

# Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies

Summer/Fall 2012 Volume 4, Issue 2

Photograph by Hannah Furguele

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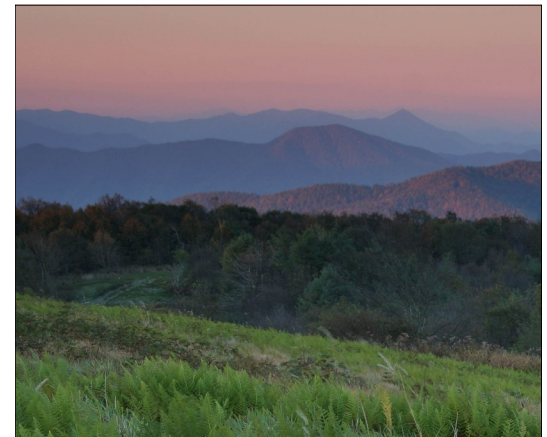
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## “Where There Are Mountains” Theme Looks to the Future in Fall Programs

This fall, the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies looks to the future as we wrap up our focus on the “Where There Are Mountains” theme. On September 4th, the first program in this series brings author and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) Trustee and Acquisition Specialist Jay Leutze to talk about land conservation, an important issue facing this and other mountainous regions. Leutze’s talk, “Rocky Fork and Beyond: Protecting Southern Appalachian Biodiversity—and Scenery—One Acre at a Time,” will address fairly recent efforts to preserve this East Tennessee tract, which at the time of its purchase was one of the largest unbroken privately owned land holdings in the eastern United States. The following Sunday, SAHC Trustee David Ramsey will lead a hike at Rocky Fork for Mars Hill College community members and friends. Our attention turns to efforts to preserve the region’s biodiversity in October, when Dr. Charlotte Ross will discuss “The Role of the Chestnut in Appalachian Life.” A representative of the American Chestnut Foundation will present information about that organization’s work to restore the American Chestnut to the eastern woodlands.

The fall semester will also feature an interdis-



*The Rocky Fork Tract in East Tennessee. “Beauty Spot Bald defined.”  
Photograph by David Ramsey.*

ciplinary discussion among Mars Hill College professors, as they address the “Where There Are Mountains” theme from the perspective of their various fields of study. Please see the calendar on page 4 for details of all programs and join us!

## Upcoming Crafts Theme

As the Ramsey Center heads into the 2012-2013 academic year, we will begin to shift our focus from “Where There are Mountains” to “Craft in Southern Appalachia.” Southern Appalachia has a deeply rooted tradition of crafting, and this theme offers a unique perspective from which to explore the region. An examination of the past, present, and future of

*Continued on page 2*



## Mountain Music at Mars Hill College: From "Heritage Comes Home" to the Lunsford Festival

The Ramsey Center continues its celebration of traditional mountain music and dance this fall with the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Bascom Lamar Lunsford "Minstrel of Appalachia" Festival the first Saturday in October. The celebration began in May, with the "Heritage Comes Home" concert that brought Americana music stars Bryan Sutton, Jerry Douglas, Tim O'Brien, Casey Driessen, and Dennis Crouch to Moore Auditorium to delight fans from across the southeast with their one-night-only performance. The concert spotlighted the rich musical tradition that Bascom Lamar Lunsford devoted his life to preserving and promoting. This event also served as the culmination of the Ramsey Center's National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant

fundraising efforts in support of the Southern Appalachian Archives. Thanks to these generous musicians, the concert raised over \$13,000 that will go toward preserving archival collections, including the Bascom Lamar Lunsford scrapbook.

This year's Lunsford Festival will take place on October 6th on the Mars Hill College campus. Some exciting music is in the works for this year's festival. The evening concert will feature a reunion of the Midnight Plowboys, a bluegrass and roots music band from Asheville that performed in the 1980s and 1990s. The band's main focus was bluegrass and fiddle tunes, but the performers also incorporated Cajun, honky-tonk, waltzes, Texas swing, and even some rock and roll into their music. The Midnight Plowboys played hundreds of concerts, music and dance festivals, night clubs, conventions, and colleges up and down the East coast. They also recorded two albums that were released in the 1980s through Skyline Records. Three original members of the band will perform with master fiddler and the 2011 Lunsford Award recipient, Paul Crouch; well-known local musician and the 2008 Lunsford Award Winner, Laura Boosinger; and Mark Davis,



Left to right: Casey Driessen, Bryan Sutton, Dennis Crouch, Jerry Douglas, and Tim O'Brien beside the sign that marks the site of Bascom Lamar Lunsford's birth on the Mars Hill College campus. Photograph by Gordon Simmons.



