

Appalachian Teaching Project
2014 Projects & Participants
(In Order of Presentation)
Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport
Potomac Ballroom D, E, F
Friday, December 5, 2014

9:15 am – APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: Appalachian State University (ASU) collaborated with The Elk Knob Community Heritage Organization (EKCHO) and other local organizations to develop a sustainability plan that can facilitate independent community development work based on more than a decade of collaboration with ASU. Student researchers administered a sustainable community planning workshop and updated and implemented a public art plan to promote local heritage and encourage area tourism in the communities of Meat Camp, Pottertown, and Sutherland, NC. Between 2012 and 2014, ASU students helped implement EKCHO's art plan by developing community-based art projects that highlight the area's unique heritage. While the Center for Appalachian Studies will continue working with these communities, the 2014 ATP project focused on fostering a stable transition to community-based, community-led planning related to the public art and cultural-environmental heritage assets created through community-university partnerships since 2000.

Student Participants –
Faculty – Tom Hansell and Billy Schumann
Q&A Leaders – University of Tennessee

9:30 am – AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Description: The purpose of the 2014 ATP project was to document the effectiveness of a series of public humanities programs for increasing visibility of the Tuskegee History Center as a community asset and increasing educational opportunities for lifelong learning, which will increase Tuskegee/Macon County's reputation as a vibrant, intellectually-rich place to live.

One 2013 ATP participant assisted in preparing an application to the Alabama Humanities Foundation for a mini-grant in the amount of \$1,500 to support the program, and matching funds were committed by the Auburn University Center for the Arts & Humanities. The ad-hoc planning committee assisted with the choice of speakers and programs centered on the following topics: Tuskegee National Forest; the life of Dr. John Kenney; the black church in the 19th century; Tuskegee airmen; Booker T. Washington; and unique archival holdings at Tuskegee University on Booker T. Washington. ATP students assisted with publicity, social media, local arrangements, introductions of speakers, and evaluations of the programs. Each student was required to attend three of the six events, and each student served as lead publicist/organizer/evaluator for one event. Additionally, students documented the publicity efforts and created a binder that can be used by Center volunteers for future programs. A mailing list was compiled that can be used for future Center communications.

Student Participants –
Faculty – Mark Wilson
Q&A Leaders – Zane State College

9:45 am – VIRGINIA TECH

Description: The 2014 ATP Virginia Tech Appalachian Studies Program engaged multiple community stakeholders, music performance groups, and individuals involved in local heritage music in order to research and then design the content for and placement of The Crooked Road (TCR) Wayside kiosks in both Giles and Montgomery Counties, Virginia, so as to stimulate interest among tourists while, at the same time, preserve and sustain the cultural significance of these counties' heritage music.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Anita Puckett

Q&A Leaders – Frostburg State University

10:15 am – UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT BRADFORD

Description: “Public Scoping and Development Mapping for the City of Warren, PA: Eco-Tourism, Cultural Heritage and Economic Diversity” is a teaching/applied-research project that provides Pitt-Bradford students with applied learning experiences through campus-community research partnerships, and that contributes to tangible, outcomes-based sustainable community development capacity. This project was designed to continue the ATP work already accomplished at UPB (the GPS mapping project), to expand the impact of ATP in relation to UPB by identifying further uses for the work so far implemented, and by identifying new partners in a way that contributes to regional capacity and planning and development discourse. This project yielded several community-based presentations, in addition to the various meetings scheduled between project partners, participating faculty, the community, and UPB students. Specifically, the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford partnered with the City of Warren, PA, Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways (PKP), and Leadership Warren (BOOM!) to begin to inventory, scope, and frame the sustainable development components of the city's soon to be updated development plan, as well as to further the work of PKP and BOOM!.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Stephen Robar

Q&A Leaders – East Tennessee State University

10:30 am – SOUTHEAST KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Description: In the spring of 2014 ATP students began collecting incidents of community history and community-based personal experiences and connected these events and experiences to specific geographic points. They also photographed these spots. During the summer of 2014, students worked with the Appalachian Program and Bruce Parsons at the University of Pikeville to develop a smartphone application to integrate their stories and photographs into the Higher Ground guide to Harlan County. Some of the summer work took place in a SKCTC class and some in a UPIKE class happening in Harlan County during the summer of 2014. The work continued into the fall. Summer work was funded by the Robert E. Frazier Foundation as part of its three-year commitment to the Creative Development Center (CDC). The CDC is a collaborative project between our ATP partners to increase higher education opportunities in our community and to hold creative young people in the county longer. The project combined education in arts and history with experience in software authoring. The work will be integrated into ongoing tourism development efforts. The project will also be connected to a larger collaboration with Appalshop intended to connect young creators across county lines in the SKCTC service area. That project is funded by Alternate ROOTS and its Partners in Action program.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Robert Gipe

