The Appalachian College Association is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2021-22 Faculty Fellowships. Through this program, the Association will furnish during the 2022-2023 academic year financial support to member institutions’ faculty for post-doctoral research or pre-doctoral degree completion.

This year, twenty-three faculty members are awarded fellowships.

**John B. Stephenson Semester Fellowships**

John B. Stephenson, then Director of the Appalachian Center at the University of Kentucky, received the first Mellon Foundation grant for fellowships for faculty at over 30 private colleges in Central Appalachia, forming the “Appalachian College Program.” In 1990, participating member colleges in the fellowship program incorporated as the Appalachian College Association and assumed administration of the program. Stephenson, President of Berea College from 1984-1994, served as the first chair of the ACA’s Board of Directors. After his death in 1995, the ACA Board voted to name semester-long fellowships in the liberal arts and sciences in his memory.

**George Argyros, Associate Professor of Biology**

Emory & Henry College

*Stephenson Post-Doctoral Fellowship*

Exploration of the implications for the role of social structure and degree of gregariousness in the survival of skeletal fractures in wild carnivores

**Jeffrey Delbert, Associate Professor of Mass Communication**

Lenoir-Rhyne University

*Stephenson Post-Doctoral Fellowship*

Examination of how social media can be used creatively to connect audiences by bearing witness and conducting enquiries into violence

**Daleah Goodwin, Professor of History**

Warren Wilson College

*Stephenson Post-Doctoral Fellowship*

Development of a manuscript entitled Sisterly Affections: The Work of Miss Hallie Quinn Brown, 1849-1949, focused upon this suffragist, temperance crusader, and founding member of the Black women’s club movement
Joshua Holbrook, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science  
Montreat College  
**Stephenson Pre-Doctoral Fellowship**  
Support toward the completion of dissertation and Ph.D. in the Wildlife and Fisheries Biology program at Clemson University

Robert Huffard, Associate Professor of History  
Lees-McRae College  
**Stephenson Post-Doctoral Fellowship**  
Support for a book project that seeks to explore legendary train engineer Casey Jones’s story – both his life and the posthumous rise of the mythology that surrounds him

Ethan Mannon, Associate Professor of English  
Mars Hill University  
**Stephenson Post-Doctoral Fellowship**  
Support for the book project Soil and Sweat: The Georgic Mode in Twentieth-Century American Literature, which explores American environmental writing that positions nature as a place where people work

Shawn O’Hare, Professor of English  
Carson-Newman University  
**Stephenson Post-Doctoral Fellowship**  
Support for travel to the National Library of Ireland and a full-length study of Irish novelist James Plunkett, author of Strumpet City

Christopher Shelley, Assistant Professor of Biology  
The University of the South  
**Stephenson Post-Doctoral Fellowship**  
Examination of the molecular neurobiology of Echinoderm behavior through three projects: effects of disrupted dopamine synaptic activity on behavior; molecular basis of spontaneous electrical activity in muscle; and a comprehensive review detailing the current state of knowledge of all known neurotransmitters, neurotransmitter receptors, and ion channels found in echinoderms

**Semester Fellowships**

Lisa Kriner, Professor of Art  
Berea College  
**Jean Ritchie Post-Doctoral Fellowship**  
Support for two interrelated studio art projects: creation of a body of art that explores walking through the landscape and the act of remembering those walks through drawings, embroidery and handweaving; and, during the year of walking, learning to identify, collect, and use dye plants native to Kentucky

Kathryn Rasmussen, Professor of Mathematics  
Brevard College  
**Post-Doctoral Fellowship**  
Examination of best strategies and practices for supporting student success in higher education mathematics courses
Nancy Sowers, Professor of Finance
Berea College
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Examination of the financial literacy of underserved students in Central Appalachia toward the development of impactful pedagogies to address these concerns

Summer Research Fellowships

Michael Blouin, Associate Professor of English & Humanities
Milligan University
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Support toward a book project concerning the influence of crime fiction on author Stephen King

Rebecca Buchanan, Professor of Health & Human Performance
Emory & Henry College
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
A comparative exploration of rural schools in Germany and the Netherlands, exploring pedagogical and cultural practices that foster resiliency and establishing a structured framework for intercultural immersion as part a study-abroad experience

Oksana Gerlits, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Tennessee Wesleyan University
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Support for structure-function studies of Ribonuclease H enzyme using X-ray and Neutron Crystallography

Caleb Gibson, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Examination of variances in maple syrup antioxidants among Acer species, harvest times, and grades

Tina Hanlon, Professor of English
Ferrum College
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Support to continue ongoing digitalization project with Appalachian folktales and ballads, the Ferrum College Blue Ridge Institute and Museum archives, and the website AppLit

Jerod Hollyfield, Associate Professor of Film Studies
Carson-Newman University
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Support for production of episodes of the second season of The Assisted Stories Project (set in Nashville, TN), aimed to preserve and promote the narratives of the South’s elder population

Sunil Karna, Assistant Professor of Physics
Union College
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Support of research focusing on the potential activity of sodium tantalate photocatalysts for enhancing visible-light photocatalytic activity
Xiaoxue Li, Associate Professor of Mathematics  
Emory & Henry College  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
Support for studies of various special cases of two classic projective theorems (Desargues' Theorem and Pascal's Theorem) to prove these special cases in a Euclidean setting.

Hollie Pellosmaa, Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Tusculum University  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
Examination of the relationship between (the Appalachian) region and medical/government mistrust on vaccination hesitancy related to the coronavirus.

Ian Pimienta, Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
University of Pikeville  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
Support for In silico studies examining the interaction of biomolecules with carbon nanotubes.

Katherine Smith, Associate Professor of Psychology  
Tusculum University  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
Study of the psychological impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic within the Appalachian region and among marginalized groups.

In-Year Research Fellowships

Jeffrey Perry, Assistant Professor of History  
Tusculum University  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
Support toward a book project examining how Andrew Johnson’s heirs and the Greeneville, TN community have sought to shape his legacy.