

# LISTON B. RAMSEY CENTER FOR REGIONAL STUDIES

WINTER/SPRING 2016 VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1



*Photograph by William A. Barnhill, Southern Appalachian Archives*

## RAMSEY CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

John Ager  
Rob Amberg  
Pauline Cheek  
Jo Ann Croom  
Gwendolyn and Charles Davis  
Ed Herron  
Roger Howell  
C. Robert Jones  
Stuart and Patricia MacLean  
Chris Morton  
Kathryn Newfont  
Tom Plaut  
Betty Smith  
Melinda Young Stuart

## RAMSEY CENTER FACULTY STEERING COMMITTEE

Ryan Bell  
Laura Boggess  
Becky Cody  
Brandon Johnson  
Pauline Johnson  
Ethan Mannon  
Matthew Milnes  
Marc Mullinax, *Faculty Chair*  
Scott Pearson  
Laurie Pedersen  
Joanna Pierce  
Kimberly Reigle  
Beverly Robertson  
Nicole Soper-Gordon  
Alan Theisen

## RAMSEY CENTER STAFF

Karen Paar  
*Director and Archivist*  
Hannah Furguele  
*Program Coordinator*  
Patrick Cash  
*Archives Associate*

## RAMSEY CENTER GRAND REOPENING CELEBRATION

After a summer and a fall semester closed for renovations, the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies will hold its grand reopening celebration on January 27, 2016 from 3 to 5 p.m. During the time the Ramsey Center was closed, staff members moved all the materials from the Southern Appalachian Archives out of the archival storage space so that compact shelving could be installed in that area. This shelving was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant that the Ramsey Center and Mars Hill University successfully completed in 2011, thanks to our generous donors. Having this new shelving will more than double our storage space for archival materials. These renovations will improve the public service of the Southern Appalachian Archives as well. Researchers will now work in the reading room off of the Ramsey Center's main area on the first floor of Renfro Library. This change will provide visitors more room in which to work and greater security for our materials. The Ramsey Center will also open "Appalachia a Century Ago: Craft through the Lens of William A. Barnhill" as part of the grand reopening, and we will further enrich the Center's space with other exhibitions in the future. Please join us on the 27<sup>th</sup> for tours of the Ramsey Center and archives storage area and a celebration of this next stage in the Ramsey Center's history!

## "APPALACHIA A CENTURY AGO: CRAFT THROUGH THE LENS OF WILLIAM A. BARNHILL"



In January 2016, the Ramsey Center will open an exhibition titled, "Appalachia a Century Ago: Craft through the Lens of William A. Barnhill." The exhibition showcases items from the Barnhill Collection in the Southern Appalachian Archives, specifically photographs of Western North Carolina residents demonstrating traditional crafts and a bark basket made by Dave Penland, a Confederate veteran whom William Barnhill visited and photographed in 1915 in Beech, North Carolina, near Weaverville. Barnhill took these photographs while he was living in Asheville and spending the weekends traveling around the adjoining countryside from 1914 to 1917. He

*Continued on page 2*

William A. Barnhill at Reems Creek, North Carolina, 1915. Photograph from the Barnhill Collection, Southern Appalachian Archives, Mars Hill University.



DVDs ARE ON SALE NOW IN THE LISTON B. RAMSEY CENTER FOR REGIONAL STUDIES. PROCEEDS FROM THE SALES GO TO SUPPORT THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN ARCHIVES.

## A Mighty Fine Memory

Stories and Tunes From the Fiddler of Banjo Branch



"This great documentary makes me thankful to know Roger Howell and thankful to be from Western North Carolina."  
Bryan Sutton, GRAMMY Winning Musician and six time winner of IBMA's Guitarist of the Year

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE A DVD, CONTACT  
HANNAH FURGUIELE AT HFURGUIELE@MHU.EDU  
OR BY CALLING 828-689-1571.

## ROGER HOWELL DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE

"A Mighty Fine Memory: Stories and Tunes from the Fiddler of Banjo Branch" premiered at the Lunsford Festival on October 3, 2015. Funded in part by grants from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership and the Franklin Project of the Madison County Arts Council, this film was produced by the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies and directed by Hannah Furguele and Rebecca Jones. For more information about how to order the film, see above. More screenings will take place in the coming months. Please watch the Ramsey Center website for updates.

*"Appalachia," continued from page 1*

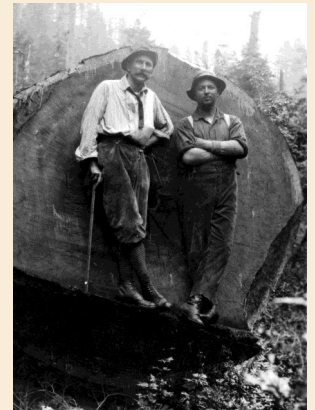
spent most of his life in other parts of the country but retained his interest in this region and in craft.

This exhibition was made possible through the inspiration and generosity of Bill Alexander of Knoxville, Tennessee. Mr. Alexander is himself a bark basket maker and collector. He had seen the Barnhill photographs and Penland bark basket at Mars Hill in the past, and he thought the centennial anniversary of these photographs would be a good opportunity to share them in an exhibition. Bill Alexander donated the funds to create the exhibition and loaned baskets from his own collection. Other items appear courtesy of the Reece Museum at East Tennessee State University and the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Matthew Provancha of the Mountain Gateway Museum's Exhibit Outreach Program, under the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, designed the exhibition researched and written by Patrick Cash and Karen Paar. "Appalachia a Century Ago" will remain on display through July 2016.

