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**48TH ANNUAL APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE**

***Rural Reimagined: A Grand Challenge for Appalachia***

Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, Tennessee

March 20-22, 2025

**PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION FORM**

# 

# **WELCOME**

Dear ASA 2025 Participants and Attendees,

Tennessee Tech University would like to welcome you to the 48th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference located in Cookeville, Tennessee, in our state’s beautiful Upper Cumberland region from March 20 through March 22, 2025. One-fourth of the counties that comprise Appalachia are classified as rural—neither part of, nor adjacent to, a metropolitan area. The 48th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference will explore the theme “Rural Reimagined” by celebrating the creative uses of technology, science and the arts with the greatest potential to transform life in and proximity to the region’s rural communities. We understand that the potential models of innovation in Appalachia are as significant and various as the area’s needs. In the spirit of a grand challenge, we will honor expertise and collaboration to meet those needs. We at Tennessee Tech University invite you to join us as we seek to document the distinctive rural experience in Appalachia and to platform the ideas, projects and partnerships with the greatest potential to create positive change for the people living in the Appalachian region, with a special focus on country life.

***Conference Chair, Monic Ductan***

***Program Chair, Erin Hoover***

***Campus Arrangements Chair, Colleen Mestayer***

# **ASA MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Appalachian Studies Association is to promote and engage dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action among a diverse and inclusive group of scholars, educators, practitioners, grassroots activists, students, individuals, groups and institutions. Our mission is driven by our commitment to foster quality of life, democratic participation and appreciation of Appalachian experiences regionally, nationally and internationally.

# **CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS**

***Conference Organizers at Tennessee Tech University***

Conference Chair, [Monic Ductan](mailto:mductan@tntech.edu)

Program Chair, [Erin Hoover](mailto:ehoover@tntech.edu)

Campus Arrangements Chair, [Colleen Mestayer](mailto:cmestayer@tntech.edu)

***Conference Committee:***

* Monic Ductan
* Erin Hoover
* Colleen Mestayer
* Allan Mills
* Vickie Mayberry
* Linda Null
* Jeffrey Roberts
* Troy Smith

***Program Committee:***

* Erin Hoover
* Tammy Boles
* Monic Ductan
* Mary Lou Fornehed
* Ada Haynes
* Colin Hill
* Samantha Hutson
* Colleen Mestayer
* Kimberly Winkle

***Arrangements Subcommittee:***

* Colleen Mestayer
* James Akenson
* Melinda Anderson
* Bailey Phonsnasinh
* Kathryn Wisinger
* Randy Williams

***Special thanks to those who also helped read proposals:***

* Paulina Bounds
* Helen Hunt
* Lori Maxwell
* Lachelle Norris
* Linda Null
* Robert Owens
* Jeffery Roberts
* Troy Smith
* Brenda Wilson

# **CONFERENCE HOST, PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

***Conference Host:***

* Tennessee Tech University

***Partners and Sponsors:***

* Rural Reimagined at Tennessee Tech University
* South Arts
* Cookeville Arts Council
* Plenty Downtown Bookshop
* Center Stage at Tennessee Tech University
* Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
* The Water Center at Tennessee Tech University
* Tennessee Tech University President’s Office
* Tennessee Tech University Dept. of English
* Tennessee Tech University Dept. of History
* Tennessee Tech University College of Interdisciplinary Studies
* Tennessee Tech University College of Arts & Sciences
* The Women’s Center at Tennessee Tech University
* Marshall University
* University Press of Kentucky
* *Appalachian Journal*, Appalachian State University
* Center for Appalachian Studies, Appalachian State University
* ETSU Center of Excellence for Appalachian Studies and Services
* *Under the Sun* Literary Magazine
* Appalachian Studies, Eastern Kentucky University
* Loyal Jones Appalachian Center at Berea College
* University of Kentucky Appalachian Center & Appalachian Studies Program

# **CONFERENCE SITE**

## Tennessee Tech University (Tech)

Tennessee's technological university creates, advances and applies knowledge to expand opportunity and economic competitiveness. As a STEM-infused, comprehensive institution, Tennessee Tech delivers enduring education, impactful research and collaborative service. With an enrollment of around 10,000 students, Tech offers more than 200 academic programs, including longstanding programs in liberal arts, education, engineering and nursing alongside innovative and cutting-edge programs in cybersecurity, environmental studies, business and design—including bachelor’s, master’s, doctorate and education specialists’ degree programs. Tennessee Tech is a nationally ranked university by *U.S. News & World Report* and among the top public universities in the state, according to *Money Magazine*. This will be the university’s first time hosting the Appalachian Studies Association.

## Cookeville, Tennessee

The city of Cookeville, which is home to Tennessee Tech University, has a population of more than 26,000 and is located on the eastern Highland Rim of Tennessee at an elevation of 1,140 feet.

Voted the number one greatest affordable college town in the country by Great Values Colleges, Cookeville is approximately 82 miles east of Nashville, 109 miles west of Knoxville and 96 miles north of Chattanooga—putting students right in the middle of everything. The local public schools, civic clubs and churches have a friendly and cooperative relationship with students, faculty and staff. The surrounding area, enhanced by three major lakes, abounds in natural beauty and is served by several state parks.

