

# LISTON B. RAMSEY CENTER FOR REGIONAL STUDIES

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Photograph by Joshua Doby

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## CRAFT IN SOUTHERN APPALACHIA

As the 2013-2014 academic year begins, the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies at Mars Hill University turns its focus to a new theme, "Craft in Southern Appalachia." The craft theme provides rich material for the Ramsey Center to continue its exploration of this region and the ways humans here have lived and interacted with their environment over time. Craft touches on many aspects of Southern Appalachia's history, culture, environment, and economy, and we invite you to join us for the programs that are part of this year's exploration.

The fall semester will look mostly to the past in its programs on "Craft in Southern Appalachia." In the first program, students will try their hands at quilting, an important regional craft tradition, as they learn more about ways to get involved in the Ramsey Center and Regional Studies at Mars Hill University. Next, a group of students, faculty, and staff will have the opportunity to visit the Qualla Boundary to learn about Cherokee craft traditions at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, and Oconaluftee Indian Village.

The Rural Life Museum on the Mars Hill University campus will reopen in late September with an exhibition that reflects the Ramsey Center's craft theme, "Interwoven: Coverlets, Ballads, and America's Discovery of Madison County Folklife." North Carolina Humanities Council Road Scholar Anna Fariello of Western Carolina

University will discuss the craft movement featured in this exhibition in her October 29th program entitled, "Southern Craft: A Revival in the Mountains."

The Ramsey Center's exploration of craft extends to its Southern Appalachian Archives through the research of this year's Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows. Faculty Fellow Becky Cody of Apparel and Interior Merchandising and Student Fellow Hillary Gambrell are investigating the hooked rug industry that was so impor-

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## RURAL LIFE MUSEUM REOPENS SEPTEMBER 28TH

The Ramsey Center is proud to announce that Mars Hill University's Rural Life Museum will reopen on September 28, 2013 with an exhibition entitled, "Interwoven: Coverlets, Ballads, and America's Discovery of Madison County Folklife." The opening celebration will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. that day and feature music by fiddler Roger Howell and friends, as well as ballad singing by Joe Penland. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. Beginning September 29th, the museum will be open from 1-5 p.m. daily (except Mondays) and by appointment.

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History major Laken Pilgrim assists Tammy Walsh, Historic Interpreter for the Vance Birthplace State Historic Site with warping the loom on display in the Rural Life Museum.

“Interwoven” tells the story of the Allanstand, Madison County beginnings of what would become the great revival of handcrafts, the cottage industries developed by Presbyterian missionary Frances Louisa Goodrich. Eventually this revival led to the creation of one of America’s oldest and most renowned craft associations, the Southern Highland Craft Guild. The exhibition examines the influence the Allanstand Cottage Industries had on the lives of the women who participated in its projects and traces the ways that work to promote craft traditions was linked to musical preservation efforts of the period. Some of the Allanstand Cottage Industries weavers and their families featured in the exhibition made valuable contributions to the ballad collection of English folklorist Cecil Sharp when he visited the region.

Museum Director Les Reker moves a loom back to the Rural Life Museum.



The Rural Life Museum has been closed for repairs since 2006 and reopens now with funds provided by the Janirve Foundation, the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation, and a collaborative grant arrangement between the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Madison County. Additional grant funding for exhibition preparation has been received from the Madison County Tourism Development Authority and Wells Fargo. The Southern Highland Craft Guild has generously loaned items from its permanent collection for display, and the Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort, N.C. and Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace State Historic Site have also contributed valuable assistance with the Rural Life Museum’s reopening exhibition. For more information or to volunteer with the Rural Life Museum, please contact Rural Life Museum Director Les Reker at (828) 689-1400 or lereker@mhu.edu.

## FOLLOW THE BLUE RIDGE MUSIC TRAILS TO MADISON COUNTY— 46TH ANNUAL BASCOM LAMAR LUNSFORD “MINSTREL OF APPALACHIA” FESTIVAL

The Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina (BRMT) has named the Bascom Lamar Lunsford “Minstrel of Appalachia” Festival one of its featured events. A project of the North Carolina Arts Council, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, the BRMT works to support economic development and cultural tourism by highlighting and promoting the rich musical heritage that distinguishes this region. Research has shown the important impact Blue Ridge musical events have on local economies and communities. The Ramsey Center looks forward to working with the BRMT as we continue the legacy of Bascom Lamar Lunsford by preserving and celebrating the region’s music and dance traditions. For more information about the Blue Ridge Music Trails, please see [www.blueridgeheritage.com/heritage/music/blue-ridge-music-trails](http://www.blueridgeheritage.com/heritage/music/blue-ridge-music-trails).

On Saturday, October 5, 2013, Mars Hill will be bustling as the Lunsford Festival and the Mars Hill University Homecoming celebration share the day with the town’s 18th Annual Heritage Festival. The Lunsford Festival will fill the university’s main campus with activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with activities including music and dance performances; a ballad and story swap; games and crafts demonstrations, as well as a silent auction. At noon Mars Hill University’s own Bailey Mountain Cloggers will perform on the Upper Quad. The stage of Moore Auditorium will come to life at 7 p.m. for the traditional evening concert featuring more music and dance. For more information or to volunteer with the festival, please go to [www.lunsfordfestival.com](http://www.lunsfordfestival.com) or contact Festival Director Hannah Furguele at (828) 689-1571 or hfurguele@mhu.edu.



“Craft,” continued from page 1

tant to the Madison County economy in the early twentieth century. They will share the results of their oral history and archival research in the Ramsey Center’s annual “Unveiling Our Treasures” program, scheduled for February 19, 2014.

