

Research Up-To-Date

The Newsletter of the Urban Appalachian Council Research Committee



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The Research Committee was created at the founding of the Urban Appalachian Council over thirty-six 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 gHoward@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



From the Editor:

Howard is New Urban Appalachian Council Executive Director

Guest Editor: Sharon McFarland

On January 1, the Urban Appalachian Council welcomed our new director, Greg Howard. Howard replaces Maureen Sullivan, who has retired after serving in that position for 27 years. Howard is the fourth executive director since the organization's founding in 1974. He holds a law degree from the University of Kentucky. Howard is also a staff representative on the UAC Research Committee.

The outgoing director and the new director were able to overlap for the month of January, creating a smooth transition and building confidence that under Howard's leadership the organization's momentum remains strong. Because of his strong record of advocacy, Howard has a strong vision for UAC going forward in an economic climate that will demand a creative and cooperative approach to providing services to those in need.

At UAC Howard continues a distinguished career in non-profit work. As an undergraduate at the University of Kentucky he was an intern for the Citizens Coal Council, a coalition of grassroots groups from the eastern and western coalfields. The CCC advocates for enforcement of environmental laws related to coal mining. While in law school Howard clerked for two years with the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund.

Following a brief stint in Lexington as a researcher for the UK Appalachian Center, Howard spent nine years at Appalshop, the internationally recognized arts and media center in Whitesburg. In his final three years at Appalshop, Howard served as its director. His duties at Appalshop included project direction and media production, as well as fund-raising with national foundations and state and local governments.

Prior to joining UAC Howard served as staff attorney, then co-director, of the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, a public interest law firm based in the coalfields of eastern Kentucky that focuses on environmental protection, mine safety and representing victims of black lung disease.

In addition to his law degree, Howard also holds degrees in philosophy and finance, also from UK. His wife, Maureen Mullinax, is an assistant professor of sociology at Xavier University.

Health in Appalachia Book Accepted for Publication

Appalachian Health and Well-Being has been accepted for publication by the University Press of Kentucky. The manuscript is edited by Robert Ludke and Phillip Obermiller. Initial release is expected to be in the Spring of 2012.

Latest Working Paper Available

Working Paper #20, on Appalachian Culture, by Philip Obermiller and Michael Maloney, has been posted on the UAC website at <http://www.uacvoice.org/pdf/workingpaper20.pdf>.

Research Committee Participates in ASA Conference

Several members of the Research Committee attended the 2011 Appalachian Studies Association Annual Conference in Richmond, Kentucky in March. Phillip Obermiller, former ASA President, and Michael Maloney held a discussion on the *Uses and Misuses of Appalachian Culture*. Robert Ludke presented his paper on "The Social and Health Status of Black Appalachian Migrants in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Area." Obermiller and Roberta Campbell also convened sessions.

Next year's ASA conference will be held in Pennsylvania. To learn more about ASA visit <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>.

Women of Appalachia Conference Returns

The regional campus system of Ohio University is revitalizing the Women of Appalachia conference in October 2011 after a three-year hiatus. Please visit the conference website for developments. This concentrated one-day conference on Friday, October 21 in Zanesville, features Grammy award-nominated artist Becky Hobbs. The deadline for proposals is August 1.

In 2012, the regional system begins the program "Sisters in Science". For more information visit: www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/womenofappalachia.

Diabetes Health in Appalachia Conference

The conference "Better Health in Appalachia: Preventing Diabetes and Its Risks" will be held in Portsmouth, Ohio on July 15. The Plenary Speaker is Deborah Filorah Fillman, Public Health Director for the Green River District Health Department in Owensboro, Kentucky. Registration is \$15 and the deadline is July 5. For more information, contact Kim Leach at 740-710-1306, 740-597-1256, or kw286007@ohio.edu.

Greater Health Foundation Community Health Survey Continues Analyses

The *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey* (GCCHSS) gives an in-depth look at the self-reported health of tri-state residents. Through comparisons, the 2010 GCCHSS shows how the tri-state area stacks up to the rest of the country and how our health is changing over time. The results give organizations and agencies, policy makers, and residents the local data they need as they work to improve the overall health of the Greater Cincinnati area. Information specific to the Appalachian community is available in the data tables.

The GCCHSS is a project of The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and is conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A recent analysis of the 2011 survey data reveals that the average adult in Greater Cincinnati experienced 7.7 days—or just over one week—of poor mental or physical health per month. For white Appalachians, the average number of unhealthy days was 9.1. Data highlights with more details and data tables are available on the survey site: http://www.healthfoundation.org/data_publications/gcchss.html.

Research Notes



(From the Research Committee: Robert Ludke, Chair)

January 27, 2011:

Presentation:

Robert Ludke presented the latest information on the Lower Price Hill Diabetes Initiative: “Partnering to Engage Urban and Rural Application Communities in Clinical Research”. The initiative is funded by a Clinical and Translational Science Award through Ohio State University and is part of a partnership with the Cincinnati Clinical and Translational Science Center. The urban community of LPH participated in UAC-sponsored town hall meetings and teen focus groups. Findings from surveys on diabetes were also included. The initiative includes the development of community health advocates to educate LPH residents on diabetes and increase access to food, healthy activity, and care

Updates:

Robert Ludke’s and Phil Obermiller’s book on Appalachian Health is on schedule to be published by the University Press of Kentucky. Bob and Phil have a June 1 deadline for submission of the complete draft of the manuscript. (See announcement in this newsletter.) Lora Arduser is working on a qualitative study of patient empowerment in group appointments and on social networking sites in diabetes care. She’s also a consultant for the Cincinnati Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Program (BCERP). Mike Maloney noted that the Social Areas Study is raising money to proceed. He and Phil have a chapter in Steve Fisher’s Volume 2 of *Fighting Back in Appalachia* (University of Illinois Press). The fifth edition of *Appalachia: Social Context: Past and Present* will be an e-book through Appalshop. Kay Russ has designed a student retention survey through Lindsey Wilson College.

Old Business:

The committee discussed how to proceed in reconvening the Educational Task Force.

Additional Links:

Community Research Collaborative Blog

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

Center for the Study of Gender and Ethnicity in Appalachia

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

Appalachian Studies Association
<http://AppalachianStudies.org/>

Social Areas Report of Cincinnati
<http://www.socialareasofcincinnati.org/>

Appalachian Women's Alliance
<http://www.appalachianwomen.org>

Appalachian Studies at Miami University-Hamilton
<http://www.ham.muohio.edu/appalachian/index.htm>

Oral History of Appalachia Program, Marshall University
<http://www.marshall.edu/sociology/Oralhist/ohap.html>

Appalachian Regional Commission
<http://www.arc.gov/index.jsp>

Highlander Research and Education Center
<http://www.highlandercenter.org/>

Cincinnati, a City of Immigrants
<http://www.cincinnati-cityofimmigrants.com/cqi/index.html>.

Appalachian Centers:

East Tennessee State University Center for Appalachian Studies and Services
<http://www.etsu.edu/cass>

The University of Kentucky Appalachian Center
<http://www.research.uky.edu/Appalcenter/index.html>

Berea College Appalachian Center
<http://www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/>

Appalachian State University, The Center for Appalachian Studies
<http://www1.appstate.edu/dept/appstudies/>

Eastern Kentucky University Center for Appalachian Studies
<http://www.appalachianstudies.eku.edu>

The Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education
<http://oache.org/>

Radford University Appalachian Regional Studies Center

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

Emory and Henry College Appalachian Center for Community Service

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

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>

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>

Western Carolina University Mountain Heritage Center

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

West Virginia University Regional Research Institute

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