# **TRAVEL INFORMATION, ACCOMMODATIONS AND PARKING**

## Transportation and Parking

Tennessee Tech is primarily a pedestrian campus; however, we do have several lots around campus for guests to park on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at no cost. The lots are first-come, first-served; you may park in any color lot if spots are available, but do NOT park in a handicapped space unless you have a handicap sticker/tag.

There are plenty of handicapped spaces in all lots. If you have special accessibility needs, please email [Colleen Mestayer](mailto:cmestayer@tntech.edu), Local Arrangements Chair prior to the conference for assistance.

To enter the university, we suggest using 7th Street, which is located on the south side of the university and will allow you access to the drivable parts of campus.

Take North Dixie (off of 7th Street) to access the Roaden University Center (hub for registration, exhibitors, silent auction and posters), Bryan Fine Arts (where Wattenbarger Auditorium is housed), and a large parking lot.

Take Stadium Drive (off of 7th Street to access parking lots behind the buildings hosting the panels: Henderson, TJ Farr, and Bartoo Halls. (You will need to take a right on W. 10th Street to access these lots.)

Take Stadium Drive (off of 7th Street) to access parking lots behind the library for additional parking.

## Road Closure Notice

When making your travel plans, you may want to check the status of the Interstate 40 closure at the Tennessee-North Carolina border.

## Campus Maps

* [Accessible Interactive TN Tech Campus Map](https://www.tntech.edu/maps/index.php)
* [Printable TN Tech Campus Map and/or QR Code](https://www.appalachianstudies.org/parking-1)

## Accommodations

* You may access the list of accommodations [here](https://www.appalachianstudies.org/_files/ugd/768291_b3822dedde9c4ac7b3652e5002488eb8.pdf).

## Tennessee Tech Campus Stores, Restaurants and Spaces

Restaurants, the campus bookstore and lots of comfortable seating are located in the basement of the RUC (the building where registration/exhibits/silent auction are located). Since this is Spring Break, here are the hours of the bookstore and open restaurants. All will be closed Saturday, March 22.

* **University Bookstore (Barnes & Noble)**:

March 20 – 21: 8:00 am-4:30 pm

* **Chick-fil-A**:

March 20– 21: 7:30 am-2:00 pm

* **Starbucks**:

March 20– 21: 7:30 am -10:30 am

## In and Around Cookeville, Tennessee

There are many things to do in and around Cookeville, Tennessee. Here are links to the “[Visit Cookeville, Tennessee](https://www.visitcookevilletn.com/)” website and the “[Tennessee Vacation](https://www.tnvacation.com/articles/spend-day-small-town-cookeville-tn)” websites.

There are lots of local restaurants and small businesses throughout the downtown area, which is less than a mile from Tennessee Tech.

For more information about where to eat while you are in Cookeville for the conference visit this [link](https://www.visitcookevilletn.com/eat).

# **REGISTRATION**

All conference attendees, including presenters, must pay the registration fee or receive an ASA scholarship.

**Nametags must be worn at all sessions and throughout the conference.**

Pre-paid conference registration is:

* **$175 (individual)**
* **$115 (student)**

The deadline for pre-paid registration is **March 5, 2025**.

Late or on-site registration is

* **$215** **(individual)**
* **$155 (student)**

To register, go [HERE](https://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/subscribe_now.php?id=jas) or complete the form at the back of this program. The on-site conference registration desk will be in ***Roaden University Center, Multipurpose Room.***

Registration includes ASA membership for the 2025 calendar year, a subscription to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies,* access to the *Appalink* newsletter, and participation in all 2025 conferenceactivities that do not require a ticket.

# **TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR MINORS ON CAMPUS**

**All minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult**.

Tennessee Tech cares deeply about the safety and welfare of children while on its campus. As the parent, teacher, or other responsible adult of a minor participating in this event, you are solely responsible for the supervision, oversight and protection while on Tennessee Tech property.

# **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Appalachian Studies Association offers a limited number of scholarships to assist individuals who require financial assistance to attend the conference. Funds are limited, so we continue to prioritize our scholarships according to those with the most need. Scholarships cover the cost of

registration/membership only.

Other ticketed activities are not included. Travel and lodging are the responsibility of conference attendees.

Before applying for an ASA Scholarship, we ask applicants, if applicable, to first seek financial assistance from their own institution or organization.

The scholarship award serves as your registration for the conference. Please sign-in at the registration desk located in ***Roaden University Center, Multipurpose Room*** to pick up registration materials.

Applicants do not need to register or pay UNLESS they have been notified that they are NOT receiving a scholarship.

* **General Conference Scholarships**

General Conference Scholarships support conference attendance for those who would otherwise be unable to attend. Applications will be available on the ASA website beginning **December 2, 2024** and are due by **February 10, 2025**.

Notifications of award decisions will go out on **February 19, 2025**.

See the application guidelines on the ASA website for more information.

The general scholarship covers conference registration and includes 2025 membership.

* **BIPOC Conference Scholarships**

The Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) is seeking applications from individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) for a scholarship program intended to support BIPOC participation in the ASA. Applications will be available on the ASA website beginning **December 2, 2024,** and are due by **February 10, 2025**.

Notifications of award decisions will go out **February 19, 2025**.