Left to right: Casey Driessen, Tim O'Brien, Dennis Crouch, Bryan Sutton, and Jerry Douglas. "Heritage Comes Home" Concert, Moore Auditorium. Photograph by Gordon Simmons.

whose family has been prominent and influential in the mountain bluegrass traditions.

The newly renovated Rural Life Museum Building on the college's Upper Quad will be open for several activities during the daytime portion of the Lunsford Festival. These include a silent auction, workshops, and the 2012 Ballad and Story Swap that will be hosted by Joe Penland. We will offer free workshops in ballad singing, clogging, guitar, fiddling, banjo, and mandolin. Advance registration for the workshops is recommended. Please visit the Lunsford Festival's new website for more information on the festival: [www.lunsfordfestival.com](http://www.lunsfordfestival.com).

JOIN US THE FIRST SATURDAY IN OCTOBER



**Bascom Lamar Lunsford**  
*"Minstrel of Appalachia"*  
**FESTIVAL**

CELEBRATING THE REGION'S FINEST MUSIC AND DANCE TRADITIONS

*"Crafts Theme," continued from page 1*

craft and craftspeople shows that crafting is more than techniques for creating objects for utilitarian purposes and artistic expression. Crafting also has important implications for economic and social stability, community building, historical reflection, and sustainable development in mountain communities. The Ramsey Center is looking forward to working with organizations including the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Southern Highland Craft Guild, and the Madison County Arts Council. We will also highlight Mars Hill's contributions to preserving crafting traditions in the region as we explore the holdings of the Southern Appalachian Archives. We hope you will join us as we move into a series of programs that will appeal to the senses as well as the mind.

**Mars Hill College and the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies would like to thank the following generous donors who provided the \$1.5 million match for the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant in support of the Southern Appalachian Archives.**

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## Save the Date

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

**August 23, 2012, 6 p.m., Liston B. Ramsey Center, Renfro Library, Mars Hill College, Ramsey Center Open House and Welcome Back Gathering for Students.**

Join us for a movie, refreshments, and fun!

**September 4, 2012, 7 p.m., Peterson Conference Center, Blackwell Hall, Mars Hill College, “Rocky Fork and Beyond: Protecting Southern Appalachian Biodiversity—and Scenery—One Acre at a Time”**

Jay Leutze, author and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy Trustee and Acquisitions Specialist will speak about the cooperative effort to preserve the 10,000 acre Rocky Fork tract in East Tennessee. Leutze is the author of *Stand Up That Mountain*, and his books will be available for purchase at the event.

**September 9, 2012, 1 p.m., Rocky Fork Hike**

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy Trustee David Ramsey will lead a hike at the Rocky Fork tract. Space on the hike is limited. Please contact Hannah Furguele to sign up.

**September 19, 2012, 3:30 p.m., Peterson Conference Center, Blackwell Hall, Mars Hill College, “Where There are Mountains” Panel Discussion**

Join an interdisciplinary conversation on the meanings ascribed to the mountain landscape from the perspectives of History, Literature, Foreign Language, and Biology with Mars Hill College professors Lucia Carter, Greg Clemons, Scott Pearson, and Joanna Pierce. Kathy Newfont, Ramsey Center Faculty Chair, will moderate.

**October 6, 2012, Mars Hill College Campus and Moore Auditorium, 45th Annual Bascom Lamar Lunsford “Minstrel of Appalachia” Festival.**

Join us for this all-day festival! Daytime stage from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ballad swap from 1:30 to 3:30. Workshops at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Evening concert at 7 p.m. For more information on workshops and performers, see [www.lunsfordfestival.com](http://www.lunsfordfestival.com).

**October 30, 2012, 7 p.m. Peterson Conference Center, Blackell Hall, Mars Hill College, “The Role of the Chestnut in Appalachian Life”**

Dr. Charlotte Ross will present a program on the ways the chestnut blight in the 1930s and 1940s combined with outside forces to change Appalachian society forever. A representative of the American Chestnut Foundation will be present with information about current efforts to restore the American chestnut tree. This program is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.