



Research Up-To-Date

The Newsletter of the Urban Appalachian Council Research Committee

Volume 6, Number 1

Editor: Roberta M. Campbell

Contributors: Gail Meyers, Michael Maloney, Phillip J. Obermiller

The Research Committee was created at the founding of the Urban Appalachian Council over thirty-seven years ago and has always informed the council through active research. To be notified of future research committee meetings, which are open to all, please contact goward@uacvoice.org or phone 513-251-0202. To learn more about UAC visit <http://uacvoice.org> or join us on Facebook.

CONTRIBUTORS WELCOME!

Please send your article, announcement, or website link to Roberta Campbell at campberm@muohio.edu

PLEASE FORWARD!

Spread the word about the Urban Appalachian Council Research Committee to your friends and community!

From the Editor:



Spotlight On: Phillip J. Obermiller

One of the advantages of editing this newsletter is that I get to write about my favorite people. One of my favorite intellectual heroes, mentors, and colleagues is Phillip Obermiller. Phil is a prolific scholar and aggressive advocate for urban Appalachians. It is no accident that almost every item in this issue mentions Phil's work. It isn't because of my regard for Phil; it is because he has so much passion for people, especially those

of us with a background in the mountains, that his name appears time and again in *Research Up-to-Date*.

When I was a graduate student at the University of Kentucky, specializing in Appalachian studies, I first came across Phil's work, particular his scholarship exploring Appalachian identity. It was then that he became one of my intellectual heroes. Anyone who has been through the graduate student experience will understand my goggle-eyed expression when I actually met Phil (and Mike Maloney) at an Appalachian Studies Association conference back in the 80's. During that time, Phil was affiliated with the UK Appalachian Center and became involved with our fledgling Appalachian student association (thanks for the pizza money, Phil!).

In 1991, while I was still a student, imagine my excitement when I was hired as a visiting assistant professor (translate, temporary position) at Northern Kentucky University where Phil was on the faculty! Imagine my disappointment when I learned that I was filling in while he was on sabbatical! However, he still very generously found ways for me to be involved scholastically in the urban Appalachian "scene". Phil helped me get my research on the program at the American Sociological Association annual conference held in Cincinnati. He included my essay on Appalachian women in one of the many anthologies that he has edited. Phil also invited me to present my work to the research committee. I went on to join UAC's board and at one time I chaired the committee. Now I have entrenched myself as this newsletter editor. Phil certainly has been a mentor and colleague to me.

There isn't room for a bibliography of Phil's extensive publications, or room to list the ways in which he has contributed in other ways to social causes. I know that Phil has shared his expertise with authors, filmmakers, lawyers, politicians, public officials, and community activists. Phil, who received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Union Institute, specializes in demography. He has edited and co-edited many books ranging from issues regarding employment and identity of Appalachian migrants to Midwestern cities, comparative work on mountaineers of Canada, to his latest work on Appalachian health with Robert Ludke. Phil has also collaborated with Thomas Wagner, Bruce Tucker, William Turner, and many more prestigious Appalachian scholars. He has edited a special edition of *the Journal of Appalachian Studies* and co-edited (with Mike Maloney) a section for the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* and a textbook on Appalachia. Phil's collaborative working papers and the bibliography that he has compiled can be found on UAC's website under "Research". Phil has organized and contributed to several conferences. He served as President of the Appalachian Studies Association in 2007 and received the ASA Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award in 2008.

As you can see clearly, Phillip J. Obermiller is someone whom I admire for his work and for whom I feel gratitude because of the many ways he has helped me to grow as a professional. I want you to know that I also regard Phil not only as an intellectual hero, mentor, and colleague, but also -- proudly -- as one of my friends.

Inaugural Issue of Online Magazine Features Appalachian Scholar Obermiller

The Hillville, a weekly online magazine about urban Appalachia, debuted on December 11, 2011. Co-publishers Niki King and Beth Newberry, both of Louisville, focus on the many issues associated with urban Appalachia and make connections to Appalachia in general. The first issue provides news, poetry, essays and interviews, including King's interview of research committee member Phillip J. Obermiller.

Obermiller describes for King the migration and residential settlement patterns of urban Appalachians and the many issues that they have faced over several decades. Obermiller traces his involvement with UAC's research committee from meeting and getting to know Ernie Mynatt and Michael Maloney, early proponents of the urban Appalachian movement. Obermiller, originally from northeastern Ohio, found a connection between the experiences of Appalachian mountaineers, and those of his mother, an immigrant from the mountains of Italy. He also grew up in the city and understood the concerns of migrants who came from central Appalachia to find work in the industrial Midwest during the 50's and 60's.

