

The Gravy Infusion

Stephenson Hall with the moon and Venus

Photograph by Christopher Miller

Artifacts Teaching Collection

Learning is at its best when it expands beyond the textbook and students are allowed to experience it using their five senses. That's why the Appalachian Center offers the Appalachian Artifacts Teaching Collection as a resource for classes and research across several disciplines including Sociology, Mathematics, and Technology and Applied Design. We bring historical artifacts and contemporary objects into classrooms for students to touch and interact with. We are also visited by national scholars doing research.

We have a vast collection dealing with topics ranging from stereotypes of mountain people, to coal camp life, to industrial, products, to the Cherokee experience in Appalachia. You can read more about our collection and the benefits to this style of teach in the Appalachian Curator's article [here](#).

Christopher Miller, the Curator here at the Appalachian Center, carefully designs course sessions to fit the topic of interest for each class. If you have questions about donating or would like to request a session email him at millerc@berea.edu



“The cultural heritage of the people living in the Appalachian area today is deeply grounded in the roots of the soil and the ingenuity of the people.”

~ Frazier B. Adams

Author of *Appalachia Revisited: How People Lived 50 Years Ago* (1970)



Appalachian Studies Association



The Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) Conference is an annual gathering of scholars, activists, and artists to celebrate Appalachia, share research, and connect with one another.

ASA was formed in 1977, and the Appalachian Center has played a key role in it since day one. From hosting the [Weatherford Awards](#), to student presentations, to providing financial support, we are committed to supporting this vital hub of knowledge and community. Over the course of the past five years we've had 37 faculty, staff, and students from Berea College present on topics ranging from "Being Gay in Appalachia" to "Food in Appalachia." [Here is a link](#) to a plenary presentation Silas House organized.

Attending the conference is a great opportunity, especially for Berea College students, to make meaningful connections and present before a wide audience. You can read for yourself the profound impact it's had on students by reading reflections from former students [Ciara Felty](#) and [Emily Masters](#).

This year's conference will take place on March 17-20 at West Virginia University. The theme is "Making, Creating, and Encoding: Crafting Possibilities in Appalachia." To learn more and see how to register, visit ASA's conference [website](#). While it's too late to submit proposals this year, we can work with you for next year.

And for our beloved Berea College students, faculty, and staff we'd like to extend a special invitation. We have funding to help with scholarships, transportation, and lodging. If you're interested in learning more email denth@bereda.edu.



Former Appalachian Writer in Residence Crystal Wilkinson during the 2016 Annual Conference.

Writing Prompt of the Month

What does being Appalachian mean to you? Compose a single word, a poem, or a personal essay, and share your writings with us by sending them to Heather, denth@bereda.edu for a chance to win a **free LJAC Appalachian Critter Mug!**

