, 4:45-6 p.m.  
Erma Ora Byrd Hall 112, Shurbutt

**Celtic Roots Travel Practicum, The Highlands and the Hebrides**  
APST 431/531  
TBA in May, Shurbutt

**Appalachian Studies Practicum**  
40393/40933 APST 476/576-01  
1-3 credits  
TBA, Shurbutt

**Alternative Spring Break**  
40641/41369 APST 476/576-02  
3 credits  
TBA, Shurbutt

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**Appalachian Studies, M.A.**  
http://catalog.shepherd.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=13&poid=1565&returnto=2199

**Appalachian Studies Minor**  
http://catalog.shepherd.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=13&poid=1178&returnto=2195

Enjoy an experience of a lifetime, service learning at its best, through alternative spring break—receive course credit for your service through the APST 476/576-02 course.
2020 News Makers in Appalachia

Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt delivered the Martin Luther King Day Program in Hagerstown, January 20, at the Robinwood Professional Center. Shurbutt represented the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities in a program titled “Re-visioning the American Dream for African Americans.” Shurbutt spoke about Appalachian Heritage writers Nikki Giovanni, Frank X Walker, and Henry Louis Gates, all having served as Writer-in-Residence at Shepherd and West Virginia Common Read Authors.

Local writer Ed Maliskas spoke to a packed house at the Byrd CHE on January 31, as he shared local history about African Americans in Washington County during the Civil Rights era. His book, John Brown to James Brown, The Little Farm Where Liberty Budded, Blossomed and Boogied, was the substance of his talk and related images from 1950s that he shared.

The Appalachian Studies Association honored Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt with the Stephen Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Shurbutt was nominated by students in the Appalachian Studies Program and competed against university professors from across the nation for the award. Shurbutt teaches culture and literature courses in the Appalachian Studies Program and serves as director for the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities.

Dr. Cicero Fain, a teacher at the College of Southern Maryland and a West Virginia native, joined students and community members on February 28 in the Byrd CHE to discuss his new book Black Huntington, An Appalachian Story. Fain portrayed a city and a time during Jim Crow days when African Americans in Huntington were encouraged to establish businesses and work their way into the middle class. The program was part of the Appalachian Studies Speaker Series and the sisters from Delta Sigma Theta hosted Dr. Fain while Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst (History) did the introductions for the Center.

Students and community members gathered via Zoom and in the Byrd CHE on March 11, to hear a program about the remarkable life of Grandma Gatewood, the first woman to walk the Appalachian Trail. The program, Granny Gatewood’s Walk in the Woods, told the story of a life of hard knocks, a brutal husband, and a woman who as soon as she sent the last of her children into the world, set off to walk the Appalachian Trail, not once but three times as well as the Oregon Trail and other challenging walks. Her inspiring story helped students and community members to understand the healing qualities of nature, a useful lesson in these COVID-19 days.

The Appalachian Studies Board Member and chair of the Department of Environmental Studies Dr. Jeff Groff received the honor of being a finalist this spring for West Virginia Professor of the Year. www.shepherd.edu/news/dr-jeff-groff-is-finalist-for-2019-west-virginia-professor-of-the-year.

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Bankhurst was nominated by students for this award. His scholarship likewise has been recognized for its excellence, focusing on Irish and Scottish as well as Appalachian Studies. Dr. Bankhurst teaches the Appalachian History course in the graduate and undergraduate curriculum and has been instrumental in arranging many of the programs for the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities.

The 2020 Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Crystal Wilkinson Volume was published in April—the book was a celebration of African American and Affrilachian writers and one of the most popular sellers in the series. The volume includes not only the work of Wilkinson but also that of Affrilachian poet and former Kentucky Poet Laureate Frank X Walker, as well as an original bio-drama collection telling the life of Nikki Giovanni through her poetry; the piece was originally written as a CATF stage reading. These writers have all been Shepherd University Appalachian Heritage Writers-in-Residence at some point. Well over half the poems and photographs in the volume are by African American essayists, poets, and fiction writers. Wilkinson, poet Ron Davis, and Walker will return to Shepherd in the fall for the official Anthology Celebration on September 22, as part of the Dorothy Allison Appalachian Heritage events. An online reading from the anthology was a Facebook success on July 12, with hundreds viewing.