With combined backgrounds in journalism and publishing, King and Newberry have created a visually delightful and extremely professional website that promises weekly "news, features, columns, profiles of people and places that will appeal to and engage urban Appalachians". So far, King, Newberry and the rest of the very skilled staff, have lived up to that promise.

To read the latest issue, search archives, subscribe, and much more, visit <http://thehillville.com>.

***Appalachians: Their Health and Well-Being* to Debut at ASA**

Robert L. Ludke and Phillip J. Obermiller have edited a comprehensive collection of research on the reality of health among urban and rural Appalachians. Contributors to *Appalachians: Their Health and Well-Being* propose specific recommendations for necessary research, suggest practical solutions for health policy, and present best practices models for effective health intervention. The in-depth analyses offer insights for students, health practitioners, and policy makers. Topics range from examining the health of Appalachians in relation to environmental factors and the health-care system to specific physical and mental problems such as diabetes, cancer, and substance abuse. Authors and contributors will be signing copies at the Appalachian Studies Conference in Pennsylvania in March.

Highlights from the contents of *Appalachians: Their Health and Well-Being* formed the basis of a plenary session led by the authors at the 2011 annual Appalachian Regional Commission conference in eastern Kentucky.

Ludke is a professor of family and community medicine at the University of Cincinnati. He is also a member of the Board of the Urban Appalachian Council and serves as chair of the UAC Research Committee. Obermiller is a Senior Visiting Scholar in the School of Planning at the University of Cincinnati and a past president of the Appalachian Studies Association. Obermiller is a long-standing member of the Research Committee.

Richard A. Couto authored the foreword. The University Press of Kentucky is the publisher. More information can be found at http://www.kentuckypress.com/pages/Appalachian_Health_and_Wellbeing.htm.

Ludke and Obermiller to Present Appalachian Health Issues at UC

Robert Ludke and Phillip Obermiller have been invited to do a presentation for students and faculty in the UC College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning. Their talk, "Urban and Rural Health Planning: The Appalachian Case", will be given at DAAP on February 22 at noon, and is open to the public.

John Bryant Celebrated at Hamilton County Public Library

Research committee member John Bryant will be celebrated February 11 at 2 pm at the main library branch as part of Black History Month. Bryant is one of three local African American leaders who are being acknowledged for their significant contributions to Cincinnati. William Mallory was recognized on February 4 and Bootsie Collins will be honored on February 25.

Bryant is a native of Cincinnati, a veteran of the Korean War, and holds a doctorate in education from the University of Cincinnati. At one time he was the assistant coach at UC and taught at Wilmington College. In 1990, Bryant became the Executive Director of the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative. He has served on many non-profit boards including the Ohio Humanities Council, the Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and the UAC.

Local Researchers Contribute to Latest Book on Appalachian Activism

Stephen L. Fisher and Barbara Ellen Smith have edited a set of seventeen critical essays on mountaineers' place-based challenges to oppression. The editors present these challenges as relevant to similar events the world over. Among the contributors to *Transforming Places: Lessons from Appalachia* are UAC-affiliated scholars and activists M. Kathryn Brown, Donna Jones, Michael Maloney, Maureen Mullinax, Phillip J. Obermiller, and Thomas E. Wagner. The cover illustration is by "The Beehive Collective" (www.beehivecollective.org).

Transforming Places is similar in content to Fisher's 1993 collection, *Fighting Back in Appalachia, Traditions of Resistance and Change* (Temple University Press). *Transforming Places* will be available in March from the University of Illinois Press. For more information visit <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/77kyn2pp9780252036668.html>.

Research Committee Contributes to ASA Conference

Members of the Research Committee and affiliated scholars and activists continue the tradition of having a presence at the Appalachian Studies Association conference. The 35th annual ASA conference, which is themed *The Wide Reach of Appalachia*, will be held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania on March 23-25.