See the application guidelines on the ASA website for more information.

BIPOC scholarships cover conference registration and include 2025 membership.

# **ONE-DAY K-12 TEACHER RATE**

The steering committee has approved a one-day conference rate of $50 for K-12 teachers.

Membership in the ASA is not included in the one-day rate but may be added. K-12 teachers who choose the one-day rate and later decide to attend the full conference may upgrade from the $50 daily rate to the full registration rate (membership included) by paying the difference of $125 at the Registration Desk.

Please email [asa@marshall.edu](mailto:asa@marshall.edu) to request the K-12 teacher registration. You may mail the completed form with payment to Appalachian Studies Association, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755.

If mailing, please do so no later than **February 26, 2025,** and call to pay with a credit card. You may also pay on-site at the registration desk during the conference.

# **TEACHER CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATION**

Pre-K-12 teachers participating in the conference can have their attendance documented for possible professional development units. Teachers will need to obtain an attendance sheet from the Registration Desk, identify the convener or host in each session they attend, and have them sign the sheet. At the conclusion of the conference, teachers must submit their attendance sheet to the Registration Desk and after all hours are tallied, they will be able to obtain a signed Appalachian Studies Association certificate, verifying their attendance and the number of participation hours. It is the responsibility of the teachers to confirm with their respective school districts that their conference participation will count toward professional development units.

# **FINAL PROGRAM**

Access to the final program will be emailed to all registered attendees at least several days prior to the beginning of the conference, and access will be provided to those who register on-site at the conference.

The final version of the program will be in a printable, digital format only. It will be provided in a reduced file size, searchable PDF format via a website link provided to those who register for the conference.

The schedule of sessions will be included in the digital final program. In addition, we will be selling a printed copy of the schedule of sessions for $5.00. These copies will be front and back and will contain only the schedule of sessions and no other information from the final program. To order a copy, call the ASA office at (304) 696-2904 by **February 28, 2025.**

We accept credit card payments over the phone. We will have a very limited number of printed schedule of sessions available for sale at the Registration Desk, and they will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. We can accept cash, check and credit cards at the Registration Desk.

# **RECORDING NOTICE**

ASA reserves the right to record and use images of those attending our conferences. If you do not wish to be photographed or recorded, please let the photographer and/or Registration Desk know.

# **CONFERENCE LOGO SHIRTS**

They’re here! Get your order in today for the amazing “Rural Reimagined” shirts from **Mountain Mindful** for the annual Appalachian Studies Conference. Conference shirts are available for preorder until February 21, 2025, and are only available through the presale. Shirts will not be sold at the conference.

Order at this [link](https://mountainmindful.com/collections/asa).

* Tee Shirts $16.00
* Long Sleeve Shirts $21.00
* Hoodies $26.00

The conference logo was designed by Otis Smyth. Learn more [here](https://www.appalachianstudies.org/2025-conference-logo).

# **CALL FOR HOWARD DORGAN SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOLUNTEERS**

CONTRIBUTE ITEMS TO THE SILENT AUCTION! SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR THOSE WHO OTHERWISE COULD NOT ATTEND!

We are currently seeking contributions for the Howard Dorgan Silent Auction for the 2025

Appalachian Studies Conference. The silent auction welcomes Appalachia-focused swag and experiences including books, clothing, food, music and craft bundles. Please start brainstorming now!

To help us promote the 2025 Howard Dorgan Silent Auction, please send photos and descriptions of your items using this [FORM](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVf4m01E9a1-uYVCxjFuxyhP3-Si29WTGCT9v_4QsL0uxAnA/viewform).

The more money we raise, the more Appalachian studies scholars we support! In the late 1990s, Howard Dorgan created the silent auction to raise funds to support student and community participation in the Appalachian Studies Association—particularly at the conference. All proceeds fund scholarships for people who could not otherwise attend the Appalachian Studies Conference.

By contributing to the silent auction—and later placing a bid for items—you are building on Howard’s legacy and supporting a more diverse and more robust Appalachian Studies Association.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the silent auction, please contact Jeff Dey

([jeffd134@aol.com](mailto:jeffd134@aol.com)) or Dee Parker ([darryl.parker32@gmail.com](mailto:darryl.parker32@gmail.com)).

Please pledge your contribution by

**February 26**

**FUNDRAISING GOAL: $6,000**

# **TECHNOLOGY**

## Technology for Presenters

We recommend presenters have a copy of their materials on a USB flash drive, as well as a copy they can retrieve from the cloud (email, Google Drive, etc.). Student workers will be present in each session room to sign in for each presentation and will be available to assist presenters.

Most rooms are equipped with HDMI connections to overhead projectors for presentations, if you prefer to bring your own device. If you do plan on bringing your own device, we encourage you to bring your own cable as well. Adapters for connections other than HDMI will not be provided; please bring your own if necessary.

## Wi-Fi Access

Campus visitors and guests can access the internet via the TTU-Guest Wi-Fi wireless network. The use of TTU-Guest is only intended for visitors and guests, with access set to expire 24 hours after registration. Guests will click on the Wi-Fi icon in the bottom right portion of their screen and select TTU guest. After clicking on Connect, you will be directed to a login page. On this page you will provide your first and last name and an email address to connect to the guest network. After providing that information, click on the button that says Register Now and you will be connected to the Guest Wireless on campus.