Q&A Leaders – Radford University

11:30 am – INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Description: The central focus of the 2014 ATP project was to partner with the Indiana Community Garden in order to meet two goals: coordinate programs that enhance the cultural and biological diversity of the garden; and create educational resources that assist the garden in its mission to be a hub for educating people about sustainable practices and global food issues. Students were divided into groups to tackle these goals through projects designed in collaboration with the community partner and informed by our environmental anthropology course content. Although students worked on different projects, they conducted ethnographic and ethnoecological research that will ultimately contribute to a compendium of educational resources for the garden, including on-site signage and online resources.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Amanda Poole

Q&A Leaders – Morehead State University

11:45 am – UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

Description: The Local Food/Local People project provided students an opportunity to engage in ARC's regional food initiative by exploring the opportunities as well as the social, economic, and political barriers facing local food advocates in Lumpkin County, Georgia, especially the Downtown Dahlonega Farmers Market. Students interviewed city officials, vendors, potential and existing customers, both in the community and on campus. After analyzing the interviews, they proposed and implemented solutions to enhance the market, e.g. promoting the market on campus; providing a series of four educational and community events at the market such as heirloom seed swaps, seed saving demonstrations, and food-related art exhibitions. Finally, students created a series of broadsides on an antique letterpress to be used as educational and promotional material for the 2015 market season.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Rosann Kent

Q&A Leaders – Emory and Henry College

12:00 pm – FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: The Fairmont State University 2014 ATP project addressed the unique concept of studying Italian food immigrants and how those traditional foods brought to North Central West Virginia in the early 20th century have continued to be used in both family and commercial settings. Students identified selected food types and their Italian origins and conducted research and inquiries with current regional Italian-American businesses and organizations that promote their Italian heritage and culture through the sales or celebration of these foodways. Students traced the history of selected Italian food heritages from their origin in Southern Italy (as a part of the travel/study program to Southern Italy in summer 2014) to their immigrant arrival in North Central West Virginia in the early 20th century. Students also researched how these foods have been used as successful economic endeavors and formulated a model of how historic awareness, economic success, and more specific understandings can be used for incorporating traditional foodways in a more creative and educational application for regional festivals, businesses, and programs promoting cultural heritage tourism.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Judy Byers and Noel Tenney

Q&A Leaders – Alfred State College

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8:45 am – ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Description: In Fall 2014, the Architecture and Design Department's senior Urban Design Studio worked with the Village of Savona, which is located in New York's Southern Tier, as the subject for the semester's community visualization study. Working individually and in small groups, the 2014 ATP students were expected to research and document the subject area and complete a site analysis which includes a visual survey of the defined physical characteristics representing Urban Design Excellence and Design Linkages within the community. The report also identified the municipalities' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats based on conversations with area residents and local officials. The information generated during these initial efforts was used as a point of departure to illustrate and explain a positive vision for sustainability and growth of the Village of Savona through community engagement.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Craig Clark

Q&A Leaders – Appalachian State University

9:00 am – EMORY AND HENRY COLLEGE

Description: Glade Spring Town Square is both a specific geographic location in the town of Glade Spring, Virginia, and the focus of efforts for sustainable economic and cultural development in the Glade Spring community. By focusing on senior housing, the 2014 ATP project provided strategies to fulfill one component of the overall goal of offering mixed-population housing as a tool for economic development and sustainability on the Glade Spring Town Square. Recent efforts on the Square have resulted in new retail businesses, an artisan business incubator, cultural heritage activities, a farmer's market pavilion, and the development of a nine-mile Rail to Trail asset that links Glade Spring with Saltville. Based on the results of focus groups with seniors, research into co-housing projects, second-story development, and pedestrian-friendly towns, students delivered a report on population trends, alternative modes of housing, development of pedestrian-friendly business districts, and social entrepreneur business zones adjacent to the Glade Town Square. Student research addressed two goals of the ARC strategic plan—to increase job opportunities and per capita income and strengthen the capacity of Appalachian people to compete in the global economy.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Tal Stanley

Q&A Leaders – Auburn University

9:15 am – MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: The 2014 ATP focus has resulted in a new primary community partner—Morehead Tourism. The central focus of the students' community project was to help Morehead Tourism to develop and promote outdoor recreational assets that are expected to enhance not only the community's economy, but also its health and environment in a sustainable way. Other key organizations engaged by the students during the course of this project include Sustainable Morehead, City of Morehead, Rowan County Fiscal Court, NewCity Morehead, Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce, Rowan County Health Coalition, and Daniel Boone Rails to Trails.

