

APPALINK

Appalachian Studies Association Newsletter





IN THIS ISSUE

02

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 03

MISSION STATEMENT 04

PRELIMINARY CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

05

NEWS

11

COMMITTEE REPORTS

22

OFFICER & STEERING
COMMITTEE
ELECTIONS

27

BALLOT LINK

28

SEE YOU SOON!

29

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

30
FOLLOW ASA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

President's Message

Travis A. Rountree

Dear ASA Members,

As wildfires rage out in California and Western North Carolina still recovers from Hurricane Helene, I think about how much our environment has a hold on us. I'm at my desk and looking out at the snow-covered hills. It's my favorite time of year, but I recognize the impact that this weather has on those who lost their homes in Asheville and other areas. I encourage all of us to not only reflect on the impact of where we are, but to find different ways to help whether that's with our own hands or our wallets.



We can always do something to help holler to holler and coast to coast. I challenge each of us to do at least one small act to helping our neighbors either here in the mountains or out west in the hills.

This year has been challenging with the hurricane, political turmoil, among other factors. I believe we, as a region, are still persevering. As I step down as President, I'm grateful for those who have helped ASA grow into an organization that celebrates the diversity and distinctness of the region. I'm happy to see us continue to offer scholarships for BIPOC communities. I'm thrilled to see us make new financial decisions that will sustain us in the future such as the institutional memberships. Those memberships are critical in maintaining financial security for our association. I know I'll be leaving the presidency in good hands with whomever steps up to this new opportunity. I'll be around the next couple of years as the past president, but just wanted to acknowledge my gratitude towards Mary, Ann, the rest of the Steering Committee, and our members for these wonderful past few years. I'd like to also offer my gratitude to the team at Tennessee Tech, Erin Hoover, Monic Ductan, and Colleen Mestayer for all their hard work in organizing our next conference. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Safe travels out there!

Sincerely, Travis A. Rountree President, Appalachian Studies Association

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.



Marshall University | March 19 - 21, 2026

"Power of a Place, Power of Its People"

Marshall University welcomes submissions to the 49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference, to be held in Huntington, West Virginia, an urban centerpiece in the heart of Appalachia. The Tri-State Area, where three states, three major rivers, and one of the most significant dividing lines in U.S. history converge, provides a welcoming, unique environment for sharing and learning.

The conference runs from March 19 through March 21, 2026.

The 49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference takes as its theme "Power of a Place, Power of Its People" and encourages submissions that elevate, celebrate, and interrogate the strength and diversity that give life to our region. United by the commonalities of resistance, perseverance, and pride, we invite work that elaborates and extends these themes through art, performance, research, policy/analysis, and advocacy. Although separated in geologic space by our region-defining mountains and rivers, and in political space by state borders and bureaucratic subdivisions, the Appalachian region has long served as a symbol of an alternative to the nation's norms, the "best" and the "worst" of the American experience, and of endurance in the face of economic, political, and natural struggles.

For this gathering, we place a special emphasis on regionally significant strategies for confronting and countering issues of exploitation, prejudice, and oppression (broadly defined) relative to Appalachia. We realize, and desire, that submissions will take many different approaches to these concerns: community-based documentation, critical media-analysis, performance, literature, humanities-oriented scholarship, sociological perspectives, theological contemplation, visual art, pedagogy, etc. We seek work that focuses on the people of the region—collectively, diversely, and/or individually—that defines the simultaneously persistent and everevolving character of Appalachia.

For further information, please contact:

Cicero Fain

Conference Chair:

fainc@marshall.edu

Paul Robertson

Program Co-chair:

robertsonp@marshall.edu

MARSHALL

Marianna Linz

Program Co-chair:

linz@marshall.edu













Remembering Tammy Clemons



The Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) community mourns the loss of Dr. Tammy "Tambone" Clemons. Tammy was a fierce intellect and an unwavering advocate for social justice. A long-time member of the ASA, she shaped the organization and made essential contributions to our Association during her too-brief life and career.

