

**William Clark Lindley, Jr.** passed away on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 in Boone, North Carolina. He was thirty years old. At UNC-Chapel Hill, William earned a bachelor's degree in American Studies. In 2010 he earned a master's degree in Appalachian Studies with a concentration in Appalachian Culture from Appalachian State University, where he developed two new undergraduate courses. Countless students have shared stories of the quirky thoughtful instructor who made them love learning and made them feel important as led the classroom and his life with the mantra "I ain't scared."

In 2013 he was nominated him for the Faculty Award of Excellence in General Education Teaching at Appalachian State. He also earned the Appalachia and the Community Together Service-Learning Fellowship. William was active with the Appalachia Service Project for over eight years and his leadership role in the organization led to his well-earned nickname, "The Ginger Jesus." He hiked the entirety of the Appalachian Trail and is remembered as "Fields" to those who came to know him along the trek.

A multitude of dear friends hold tight the way William made them feel, the way he felt about the region, smiled with the light of a thousand stars and was overcome a rigorous and contagious curiosity from the soles of his Chaco's to the red bun on top of his head. William's spirit fills tight hugs, classroom discussions, mason jars, thoughtful and sometimes tough questions, long afternoons on front porches, the moment when strangers become friends, and the moments when we choose to serve and love those around us. In remembrance of William, let us welcome these spaces; let us read everything we can get our hands on, memorize the names of the trees around us, teach and learn without hesitation. Let us sit together for too long, hug one another too tight, and give our all for this region every single chance we get. Let us make time to listen, to let our students know they matter and that we care. Let us hitch hike if the urge rises, and sing along with the band.

I would like to share a few lines from poem by William's close friend, Lou Murray, titled Naming Mountains:

I named another mountain for you and the entire length of North Carolina driven in one day and I named the one next to it for remembering you and the entire length of North Carolina driven in one night.

Then I named the gap between them for the nights that I am Chicken Little *for I swear the sky might come crashing down from the weight of your absence* and the Honeysuckle that lifts it up again.

When there was only one mountain left to name I folded up all the others and placed them right behind my heart and I named the last mountain for all roads headed west and the way I will carry with me your curiosity, your enthusiasm, your desire for fellowship and your compassion for people and the stories they have to tell.

May we all be filled with the light and goodness of our dearest of friends, William Lindley.