

# Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies

Winter/Spring 2012 Volume 4, Issue 1

Photograph by Hannah Furguele

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## Mars Hill College Nears NEH Challenge Grant Goal— Come Celebrate with Us!

The Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies invites you to join us on April 13th to celebrate Mars Hill College's success in meeting the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant match. Thanks to a \$250,000 gift from the A.V. Davis Foundations, as well as the support of many other generous donors, the fulfillment of this fundraising goal is now in sight. The celebration will take place at 7 p.m. in Chambers Gymnasium on the Mars Hill College campus. Rodney Sutton will call dances to the music of the Spring Chickens, and the Bailey Mountain Cloggers will perform.

Ramsey Center staff have been deeply moved by the enthusiastic response to our appeal for help in building an endowment to support Mars Hill College's Southern Appalachian Archives. Meeting the \$1.5 million fundraising mark means that the college can receive the full \$500,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities. All of this fundraising has taken place during very difficult economic times, and the generosity of our donors is a testament to the value that this community places on preserving Southern Appalachian history and culture. Please join us on April 13th and watch for further developments in the archives.



Photograph from *The Saturday Evening Post*, May 22, 1948. Photography by David and Hy Peskin. From the *Bascom Lamar Lunsford Scrapbook*, Mars Hill College.

## "Heritage Comes Home" Concert and Benefit

On May 20, 2012, Mars Hill College, in partnership with the Madison County Arts Council, will present "Heritage Comes Home," a one-night-only concert featuring Bryan Sutton, Jerry Douglas, Tim O'Brien, Casey Driessen, and Dennis Crouch. The concert will benefit the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Collection of the Southern Appalachian Archives, part of the Ramsey Center's efforts to preserve the rich musical traditions of Madison County.

Laura Boosinger, Executive Director of the

*Continued on page 3*

## Fall 2011 Programs

### "Mountain Justice" Program Addresses Coal Mining

On October 25, 2011, the Ramsey Center welcomed author and activist Tricia Shapiro to Mars Hill College for a program titled, "Mountain Justice: Homegrown Resistance to Mountaintop Removal, for the Future of Us All." Ms. Shapiro showed excerpts from the documentary, "Low Coal," highlighting the challenges, dangers, and struggles of Mountain Top Removal (MTR). She discussed some of the parallels between what is happening to the mountains in West Virginia and the possible risks in Western North Carolina, engaging students and community members in an informative conversation.



*Tricia Shapiro and Jeff Deal talk about ways to get involved in anti-MTR efforts. Photograph by Hannah Furgieue.*

Tricia Shapiro was joined by Jeff Deal, a staff member from Appalachian Voices, an environmental non-profit committed to reducing the impact of coal on the Southern and Central Appalachian mountains. The organization has an important presence in the anti-MTR movement. Following the program, students and community members gathered outside the lecture hall and discussed ways they can get involved in this movement. For more information, please contact Appalachian Voices ([www.appvoices.org](http://www.appvoices.org)) or Radical Action for Mountain People's Survival ([www.rampscampaign.org](http://www.rampscampaign.org)).

## Mars Hill College Welcomes Cherokee Students

Mars Hill College honored its Cherokee students on November 8, 2011 with a day of celebration that highlighted some of their traditions and welcomed their family and community members to a reception in the Ramsey Center. The celebration started with the college's weekly Crossroads program led by Rev. Jack Russell, Senior Pastor at Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee, N.C. The day continued with demonstrations and instruction in stickball on the Upper Quad. The Mars Hill College lacrosse coach and several students

*Stickball demonstration, part of the Mars Hill College Celebration. Photograph by Teresa Buckner.*



had the chance to compete with members of the Eastern Band who came to campus for this celebration. Later in the afternoon, the campus community gathered in the Ramsey Center to honor the first freshman cohort to attend Mars Hill College as part of the formal agreement between the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the college, signed by Chief Michell Hicks and Dr. Dan Lunsford in February 2011.

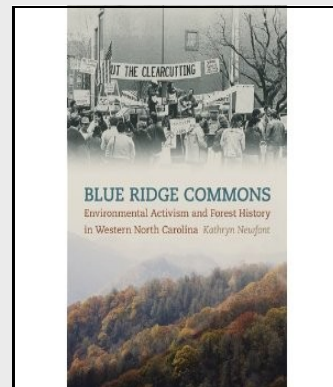
## Ramsey Center Faculty and Staff Highlights

### "Parents Beware"

*Photograph taken by Hannah Furgieue, finalist in Appalachian Mountain Photography contest in Boone, North Carolina. Final Judging in March, 2012.*



*Congratulations to Dr. Kathy Newfont on the completion of her book, published by University of Georgia Press on February 1, 2012. A professor of History and the faculty chair of the Ramsey Center, Dr. Newfont examines three hundred years of environmental history of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Western North Carolina.*





## Spring 2012 Programs

### "Unveiling Our Treasures"

**February 16, 2012**

Join us at 3 p.m. on February 16, 2012 in the Peterson Conference Center in Blackwell Hall as we discover the spiritual heritage of Mars Hill College through the research efforts of Dr. Marc Mullinax, Associate Professor of Religion, and Jordon Crawford, a Zoology major. As the Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows for 2011-2012, Mullinax and Crawford have explored collections in the Southern Appalachian Archives and conducted interviews to understand the progressive, land-based Appalachian values that are part of Mars Hill College's history. With Crawford's research on land use and food, and Mullinax's focus on the Christian and spiritual influences at Mars Hill, their presentation will come together for a compelling discussion titled, "Witness in the Dirt."