A mentor to countless students and peers, Tammy leaves a legacy as a champion of curiosity and discovery. While her achievements are many, perhaps her greatest legacy was the establishment, along with her wife Timi Reedy, of <u>Camp Happy Appalachee</u> in 2011. This LGBTQ gathering space at the annual conference has provided a welcoming space for countless organization members and served as a predecessor to the inclusive efforts of the organization today. She brought attention to a too often overlooked group in our Appalachian Community. Tammy's intellectual and academic contributions to ASA were and continue to be significant. She studied and worked at two prominent institutions in Appalachian Studies – Berea College, where she graduated in 1999 as Berea's first women's studies major, and the University of Kentucky, where she earned an MA and PhD in Anthropology studying with Ann Kingsolver. Driven by intellectual curiosity, she also earned a Master of Divinity Studies from Harvard University, in 2001.

Wherever she found herself, Tammy brought her interests in feminism, ecofeminism, community, youth, activism, oral history, media, and art. These became common themes throughout her presentations at the ASA conference in a variety of ways over the years. She was a founding and ongoing member of the yearly roundtables on feminism in Appalachia. As recently as mid-December, she was contributing as co-editor in a forthcoming themed issue of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* on "Women, Gender, and Feminism in Appalachia: Intersecting and Emerging Scholarship." Tammy lived her values, residing in an "off-the-grid" dome home she and Timi built themselves in rural Eastern Kentucky. She showed up in countless ways for the issues, people, and land she believed in and cared so much about. Beyond the traditional academic institutions in Appalachia, she co-moderated the Appalnet listserv and was involved with many venerated organizations in the region, such as The High Rocks Educational Corporation, Appalachian Media Institute, and the Waymakers Collective.

We will remember and miss her energy and presence in ASA. We will celebrate her legacy and keep that legacy alive through activities such as Camp Happy Appalachee. Seeing her at the annual conference was always a joy because she shared her passion, curiosity, and kindness sincerely with others in the community. While it is heartbreaking to know we won't see Tambone or her joyful smile there this March, we know she will be with us in spirit. The legacy she built in her work and life will live on in the knowledge she shared and her impact on individuals and the ASA community.

48th Annual Conference Events

JOIN US FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY!
THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH
STONECIPHER, ROOM 113 AND 126
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

John Gaventa

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

Friday, 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Stonecipher, Room 113 & 126



PLENARY 1

Zanice Bond, Kristine Yohe, and Frank X Walker

Teaching Affrilachia: Cultivating Community and Culture

Friday, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Stonecipher, Room 113 & 126









Neema Avashia and Ann Pancake

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

Saturday, 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM Stonecipher, Room 113 &126





48th Annual Conference Events

COUNTRY MUSIC CONCERT

The Bilbreys

Friday, 8:00PM-10:00PM First Presbyterian Church 20 N. Dixie Ave, Cookeville, TN 38501



FEATURED PANEL

Latino Influence on Country Music

Friday, 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM TJ FARR Building, Room 309



MUSIC

Rachel Rodriguez Performance

Friday, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Bryan Fine Arts Wattenbarger Auditorium



DANCE

Mystic Wind Choctaw Social Dancers

Saturday, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Bryan Fine Arts Wattenbarger Auditorium



COMMUNITY EVENT James Akenson, Megan Atkinson, Dan Ealey, and Randal D. Williams Memorial Gym Memories

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Memorial Gym



48th Annual Conference Events

DeRossett Railroad Section House Tour/Mines

TOUR

Thursday, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM meet shuttle bus at RUC, Dixie Avenue Entrance

A group site visit to the historical DeRossett Railroad Section House and the company coal mining towns of Bon Air and Ravenscroft. Boxed lunch will be provided. Maximum 15 attendees. First come, first served. Sponsored by Bon Air Historical Society.



Burgess Falls Guided Hike

EXCURSION

Thursday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM meet shuttle bus at RUC, Dixie Avenue Entrance

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.