## Printing and Photocopying

The Volpe Library will be open Thursday and Friday, March 20 – 21 from 8:00 am-4:30 pm if printing is needed. The library will be closed Saturday, March 22.

## Social Media

Hashtags:

o #RuralReimagined

o #TNTech

o #appstudies2025

o #appalachianstudies

o #appalachia

o #appalachian

o #appstudies

o #asa

o #Asainaction

o #asaawards

Accounts:

***ASA***

* [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/appalachstudies)
* [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/appalachstudies/?hl=en)
* [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/appalachian-studies-association/)
* [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUl6g8CztyMYttBcXNoR9sw)

***Tennessee Tech***

* [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/tntechuniversity)
* [Instagram](http://www.instagram.com/tntechuniversity)
* [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/school/tennessee-technological-university/)
* [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/tntechuniversity)

# **ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION**

The Appalachian Studies Association strives to ensure that all events are accessible to all participants and that participation be in a meaningful and comfortable manner for all.

## Individuals with Disabilities

All buildings on Tennessee Tech campus are accessible. The ramps are either in the front, rear or the side of the building.

RUC (main building for registration, exhibits, silent auction and posters): accessible from either the side or the basement.

For the session buildings, the accessibility ramps are as follows:

* Henderson Hall: located in the back of the building,
* TJ Farr Hall: located in the front of the building,
* Bartoo Hall: located on the South side of the building.

## Gender Inclusive Restrooms

There are several gender inclusive restrooms located around campus, including one in Henderson Hall (session building). It is on the 2nd floor, room 203. Another is in Southwest Hall 153. Other restrooms will be labeled if they are gender inclusive.

## Sober-Friendly Events

All events that occur on campus are sober-friendly.

## Areas of Loud Music, Crowds and High Traffic

* Exhibit Hall, Registration, Silent Auction

*RUC Multipurpose Room*

* Posters, Breaks

*RUC 1st & 2nd Floor Lobbies, Bryan Fine Arts*

* Publishers’ Reception and Newcomers’ Reception

*Tech Pride Room*

* Rachel Rodriguez Performance

*Wattenbarger Auditorium*

*TJ Farr Building (FARR)*

* Music Event (The Bilbreys)

*Putnam County Library*

* Memorial Gym Memories Community Event

*Memorial Gym*

* Conference Opening, Awards Ceremonies, & In Memoriam; Keynote; and Plenaries

*Stonecipher Lecture Hall (SCL):* 113 & 126

## Infants and Children at the Conference

Lactation rooms are available on campus.

* Southwest Hall, Room 134
* Henderson Hall, Room 101

## First-Time Attendees

First-time attendees are invited to wear ribbons, which are available at registration. Everyone is encouraged to seek out our new members to make them feel welcome. Please join us in welcoming our newcomers at the Publishers’ Reception and Book Signing and the Newcomers Reception on Saturday, March 22, 5:00 pm-6:30 pm. Both are in the Roaden University Center, Tech Pride Room.

## Pronoun Stickers

There are pronoun stickers available at registration. ASA would like to thank Sylva Pride for their generous donation of stickers.

## Childcare Grant Program

Creating an inclusive conference is a priority of the Appalachian Studies Association. While all are welcome to attend the conference, we understand the financial burden of seeking child and/or dependent care during conference events. With this grant program, we hope to offset the cost of the conference for those with dependents. Learn more [here](https://www.appalachianstudies.org/_files/ugd/768291_44cc03ef7df84852b52ee27383d04483.pdf).

# **EXHIBITORS, VENDORS AND GROUPS**

Exhibitors, vendors and groups are invited to exhibit in the ASA exhibition area, located in the ***Roaden University Center, Multipurpose Room.***

Contact Ann E. Bryant ([mullins88@marshall.edu)](mailto:mullins88@marshall.edu)) for further information, and to see if space is still available.

***Set up:***

* Thursday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
* Friday, 7:00 am-9:00 am

***Take down:***

* Sunday, 8:00 am-Noon

The exhibit area will be open to the public at the following times.

* Thursday, 2:00 pm-5:30 pm
* Friday, 8:00 am-5:30 pm
* Saturday, from 8:00 am-5:30 pm

***Directions for Vendors:***

We will be sending an email with additional information and any changes soon.

# **WHERE EVERYTHING HAPPENS ON CAMPUS**

*Roaden University Center (RUC):*

Editor Showcase, Multipurpose Room

Exhibit Area, Multipurpose Room

Exhibitor Break Room, RUC 246

Friday Morning Snack Break, RUC Upstairs Lobby

LGBTQ Caucus Gathering Space, Women’s Center, RUC 339 (Friday and Saturday, 8:00-5:30)

Posters, 1st & 2nd Floor Lobbies

Poster Session, First and Second Floor Lobbies

Publishers’ Reception and Book Signing, Tech Pride Room

Newcomers Reception, Tech Pride Room

Quiet Room, RUC 371

Registration, Multipurpose Room

Saturday Afternoon Snack Break, RUC Upstairs Lobby

Shuttle Bus Meet-up, RUC, Dixie Ave. Entrance

Silent Auction, Multipurpose Room

Volunteer Break Room, RUC 371

Y’ALL Gathering Space, Women’s Center, RUC 339 (Friday and Saturday, 8:00-5:30)

