

Appalachian Teaching Project 2012 Projects & Participants

(In Order of Presentation)

Crystal Gateway Marriott

Friday, November 30, 2012

8:45 am – INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Description: The 2012 ATP students met with the Coalition for a Healthy County (CHC) steering committee at the beginning of the Fall semester to partner groups of students with CHC mentors. Each student group was responsible for working with a mentor to conduct one component of the CHC “envisioning sustainability project.” This project involved a survey of CHC individual members regarding cultural and environmental assets, perceptions of environmental risks, and priorities for working towards a sustainable future in the county. The survey helped to identify specific places of concern in the Indiana County community that may be the target for future brownfields remediation projects conducted by CHC and partner organizations. The second aspect of the “envisioning sustainability project” involved interviews with organizations that are members of CHC and groups they work closely with on issues of sustainability. These interviews explored their vision of sustainability in Indiana County and the efforts of their organization to achieve this vision.

Student Participants – Gabrielle Lehigh, Amanda Balough, Seana Herald, Hayley Fox, Bryana Urban, Katie Fox, Tara Federoff, Kelly Muthler, Chloe Stevens, Alex Schillinger, Kathryn Edmundson

Faculty – Amanda Poole

Q&A Leaders – East Tennessee State University

9:00 am – UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Description: Working with a case study community, Cocke County, Tennessee, the University of Tennessee 2012 ATP students addressed the issues confronting rural solar adoption, explored the potential for rural solar energy production, identified existing non-technical barriers, and proposed programmatic and policy solutions to help address these issues.

Students began the semester by conducting baseline research on rural solar policies and best practices. They also conducted preliminary research on Cocke County to develop a county profile and determine existing solar activities. Students also reviewed the ARC strategic plan and recent ARC energy-related research. Students then engaged local stakeholders through direct interviews and a stakeholder focus group. The focus group, facilitated by students, helped identify current barriers, possible opportunities, and topics for additional research. After conducting their research, students conducted a second focus group to share their project findings, discuss recommendations, and receive local feedback

Student Participants – Stephen Adkins, Jack Bradshaw, Jacob McMurray, Trey Norris, Derick Preston, Asa Roy, Lily Seabolt, Nick Smith, James West

Faculty – Timothy Ezzell

Q&A Leaders – North Georgia College and State University

9:30 am – SOUTHEAST KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Description: In June 2012, the Higher Ground coalition, the Crawdad youth coalition, and the Appalachian Program at SKCTC received funding from ArtPlace to take a major step towards bringing together those in our county working to bring people here and those working to keep people here. Our 2012 ATP work was designed to demonstrate how art and design can help create the kind of places people want to live. Students collected oral histories and worked with the Higher Ground organization on themes for a fourth Higher Ground script, planned

how to use a renovated space in Downtown Cumberland to serve as a center for youth-oriented cultural and arts education activities, and produced the student led arts event “Crawdadoween.”

Student Participants – Chrystal Weedman, Brittany Couch, Austin Vanover, John Adams, Nicole Blevins, Summer Howard, Aaron Hampton, Eric Hampton, Holden Jackson, Bethany Aslinger, Charles Haley, Steven Miller, Michael Amburgey, Zach Long, Tessa Evans

Faculty – Robert Gipe and Ann Schertz

Q&A Leaders – Emory & Henry College

9:45 am – APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: The Elk Knob Public Art Plan is a tool for helping the Elk Knob Community Heritage Organization (EKCHO) and their allies realize their shared vision for using works of public art to: 1) promote sustainable development of the Elk Knob communities; and 2) promote curiosity about and understanding of the culture, history, and natural world on and around Elk Knob by all people. EKCHO established a public art committee to implement this project, and this committee worked closely with the students.

The 2012 ATP students engaged in community-based research about the culture, history, and natural world around Elk Knob and then worked with community members to develop two of the four public art sites identified in the 2010 plan. This work included drafting a design for sculptures, presenting the design to the public art committee, revising the design based on feedback from the committee, and working with the committee to create and install the work.

Student Participants – Karen Russo, Alix Brewer, Shady Kimzey, Brandon Norris, Katie Cooper, Nicholas Smith, Rebecca Lamaire, Joni Ray

Faculty – Thomas Hansell

Q&A Leaders – Virginia Tech

10:00 am – FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: The Fall 2012 ATP students worked with the editorial board of the Appalachian Independent (www.appindie.org), an online citizen journalist news source for western Maryland. Students organized five community events and visioning sessions in Allegany and Garrett Counties. The programs were planned for Mountain City Traditional Arts in Frostburg; Garrett College Auditorium, McHenry, Maryland; Georges Creek Library, Lonaconing, Maryland; Cumberland Trail Connection, Cumberland, Maryland; and Rocky Gap State Park’s Mountain View Pavillion, Cumberland, Maryland. AppIndie editorial board members participated in planning and executing each event, and FSU students and editorial board members participated together in an online post-event discussion following each event.