OPEN HOUSE EVENTS **Prescott Hall**Water Center Open House

Volpe Library
iMakerSpace Open House





JOURNAL OF APPALACHIAN STUDIES



The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* (*JAS*) is a refereed, multidisciplinary publication that seeks to provide a written forum for quality scholarship on Appalachian history, culture, and society. The official journal of the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA), the *JAS* is published twice per year by the University of Illinois Press for the ASA with support from Marshall University.

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* invites authors to submit their work in the field to the journal, and *JAS* always needs reviewers. If you are interested in being a reviewer for the journal, please contact Meredith McCarroll at meredith.mccarroll@gmail.com.



Communications

Communications Committee Members: Krystal Carter, Yndiana Montes-Fogelquist, Kendra Winchester, and Jordan Lovejoy, chair.

The Communications Committee continues to work to expand ASA's reach on social media and grow our online networks as they help us share the work of our larger Appalachian studies community. We encourage anyone who may be interested in serving on the Communications Committee, especially emerging folks who might like to become more involved with ASA, to reach out and express your interest to Communications Committee Chair and <u>Appalink</u> editor, Jordan Lovejoy at <u>jlovejoy@unc.edu</u>.

We encourage all conference attendees to share your ASA thoughts and images by including our official conference hashtags on your social media posts: #RuralReimagined #AppStudies2025 #TNTech #AppalachianStudies #Appalachia #Appalachian #AppStudies #ASA #ASAinAction #ASAawards



Silent Auction

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS We are still seeking donations for the silent auction!

Join us at the annual Silent Auction—a celebration of community generosity and a chance to empower students and local leaders to attend ASA conferences through scholarship support.

Our Legacy:

Since Howard Dorgan launched this event in the late 1990s, your contributions have fueled opportunities and inspired change.

How It Works:

Check in your donations early to ignite lively bidding wars. Donations may be taken to the RUC Multipurpose Room beginning at 10:00 am on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

The auction runs on:

Friday, March 21, 2025: 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM Saturday, March 22, 2025: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Bidding concludes at noon on Saturday. Winning bidders must be present with cash or checks.

Please pick up your items by 6:15 PM on Saturday.

Be part of this impactful event. Your support helps shape the future by making educational opportunities possible. We look forward to seeing you there!



Committee Report

Treasurer/Finance

Update from the Treasurer of the Association: Farewell for Now

Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW Treasurer of the Appalachian Studies Association

After 5 years as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, the time has come for me to turn over the ledger to someone new. The membership will have most likely elected a new Treasurer by the time you read this, and I look forward to working with them over the transition.

I will get the important part out of the way now: The Association is well-positioned entering our upcoming conference. We continue, however, to be revenue-dependent on the conference for the overall health and well-being of the Association. As COVID-19 demonstrated, it is a tenuous relationship at best. And, while COVID-19 may seem like a lifetime ago for many, it is only in the last year and a half that we as an Association turned the corner and overcame the financial concerns it created.

As I reflect on this column, I want to share with you some of the significant achievements of the last five years related to the Association's financial health. We were able to:

- Overcome the financial barriers of the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain the Association, its programming, and its staff while also building policies and procedures to address future disruptions.
- Advance the Endowment Policy of the Association, including developing an Annual Report on the Endowment.
- Transfer the Endowment from a non-interest-bearing account to an interest-bearing account based at a foundation.
- Receive matching funds for donations to the account in two of the last three years, increasing the total amount of the Endowment.

Committee Report

Treasurer/Finance (con't)

- Tie the increase of conference registration and sponsorship to the consumer price index, creating a process of reviewing conference pricing every three years, ensuring that the conference remains viable.
- Work to ensure our staff continued to receive a living wage by taking advantage of increases available through the Marshall Research Corp.
- Monitor the changing landscape of sponsorships, scholarships, and donations to ensure we remain compliant as an Association.
- Identify processes and procedures to reduce administration burden, including contracting with service providers to support nonprofit registration throughout the United States and expand where we can accept donations.
- Developed new sponsorship and membership categories to increase the engagement of membership and those engaged in Appalachian studies and the Appalachian Region.
- Launched new sponsorship campaigns targeting non-traditional partnerships.
- Piloted an independent Development Committee focused on identifying new resources for the Association.

