

SAVANNAH PAIGE MURRAY

savannahpaigemurray.com | damfighters.com | 2023

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy | Rhetoric & Writing | GPA: 4.0 | Graduation: Dec. 18, 2020
Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Dissertation: *The Dam Fighters: Commons Environmental Rhetoric, Rhetorical Citizenship, and Local Ethos*

Committee: Katrina M. Powell (chair), Kelly Pender, Sheila Carter-Tod, and Carolyn Commer

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi | Chapter 25

Graduate Certificate | Preparing the Future Professoriate | Completed Spring 2019
Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Master of Arts | Appalachian Studies | GPA: 4.0
Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina

Thesis: *"In This Way the Mountain Lives": An Ecocritical Reading of John Ehle's Appalachian Fiction*

Appalachian Studies Nominee, Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies, Outstanding Thesis Award

Bachelor of Arts | History | Bachelor of Science | Environmental Studies
Wofford College | Spartanburg, South Carolina

Thesis: *"United We Stand, Divided We May Be Dammed": Grassroots Environmental Activism and the TVA, 1961-1972*

Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Chapter of SC | High Honors in History | *Cum Laude*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Rhetoric and Writing Studies | 2022-present
Department of English | Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina

Visiting Assistant Professor, Rhetoric and Writing Studies | Aug. 2020–Present
Department of English | Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina
Affiliate Faculty, Appalachian Studies
Affiliate Membership, Graduate Faculty, 2020-2023

Language Sciences Capstone Development Consultant | Department of English | Dec.
2019 - June 30, 2020 | Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Graduate Research Assistant | Center for Rhetoric and Society | Aug. 2019 – May 2020
Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Data in Social Context Workshop Member | Data & Decisions | July 2019 – May 2020
Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Department of English | Aug. 2017 - May 2019
Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Center for Appalachian Studies | Aug. 2015 - May 2017
Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina

Laboratory Teaching Assistant | Department of Biology | Aug. 2012 - May 2014
Wofford College | Spartanburg, South Carolina

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate & Graduate Teaching at Appalachian State University

RC 1000 | Expository Writing (10 sections)

RC 2001 | Introduction to Writing Across the Curriculum (6 sections)

ENGL 3100 | Business Writing (3 Sections)

ENGL 3695 | Technical Writing for Computer Science (5 sections; 1 Spring 2022)

ENGL 4200 | Editing (2 sections)

ENGL 5520 | Technical Writing (Graduate level Course; 1 section)

RC 5300 | Studies in Rhetoric and Composition | Environmental Rhetoric (Graduate level course; 1 section)

PS 5500 | Rhetoric of Environmental Politics (graduate independent study; 1 section)

RC 5100 | Composition Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy (graduate course; 1 section)

Undergraduate teaching at Virginia Tech

ENGL 1106 | Writing from Research (2 sections as instructor of record)

ENGL 1634 | Introduction to Shakespeare (1 section as TA)

ENGL 3774 | Business Writing (3 sections; 2 as TA, 1 as instructor of record)

ENGL 3764 | Technical Writing (1 section as instructor of record; Winter 2020)

Undergraduate teaching at Wofford College

Biology 150 | Biological Inquiry (with lab) (2 sections as TA)

Biology 151 | Biological Development (with lab) (2 sections as TA)

PUBLICATIONS

Book Projects

The Dam Fighters: A History of Environmental Activism, Communication, and Controversy along the French Broad River. Proposal submission date: Oct. 1, 2022.

- In this book-length project, I document the largely unknown case of the “Dam Fighters,” a pivotal grassroots environmental organization that successfully prevented the implementation of 14 dams along the French Broad River in western North Carolina between 1962-1971. Combining archival research with new oral histories, this book makes a compelling case for incorporating the Dam Fighters into the history of environmental activism and includes specific suggestions for current and future environmental activists, drawn from the Dam Fighters’ successes.

These Mountaineers: Grassroots Environmental Victories from Southern Appalachia. In progress, three chapters drafted. IRB Exempt (study #21-0208).

