



IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 West Virginia teachers attend Voices from the Misty Mountains Teacher Institute
- 2 Celtic Roots class experiences the adventure of a lifetime in Ireland, Cornwall, and Wales
- 4 Spring and summer newsmakers
- 7 *Anthology of Appalachian Writers; Barbara Kingsolver Volume XV* published
- 7 Prize-winning photographers enhance the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*



West Virginia teachers attend Voices from the Misty Mountains Teacher Institute

The Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities received a \$20,000 West Virginia Humanities Council grant to conduct a summer institute for K-12 teachers from across the state. The intensive weeklong institute brought together teachers from all disciplines and grade levels to learn the story of Appalachia. Shepherd professors who contributed to the seminar include **Dr. James Broomall**, **Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst**, and **Adam Booth** as well as **Rachael Meads**. Affrilachian poet and professor Frank X Walker was the artist-in-residence for the institute while **Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt** served as the project director. The teachers, representing counties across West Virginia, explored the work of Ron Rash, Jesse Stuart, Charles Frazier, Nikki Giovanni, Marilou Awiakta, and others. While teachers attended the institute both virtually and in-person, all came together for the field trip to Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, where they learned about the Niagara Movement, the nascent National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. A project presentation served as the finale for the institute, and teachers received a \$1,000 stipend for professional development and/or classroom resources and enhancement.

Pictured above (left to right): Institute participants Amanda Hall, Berkeley; Keyonda Dudrow, Berkeley; Monica Gillions, Berkeley; Megan Peters, Jefferson; Jean Hanna Davis, Mercer; Julia Williams, Pocahontas; Cheryl Snyder, Berkeley; Tanner Boeckmann, Berkeley; Brandon Dolly, Berkeley; Nathan House, Monogahalia; Daniel Summers (obscured), Monogahalia; Institute Director Sylvia Shurbutt; Glenna Woodring, Mercer; Andrea Mitchell, Jefferson; and Ellen Wade, Oak Park.

Bleow: Former Kentucky Poet Laureate and Affrilachian poet Frank X Walker speaks to teachers attending the Misty Mountains Institute.



Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt
Director
Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities

Scarborough Library 209
304-876-5207
sshurbut@shepherd.edu





Above: (left, top) A rainbow conjures good luck at Tintagel; (left, bottom) Benbulbin greets us in Yeats Country; (right, top) Our London tour guide talks to Mark and Kelly Ghareeb, Jackie Smith, Alice McCarthy, and Kevin Murphy; (right, bottom) Pilgrims make their way to St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall.



Celtic Roots class experiences the adventure of a lifetime in Ireland, Cornwall, and Wales

After COVID-19 delayed the 2021 Scottish Highlands study tour, Appalachian Studies students and community travelers were hopeful that their Irish and Cornish journey in May 2023 would be free of bleeps or blunders. A British Air two-day flight delay deflated those expectations. Nonetheless, these students and travelers pushed on intrepidly, salvaging what lay ahead of their trip as they arrived in Ireland from several different directions, meeting at the Cliffs of Moher and traveling to Sligo for an enchanting exploration of Yeats' country and the Wild Atlantic Way. Mitigating any initial frustrations was their delightful Irish coach driver Sean, who soothed the savage sentiments about the horrors of the flight. This Celtic Roots study tour was aimed at discovering West Virginians' Ulster Scots-Irish roots, and after studying the story of the Irish, the students were well-versed in what to see. From Joyce's Dublin, they crossed the Irish Sea to wend their way through Wales, past Wordsworth's Tintern Abbey, and through the mists of Glastonbury to discover the ancient ruins of Tintagel and the exquisite setting of St. Michael's Mount in Penzance. The student travelers were able to see the history and literature of Ireland and Cornwall come to life while welcoming uncommon surprises and unexpected beauty. ■



Above: (top) The Cliffs of Moher were breathtaking; (bottom) Appalachian studies major Ravyn Weirich poses with British Cavalry.