*"Heritage Comes Home," continued from page 1*

Madison County Arts Council, writes, "We are delighted that Bryan will be bringing his heritage home to Madison County in support of this fundraising event for the Ramsey Center Archives. His guests will include Tim O'Brien, Jerry Douglas, Casey Driessen, and Dennis Crouch. Each of these gentlemen has made his own mark on acoustic and Americana music, and most of them have ties to Western North Carolina. Every one of them has expressed his willingness to be part of this benefit that will preserve important collections such as the works of Bascom Lamar

Lunsford. These fellows have all worked together in different musical combinations, but this will be a one-time collaboration of all these superstars. We are fortunate to have them at Mars Hill College." This concert will take place Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 7 p.m. in Moore Auditorium.

#### **Ticket Information**

**[www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com)**

**(828) 649-1301**

**General Admission: \$30**

**Patron Tickets: \$100**

*\*Private Post-Concert  
Reception with Musicians  
\*Reserved, Premium Seating*

## Students to Present Photographs at Appalachian Studies Association

In late March, Program Coordinator Hannah Furguele will travel with dedicated students to the Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Indiana, Pennsylvania to present their photography exhibit inspired by this year's Ramsey Center theme, "Where There are Mountains." Ashley Spears, Becky Musselwhite, Ericka Hincke, Alex Van Dusen, Laura Rice, and Kendra Reid have explored the mountains through the photographic lens as they attempt to gain perspective on place, culture, and the land of Madison County. The Appalachian Studies Association conference theme is "The Wide Reach of Appalachia," and these students have looked into how "Appalachia" reaches throughout their lives, influencing them in different ways. The photographs will be on display in Renfro Library, beginning on March 29, 2012 at 4 p.m., when we will



*Alex Van Dusen, photograph by Ashley Spears.*



honor the students and their work with a reception in the Ramsey Center. Please join us!

*Ashley Spears, photograph by Hannah Furguele.*

### **Spring Plant Walk with Marc Williams**

Marc Williams is an ethnobotanist. He has studied the human-plant connection intensively while learning to employ botanicals for food, medicine, and beauty. He has worked for over a decade at a multitude of restaurants and various farms, and he has traveled throughout twenty-three countries in North/Central America and Europe.

Marc has taught hundreds of people about the marvelous world of plants, people and their interface. His greatest hope is that this information may help improve our current challenging global ecological situation.

**Thursday, April 12th  
at 3 p.m.  
Meet at the  
Ramsey Center at Mars Hill  
College**



**Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies**  
**Mars Hill College, Box 6706**  
**Mars Hill, NC 28754**



## Save the Date

*For more information about these programs, see [www.mhc.edu/liston-b-ramsey-center](http://www.mhc.edu/liston-b-ramsey-center) or contact Hannah Furguele at (828) 689-1571 or [hfgurguele@mbc.edu](mailto:hfgurguele@mbc.edu).*

**February 16, 2012, 3 p.m., Peterson Conference Center, Blackwell Hall, Mars Hill College, "Unveiling Our Treasures"**

The fourth annual "Unveiling our Treasures" program featuring the work of this year's Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows Dr. Marc Mullinax, Associate Professor of Religion, and Zoology major Jordon Crawford.

**March 3, 2012, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Local Farm Day Service Project with LifeWorks and the Ramsey Center**

Join us as we head out to a local farm to learn about food security and the local farm economy. Call Hannah Furguele at (828) 689-1571 to sign up or to request more details.

**March 5, 2012, 7– 8:30 p.m., Belk Auditorium, Wren College Union, Mars Hill College**

We will continue the exploration from our service day with LifeWorks with a program that is part of the Citizenship Series on campus. Following a film excerpt, we will learn more about the topic of local farms, hunger, and food security in a panel discussion featuring Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project's Emily Jackson, and Madison County 4-H.

**March 29, 2012, 4-5 p.m., Liston B. Ramsey Center, Regional Studies Student Photography Exhibition**

Come and see the photography of Mars Hill College students as they display their work on the theme, "The Wide Reach of Appalachia" on the second floor of Renfro Library after presenting at the Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Pennsylvania.

**April 12, 2012, 3 p.m., Liston B. Ramsey Center, Mars Hill College, Plant Walk**

A plant walk with ethnobotanist Marc Williams. Come discover the rich diversity of plants on Mars Hill College campus while learning their medicinal, edible, and cultural complexities.

**April 13, 2012, 7-10 p.m., Chambers Gymnasium, Mars Hill College, N.E.H. Challenge Grant Celebration**

Come dance and celebrate the culmination of a multi-year fundraising effort that supports the Southern Appalachian Archives of the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies.

**May 20, 2012, 7-10 p.m., Moore Auditorium, Mars Hill College, "Heritage Comes Home" Concert**

A fundraiser benefitting the Ramsey Center's NEH Challenge Grant for the Southern Appalachian Archives featuring Jerry Douglas, Bryan Sutton, Casey Driessen, Dennis Crouch, and Tim O'Brien.

**October 6, 2012. The Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festival. (Details TBA)** Come kick off your fall festival season with the wonderful music and dance traditions of Madison County!