

# IDS DEPARTMENT Newsletter

APRIL-MAY 2024

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## A WORD FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

DR. MARIA PRAMAGGIORE

It's Bealtine (Mouth of Fire), the May celebration that marks the beginning of summer. Although our local weather doesn't reflect it, I have a sense that faculty, students, and staff in IDS and at App are ready for longer days and a slower pace. I salute your dedication this busy academic year and wish you the very best during the summer months ahead.

*Maria*

IDS DEPARTMENT  
NEWSLETTER

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# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Tom Hansell, Trevor McKenzie, and Julie Shepherd-Powell's media performance "The Trash Trout Motion Picture Show" was selected to be part of the {Re}Happening at Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center April 20.

For more details, <https://www.blackmountaincollege.org/rehappening/2024-artists/>



MARIA PRAMAGGIORE

- Maria Pramaggiore won a URC grant to travel to Dublin, Ireland in 2024-25 to record interviews for "Fortress Fownes," a limited series podcast that is part of the research project "[Waking the Hirschfeld.](#)"

TOM HANSELL

- Tom Hansell's experimental film "Benthic Salvage Triptych" was screened at the Oxford Film Festival in Oxford, Mississippi March 22 and 23. For more details, <https://www.ox-film.com/>
- Tom Hansell's experimental film "Moab Waste Stream" was screened at the Athens International Film and Video Festival in Athens, Ohio on April 10. for more details <http://athensfilmfest.org/full-schedule-2024/>

JOSEPH BATHANTI

- Joseph Bathanti has work recently accepted and forthcoming in the *North Carolina Literary Review*; *Asheville Poetry Review*; *Five Points*; *The Ghost Story: Ghost Stories in Literature, Folklore & Contemporary Culture*; *Still: The Journal*; *J Journal*; and *Pine Straw*

KELLY ANN RENWICK

- Kelly Ann Renwick attended the American Association of Geographers annual conference 4/15 - 4/20 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Kelly presented her research on food insecurity among Latino/a/x populations in the NC High Country.

BETH DAVISON

- Beth Davidson showcased her film "The Nature of Art" at multiple festivals this Spring. Beth's film was screened at *Artomatic* (Washington, DC), *West Virginia Mountaineer Short Film Festival* (Morgantown, WV), and *Long Leaf Film Festival* (Raleigh, NC). *The Nature of Art* is more than just a film about art; it's a story of finding magic and meaning in life's unpredictable journey, portrayed through the transformative power of nature and creativity. Using nature as her canvas, the film's subject, Elizabeth, finds solace and expression through creating art from natural elements in the wilderness that become alive on the screen.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## GWS CONFERENCE

This year, WGS South, held its annual conference in Spartanburg, SC at the University of South Carolina Upstate. App State, IDS, and GWS were well represented! The theme of the conference was *"Care Feminisms, Crip Futures"*

Three students presented work supported by GWS, IDS, the College of Arts and Science's SAFE grant, and the Honors College.

GWS minor **Trey Best** delivered a talk entitled *"Disorientation and Disruption: A Queer Phenomenology in the Face of Climate Catastrophe."* GWS student **Gaea Polanik** workshopped *"Disability and Pleasure: Rethinking Sexual Education"* as part of the conference's student caucus. GWS major and Nonprofit Organizations minor **Gabrielle Secker** presented *"The Role of Feminism and Disability in Social Change: A Restful Critique of Nonprofit Labor."* Faculty members **Rebecca Lambert** and **Emily Lutenski** attended the conference to cheer them on and can attest to the quality of their work and the conversations it generated.

**Congratulations to Trey, Gaea, and Gabrielle!**



## WATUAGA RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

Congratulations to Watauga Residential College students, **Caitlyn Hayes** and **Drake Dorson** for winning Honorable Mention Awards in the A.R. Ammons Student Poetry Competition!

(open to all North Carolina colleges, university and community college undergraduates)

**Caitlyn's poem** is titled *"My Pants Smell Like Pills."* **Drake's poem** is titled *"My Father's War."*

<https://sites.google.com/view/arammonspoetrycontest/home>.

Congratulations to **Alexis Beittel!** Alexis's short story, *Pooling*, was published in the fall online edition of *The Peel Review*, Appalachian State's award-winning student literary journal.

**Adam Suggs** won the JV National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) Championship at the Biennial Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament. Congratulations Adam!

**Allie Morgan** presented her paper *"By Invitation Only: Anti-Americanism in Stoker's Dracula"* at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Long Beach, California. Congratulations Allie!



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Eight graduate students from the Appalachian Studies graduate program presented their work at the ASA annual conference at Western Carolina University March 7-9, 2024.