As noted in the stories above, Robert L. Ludke and Phillip J. Obermiller will be signing copies of *Appalachian Health and Well-Being*. Obermiller will also present a paper co-authored with Pamela Twiss titled "World War II in Appalachia: The Impact of Wartime Development on Blue-collar Neighborhoods in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati". Obermiller and Ludke are authors, along with Richard Mulcahy on "The Impact of the Obama Health Plan on Appalachia: Policy Issues and Possible Solutions" which they will present. Ludke will also present on "The Lower Price Hill Diabetes Initiative: A Community-based, Participatory Research Project".

Thomas Wagner and Carol Baugh have written a paper called "Urban Appalachian Organizations: Then and Now" which they will present. Maureen Mullinax, along with co-author Rosalind Harris, will deliver their paper "Pulling Threads: Insights from Appalachian Studies for Rural Scholarship and Activism".

Roberta Campbell, Mullinax, and Obermiller are also convening sessions at the conference. For more information, go to <http://appalachianstudies.org/>.

Community Health Status Survey Identifies Health Issues in Price Hill

By Gail Meyers

Cincinnati. Dec. 16, 2011. The Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey's (GCCHSS) oversample in Price Hill found that 4 in 10 (41 percent) adults say they are in excellent or very good health; and that 2 in 10 of Price Hill adults say that poor health has limited their activity at least two weeks in the past 30 days. The GCCHSS, sponsored by the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, was last conducted in 2005. This neighborhood level data is new with the 2010 survey. "We're also concerned about the high rate of depression in our community," says Ken Smith of Price Hill Will. "A third of the people in Price Hill have been told they suffer from depression." The Health Foundation worked in cooperation with *place matters* on the neighborhood oversample in Price Hill.

Among Price Hill adults:

- 3 out of 10 are obese
- 3 out of 10 have been told that they have high blood pressure
- 2 out of 10 have been told that they have high cholesterol
- 2 out of 10 have been told they have heart trouble.

The survey also found that 8 of 10 adults age 18-65 have health insurance and 7 of 10 have a usual and appropriate source of health care, but that 1 out of 10 adults do not have reliable transportation to the doctor.

The Urban Appalachian Council is a Community Partner of GCCHSS.

For more information see

http://www.healthfoundation.org/data_publications/gcchss.html.



Research Notes

(From the Research Committee: Robert Ludke, Chair)

November 18, 2011:

Updates:

Pam Ebert is a doctoral candidate at Kent State University wanting to learn more about Appalachians and counseling issues. Mike Maloney reported that the 5th edition of the *Social Areas Report* should be available in January. He noted that the demographics of the city were beginning to resemble the European pattern of the rich on the inside and noted that two recessions have affected some neighborhoods. Bob Ludke's and Phil Obermiller's book, *Appalachian Health and Well-being*, will be published in March. Phil is working with Chad Berry and Shaunna Scott on a manuscript tentatively titled "Studying Appalachian Studies. Phil and Tom Wagner are working with Melinda Wagner on the transcripts of the interview of Mike Maloney. Phyllis Shelton said that the diabetes initiative was in Phase II. Donna Jones and Melissa Cornelius have been invited to attend a research conference on Participatory Action Research. The group has a paper that has been tentatively accepted for publication in *Prism*. Bob said that Katy Taylor has put together a book chapter on "Appalachian Identity and Rhetoric". Kay Russ said that 120 people showed up for her invited presentation at Columbus Public Schools workshop on Appalachian children. The VA has called her regarding service men from Appalachia. She is working on a paper for the Appalachian Studies Association on career and Appalachian culture.

Miscellaneous:

The committee discussed issues with the newsletter and the website.

January 13, 2012

Updates:

Laura Nabors has started a project with health promotion students working with kids and obesity intervention. Ann McCracken reported that the results of health of people who are African-American (a small group are also Appalachian) will be coming out from the Health Foundation survey. UAC Planning and Evaluation Committee is meeting January 27 from 2-4 at UAC. Kelly Firesheets will present information on an evaluation technique to be used in clinical settings to help clinicians identify where clients drop out of programs before completion. Greg Howard reminded the committee that this Sunday is "Ringing in an Appalachian New Year". He will moderate a panel on mountain top removal at the Museum Center on the 17th. On the 23rd there will be a celebration of Highlander at UC, including a fundraiser. This month kicks off an arts project working with GED students. UAC is building the Americorps volunteers' skills in using creative writing for teaching. Mike Maloney reported that *Transforming Places* includes an urban section with local contributors. Mike has a draft of the *Social Areas Study*. He is already getting requests for data from it. According to Phyllis Shelton, the diabetes study is in Phase II with follow-up. The community health advocates are scheduled for a poster presentation in Houston. Phyllis is also on a committee looking at women's health. Bob Ludke met with medical students in a course called physicians in society. Students had been out in the community in Price Hill area. Now they are developing and offering a community-wide presentation on diabetes which might include screening and might include kids. He and Phil Obermiller are writing an article for a special issue of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* which is focused on demographic change in Appalachia from 2000-2010. His and Phil's book, *Appalachian Health and Well-being*, will debut at the Appalachian Studies Association conference. Maureen Sullivan has assisted Bob and Phil with indexing and marketing the book. Loren Smith and Bob are presenting a session on the community engagement efforts (Ohio State in Pike County around reduction of soda consumption by youth) and the diabetes project.