Y’ALL Workshop, RUC Tech Pride Room

*Backdoor Playhouse:*

Author Showcase

*Bartoo Hall (BART):*

Concurrent Sessions

Education Committee Sponsored Workshop, Bart 307

*Bryan Fine Arts Building (BFA):*

Friday Afternoon Snack Break, Lobby

Rachel Rodriguez Performance, Wattenbarger Auditorium

Saturday Morning Snack Break, Lobby

Mystic Wind Choctaw Social Dancers Performance, Wattenbarger Auditorium

*Henderson Hall* (*HEND):*

Concurrent Sessions

Camp Happy Appalachee (CHA), Room 204B

Gender Inclusive Restroom, 2nd Floor, Room 203

Lactation Room, Room 101

*Laboratory Science Commons*

Business Meeting, Room 1205

*Memorial Gym (MGYM):*

Memorial Gym Memories Community Event

*Prescott Hall (PRSC):*

Water Center Open House

*Southwest Hall:*

Lactation Room, Room 134

Gender Inclusive Restroom, Room 153

*Stonecipher Lecture Hall (SCL):*

Conference Opening, Awards Ceremonies, and In Memoriam 113 & 126

Opening Reception, Lobby

Keynote, 113 & 126

Plenary 1, 113 & 126

Plenary 2, 113 & 126

*TJ Farr Building (FARR):*

Concurrent Sessions

Featured Panel: Latino Influence on Country Music

*Volpe Library:*

iMakerSpace Open House, 3rd Floor

Printing and Copying

# **POSTER SESSIONS**

Please bring your poster on a trifold poster board. Tables will be provided to display your trifold poster.

Posters will be displayed throughout the conference in the first and second floor lobbies of the Roaden University Center (RUC). Presenters will be able to share their research during the poster session on Friday, March 21, from 3:00 pm-4:15 pm, 1st & 2nd Floor Lobbies. Please be available.

# **CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

## Thursday Highlights

**DeRossett Railroad Section House Tour/Mines**

A group site visit to the historical DeRossett Railroad Section House and the nearby company coal mining towns of Bon Air and Ravenscroft. Each person wishing to participate in this excursion should fill out this [RSVP Form](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FF78zRtaiW7CBmWdV6&data=05%7C02%7Cmthomas%40marshall.edu%7Cde00dc11d33048babde608dd415762c9%7C239ab2783bba4c78b41d8508a541e025%7C0%7C0%7C638738565801588965%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TQzPKDMEbX8IFJh1RYYhX26R8EziuhJuWcukP3IAgBk%3D&reserved=0) by March 13, 2025.

***Thursday, March 20, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, meet shuttle bus at RUC, Dixie Avenue Entrance***

**Burgess Falls Guided Hike**

A guided hiking tour of Burgess Falls, focusing on the geology and civic significance of this 130-foot cascade waterfall. Hike will be led by professors Michael Harrison, Jeannette Luna, and Dan Combs of Tennessee Tech.

Each person wishing to participate in this excursion should fill out this [RSVP Form](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FF78zRtaiW7CBmWdV6&data=05%7C02%7Cmthomas%40marshall.edu%7Cde00dc11d33048babde608dd415762c9%7C239ab2783bba4c78b41d8508a541e025%7C0%7C0%7C638738565801588965%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TQzPKDMEbX8IFJh1RYYhX26R8EziuhJuWcukP3IAgBk%3D&reserved=0) by March 13, 2025.

***Thursday, March 20, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm;*** ***meet shuttle bus at RUC, Dixie Avenue Entrance***

**Opening Reception**

***Thursday, March 20, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm; Stonecipher Lobby***

**Conference Opening Ceremonies, Awards,** **and In Memoriam**

The Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) conference will officially begin with an opening ceremony. Welcome and opening remarks will be given by Travis Rountree, president of ASA, followed by Daren Snider, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on behalf of Tennessee Tech University, Sabrina Buer, co-director of the Tennessee AIM Indian Territory chapter and Lead Woman of the Thunderbolt Warriors on behalf of the Tennessee AIM Indian Territory chapter and Mayor Laurin Wheaton on behalf of the City of Cookeville

Immediately following the opening ceremony, Beth Nardella, chairperson of the ASA Awards Committee will open the Awards and the In Memoriam ceremony. Torli Bush will serve as the emcee. Doug Van Gundy will be playing music during the In Memoriam section of the ceremony.

***Thursday, March 20, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm, Stonecipher 113 & 126***

**Author Showcase**

Our Program Committee invites poets and prose writers in our community to perform their work on stage in a special Author Showcase, to be held at Tech’s Backdoor Playhouse on Thursday evening. The Author Showcase will be hosted by poet Andrew Smith (Sunfrog). Please fill out [this form](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FskMeNsvqHZDAQPnb8&data=05%7C02%7Cmthomas%40marshall.edu%7Cde00dc11d33048babde608dd415762c9%7C239ab2783bba4c78b41d8508a541e025%7C0%7C0%7C638738565801614076%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bVTTgtpX1cLpAEboiyxOOsDzNqLFrtq1ClO%2BIC8TxKw%3D&reserved=0) by March 13, 2025, to participate.