- In this book-length project, I document lesser-known grassroots environmental victories from southern Appalachia. Combining archival sources, secondary sources, and original interviews, this book offers a nuanced portrait of environmental protection and environmental rhetoric, highlighting specific tactics that can contribute to the future endeavors to preserve the environment. Similarly, this research will contribute to scholarship in Appalachian Studies and the environmental humanities and environmental rhetoric by helping to expand notions of “what counts” as environmentalism and “who counts” as an environmentalist. Ultimately, this project will help advocate for a more inclusive and equitable environmental movement, one that will ideally be more productive in advocating for rural and mountainous regions in the future.

A Companion to the Literature, History, and Culture of Appalachia. Co-edited book, project in development with Zackary D. Vernon.

- In this edited book, we offer a series of nuanced, contemporary scholarship in Appalachian Studies. Our goal with this reader is to provide an Appalachian version of the widely popular series of readers in Southern Studies, such as *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of the American South*. Our target audience for this project is upper-level undergraduate, and graduate level courses, as well as scholars whose work touches Appalachian Studies scholarship.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

Murray, Savannah Paige. "POWHR to the People: Fighting for Climate Justice and Opposing the Mountain Valley Pipeline in Appalachia." Accepted for publication in *Technical Communication Quarterly*, "Information and Communication Technologies, Development, and Climate Change" Special Issue. Publication expected Summer 2023.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "An Ethic of Everyday Nature in John Ehle's *The Road*." *North Carolina Literary Review*, no. 30, 2021. Winner of the 2020 John Ehle Prize, awarded for the best essay on an understudied North Carolina writer.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "My Archive Fever." *Appalachian Curator*, Summer 2020.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "'A New King of Stillness': Hilda Morley's Poetry." *Appalachian Journal: Special Black Mountain College Issue*, edited by Sandra L. Ballard, Joseph Bathanti, and Savannah Paige Murray, vol. 44, no. 3-4, January 2018.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "'United We Stand, Divided We May Be Dammed': Grassroots Environmentalism and the TVA in Western North Carolina." *The Journal of East Tennessee History*, vol. 87, 2015.

Book Chapters

Murray, Savannah Paige. "'The Grit of the Land Was in Them': The Post-Pastoral in John Ehle's *The Land Breakers*." Forthcoming book chapter in *Appalachian Ecocriticism and the Paradox of Place*, edited by Laura Wright and Jessica Cory, University of Georgia Press, publication date: May 1, 2023.

Powell, Katrina M. and Savannah Paige Murray. "Rhetorics of Stewardship and Loss: Resettlement Resistance Through Everyday Nature in the Shenandoah National Park and on the New River." Book chapter in *Lost in Transition*, edited by Aaron Purcell, University of Tennessee Press, publication date: Oct. 25, 2021.

Book Reviews in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Murray, Savannah Paige. Review of Michele Morrone's *Ailing in Place: Environmental Inequities and Health Disparities in Appalachia*. H-Environment, Online, 2020.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "A First Harvest from North Carolina's Johnny Appleseed: A Review of Jonathan Williams: *The Lord of Orchards*, Jeffrey Beam and Richards Owens, editors." *North Carolina Literary Review Online*, 2019.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "Redemption in the Imprisoning Mountains: A Review of Ron Rash's *The Risen*." *North Carolina Literary Review Online*, 2018.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "Katúah: Bioregional Journal of the Southern Appalachians, 1983-1993." *The Journal of Appalachian Studies*, vol. 24, no. 1, 2018.

Review Essays in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Murray, Savannah Paige. Review Essay of Mary Cecilia Jackson's *Sparrow* and Sophie Gonzales' *Only Mostly Devastated*. *North Carolina Literary Review Online*, 2021.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "No Other Stories Like These: The Liminal Lives of Other(ed) Women." Mesha Maren's *Sugar Run*, and Etaf Rum's *A Woman is No Man* reviewed, *North Carolina Literary Review Online* 2020.

Murray, Savannah Paige. "Beyond Martin Duberman's *Community*—New Directions for Black Mountain College Research." *Appalachian Journal: Special Black Mountain College Issue*, edited by Sandra L. Ballard, Joseph Bathanti, and Savannah Paige Murray, vol. 44, no. 3-4, January 2018.