As a member of the Executive Committee, I participated in countless other decisions that aimed to advance the Association, including work around our strategic plan and the journal's continued growth.

Of course, we could not accomplish everything I'd have liked. As an Association and its members, ensuring the Association can exist outside the conference in the next fifty years will be critical. This requires the identification of new revenue sources. If the Association is to grow, it is necessary to identify new funding sources to support these programs. I know there remain processes that require updating and revising –which the Steering Committee will address.

Treasurer/Finance (con't)

On a personal level, I want to thank Mary Thomas and Ann Bryant for their support in this role. I also want to thank Travis Rountree for his previous service as Treasurer and for making the transition into this role so seamless for me. Finally, while there are many people, I want to thank Ann Kingsolver and Shaunna Scott for first getting me involved in the Appalachian Studies Association.

I will end this update with the same message I often end these columns with, and that is a call for your feedback. We can maintain the status quo – but that will not allow the Association to grow. I know the Steering Committee welcomes your ideas and suggestions as we continue to identify new revenue sources for the Association and advance our collective work.



Special Collections

Special Collections Committee Members: Emil Asanov, Savannah Bennett, Tim Binkley, Marc Brodsky, Greta Browning Anna Curvin, Jeff Dey, Katherine Everhart, Julie Fox-Horton, Liz Harper, Michael Hatch, Chad Hunter, Gene Hyde, Sarah Insalaco, Jacob Johnson, Emily Kader, Kimberly Larmee, Stewart Plein, Scott Sikes, Leo Shannon, Jeremy Smith, Jack Swab, Kopana Terry, Shane Terry, Jinny Turman, and Jed DeBruin, chair.

The Special Collections Committee (SCC) met for our Fall Meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 via Microsoft Teams. The major meeting items included:

- Updates and reminders re: charge of the SCC
- Discussion on how to support those impacted by hurricane-related flooding
- ASA Annual Meeting panel presentation on SCC work in outreach and assistance to cultural heritage institutions in disaster preparedness and recovery
- Preparing Disaster Preparedness Kits (available via the SCC homepage; more below)

The SCC is also pleased to announce that we are growing, and since the SU24 progress report, the following members have joined: Anna Curvin (Urban Appalachian Community Coalition), Michael Hatch (Southern Highland Craft Guild), Chad Hunter (Appalshop), Emily Kader (Appalachian State University), Leo Shannon (Appalshop), Jack Swab (University of Tennessee – Knoxville), and Shane Terry (Appalshop) Many thanks to Ann Bryant for sharing the call for new membership on social media and to the current SCC members for their tireless recruitment efforts!

The SCC's Winter Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 1 pm Eastern via Microsoft Teams. Please email Jed DeBruin (jdebruin@jsu.edu) if you are interested in attending this meeting and are not already a member of the SCC.

The SCC continues to work on several projects, and here are the updates on these projects:

Project 1: Disaster Preparedness Kits

 Savannah Bennett, Kimberley Larmee, and Kopana Terry have prepared several documents for helping cultural heritage institutions and individuals when it comes to responding to flooding and other disasters, as well as coordinating a contact tree for the SCC itself. Major kudos to these three and others involved in this process. Please see the kits/ materials on the <u>SCC homepage</u>.

Special Collections (con't)

Project 2: Clemons Award

 With the recent passing of Dr. Tammy "Tambone" Clemons, a long-time member of the ASA and who established – along with her wife, Timi Reedy, Camp Happy Appalachee in 2011 amongst her many other contributions. A working group is in the process of developing the Clemons Award to honor her life and work. The award would be offered through the ASA and facilitated by the ASA SCC, who would review nominations and select the winner. The goal is to have the award launched in time for the March 2025 ASA meeting; more details to come.