Leadership Jefferson, a program through the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and arranged by Fiona Harrison of Charles Town, invited Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt on May 13 to present to a group of Jefferson County business leaders a virtual program through Zoom titled “Telling Our Story and the Power of Place.” Shurbutt shared the story of Appalachia and West Virginia, detailing West Virginia’s rich culture and history that these business leaders were unaware of. Shurbutt was asked to share her PowerPoint with the group so that they might have access to the links about the Appalachian Dialect, Coal Towns, the West Virginia Mine Wars, and other fascinating stories of the state and region.

The 2020 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and Heritage events with Dorothy Allison will go forward as planned, with the help of technology and the creation of the AHWIR website for teachers, community members, and students.

The West Virginia Fiction Competition, supported by the Center for the Book, was managed with the help of judges Dave Hoffman, Natalie Sypolt, Aneya Dozier, and Dr. James Pate, while preparations for the September Writer-in-Residence events moved forward despite the COVID-19 crisis. Mike Mendez, curator for the Anthology Photographic Art Exhibit, worked with Sylvia Shurbutt and librarian Nancy Cowherd to hang the exhibit early so that a virtual art tour might happen. All September events will occur in some form, but they will be virtual, thanks to the creativity of the AHWIR Committee, the commitment of Writer-in-Residence Dorothy Allison, and the goodwill of a supportive campus and Shepherdstown community. Below is the revised schedule of events with links included, all accessible from the AHWIR Events page at www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/allison/schedule. Brochures on campus and in the community are all accurate, and they will be Zoomed or viewed on the Shepherd YouTube Channel rather than face-to-face. The Center wishes to thank the West Virginia Humanities Council, the Center for the Book and West Virginia Library Commission, and the Shepherd University Foundation for their flexibility and support during this unusual time.

### 2020 AHWIR Schedule of Activities

**September 1-30**
Photographic Art Exhibit, Curator Mike Mendez, Scarborough Library.

**Friday, September 18**
5:30 p.m. Cavedweller Screening, Byrd CHE Auditorium. Reserved seating limited to 15, masks required.
7:30 p.m. Cavedweller Discussion, via Zoom, https://zoom.us/j/6031914077. Discussion led by Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities.

**Monday, September 21**
7 p.m. “Diversity and Class in Appalachia and the Fiction of Dorothy Allison,” Byrd CHE, with West Virginia Professor of the Year Dr. Heidi Hanrahan. Reserved seating limited to 15, masks required. Livestreamed on YouTube.

**Tuesday, September 22**
7 p.m. A Celebration of Appalachian Storytellers, Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Crystal Wilkinson Volume XII, with Crystal Wilkinson, Ron Davis, and Frank X Walker, Byrd CHE. Livestreamed on YouTube.

**Wednesday, September 23**
2:30 p.m. Dorothy Allison Reading from Cavedweller and Book Club Discussions, via Zoom, https://zoom.us/j/6031914077. Discussion led by Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt. Livestreamed on YouTube.
7 p.m., The Writing Life, with Dorothy Allison. Livestreamed on YouTube.

**Thursday, September 24**
3-4:30 p.m. Writers Master Class with Dorothy Allison, Byrd CHE, reserved seating limited to 15, masks required; via Zoom, https://zoom.us/j/6031914077.
8 p.m. Scarborough Society Keynote with Dorothy Allison and AHWIR Awards Ceremony, Byrd CHE, reserved seating limited to 15, masks required. Livestreamed on YouTube.

**Friday, September 25**
Interview with Inside Appalachia, West Virginia Public Broadcasting.
7 p.m., Stories from the Mountain Highlads, with Adam Booth, Byrd CHE, reserved seating limited to 15, masks required. Livestreamed on YouTube.

**November-December 2020**
Construction of Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Allison Vol. XIII

**For more information**
Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt
304-876-5207
sshurbut@shepherd.edu
www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/allison/schedule

**To reserve Byrd CHE seats:**
bbrumage@shepherd.edu

**YouTube:** www.youtube.com/channel/UCQa2E-jpd2_Kh9ojCY5gumQ/featured

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