***Thursday, March 20, 8:00 pm-10:00 pm, Backdoor Playhouse***

## Friday Highlights

**Tennessee Tech Water Center Open House**

The mission of the Center for the Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources (Water Center) is to support state and federal agencies, communities and industry in solving water quality, biodiversity and water security problems and advancing scientific understanding of all aspects of water science and engineering through basic and applied research. The Center supports faculty research, training and mentoring of future water professionals, and serves the citizens of the state of Tennessee. Members are invited to tour the Water Center and meet with the lab manager. The Water Center lab is in Prescott Hall.

***Friday, March 21, 9:30 am-10:45 am, Prescott Hall 426***

**Plenary 1**

Zanice Bond, Kristine Yohe, and Frank X Walker

“Teaching Affrilachia: Cultivating Community and Culture”

A discussion about teaching Affrilachian poetry

***Friday, March 21, 11:00 am-12:15 pm, Stonecipher 113 & 126***

**Y’ALL Workshop**

The Y’ALL Committee of the Appalachian Studies Association dedicates its work to Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners. Please join the Y’ALL workshop *STEM Education in Appalachia: Perspectives from Y’ALL members* at the 48th Annual ASA conference.

The purpose of this workshop is to promote awareness of Appalachian history and STEM education in the Appalachian region. At the workshop, video clips about undergraduates’ perspectives on STEM education will be presented to the audience, followed by a brief discussion.

Additionally, the Fundamentals of Engineering Program (FEP) team at WVU and FIRST2 Network will share their work on STEM education. Funding opportunities for first-generation and other underrepresented undergraduates will also be released.

If you have questions regarding the workshop or would like to participate, please feel free to email Mo, WenJuan (Helen) at [wm0018@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:wm0018@mix.wvu.edu).

***Friday, March 21, 11:00 am-12:15 pm, RUC Tech Pride Room***

**Camp Happy Appalachee (CHA)**

***Friday, March 21, 12:15 pm-1:30 pm, Henderson, 304B***

**Featured Panel**

**“Latino Influence on Country Music”**

***Friday, March 21, 1:00 pm-2:15 pm, FARR 309***

**Education Committee Sponsored Workshop**

Bryan Pierce

"Teaching African American Music History in High School and Postsecondary Classrooms across Appalachia"

***Friday, March 21, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, BART 307***

**Rachel Rodriguez Performance**

***Friday, March 21, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Wattenbarger Auditorium***

**Keynote**

John Gaventa

“Rural Appalachia in Global Context: Reimagining a Just and Sustainable Future”

***Friday, March 21, 6:30 pm-7:45 pm, Stonecipher 113 & 126***

**The Bilbreys Performance**

The Bilbreys, a local family Bluegrass group, has been performing around Middle Tennessee for about 45 years. They incorporate different styles of music in their shows, from Bluegrass/Bluegrass Gospel to Country/Western to original songs and instrumentals.

***Friday, March 21, 8:00 pm-10:00 pm, Putnam County Library (offsite)***

**Editor Showcase**

Literary journals based in Appalachia (whether staff is in attendance or not) are invited to submit display copies of their magazine or journal for attendees to browse in an editor’s showcase, a display of journals in our Exhibition Hall.  Please fill out [this form](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FeJALv7N4XqbsE1QEA&data=05%7C02%7Cmthomas%40marshall.edu%7Cde00dc11d33048babde608dd415762c9%7C239ab2783bba4c78b41d8508a541e025%7C0%7C0%7C638738565801629505%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OECv3xc9gb%2FSp1ZHaenxhX500%2BSUhJHZY10hg59oBVE%3D&reserved=0) by March 13, 2025, to participate.

***Friday – Saturday, 8:00 am-5:30 pm, RUC Multipurpose Room***

## Saturday Highlights

**iMakerSpace Open House**

Located on Volpe Library’s third floor, the iMakerSpace is a university-wide, student-centered space under the leadership of Tennessee Tech’s Colleges of Engineering and Business. The space features seven FFF 3D printers, two SLA 3D printers, four desktop design computers, instruction station with laptop hook-up, electronics and soldering station, CNC machine, mill, lathe, drill press, table saw, hand drill, Dremel tool, and various hand tools. Members are invited to meet team members and participate in innovative learning activities and demos.

***Saturday, March 22, 9:30 am-10:45 am, Volpe Library, 3rd Floor***

**Mystic Wind Choctaw Social Dancers**

***Saturday, March 22, 10:00 am-11:30 am, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Wattenbarger Auditorium***

**Plenary 2**

Neema Avashia and Ann Pancake

“We're All We've Got: Fighting for Appalachia When Institutions Fail Us”

A conversation between Neema Avashia and Ann Pancake, who have produced major literary works advocating for the region

***Saturday, March 22, 1:00 pm-2:15 pm, Stonecipher 113 & 126***

**Appalachian Center for Craft Tour**

Tour includes a gallery visit and studio demonstration at the Appalachian Center for Craft. Each person wishing to participate in this excursion should fill out this [RSVP Form](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FF78zRtaiW7CBmWdV6&data=05%7C02%7Cmthomas%40marshall.edu%7Cde00dc11d33048babde608dd415762c9%7C239ab2783bba4c78b41d8508a541e025%7C0%7C0%7C638738565801588965%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TQzPKDMEbX8IFJh1RYYhX26R8EziuhJuWcukP3IAgBk%3D&reserved=0) by March 13, 2025.