Manuscripts Under Peer Review

Powell, Katrina M. and Savannah Paige Murray. "Compelling Written Eviction: Rhetorics of Resistance and Eminent Domain in Elia Kazan's *Wild River*." *Enculturation*.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

Radio IQ & WVTF | “In the 1970s, a project to build new dams along the New River inspired thousands to organize” | Radio Interview | Sept. 23, 2022 | [LINK](#)

Radio IQ & WVTF | “Book explores memories of Appalachians forced to leave their land to build National Parks, dams and roads” | July 25, 2022 | [LINK](#)

VTX | “Uprooted in Appalachia” | July 15, 2022 | [LINK](#)

Appalachian Today | “5 faculty teams awarded 2022 Chancellor’s Innovation grants for projects at App State | [LINK](#)

College of Arts and Sciences Press Release | “RRI Seed Grant Recipients share research outcomes” | [LINK](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Research Supervisor | Dept. of English | Feb. 2019 – Aug. 2020

Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Project Title: *Sociolinguistic variation in post-Katrina New Orleans*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Katie Carmichael, Associate Professor of English

Funding Source: National Science Foundation Collaborative Research Grant

Assistant Director | University Writing Center | Dept. of English | Aug. 2017 – Aug. 2018

Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

PROFESSIONAL WRITING EXPERIENCE

Technical Writing and Scholarly Publication Consultant | Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering | Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering | May – Sept. 2020 | University of Florida | Gainesville, Florida

Proofreader | *Non-Referential Architecture*, Ideated by Valerio Olgiati and Written by Markus Breitschmid. Park Books, 2019.

Assistant Editor | *Appalachian Journal* | Department of English | Aug. 2016 – Nov. 2017 | Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina

Designer & Typesetter | *Voices from the Headwaters: Local Stories* CD | Jan. 2016 – May 2016 | Center for Appalachian Studies | Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina

Editorial Assistant | *Appalachian Journal* | Department of English | Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2016 | Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina

Contributing Writer | *Underground Guide to Spartanburg*, vol. 2 | Hub City Press | 2015 | Spartanburg, South Carolina

GRANTS & AWARDS

Faculty Reassigned Time (FRT) Competition, Spring 2023 | Awarded 1 course release to write a grant proposal by the Office of Research, Appalachian State University

Most Helpful Faculty & Staff, 2021-2022 | Appalachian State University | Nominated by First-Year Writing Students at Appalachian State University

Rural Resilience & Innovation Seed Grant | College of Arts & Sciences | Appalachian State University | Awarded \$4,731 along with co-PI Dr. Julie Shepherd-Powell for “Grassroots Sustainability and Resiliency in Appalachia: Protecting Regional Watersheds and Growing Local/Global Environmental Knowledge”

John Ehle Prize Winner | *North Carolina Literary Review* | Jan. 2021 | Awarded \$250 for best essay from 2020 about a North Carolina Writer

Student and Faculty Excellence (SAFE) Grant | College of Arts and Sciences | Appalachian State University | Oct. 2020 | Awarded \$500 for “Grassroots Environmental Activism in Appalachia Oral History and Cultural Rhetoric Project”

Carolyn Rude Research Award | Rhetoric & Writing PhD Program | Virginia Tech | Oct. 2020 | Awarded \$500 by a juried panel for article entitled, “Commons Environmental Rhetoric for Grassroots Environmental Activism”

SERVICE

Departmental Service | Department of English | Appalachian State

- Member, Rhetoric & Composition General Education Program Assessment Committee, 2023-present
- Member, Rhetoric and Writing Studies Committee, 2020-present
- Member, Visiting Writers Series Committee, 2022-present
- Member, Departmental Personnel Committee, 2022-present
- Member, Advisory Committee, Fall 2022
- Interim Chair, Rhetoric and Writing Studies Committee, Fall 2022
- Member, Rhetoric and Writing Studies Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, Summer 2022
- Member, Non-Tenure-Track Interests Committee, 2020-2021
- Member, Rhetoric and Composition Steering Committee, 2020-2022
- Member, Rhetoric and Composition Institute (RCI) Planning Committee, 2020-2022
- Member, Rhetoric and Composition Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Ad Hoc Committee, 2021-2022
- Member, Rhetoric and Composition Textbook Committee, 2021
- RWS Faculty Representative, Appalachian State University Admissions Open House, Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020
- RWS Faculty Representative, Appalachian State University Admissions Open House, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022

Professional Service | Appalachian Studies | Feminist Rhetoric | WAC

- Manuscript reviewer, *Appalachian Journal*, 2017-present
- Manuscript reviewer, *Peitho* 2020-present
- Member, Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award Committee, Appalachian Studies Association, 2019-present
- Member, *WAC Journal* Review Board, 2021-present
- Manuscript reviewer, *Technical Communication Quarterly*, 2022-present

