

IDS DEPARTMENT Newsletter

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A WORD FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

DR. MARIA PRAMAGGIORE

As the semester draws to a close, I am reflecting on the immense value of our work to local, regional, national, and international communities. A recent Focus Group with IDS majors and AS MAs gave us a wealth of information about what our students appreciate about being in IDS--getting to know their professors well; charting their own individualized learning path--as well as helpful notes for how to improve the student experience--more attention to specific professional skills like communication and opportunities to develop research and cooperative projects. I hope that, amidst the flurry of December and holidays, you find time to enjoy the fruits of your labor and the gifts of the season.

Maria

IDS DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

LAURA AMMON

- Laura Ammon has been nominated for the **Board of NC Governor's Teaching Award**
- The department of philosophy and religion has approved Dr. Ammon for full professor.
Congratulations Dr. Ammon!

JOSEPH BATHANTI

- Joseph Bathanti was nominated for the **2023 Pushcart Prize in Fiction**
- Joseph also has poems forthcoming in the *Asheville Poetry Review and Journal*
- There have been recent readings of Joseph's work at Frostburg State University (Frostburg, MD) the Senator John Heinz History Center (Pgh. PA), and Penn State-York (York, PA)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Katelyn Kazmirci

GLS major and Watauga Student

This student wrote a piece about their study abroad trip to Cuba with Dr. Joseph Gonzalez and Professor Emily Daughtridge. Below is some quotes from the piece and photos from the trip.

"Dr. Gonzalez's class was primarily focused on the history starting hundreds of years ago when Cuba was under a Spanish colony to now under a Marxist-Lenist state. We were then able to identify key issues taking place now in Cuba such as the world's longest embargo which has been in place for over 60 years by the United States, and how it has greatly impacted not only Cuba but other parts of the world. Professor Daughtridge's class focused on dance such as rumba, Cha-Cha-Cha, salsa and so much more. We connected ballet to Cuba and native African dances to what are now known as common Cuban dances. Abigail Lapp, a sophomore in Watauga Residential College says "going to Cuba isn't an opportunity I ever thought I'd have, but under the guidance of Joe and Emily I was able to not just go to Cuba, but truly immerse myself in the culture. Emily's dance classes helped push me far out of my comfort zone, and Joe's Cuban history classes helped me understand the current standing of the country and people who live there." "While I am writing this I feel sad. Not sad where I'd want to cry, but sad where I am remembering all of the amazing things we did, the people we met, and the incredible times we all had together. ""On behalf of all of the students on our trip we appreciate all of the time and effort Dr. Gonzalez and Professor Daughtridge put into our amazing trip to Cuba. They truly made this program and trip an incredible experience. One that we will never forget!"



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The following two students are both graduating this December from their Bachelor's program at App State and have been awarded Outstanding Wataugan. Congratulations! We can't wait to see what the future holds for these outstanding students!

MARIANA ANGELES LEMUS



Mariana Angeles Lemus is from Hickory, NC. Mariana is graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Political Science/Pre-Law with Minors in Criminal Justice and Experiential and Integrative Learning. Maria served as an Appol Corps Leader for new students at App state as well as a Watauga Peer Advisor. Mariana's post graduation plan is going to work in the Public Defender's Office in Wilmington,NC.

ZITALYA LEATHERS

Zitalya Leathers is from Durham, NC. Zitalya is graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Sustainable Development . Zitalya served as a Wataugan Peer Advisor, Health Professions Peer Advisor, along with other clubs at App State. Zitalya's post graduation plan is entering the Dual Masters program at App State in Political Science and Data Analytics.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY 2024

Monday, February 20th at 3:30 P.M.

Reception for Mary Emma Harris and dedication of her Black Mountain College donation to Special Collections, sponsored by Advancement and the library

Thursday, February 23rd

Panel discussion with Appalachian Studies alumni

Friday, February 24th

Screening of *King Coal* (2022) with a visit from director Elaine McMillion Sheldon

Saturday, February 25th

Boone Docs, this year with a new IDS-sponsored award for Best Student Film ceremony.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR GA

Hi everyone! I've enjoyed working with you all this past semester. I know this time is hectic and I hope finals are going well. Break is so close! In this time of year, I tend to reflect. I added a picture of little me on an ornament and our tree at home that we fill with ornaments throughout the years, its full of nostalgia. I hope you are taking this time to look back and see how far you've come and all you've accomplished as well. The little girl in the ornament didn't even know what an MBA was! I hope you all have a good and relaxing break.

Happy holidays!
I'm excited to see what we accomplish in Spring!

Email me at :

Grindstafflf@appstate.edu



SPECIAL TOPICS CLASSES IN SPRING 2024

Antebellum Slavery in Appalachia (IDS 3540)- taught by Leslie McKessen

The subject matter of the course will be slavery in Appalachia, but the primary focus will be interpreting the experiences of enslaved people at Fort Defiance in Caldwell County. We'll be taking a creative approach to telling about life as an enslaved person including family, community, social aspects and other areas of life and thought that usually are not part of how these stories are told. The intent of the exhibit is to apply what we learn from scholarly texts, public records and primary documents, and narratives of descendants of people enslaved on the property to show a fuller picture that expresses humanity, agency, and self-emancipation. Students will use a variety of creative approaches, including storytelling, audio, and documentary processes among others.

Intro to Video Production (IDS 3530)- taught by Beth Davison

Students will have an opportunity to broaden their media horizons with the special topics IDS course, Introduction to Video Production. Designed for students from all majors, this course offers a comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals of video production. Specifically, students will learn the basics of using cameras, managing lighting and sound, and the principles of editing. The course is particularly beneficial for students pursuing a Documentary Studies minor, as it provides the essential production course background required. It also presents an excellent opportunity for English Film Studies majors to begin exploring the technical aspects of filmmaking. The course will offer valuable hands-on experience in a supportive learning environment.