Spring and summer newsmakers from the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities



Ecologist **Clay Morris** presented a program called “Native American and Appalachian Foodways and Foraging: A Heritage of Sustainable Living” on February 15. Morris will teach the Seminar in Appalachian Studies on the topic in the spring of 2024. To read about the event, visit www.shepherd.edu/news/center-for-appalachian-studies-to-host-talk-on-native-american-and-appalachian-foodways/.

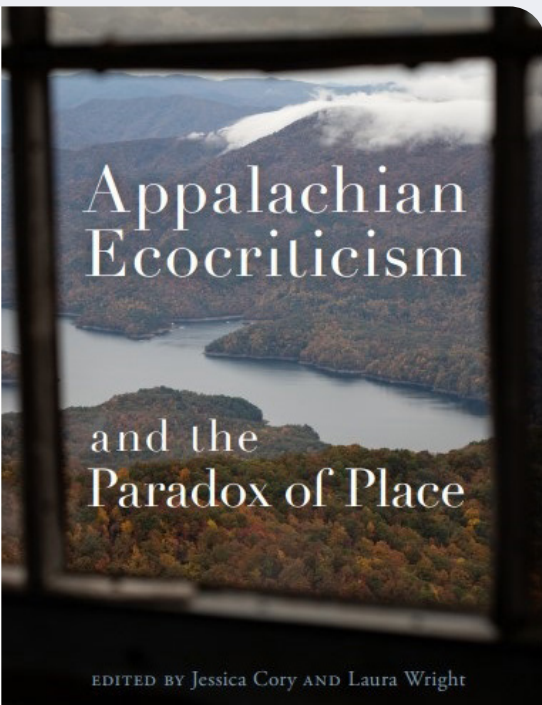
The Appalachian Chamber Festival (ACF) concluded its third season in August 2023. Created by cellist **Katie Tertell**, who today lives in the United Kingdom but was raised locally, the festival brings first-class classical music to a range of venues in West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle and Virginia. Supported by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities, ACF presented a number of programs on Shepherd University’s campus, enriching the musical life of students and the community.

On April 5, **Dr. Corley Dennison** read from his book *When the Center Held True*, a coming-of-age story about growing up in the 1960s and race relations in Appalachia. Dennison, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission vice chancellor for academic affairs, met with a group of Appalachian studies teachers and administrators prior to the evening reading to share his thoughts about higher education and some of the state’s problems. To learn more about Dennison’s new book and the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities’ program series, visit www.shepherd.edu/news/89006/.

Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) President **Ricardo Nazario y Colón** welcomed scholars and students to the March ASA Conference at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Shepherd students who presented include **Ellen Wade** and **Ben Trogdon**, whose papers evolved from their work associated with their Appalachian studies classes. *Voices from Appalachia* radio host **Kelly Ghareeb** also attended the ASA Conference to keep abreast of prescient topics in the region. **Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt** presented a paper on Barbara Kingsolver, “Challenges to the Global Village and the Ties that Bind: The Writing of Barbara Kingsolver.” Shurbutt’s paper evolved from her study of Kingsolver as she and **Jen Nicholson** prepared web resources for The West Virginia Center for the Book, the West Virginia Library Commission, and the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence website. To see the full essay, visit www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/kingsolver/links



Pictured: Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) President Ricardo Nazario y Colón speaks to scholars and students at the March ASA Conference.



Pictured: Cover of Appalachian Ecocriticism and the Paradox of Place

The Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities was involved in an important new ecocritical collection: *Ecocriticism and the Paradox of Place*. The Center’s work with **Charles Frazier**, 2016 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence and One Book One West Virginia common reading author, was featured in the newly published collection (UGA Press 2023). The new collection featured **Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt’s** study of Frazier’s book *Cold Mountain* titled “Conflict and Resolution: Eco-Environmentalism in Charles Frazier’s Anti-War Novel *Cold Mountain*.”