Student Participants – Ben Brown, Evan Greenberg, Ruth LaCourse, Andrew Klein, Hannah Goodmuth, Andrew Shadel, Drew Aydelotte, Joseph Linsalata

Faculty – Kara Rogers-Thomas

Q&A Leaders – Alfred State College

11:00 am – FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: Fairmont State University 2012 ATP students partnered with various branches of the West Virginia United Methodist Conference. The project focused on the work of the United Methodist Conference activities in Northern Ireland and West Virginia, in relationship to conflict resolution, leadership, and economic development planning. Students built upon first-person experiences of their 2012 Road to Appalachia Study Abroad through Northern Ireland. With various field studies in West Virginia, students developed leadership skills and became active learners and participants by adapting previously observed and learned concepts from their study abroad experience.

Student Participants – Nicole Alexander, Kelly Blake, Mitchell Haines, Sean Rafferty, Holly White
Faculty – Judy Byers and Noel Tenney
Q&A Leaders – Morehead State University

11:15 am – AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Description: The 2012-2013 Auburn ATP focused on research and the development of resources to assist The Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center with the assessment of the Isaac Scott Hathaway materials. The goal was to increase public knowledge of Hathaway's importance, increase interest in the period of history in which he lived and worked in Macon County, to document the memories of local people who knew Hathaway as teacher and friend, and the dissemination of notice of the Hathaway materials to the state, region, and nation. Students enrolled in 2012 fall semester course CCEN 2000: Introduction to Community and Civic Engagement and worked with the Center director and a Citizen Advisory Committee.

Student Participants – Audrey Ross, Sierra Lehnhoff, Maggie Moore, Kaleb Kirkpatrick, Michael Gutierrez, Laney Payne, Chardae Caine, Austin Haisten
Faculty – Mark Wilson
Q&A Leaders – Shawnee State University

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Saturday, December 1, 2012

9:00 am – EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: Continuing ETSU's five-year commitment to Unicoi County, the central focus of the 2012 ATP project was to document the history of agriculture in Unicoi County. The project goals were to promote sustainable agriculture and to preserve Unicoi's farming heritage. By bolstering sustainable agriculture, Unicoi County hopes increase job opportunities and per capita income and be better prepared to compete in the global economy. Students worked with the local community and used a cultural survey as a tool to interview people who were involved in farming in Unicoi County--retired farmers, agricultural agents, people who grew up on farms, and others. Students did research in print sources on the history of farming in the county and designed an exhibition to be held at ETSU's Reece Museum in 2013.

Student Participants – Jessica Brooks, Alexandra Frank, Joel Keebler, Julia Ledesma-Rusinol, Brenda Warner

Faculty – Theresa Lloyd

Q&A Leaders – University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

9:15 am – NORTH GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: In the first year of this project, the 2012 ATP students partnered with the Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the sponsor of a weekly farmers market. Students hosted a seed swap at the Farmers Market early in the fall semester. The goal was to identify, meet, and interview at least one tradition bearer in each of the small settlements in Lumpkin County: Auria, Nimberwill, Yahoola Creek, Cane Creek, etc. Students were encouraged to include families of African American and Cherokee lineage in their search.

Art students assisted Appalachian Studies students in creating a "communograph," a collective memory bank that artistically represents not only the seed savers' contributions of donated seeds and shared stories but also the circuitous connections and conversations that led to locating the cultural tradition bearers. Finally, students planned a public celebration to recognize the contributions of all the participants. The event will be co-hosted by the DDA in the winter, a traditional time for looking through seed catalogs and planning spring gardens.

Student Participants – Savannah Moss, Jessica Murray, Jonathan Winskie, Ashley Echols, Kyle Clark, Debbie Postell

Faculty – Rosann Kent, Chris Dockery

Q&A Leaders – Fairmont State University

9:45 am – EMORY AND HENRY COLLEGE

Description: Emory and Henry's 2012 ATP class worked with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to plan for the development of a value-added processing plant and creamery in Meadowview and to link that facility to Farmers Markets of the area. Products from this processing plant will be made available for sale in a local retail venue, located in the Meadowview Depot (owned and being renovated by the people of Meadowview through Meadowview First), in locations along the Crooked Road, and 'Round the Mountain Artisans Trails. Students examined policies, existing models, successes and best practices, as well as mistakes, failures, and lessons learned in similar efforts. This project also focused on ways to include more of the region's population in the creative, asset-based economy and in asset-based economic development strategies. Another outcome was an evaluation and assessment of the state of the agricultural infrastructure in the Meadowview area, Washington County, and Southwest Virginia.

***Student Participants* – Brianne Smalley, Mary Beth Tignor**
***Faculty* – Talmage Stanley**
***Q&A Leaders* – Frostburg State University**

10:00 am – VIRGINIA TECH

Description: The Virginia Tech Appalachian Teaching Project in 2011 determined that one of the major obstacles to engaging in sustainable agriculture was that farmers did not want to and didn't have the time to be engaged in managing distribution and consumption activities. They valued the actual farming of the produce, not the "getting it to market" activities required to make this economically viable for most. It is this finding that the Fall 2012 class explored more fully by researching ways to increase distribution and consumption of sustainably-grown crops that are sensitive to local cultural orientations.