Presentation:

Donna Jones and Melissa Cornelius reported on the conference "Achieving the promise of community-engaged health disparities Research: A National Community Partner Forum" in Boston. The conference was made up of community based people who shared their involvement in projects and how they were working and the relationships between the community and research.

Community Health Survey

Bob shared the Price Hill results from the Community Health Survey. Ann McCracken noted that when the survey was conducted, *place matters* oversampled some

neighborhoods including Price Hill. Another report will be out regarding Appalachian Health. Committee members were interested in learning more about *place matters*. The committee discussed a UAC-sponsored event.

Diabetes Study:

Phyllis updated the committee on the study.

Kentucky Health Issues Poll

A report should be ready for the ASA conference.

Miscellaneous:

Bob noted that many replied to the ListServ request regarding involvement in the Research Committee.

The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2012 at 11 am at the UAC headquarters. Mike Maloney will present results of the <i>Social Areas Study</i> .
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Additional Links:

Appalachian Regional Commission

<http://www.arc.gov/index.jsp>

Appalachian Studies Association

<http://AppalachianStudies.org/>

Appalachian Studies at Miami University-Hamilton

<http://www.ham.muohio.edu/appalachian/index.htm>

Appalachian Women's Alliance

<http://www.appalachianwomen.org>

Center for the Study of Gender and Ethnicity in Appalachia

<http://www.marshall.edu/csega/index.asp>

Cincinnati, a City of Immigrants

<http://www.cincinnati-cityofimmigrants.com/ci/index.html>

Community Research Collaborative Blog

<http://crcblog.typepad.com/crcblog/2010/04/urban-appalachian-children-and-youth-the-hidden-minority.html>

Highlander Research and Education Center

<http://www.highlandercenter.org/>

The Hillville

<http://thehillville.com>

Oral History of Appalachia Program, Marshall University

<http://www.marshall.edu/sociology/Oralhist/ohap.html>

Social Areas Report of Cincinnati

<http://www.socialareasofcincinnati.org/>

The Women of Appalachia Conference

www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/womenofappalachia

Appalachian Centers:

Appalachian State University, the Center for Appalachian Studies

<http://www1.appstate.edu/dept/appstudies/>

Berea College Appalachian Center

<http://www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/>

East Tennessee State University Center for Appalachian Studies and Services

<http://www.etsu.edu/cass>

Eastern Kentucky University Center for Appalachian Studies

<http://www.appalachianstudies.eku.edu>

Emory and Henry College Appalachian Center for Community Service

<http://www.ehc.edu/special/service/commervice.html>

Indiana University of Pennsylvania Center for Northern Appalachian Studies

<http://www.iup.edu/appalachianstudies/default.aspx>

Morehead State University Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy

<http://www.irapp.morehead-st.edu>

North Georgia College and State University Appalachian Studies Center

<http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/ASC>

The Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education

<http://oache.org/>

Radford University Appalachian Regional Studies Center

<http://www.radford.edu/~arsc>

Saint Vincent College, The Center for Northern Appalachian Studies

<http://www.stvincent.edu/napp/>

Sinclair Community College Appalachian Outreach and Studies program

<http://www.sinclair.edu/centers/vclc/StudentActivities/MinorityStudentOutreach/OutreachtotheAppalachianCommunity/index.cfm>

Southeast Community College Appalachian Center

<http://www.kctcs.edu/AppalachianCenter>

The University of Kentucky Appalachian Center

<http://www.research.uky.edu/Appalcenter/index.html>

West Virginia University Regional Research Institute

<http://www.rri.wvu.edu>

Western Carolina University Mountain Heritage Center

<http://www.wcu.edu/mhc>