***Saturday, March 22, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm;* *meet shuttle bus at* *RUC, Dixie Ave. Entrance***

**Publishers’ Reception and Book Signing**

Sponsored by the University Press of Kentucky

Mingle, enjoy light refreshments and get your books signed. All conference attendees are welcome.

***Saturday, March 22, 5:00 pm-6:30 pm, RUC, Tech Pride Room***

**Newcomers Reception**

Steering committee members will be in attendance for a meet and greet. Visit the Publishers’ Reception and Book Signing while you are here. The Newcomers Reception will be ongoing at the same time and place as the Publishers’ Reception.

***Saturday, March 22, 5:00 pm-6:30 pm, RUC, Tech Pride Room***

**Memorial Gym Memories Community Event**

A special community event featuring oral and archival histories from concerts held at Tennessee Tech’s Memorial Gym, a former tour stop between Nashville and Knoxville for many country and rock musicians

***Saturday, March 22, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm, Memorial Gym***

**ASA MEETINGS**

*ASA Members Business Meeting*

Thursday, March 20, 2025, 3:00 pm-3:45 pm

Lab Science Commons, Room 1205

*Steering Committee Meeting*

Virtual: Date & Time TBA

*Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Meeting*

Friday, March 21, 2025, 7:00 am-8:00 am

Henderson 214

*Special Collections Meeting*

Friday, March 22, 2025, 7:00 am-8:00 am

Henderson 305

*International Connections Committee Meeting*

Friday, March 21, 2025, 7:00 am-8:00 am

Farr 305

*JAS* *Editorial Board Meeting*

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 7:00 am-8:00 am

Henderson 214

**OTHER MEETINGS**

*Appalachian Collegiate Research Meeting*

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 7:00 am-8:00 am

Farr 305

# ***JOURNAL OF APPALACHIAN STUDIES* SUBMISSIONS**

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* is a refereed, multi-disciplinary publication which seeks to provide a written forum for quality scholarship on Appalachian history, culture, and society. We are interested in articles based on original empirical research, including applied research, as well as literary criticism and reflections on conceptual, theoretical, and methodological issues in Appalachian studies. Given the journal’s broad readership, we encourage consideration of the wider implications of each study.

Submissions must be written in a style that can be understood by non-specialists. We will consider rigorous scholarship from scholars, teachers, activists, and others whose work focuses on the Appalachian region. The current editor invites scholarship which compares the Appalachian region to other regions in the world and places the region in a critical, global context. All submissions are

expected to demonstrate an understanding of relevant Appalachian studies literature.

Manuscripts must be submitted to our online submission and review portal. Please note that file submissions must adhere to the *JAS* author guidelines before being uploaded.

Information on submissions is available at this [LINK](https://www.appalachianstudies.org/jas-submissions).

# **CONFERENCE DIGITAL COLLECTION**

Conference participants are invited to submit their papers, presentations, videos, images, and posters to the ASA 2025 Conference Digital Collection hosted by Marshall Digital Scholar (MDS) by emailing content to Gretchen Beach, MDS Administrator, at: [beachgr@marshall.edu](mailto:beachgr@marshall.edu).

MDS serves to collect, preserve, and provide global access to scholarly and creative work.

Please contact Gretchen Beach for additional information.

# **SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS**

Visit this below links. for the Preliminary Schedule of Sessions. Please note, this is a draft schedule, and any requested or other changes will be in the Final Program. Registered attendees will receive access to the Final Program at least several days prior to the conference. On-site registrants will receive a link to the program after registering at the conference. For screen reader version scroll down on the conference page.

* [PDF](https://www.appalachianstudies.org/_files/ugd/768291_5de17a16b5a64fb682712c430ecacb55.pdf)
* [Screen Reader](https://www.appalachianstudies.org/2025-conference)

