Preliminary Call
2016 Appalachian Studies Association Conference

Voices from the Misty Mountains: Diversity and Unity, a New Appalachia

March 18-20, 2016
Shepherd University
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Appalachia is a region unique and special, with a heritage and culture stretching back centuries and steeped in traditions that we all attempt valiantly to maintain, and yet we are also a people and a region changing as rapidly as the technology that connects many of us across this land. The “voices” of Appalachians are diverse and spread across the country, and 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 changes that challenge 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. We invite your submissions for any sessions, individual papers, or other types of presentations that address the theme, Voices from the Misty Mountains: Diversity and Unity, a New Appalachia.

Held on the campus of Shepherd University, a Gateway to the Mountains from the Eastern Urban area of the country’s largest population centers, the 2016 conference is sponsored by the Appalachian Studies Program at Shepherd, the WV Humanities Council, the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd, Shepherd University and the University Foundation. Our keynote speaker will be Kentucky author Frank X Walker, and we will utilize the many recreational and historical resources of this extraordinary part of the country for the 2016 Conference.

Shepherd University sits on a high bluff above the Potomac River, sixty-five miles from Washington DC. Shepherdstown, the oldest town in West Virginia and originally surveyed by George and Charles Washington, is a living museum located in one of the most scenic settings in the state. Noted for fine dining and historical ambiance, Shepherdstown is across the river from Sharpsburg, MD, and the C&O Canal Center; we are home to the Civil War Institute; twelve miles from Harpers Ferry; nine miles from Charles Town and Virginia/West Virginia horse country; and we are both a historic center and nature center for river rafting and scenic exploration. Full accommodation information will be available in fall 2015. The official call for submissions with submission details will go out September 1, with a reminder October 1, and the final deadline October 15.

For further information contact:

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