Project 3: The Appalachian Curator

- The most recent issue Volume 5, Issue 1 Spring/ Summer 2024 was published in Summer 2024. Please see https://libjournals.unca.edu/appalachiancurator/ to read this issue.
- Please send any requests for help with projects, updates on collections, or introductory information about new members to Gene Hyde (genehyde@gmail.com) for inclusion in the Curator. Especially with the project requests, provide as much information as you can including contact information, project specifics, project needs, and any other relevant information.
- Submissions are needed and welcome! Please direct any questions and ideas for new articles to editor Hyde (genehyde@gmail.com).

Project 4: Grouping together Appalachian collections at institutions across the region

 The Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University are working to group together Appalachian collections at institutions across the region. If you are interested in learning more about this process, please contact Jeremy Smith, who is the Director of the Archives of Appalachia (smithja14@etsu.edu).

Project 5: SCC Visibility and Outreach

- Jed DeBruin is working with Ann Bryant on creating a list of names and contact information for archivists working at institutions in Appalachia and/or working with Appalachian collections. Please send Jed (jdebruin@jsu.edu) your name, title, institution, and contact information if you would like to be included. The plan is to make this document available on the ASA home page.
- Please see the <u>SCC homepage</u> within ASA's organizational site to access the following resources:
 - o Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Resources for Individuals
 - Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Resources for Institutions
 - A selected list of Appalachian Libraries and Archives
 - A list of SCC committee members
 - A contact form to reach a SCC member about any inquiries

Committee Report

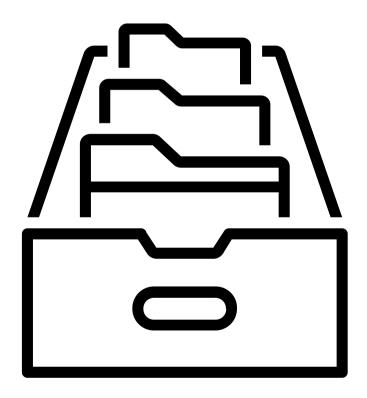
Special Collections (con't)

Project 6: Recruitment

• The SCC is always looking towards recruiting new members, especially students, early career researchers, and institutionally unaffiliated members. Please direct any interested parties to Jed DeBruin (jdebruin@jsu.edu).

Respectfully submitted by:

Jed DeBruin



Education

Education Committee Members: Kathryn Engle, Zachary Greene, Joy Gritton, Carly Pugh, Sylvia Shurbutt, Tim Thomas, Leah Vance-Berg, and Ted Olson, chair.

The Education Committee is working on the following five projects.

- 1. Given the limited institutional funding support for K-12 teachers to attend the Appalachian Studies Association Conference, the Committee has helped to arrange a reduced one-day ASA conference rate for K-12 teachers.
- 2. The Committee received numerous nominations for the Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching competition (held in two categories: K-12 and Postsecondary). The Fisher Award honors individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. The committee emphasizes that these awards are open to outstanding educators of any age who meet the criteria. Announcements of the winners in both Fisher Award categories will be made at the ASA Conference in March 2025
- 3. In December 2024, the Committee introduced a new award, approved by the Steering Committee: the Travis Stimeling Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies. The inaugural winner of the Stimeling Award will be announced at the ASA Conference in March 2025.
- 4. The Committee has organized and sponsored an education-themed workshop for the 2025 ASA Conference involving Dr. Bryan Pierce, Chief Curator of the National Museum of African American Music, to discuss "Teaching African American Music History in High School and Postsecondary Classrooms across Appalachia."
- 5. As the ASA revises and upgrades the website, the Education Committee intends to be involved in updating, enhancing, and promoting the teaching resources available on the website.

Committee Report

Education (con't)

The Education Committee would welcome and appreciate input from ASA members regarding the above projects.