Appalachian studies undergraduates are exploring the possibility of a new student organization. Appalachian studies major **Izzy Lawrence**, student representative to the Appalachian Studies Board, shared with the Allies for Appalachia Trustee Board her ideas for a new student organization, the **Appalachian Heritage and Conservation Club**. Allies for Appalachia had expressed an interest during its February meeting in a student organization that would support the program and Appalachian studies majors and minors. This fall, Lawrence and fellow students will begin the approval process for the new organization with Student Affairs.



Pictured: Appalachian studies major and student representative to the Appalachian Studies Board Izzy Lawrence

Dr. Jason Allen nominated social studies education major **Summer Dawn Whetzel** for the Sue Stewart and Hansel Bailey Appalachian Studies Scholarship. The scholarship is given to an Appalachian studies minor student who demonstrates excellence in their major and a connection or interest to the region. Whetzel, who received the \$1,000 scholarship, plans to remain in West Virginia to teach high school social studies students. Congratulations to Summer, one of our stellar students from the history and education programs for winning this year’s scholarship.

Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities Director **Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt** was asked to step in as project director for the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education People Powered \$130,000 grant to revise the teaching of social studies in West Virginia. The People Powered Project was scheduled for 2021 implementation; however, personnel issues and a lack of teacher interest had left the grant stalled. Working with the Benedum Foundation's **Melanie Claxton**, Shurbutt revised the grant, restructured the People Powered web portal, and opened the

application process to middle and high school social studies, civics, and history teachers across the state. Using Brightspace and a virtual workshop option for the teachers, Shurbutt was able to use grant funds to provide professional development and classroom resource stipends for teachers. On June, 30 teachers attended for the "People Powered: Civic Action, Community Engagement, and American Representative Democracy" workshop that featured **Dr. Jason Allen**, assistant professor and coordinator of social studies; **Ashley Horst**, director of The Bonnie and Bill Stubblefield Institute for

Civil Political Communications; and archivist **Jody Brummage**. The teachers will return in April 2024 for a capstone presentation and competition, presenting what they've done during the school year to transform their history and civics classrooms. The winner will receive a \$5,000 prize, and runners-up will receive \$2,500 for their programs. To learn more about the People Powered Project and the teachers and school systems involved, visit www.shepherd.edu/news/robert-c-byrd-center-hosts-teacher-institute-for-re-visioning-public-school-civics-and-history-teaching/.



Susan Thompson talks to WV Public Radio about the Chestnut project.



Above: (left, bottom) (right,top) (right,bottom) Susan Thompson demonstrates Chestnut tree planting.

In May 2023, **Susan Thompson**, a Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies graduate student, and **Madison Hale**, farm coordinator, supervised a student planting of hybrid American Chestnut trees at the Shepherd University Agricultural Innovation Center at Tabler Farm. Appalachian studies students and Allies for Appalachia members participated in the planting, which is part of Thompson's thesis project that attempts to bring back the American Chestnut, decimated in the 20th century by a fungal disease imported with the Japanese Chestnut. Thompson and **Marti Gray**, another Appalachian studies graduate student, were interviewed by West Virginia Public Broadcasting and DC News Now. Thompson has been working with the American Chestnut Foundation and will collaborate with **Dr. Brooke Comer**, assistant professor of environmental studies, and **Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt**, director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities, as she completes her research and thesis. For information about Thompson's work, listen to the *Voices from Appalachia* podcast segment "Bringing Back the American Chestnut" at www.shepherd.edu/appalachian/voices-from-appalachia-radio-show-recordings/.

Anthology of Appalachian Writers; Barbara Kingsolver Volume XV published

Visit www.shepherd.edu/ahwir/anthology-of-appalachian-writers

Anthology of Appalachian Writers Volume 15, published in April 2023, centers on the works of author **Barbara Kingsolver**, the 2023 Pulitzer Prize winner for *Demon Copperhead*.