# **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Thursday, March 20, 2025** | | | |
| **10:00 AM** | **5:30 PM** | **Exhibit Hall & Silent Auction Set Up** | **RUC Multipurpose Room** |
| **10:00 AM** | **2:00 PM** | **Registration Set Up** | **RUC Multipurpose Room** |
| **10:00 AM** | **2:00 PM** | **DeRossett Railroad Section House Tour/Mines** | **Shuttle Bus,** **RUC, Dixie Ave. Entrance** |
| **1:00 PM** | **3:00 PM** | **Burgess Falls Guided Hike** | **Shuttle Bus, RUC, Dixie Ave. Entrance** |
| **2:00 PM** | **5:30 PM** | **Exhibit Hall and Registration Open** | **RUC Multipurpose Room** |
| **12:00 PM** | **6:00 PM** | **Poster Set Up** | **RUC 1st & 2nd Floor Lobbies** |
| **3:00 PM** | **3:45 PM** | **Business Meeting** | **Lab Science Commons Room 1205** |
| **4:00 PM** | **5:00 PM** | **Opening Reception** | **Stonecipher Lobby** |
| **5:00 PM** | **7:00 PM** | **Conference Opening Ceremonies, Awards, & In Memoriam** | **Stonecipher 113 & 126** |
| **8:00 PM** | **10:00 PM** | **Author Showcase: Hosted by poet Andrew Smith** | **Backdoor Playhouse** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Friday, March 21, 2025** | | | |
| **7:00 AM** | **9:00 AM** | **Exhibit Hall/Silent Auction Set Up continues...** | **RUC Multipurpose Room** |
| **7:00 AM** | **9:00 AM** | **Poster Set Up continues...** | **RUC 1st & 2nd Floor Lobbies** |
| **8:00 AM** | **5:30 PM** | **Registration/Exhibit Hall/Silent Auction Open** | **RUC Multipurpose Room** |
| **8:00 AM** | **5:30 PM** | **Posters Open** | **RUC 1st & 2nd Floor Lobbies** |
| **8:00 AM** | **9:15 AM** | **Concurrent Session 1** |  |
| **9:30 AM** | **10:45 AM** | **Concurrent Session 2** |  |
| **9:30 AM** | **10:45 AM** | **Water Center Open House** | **PRSC (Prescott Hall) 426** |
| **10:00 AM** | **11:00 AM** | **Morning Snack Break** | **RUC Upstairs Lobby** |
| **11:00 AM** | **12:15 PM** | **Plenary 1: “Teaching Affrilachia: Cultivating Community and Culture”** | **Stonecipher 113 & 126** |
| **11:00 AM** | **12:15 PM** | **Y'ALL Workshop** | **RUC Tech Pride Room** |
| **12:15 PM** | **1:30 PM** | **Lunch on Your Own** |  |
| **12:15 PM** | **1:30 PM** | **Camp Happy Appalachee** | **Henderson 204B** |
| **1:00 PM** | **2:15 PM** | **Featured Panel: Latino Influence on Country Music** | **FARR 309** |
| **1:00 PM** | **3:00 PM** | **Workshop: "Teaching African American Music History in High School and Postsecondary Classrooms across Appalachia"** | **BART 307** |
| **1:30 PM** | **2:45 PM** | **Concurrent Session 3** |  |
| **3:00 PM** | **4:15 PM** | **Concurrent Session 4 and Poster Session** | **Poster Session, 1st & 2nd Floor Lobbies** |
| **4:00 PM** | **5:00 PM** | **Afternoon Snack Break** | **Bryan Fine Arts Lobby** |
| **4:00 PM** | **5:00 PM** | **Rachel Rodriguez Performance** | **Bryan Fine Arts Wattenbarger Auditorium** |
| **4:30 PM** | **5:45 PM** | **Concurrent Session 5** |  |
| **6:30 PM** | **7:45 PM** | **Keynote Address: John Gaventa, “Rural Appalachia in Global Context”** | **Stonecipher 113 & 126** |
| **8:00 PM** | **10:00 PM** | **Music Event (The Bilbreys)** | **Putnam County Library** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Saturday, March 22, 2025** | | | |
| **8:00 AM** | **5:30 PM** | **Exhibit Hall/Registration/Silent Auction Open** | **RUC Multipurpose Room** |
| **8:00 AM** | **5:30 PM** | **Posters Open** | **RUC 1st & 2nd Floor Lobbies** |
| **8:00 AM** | **9:15 AM** | **Concurrent Session 6** |  |
| **9:30 AM** | **10:45 AM** | **Concurrent Session 7** |  |
| **9:30 AM** | **10:45 AM** | **iMakerSpace Open House** | **Volpe Library, 3rd Floor** |
| **10:00 AM** | **11:00 AM** | **Morning Snack Break** | **Bryan Fine Arts Lobby** |
| **10:00 AM** | **11:30 AM** | **Mystic Wind Choctaw Social Dancers** **Performance** | **Bryan Fine Arts Wattenbarger Auditorium** |
| **11:00 AM** | **12:15 PM** | **Concurrent Session 8** |  |
| **12:15 PM** | **1:30 PM** | **Lunch on Your Own** |  |
| **12:00 PM** | **12:00 PM** | **Close of Silent Auction, Auction Item Pick Up** | **RUC Multipurpose Room** |
| **1:00 PM** | **2:15 PM** | **Plenary 2: “We’re All We’ve Got: Fighting for Appalachia When Institutions Fail Us”** | **Stonecipher 113 & 126** |
| **2:30 PM** | **3:45 PM** | **Concurrent Session 9** |  |
| **3:30 PM** | **4:30 PM** | **Afternoon Snack Break** | **RUC Upstairs Lobby** |
| **4:00 PM** | **6:00 PM** | **Appalachian Center for Craft Tour** | **Shuttle Bus, RUC, Dixie Ave. Entrance** |
| **5:00 PM** | **6:30 PM** | **Publishers’ Reception and Book Signing** | **RUC: Tech Pride Room** |
| **5:00 PM** | **6:30 PM** | **Newcomers Reception (Adjacent to Publishers’ Reception)** | **RUC: Tech Pride Room** |
| **7:00 PM** | **8:30 PM** | **Memorial Gym Memories Community Event** | **Memorial Gym** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday, March 23, 2025** | | | |
| **8:00 AM** | **12:00 PM** | **Take down Exhibit Hall and Registration** | **RUC Multipurpose Room** |

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