Student Participants –
Faculty – April Haight
Q&A Leaders – Virginia Tech

9:45 am – RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Description: The central focus of the Fall 2014 Appalachian Teaching Project is to provide support for the ROOTS WITH WINGS: Floyd County Place-based Education Oral History Project. The details of the support was honed in collaboration with the community partners. In particular, ATP students created instructional materials to be shared with high school students to increase their understanding of and appreciation for oral history, its social importance, and effective ways of collecting it. The curricula also included instruction on current technology and digital recording/editing to capture the oral history interviews. Students worked with the RU Sponsored Programs and Grants Management staff to learn about finding potential grantors for the community partners to increase funding for their work.

Student Participants –
Faculty – Theresa Burriss
Q&A Leaders – University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

10:00 am – EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: The 2014 ATP project emphasized the cultural history of the railroad as a significant force in local communities and in the lives of residents. There is growing interest in railroad history and tourism in Northeast Tennessee, which can provide opportunities for collaboration in future phases of the project. The primary community partners are the Joint Economic Development Board of Unicoi County, the Unicoi County Heritage Museum, and the Clinchfield Railroad Museum. The project had two main goals: (1) To conduct initial ethnographic field research to survey existing documentation and conduct interviews of residents who have some connection to the railroad in the region; and (2) To work with community leaders to develop a draft five-year strategic plan for utilizing railroad history to promote cultural heritage tourism. The initial focus of the fieldwork was on retired railroad workers and other elderly residents who have memories of the railroad. At the end of the Fall 2014 course, students presented their findings to the local community partners and at the ATP conference in Washington, DC.

Student Participants –
Faculty – Ron Roach
Q&A Leaders – Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College

11:00 am – FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Description: In 2014 Frostburg State University students partnered with the Savage River Watershed Association to conduct a Marcellus Shale in Mountain Maryland Listening Project. While a moratorium on natural gas drilling is currently in place in Maryland and while the Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission completes an in-depth study on drilling and makes recommendations for best practices, numerous drilling leases have been signed and the expansion of the drilling industry in western Maryland seems imminent. Drawing inspiration from the success of similar projects in New York and Pennsylvania, this listening project was designed to objectively record public opinion on natural gas drilling by documenting the hopes and concerns of residents living in the Savage River Watershed. The Listening Project’s goal was to increase awareness of the Savage River Watershed’s efforts in western Maryland, which could in turn build membership numbers for the organization and to encourage residents to become actively engaged with gas extraction issues to ensure that safe drilling practices are enforced and practiced and that the vitality of our local watersheds remains intact and sustainable.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Kara Rogers Thomas

Q&A Leaders – Indiana University of Pennsylvania

11:15 am – ZANE STATE COLLEGE

Description: The Zane State College 2014 ATP project addresses the ARC’s general goal to “Strengthen the Capacity of the People of Appalachia to Compete in the Global Economy” and emphasizes their objectives to “Develop Leaders and Strengthen Community Capacity” and “Enhance Workforce skills through Training and Education.” To increase their local and global employability, students conducted research with the Muskingum Valley Human Resource Management Association (MVHRMA) to gain a greater understanding of local race and cultural relations and appropriate workplace behaviors in Muskingum and surrounding counties. Students conducted research on the diversity of native Appalachians within Muskingum Country which assisted them in gaining cultural competence. Active research included students interviewing local persons to retrieve their personal narratives of Appalachian identity which will aid in setting the foundation for diversity sensitivity. Zane State College students also worked with the MVHRMA to learn about employer expectations, promote positive cultural and race relations, and boost employability in the region. Students shared their conclusions with MVHRMA members and other community organizations.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Susan Markel and Senti Longkumer

Q&A Leaders – University of North Georgia

11:30 am – UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Description: In 2013 UT’s ATP class worked with Ducktown, TN to explore the impact of three emerging technologies on small, rural communities. The class determined that 3D printing had potential applications for advanced manufacturing and services in rural areas, but would require a skilled workforce. To promote these skills, the class recommended that the Copper Basin Learning Center purchase a 3D printer and incorporate it into local youth development programs.

The 2014 ATP class assisted local residents in achieving this goal while testing the applicability of an emerging trend—crowdfunding—for smaller Appalachian communities like Ducktown. While most crowdfunding campaigns

have clustered in large cities, the project assessed and determined strategies to help smaller communities develop and implement their own programs.

Students worked with the Copper Basin Rural Community Association on their civic crowdfunding program to purchase a 3D printer and supplies for the Learning Center. Students developed a budget and identified an appropriate printer, software, and supplies. Working with local residents, students established a timeline; created media and content for the crowdfunding campaign; worked with stakeholders to promote the campaign; and conducted an assessment to determine successes, barriers, and lessons learned.

Student Participants –

Faculty – Tim Ezzell

Q&A Leaders – Fairmont State University