The anthology contains works of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction from across the country, including an original piece by Kingsolver herself titled “Challenges of the Global Village and the Ties that Bind.” It is available at bookstores now.

The award-winning author served as the 2022 Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence at the Center of Appalachian Studies and Communities, as well as the One Book One West Virginia common reading author during the fall semester.

Compiled by editors **David O. Hoffman**, **Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt**, and **Mary Barker**, the work also features works by two poet laureates, West Virginia’s **Marc Harshman** and Ohio’s **Kari Gunter-Seymour**, as well as winners of the West Virginia Fiction Competition **Lisa Taka Younis**, **Patricia Donohoe**, and Shepherd student **Noche Gauthier**. Also included are a plethora of first-rate poets and writers such as **Marie Manilla**, **Mark DeFoe**, **Stephen Spencer**, **E.J. Wade**, **D.W. Gregory**, **Marcia Brand**, **Cat Pleska**, **Karen Zacharias**, **Julie Shehan**, and others. The anthology will be featured in a program on September 26 at 7 p.m. in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education auditorium.

Designer **Adam Leviton** incorporated submitted photography into the book’s layout, which was printed by Sheridan Books, and published by The West Virginia Center for the Book.

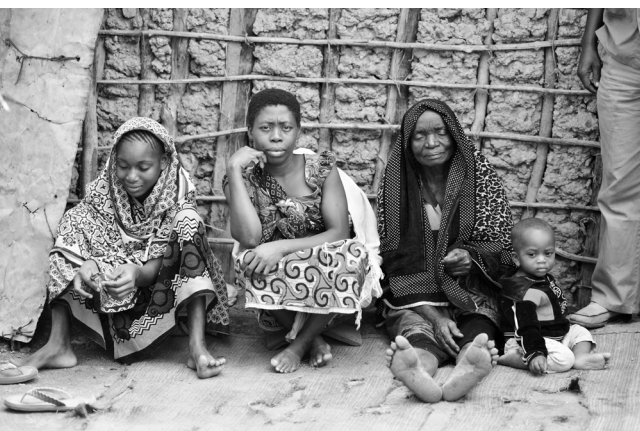
Appalachian Studies Degree Programs

See the APST degree programs at www.shepherd.edu/appalachian/appalachian-studies-degree-programs—click on the Appalachian studies minor, new interdisciplinary B.A./B.S. degree, graduate certificate, and M.A. in Appalachian studies. Study abroad opportunities are available both for the Interdisciplinary B.A./B.S. degree and the M.A. For information, contact the Center Director and Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, at sshurbut@shepherd.edu. The Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities is located in Scarborough Library, room 209.

www.shepherd.edu/appalachian/appalachian-studies-degree-programs



Riley Kilmore, “Memories of a Lost Childhood”



Patrick Mitchell “Three Women, Tanzania #8”

Prize-winning photographers enhance the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*

An extraordinary group of visual artists contributed to the Barbara Kingsolver volume of the anthology. A number of **Jodi Davis’** images were selected for the publication, including the charming “Big and Little,” as well as images submitted by poet and artist **E.J. Wade** and Ohio Poet Laureate **Kari Gunter-Seymour**. **Tamara Cole’s** “Caton Farm,” **Danielle French’s** “Lichen and Leaves,” **Lillie Ketterman’s** “Willa,” and **Randi Ward’s** “Thoughts and Prayers III” are particularly striking. **Rachel Herbaugh’s** work is again in the volume, with her photograph “Morning Fog” serving as the cover image. However, the two images that photography judge **Mike Mendez** selected as the prize winners in the Anthology Photographic Art Exhibit are **Patrick Mitchell’s** “Three Women, Tanzania #8” (runner-up) and **Riley Kilmore’s** haunting “Memories of a Lost Childhood” (winner). The exhibit will remain in the Scarborough Reading Room through October 1, while the virtual exhibit is linked to the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence events page and the Scarborough Library website.