- **Mae Turney:** *"Reframing Modern Day Appalachia: The Dangerous Implications of Reductive Rhetoric"*
- **Elise Johnson:** *"Fighters & Protectors: Unveiling Appalachian Women's Activism in Life and Fiction by Silas House and Robert Gipe"*
- **Katherine Rodriguez:** *"Unraveling the Past, Building Bridges for the Future: A Study on Appalachian Cultural Museum Artifacts and Community Engagement Initiatives"*
- **Jesse Barber:** *"The Threads of Our Future"*
- **Sammy Osmond:** *"Football Town: How Sports Shaped an Appalachian Community"*
- **Caleb Brown:** *"Lengua and Livermush: The Evolving Landscape of Appalachian Cuisine"*
- **Becks Lipshultz:** *"Folk Music & Queerness: The Principle of Authenticity"*
- **Yndiana Montes Fogelquist:** *"Diversity in Appalachian Old Time Music and Bluegrass Music"*

Congratulations to all the students who attended the conference and thank you for representing IDS !



## FILMS AND PHOTOS; AS GRAD STUDENTS

### Sammy Osmond's (Appalachian Studies Graduate Student) film - "Football Town"

Sammy's film has been screened at Boone Docs (Boone, NC), Oxford Film Festival (Oxford, MS), and Long Leaf Film Festival (Raleigh, NC)

### Yndiana Montes Fogelquist (Appalachian Studies Graduate Student) film - "Everybody Loves Maako"

Yndiana's film has been screened at Boone Docs (Boone, NC) and the Rural Film Festival (Blacksburg, VA)

### Jesse Barber

Soon to be graduated Masters Student, Jesse has another *New York Times* photo credit with the recent article on House Republican Virginia Foxx.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/16/us/virginia-foxx-harvard-antisemitism.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare&ugrp=c&pvid=89CABEC3-E649-4ED5-9E0A-50A94F5C1F99&sgrp=c-cb>



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## FULL FRAME FILM FESTIVAL

April 4th-7th, a group of 7 students, including both graduate and undergraduate students, attended the Full Frame Film Festival in Durham, NC, accompanied by IDS faculty members Tom Hansell and Beth Davison. The trip was partially funded by the College of Arts & Sciences SAFE grant.

In addition to watching inspiring documentary films, students participated in the Full Frame Fellows program, which provided them with valuable opportunities to engage with filmmakers and other film students from across the country. The students took full advantage of the chance to network and connect with industry professionals.

Beth Davison reports students were deeply moved by many of the films and found inspiration for their own projects. The students were not shy about approaching filmmakers and film subjects to ask questions and discuss their work. Some students even invited filmmakers to visit Boone and screen their films, an exciting possibility that we hope to make a reality in the near future.

The Full Frame Film Festival proved to be an enriching experience for our students, exposing them to powerful documentaries and providing them with opportunities to learn from and connect with established professionals in the field.



## OUTSTANDING SENIORS

**Congratulations to our outstanding seniors: Kiana Linehan (GLS), Cristine Payne (IDS), Max Story (GWS), and Dex Williams (Watuuga Residential College)!**





# IN OTHER NEWS

## ANTEBELLUM SLAVERY IN APPALACHIA

On April 29th, students and faculty members will showcase a new exhibit originating from "Antebellum Slavery in Appalachia," a course offered by the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies to address the myth that the Appalachian region had little to no slavery. The course is taught by adjunct instructor and Reich College of Education alumna Dr. Leslie McKesson, a descendent of three generations of former slaves of Fort Defiance. Among the students is IDS major Suzanne Moreland—along with Appalachian State faculty members McKesson, Dr. Ellen Cowan, and Dr. Beth Davison. Dr. Cowan, professor in the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences, and her GES students are scanning the site's grounds to determine the locations of the original fort, slave cabins and the unmarked graveyard of the enslaved. Dr. Davison, professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and director of AppDocs, is studying Lenoir's history by applying emerging artificial intelligence technology to further understanding of the over 40,000 pages of documents that make up the Lenoir papers in the archives at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Appalachian State. She is also considering creating a tourist video on the history of the location.

Davison shared that the work at the historic site will continue after the semester ends. She is raising funds to support a large-scale painting in the dedicated exhibit space to reflect the lives of the enslaved at Fort Defiance, and is also considering the installation of an outdoor sculpture memorial to honor the lives of enslaved people who lived and labored in Caldwell County.



### Eclipse Gazing with Watuagans April 8, 2024

### THOUGHTS FROM YOUR GA

Hi everyone! I have so enjoyed working with and meeting you this past year. So sad that this is my last newsletter before my graduation in August! I am so grateful to have had this time with you all and all that I have learned during my time here. It has been such a pleasure getting to know you all. I hope this finals season is going smoothly and you are taking the time to relax and reflect on this past year and semester. You have all worked so hard and accomplished so much! With the semester coming to an end, I wanted to share a special part of mine, with some of my photos from studying abroad in Spain during Spring Break—it was incredible! Lastly, I want to thank you all for this past year, it has been such a great experience. Feel free to reach out anytime!

Email me at :

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Celebration of GWS Student and Faculty Accomplishments**  
 Friday May 3, 4-5.30 pm  
 The Great Hall (205 LLA)
- Graduation Celebration with IDS Department Graduates and Families**  
 Friday May 10 from 1.30-3.00 pm  
 The Great Hall (205 LLA)  
**Show up for our students!**