The overarching purpose of this project was to engage in a culturally-sensitive investigative study to obtain data to illuminate how to better market locally organically-grown produce in Virginia's New River Valley. The main partner in this project was the Blacksburg Farmers Market. As a leading open-air produce market in the area, it not only provides a venue for New River Valley organic farmers to sell their produce, but also works with local agencies to promote local food use through different marketing and partnership strategies.

***Student Participants* – Luke Cox, Danielle Oliver, Aaron Shields, Shasta Sowers**
***Faculty* – Anita Puckett**
***Q&A Leaders* – Appalachian State University**

11:00 am – ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Description: In Fall 2012, working individually and in small groups, students researched and completed a site analysis report for the area of Bath, New York. Students also met with community groups to help them articulate what the real identity of the community is. Concepts of "place branding" and "integrated marketing communications" were employed to clarify the community's identity in order to promote it as a place to move to, start a business in, or to visit as a tourist/consumer.

The information generated was used as a point of departure to illustrate and explain a positive vision for sustainability and growth of the community. Students attended public meetings intended to identify sites that are underutilized, have future development potential, or are being promoted for future development by local officials. A community design charrette was also used to generate conceptual ideas for future development. Each studio completed a vision plan for three, five, and ten years in the future. The three master plans include action items for implementation and will be presented publicly by the students to community residents.

***Student Participants* – Tom Button, Emily Connors, Jim Marsh, Matt Sickles, Tony Vischansky, Ryan Webb**
***Faculty* – Craig Clark, Jeffrey Johnston, Rex Simpson, William Dean**
***Q&A Leaders* – Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College**

11:15 am – MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: Morehead State University's 2012 ATP students, in cooperation with Morehead-Rowan County officials and other leaders, focused on helping the community move towards its expressed goals of improving economic conditions and quality of life. The goals of this project were to (1) update and expand our community indicator data sets; (2) report project results back to our community partners via an updated Community Indicators Project (CIP) report; and (3) lay the groundwork for future classes to develop a survey instrument for collecting feedback from local citizens on their values and perceptions related to community quality of life. Towards this end, students worked with local leadership to identify and collect key information/data from local, regional, state and/or federal sources they needed in support of ongoing community development activities in Morehead-Rowan County. The community partner (and other community members) were engaged via a series of key discussions/focus groups regarding their data needs and priorities, the form and content of the CIP report, and laying the groundwork for developing a useful and effective "community quality of life" survey instrument. Results were compiled and reported back to community

leaders via an updated CIP report in an effort to facilitate sound and sustainable decision making and policy development.

Student Participants – Laura Pfalzer, Cody Murphy, Johnathon Dye, Chad Wells, Taylor Lewis
Faculty – Christine McMichael and Steve Lange
Q&A Leaders – University of Tennessee

11:45 am – SHAWNEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: Shawnee's 2012 ATP students, worked with community leaders in the "Asset to Asset" Program, which coordinates with the Pike & Adams County Chambers of Commerce (community leaders), to inventory community assets and promote the rural area for economic development. Students developed the technical skills to use asset mapping software appropriate for professional presentations. Students involved in the "Asset to Asset" ATP project worked within their home communities, developed leadership skills, connected their research skills to place-based applied learning, developed teamwork skills, and refined presentation skills. An important component of the project was the development of a data base promoting the assets of their home communities and providing community leaders with new technical skills where needed.

Student Participants – Zachary Z. Ziegler, Marlee Kay Martin, Victoria Lynne Castle, Amanda Maxwell, Brandon Prince, Kasey B. Hosier, Nargiza Kadirova
Faculty – Brenda Haas and Christopher Shaffer
Q&A Leaders – Indiana University of Pennsylvania

12:00 noon – UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT BRADFORD

Description: During the Fall 2012 semester, students at UPB used interactive trail mapping software to promote the natural and historic tourism assets of McKean County, Pennsylvania, to encourage public health locally, and to integrate trail usage into the curriculum of area schools. Students were exposed to community development strategies that balanced industrial and natural tourism economies. This project was developed in partnership with the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau, the school board and local government of Smethport, Pitt-Bradford's Center for Rural Health Practice, and the Potato Creek Trail Association of Smethport.

Students physically mapped and digitally photographed trails to identify ideal points for natural and/or historic data entry and compiled natural scientific and historic data on Smethport, Pennsylvania, to upload onto the trail application maps so users can access this information via handheld devices such as smart phones. Students in a second class designed GPS-based lesson plans for different age groups in the Smethport Area School District on trails adjacent and accessible to area schools.

Student Participants – Kayla Branch, Lauren Marshall, Mara Kloss, Gregory Mirth, Kelsey Krepps, Dominika Urban, Lorenzo Herrera, Morgan Emery
Faculty – William Schumann, Michael Stuckart
Q&A Leaders – Auburn University