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Selected Member | PREParation for Appalachian Research Experiences (PREPARE) a research mentoring program for research-interested junior faculty at Appalachian State University | Grants Resources & Services | Appalachian State University | 2022-2023 Academic Year

Participant | Online Teaching Excellence Institute | Center for Academic Excellence
Appalachian State University | Summer 2021

Participant | Designing Effective Online Courses: An Online Workshop for UNC System
Faculty and Staff | Nov. – Dec. 2020

Participant | Inclusive Teaching: Supporting All Students in the College Classroom
Columbia University | Center for Teaching and Learning | Nov. 2020 – Dec. 2020

National Humanities Center Courses and Webinars

Participant | From the Sixties to Now: Using Music to Explore Issues of Race, Gender,
and Sexuality in Contemporary American History | National Humanities Center Course
Sept.-Nov. 2020 | 35 hours of Professional Development

Participant | The Roots of the Revolt of the Black Athlete | National Humanities Center
Live Professional Development Webinar | Nov. 19, 2020 | 5 hours of Professional
Development

Participant | Whitman, Alabama | National Humanities Center Live Professional
Development Webinar | Nov. 5, 2020 | 5 hours of Professional Development

Participant | Social Media and Disinformation | National Humanities Center Live
Professional Development Webinar | Sept. 30, 2020 | 5 hours of Professional
Development

Participant | The 19th Amendment at 100 | National Humanities Center Live Professional
Development Webinar | Sept. 23, 2020 | 5 hours of Professional Development

Participant | Soundtrack for a Revolution | National Humanities Center Live Professional
Development Webinar | Sept. 4, 2020 | 5 hours of Professional Development

Participant | Humanities in Class Digital Library | Using OER to Collect, Publish, Remix
Curriculum | National Center Live Professional Development Webinar | Sept. 2, 2020 |
5 hours of Professional Development

Reading Groups at Appalachian State University

Member | *Small Teaching Online* Book Club and Reading Group, Center for Academic
Excellence, Appalachian State University, Fall 2020

Member | *Radical Hope* Book Club and Reading Group, Early Faculty Reading Group, Center for Academic Excellence, Appalachian State University, Fall 2020

Member | *So You Want to Talk About Race* Book Club, Department of Human Resources, Fall 2020

TLOS: Professional Development Network at Virginia Tech

Participant | Mastery of Online Teaching Bootcamp | Fall 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Selected National Conference Presentations

May 2020 | *The Dam Fighters: Towards a Theory of Everyday Environmental Rhetoric*. Will present paper at the 2020 Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Portland, OR. *conference cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic.

March 2020 | *Shifting Expectations: Exploring Methodological Commonplaces in Appalachian Scholarship*. Will present paper as part of panel at the 2020 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in Milwaukee, WI. *conference cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic.

June 2018 | *The “Dam Fighters” and Grassroots Environmental Legitimacy in Western North Carolina: Astroturfing, Public Participation, and Everyday Nature*. Paper presented at the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, American University, Washington, DC.

International Conference & Workshop Participation

Global Perspectives in Higher Education | Switzerland, France, and Italy | Virginia Tech Graduate School | May – June 2019

2nd Annual International Rhetoric Workshop, Ghent, Belgium | July 2018

Workshopped paper, “United We Stand, Divided We May Be Dammed: Grassroots Environmental Rhetoric Along the Upper French Broad” with Lisa S. Villadsen

Regional Conference Presentations

March 2019 | *The Dam Fighters: A Transrhetorical Approach to Digital Archives in the Writing Classroom*. Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Appalachian Studies

Association Conference, University of North Carolina at Asheville | Asheville, North Carolina.

March 2018 | The Pastoral, Anti-Pastoral, and Post-Pastoral in Appalachian Literature. Paper presented at the 41st Annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference | Cincinnati, Ohio.

March 2018 | Black Mountain College Semester at Appalachian State University. Panel presentation member at the 41st Annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Feb. 2018 | Developing Support for Graduate Students in the Writing Center. Panel Presentation member at the 2018 Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference, Virginia Commonwealth University | Richmond, Virginia.