Ted Olson ASA Education Committee Chair olson@etsu.edu



Officer & Steering Committee Elections

PRESIDENT NOMINATION



Sophia M. Enríquez

Sophia M. Enríquez (she/her/ella) works at the intersections of Latinx, Appalachian, and Southern music, migration, and regional culture. She is the Andrew W. Mellon Assistant Professor of Music at Duke University where she also teaches in the Program for Latino/a Studies in the Global South. Sophia earned her PhD in ethnomusicology at Ohio State University as well as graduate certificates in folklore and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies. Her monograph in progress, tentatively titled Canciones de Los Apalaches: Latinx Music, Migration, and Belonging in Appalachia is the first full-length study of Latinx creative practices in the Appalachian region and shows how longstanding narratives of Appalachia as a monolith have obscured the movement of Latinx people to and through the region over the past century.

Sophia is passionate about community-engaged scholarship and has worked on several public folklore projects across the Appalachian region and the South. She is also a practitioner of both Mexican and Appalachian folk music. Sophia performs with the Lua Project, a Mexican-Appalachian fusion band in Charlottesville, Virginia, and recently cofounded Son de Carolina, a Durham, NC-based collective dedicated to the study of the Mexican folk music tradition son jarocho.

TREASURER NOMINATION



Danielle Quales

Danielle first became involved in Appalachian studies over 15 years ago when she attended Appalachian State University and earned her master's in the field. She then furthered her studies in Folklore and American Studies at Indiana University, focusing her research on gravestones and remembrance practices in the Appalachian region. Danielle has attended and presented at multiple App Studies conferences over the years. She has also been involved in nonprofit work her whole life, currently serving as Treasurer and multi-event chairperson for her son's elementary school PTO in Cincinnati.

Y'ALL CHAIR NOMINATION

Molly Updegrove



Molly Updegrove is the Director of Outreach & Deputy Director of Programs for Relmagine Appalachia. Molly has a Master's in Social Work with a concentration in Community Organization and Social Action and years of experience implementing outreach and public policy plans as well as coordinating programs. Molly is a dedicated advocate for Appalachian issues and has spoken on a panel at the 2024 ASA conference and tabled at both the 2023 and 2024 conferences.

Y'ALL CHAIR NOMINATION



Emily Cobb

Emily Colleen Cobb is a doctoral student at Clemson University. With research interests rooted in community literacies and Appalachian storytelling on social media, she hopes to continue working with ASA to present research, work with other Appalachian scholars, and participate in advocacy work. With a deep love of homeplace, and rural Appalachia, Emily hopes to serve in ways that advocate and center the stories of those diverse communities. As a first-generation college student, Emily would like to work in an organizational capacity to support other rural, first-gen students in navigating collegiate and academic environments. As a first-time attendee to the ASA conference last year, Emily felt that she had found an academic "home" and looks forward to continuing to support the organization and conference through various levels of participation.

Cast your ballot for the 2025
ASA Officer Election at the
following link:



48th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

MARCH 20-22, 2025
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY
"RURAL REIMAGINED: A GRAND CHALLENGE
FOR APPALACHIA"

Conference Chair: Monic Ductan
Program Chair: Erin Hoover
Local Arrangements Chair: Colleen Mestayer



49th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

MARCH 19-21, 2026

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

HUNTINGTON, WV

POWER OF A PLACE, POWER

OF ITS PEOPLE



CONFERENCE CHAIR: CICERO FAIN
PROGRAM CO-CHAIR: PAUL ROBERTSON
PROGRAM CO-CHAIR: MARIANNA LINZ

















Appalink Statement

Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions, announcements, and news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the membership of ASA. Space is limited and all submissions are subject to editing. Paid advertisements will be considered for inclusion. Contact the managing editor, Mary K. Thomas at mthomas@marshall.edu for rates. Email submissions to Jordan Lovejoy at jlovejoy@unc.edu. Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1. Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

Editors: Jordan Lovejoy, Mary Kay Thomas, Ann Bryant, and Raithlyn Godfrey



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