While the fall semester’s programs look to the past with their craft focus, programs in upcoming semesters will explore the current impact of craft on Southern Appalachia and look to the future, with initiatives designed to boost the region’s economy. We invite your participation in all these efforts. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for a detailed list of fall programs or go to [www.mhu.edu/ramsey-center/upcoming-events](http://www.mhu.edu/ramsey-center/upcoming-events) for more information.

## SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN ARCHIVES UPDATE

The Bascom Lamar Lunsford Scrapbook has returned to the Ramsey Center after treatment at Etherington Conservation Services in Browns Summit, N.C. Conservators there deacidified the enormous scrapbook, cleaned and treated the pages, then scanned and re-housed them in sleeves within custom-bound volumes. Funding for this extensive treatment came from the



*Bascom Lamar Lunsford and family members with his scrapbook. Photograph by Walt Damtoft, Lunsford Collection, Southern Appalachian Archives, Mars Hill University.*

May 2012 “Heritage Comes Home” benefit concert, a partnership with the Madison County Arts Council featuring Americana musicians Bryan Sutton, Jerry Douglas, Tim O’Brien, Casey Driessen, and Dennis Crouch. The endowment established by the Ramsey Center’s National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant provided additional support for this work.

In June, the Ramsey Center welcomed teachers and librarians with the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program for a week-long workshop that drew on resources of

*Karen Paar, Dana Holcombe, and Hannah Furguele prepare to bring the Lunsford Scrapbook back into Renfro Library.*



the Southern Appalachian Archives, as well as the Library of Congress digital collections. We hope to host this workshop again next summer, in partnership with Mars Hill University’s TPS Assistant Director Anne Marie Walter.



*Runners take off from Mars Hill University’s Upper Quad as part of the 2013 Fiddlin’ 5K “Run for the Music” Road Race. Photographs by Teresa Buckner.*

## FIDDLIN’ 5K “RUN FOR THE MUSIC” ROAD RACE

In April, the Ramsey Center hosted the inaugural Fiddlin’ 5K “Run for the Music” Road Race. The event benefitted the Bascom Lamar Lunsford “Minstrel of Appalachia”



*The Midnight Plowboys were some of the many fine musicians who entertained runners along the Fiddlin’ 5K course.*

Festival and the Junior Appalachian Musicians (J.A.M.), a Madison County Arts Council program that teaches mountain traditions through music and dance education. Lunsford Festival favorites like Roger Howell, Laura Boosinger, the Midnight Plowboys, Kathryn Parham-Brickey, and Bryce Parham performed, as well as young musicians from Weaverville’s Joyful Noise Music Center, led by Gina Caldwell and some of the Junior Appalachian Musicians, led by Sarah and Jake Owen.

The 2nd Annual Fiddlin’ 5K will take place on April 12, 2014. Please contact Hannah Furguele at (828) 689-1571 or watch [www.lunsfordfestival.com](http://www.lunsfordfestival.com) for more information as the race plans develop.



**Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies**

**Box 6706, Mars Hill University**

**Mars Hill, NC 28754**

THE LISTON B. RAMSEY  
CENTER FOR  
REGIONAL STUDIES



## SAVE THE DATE

For more information about these programs, see [www.mhu.edu/ramsey-center/upcoming-events](http://www.mhu.edu/ramsey-center/upcoming-events) or contact Ramsey Center Program Coordinator and Lunsford Festival Director Hannah Furguele at (828) 689-1571 or [hfurguele@mhu.edu](mailto:hfurguele@mhu.edu).

### **Craft Night and Open House**

**September 5, 2013, 6 p.m., Ramsey Center, Renfro Library**

A program to welcome new and returning students and introduce them to the Ramsey Center and its programs. The evening will include a basic quilting project in keeping with this year's theme, "Craft in Southern Appalachia."

### **Field Trip to Cherokee, North Carolina**

**September 21, 2013, All Day**

Mars Hill University students, faculty, and staff will spend a day exploring Cherokee craft traditions through a visit to the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, and Oconaluftee Indian Village. Space on the trip is limited. Please contact Hannah Furguele for more information.

### **Grand Reopening of the Rural Life Museum**

**September 28, 2013, 2-5 p.m., Montague Hall**

Reopening celebration for the Rural Life Museum, located in Montague Hall on the Mars Hill University campus. The celebration will also mark the opening of the first exhibition in the renovated space entitled, "Interwoven: Coverlets, Ballads, and America's Discovery of Madison County Folklife."

### **Rural Academy Theater**

**October 4, 2013, 7 p.m., Upper Quad**

Performance by a horse-drawn theater group of a large-scale toy theater adaptation of an ancient French folktale and a wordless bouffant performance piece, as well as silent films with musical accompaniment.

### **46th Annual Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festival**

**October 5, 2013, All Day, Mars Hill University Campus**

An all-day festival and evening concert that feature traditional Appalachian music, dancing, and crafts. The daytime stage on the Upper Quad will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and include music and dance performances. The day will also feature free workshops (registration is necessary), as well as a silent auction and a ballad and story swap from 1:30 to 3:30 in Peterson Conference Center. The evening performance begins at 7 p.m. in Moore Auditorium. Please see [www.lunsfordfestival.com](http://www.lunsfordfestival.com) for more information.

### **"Southern Craft: A Revival in the Mountains"**

**October 29, 2013, 7 p.m., Ramsey Center**

Lecture by North Carolina Humanities Council Road Scholar, Anna Fariello, the Craft Revival Project Director at Western Carolina University. Ms. Fariello will discuss the history and implications of the 19th and 20th century craft revival that continues to shape mountain culture today. This program is made possible by the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.