Sept. 2018 | Black Mountain College Semester at Appalachian State University: An Exploration in Collaboration, Place, History, and People. Panel presentation member, University of North Carolina at Asheville | Asheville, North Carolina.

March 2017 | A Century Among the Pines: *Pinus strobus* Studies in Western North Carolina. Paper presented at the 40th Annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia.

April 2016 | Nature and Human Nature: The Post-Pastoral in John Ehle's Appalachian Fiction. Paper presented at the 6th Annual Southern Appalachian Student Conference on Literature at East Tennessee State University | Johnson City, Tennessee.

March 2016 | Environmental History: Possibilities and New Directions, Roundtable with: Kathryn Newfont, David Whisnant, Don Davis, Luke Manget, and Ron Eller. 39th Annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Shepherd University | Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

March 2015 | United We Stand, Divided We May Be Dammed: Grassroots Environmental Activism and the TVA. Paper presented at the 38th Annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference, East Tennessee State University | Johnson City, TN.

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Archives & the RC Classroom | Gallery Walk Presentation | Rhetoric and Composition

Institute | Feb. 1, 2023 | Rhetoric and Composition General Education Program | Appalachian State University

The Dam Fighters | Nov. 8, 2022 | HON 2515: Global Water Issues | Instructor: Dr. Shea Tuberty | Honors College, Appalachian State University

Feminist Historiography in Rhetoric and Composition | Aug. 30, 2022 | RC 5400: Rhetorical Theory | Department of English Graduate Program, Appalachian State University

The Dam Fighters: Writing about the TVA in Appalachia | March 28, 2022 | ENGL: 1102 Literature and Composition | Instructor: Mikala Jones | Young Harris College | Young Harris, Georgia (2 sections)

The Dam Fighters: Writing and Public Scholarship in Appalachia | November 18, 2021 | ENGL: 1102 Literature and Composition | Instructor: Mikala Jones | Young Harris College | Young Harris, Georgia (2 sections)

Black Lives Matter Playlist Activity: Using Cultural Rhetoric for Social Justice in the Writing Classroom | October 5, 2021 | Rhetoric and Composition Institute | Rhetoric and Composition General Education Program | Appalachian State University

The Dam Fighters: Writing and Public Scholarship in Appalachia | March 31, 2021 | ENGL: 1102 Literature and Composition | Instructor: Mikala Jones | Young Harris College | Young Harris, Georgia (2 sections)

Responsive Pedagogy: Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic and Enacting Antiracism in the Writing Classroom | July 7, 2021 | Virtual Graduate Student Summer Residency National Humanities Center | Durham, North Carolina

Affiliate Faculty Introductions | November 17, 2020 | AS 5000: Bibliography and Research | Center for Appalachian Studies | Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina

Computational Thinking, Social Policy, and Data Ethics | November 7, 2019 | Data in Social Context Workshop | Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Virginia

Evolving PhD Education: Comparison Between Switzerland (Europe) and the United States | June 21, 2019 | Embassy of Switzerland | Washington, D.C.

Grassroots Environmental Rhetoric in Western North Carolina | April 19, 2019
Introduction to Sustainable Development | Instructor: Cody Miller
Appalachian State University | Boone, North Carolina (4 Sections)

Environmental Studies Alumni Presentations | March 14, 2019
Senior Capstone Course | Department of Environmental Studies
Wofford College | Spartanburg, South Carolina

Writing an Abstract | Nov. 7, 2017
Virginia Tech Graduate School | Blacksburg, Virginia

REFERENCES

Dr. Katrina M. Powell | Professor | Department of English | Director | Center for Rhetoric in Society | Founding Director | Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies
Virginia Tech | kmpowell@vt.edu | 540-231-7759

Dr. Katie Carmichael | Associate Professor | Department of English | Virginia Tech
katcarm@vt.edu | 540-231-7712

Dr. Kelly Pender | Associate Professor & Assistant Chair | Department of English
Virginia Tech | pender@vt.edu | 540-231-9077

Dr. Sheila Carter-Tod | Executive Director of the University Writing Program | Associate Professor of English and Literary Arts | University of Denver
Sheila.Carter-Tod@du.edu | 303-871-7447

Dr. Carolyn Commer | Assistant Professor | Department of English | Virginia Tech
ccommer@vt.edu | 540-231-8468