## "AMERICA'S FIRST FOREST: CARL SCHENCK AND THE ASHEVILLE EXPERIMENT"

The Ramsey Center continues its exploration of Southern Appalachian Forests on February 11 at 7 p.m. with the free screening of documentary film, "America's First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment." Produced by the Forest History Society and Bonesteel Films, the film shares the story and environmental legacy of forester and educator, Carl Schenck. Schenck's work at the Biltmore Estate became known as the foundation for scientific management of forests and conservation in the twentieth century. The Biltmore Forest School, started by Schenck, was inspired by the vision of Fredrick Law Olmsted and turned the 120,000 acres of forest into a laboratory for understanding the importance of managing and protecting forests.

Dr. James Lewis, executive producer, historical consultant, and writer for the film will be present to offer additional information on the making of "America's First Forest." He will be joined by Dr. Kathryn Newfont of the University of Kentucky to discuss the future of forests and contemporary conservation issues.



We are excited to show this film as the first event in the recently restored Mars Hill Radio Theatre on N. Main Street, Mars Hill. After years of being closed, this is a wonderful new venue for the community to enjoy films and music. You can keep up with the events at the theatre at: [www.marshillradiotheatre.org](http://www.marshillradiotheatre.org). **Admission to this event is free, but tickets are required. To reserve a ticket, please contact Program Coordinator, Hannah Furguele at 689-1571 or hfurguele@mhu.edu.**

*Photo Credit: Forest History Society. Carl Schenck took his Biltmore Forest School students on a number of field trips to Europe and through various regions of the United States to observe silvicultural and logging practices, especially after he was no longer employed as chief forester of the Biltmore Estate, beginning in 1909. Trip to Marshfield (Coos Bay), Oregon.*

*Ramsey Center Bailey Mountain hike with ethnobotanist Marc Williams, September 7, 2015. Photograph by Teresa Buckner.*



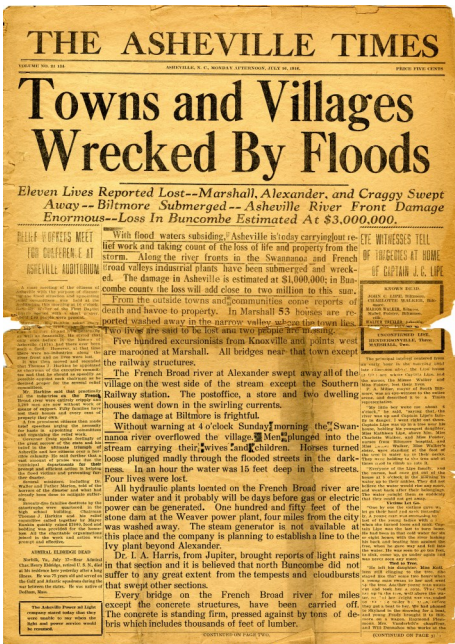


## "UNVEILING OUR TREASURES"

Through a generous contribution by the Mars Hill College Class of 1960, the Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship was established to honor their class sponsors, Dr. Virginia Hart and Dr. Robert Melvin. Each year a faculty-student team is given the opportunity to dig deeper into the collections of the Southern Appalachian Archives to develop materials for university courses. For the 2015-2016 academic year, research fellows Pauline Johnson of the History department and senior History student Roman Blevins have been designing activities related to the teaching of North Carolina History. Pauline Johnson's comments below give some information about the work they have done and what the team will discuss in their upcoming talk on February 18th at 3 p.m. in the Ramsey Center, Renfro Library.



2015-2016 Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows, Roman Blevins and Pauline Johnson. Photograph by Patrick Cash.



The Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship enabled me to use the Southern Appalachian Archives to develop learning modules, activities, and teaching materials that can be used at Mars Hill University and with a wider audience, one of the Ramsey Center goals. With project partner Roman Blevins, a History major seeking Secondary Social Studies licensure, we designed teaching materials for eleven eras of North Carolina history. Not only did this provide excellent pedagogical practice for Roman, but these classroom materials can be used here at Mars Hill for the North Carolina History course taught each fall to allow our history students and education students the opportunity to interact with the archives. One of the most exciting possibilities was to examine some of the personal papers collections to find diaries that can be used to personify an era and to teach context and bias. By permitting an experienced teacher to work with a future teacher in such a rich archival environment, both passionate about teaching and learning history, I believe we produced quality materials that can be used both here at home, within the region, and the state.

An Asheville Times article from July 16, 1916 scanned for the curriculum materials created by Pauline Johnson and Roman Blevins.

## PETER GOTT RECEIVES BASCOM LAMAR LUNSFORD "MINSTREL OF APPALACHIA" AWARD



Susi Gott-Seguret and Peter Gott perform at the 2015 Lunsford Festival evening concert. Photograph by Eric Blackwell.

or her contributions to the musical traditions of Madison County with the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Award. The award is given to someone who demonstrates a love, commitment, and effort to preserve the musical heritage of the region. The 2015 recipient of the award was Mr. Peter Gott. Known for his dedication to Appalachian musical and cultural traditions, he and his wife Polly moved to Shelton Laurel in the 1960s because they loved the mountains and the music of Southern Appalachia. Mr. Gott made a name for himself as a banjo picker, storyteller, ballad singer, and dancer. He performed and promoted the traditional tunes and musical styles he learned from the older generation in Madison County. He also made contributions to the region through his expertise as a builder of hand hewn log houses and barns. At the Lunsford Festival this past October, Mr. Gott performed with his daughter, Susi Gott-Seguret on the fiddle and his dear friend Ralph Lewis of "Sons of Ralph."

Every year at the annual Bascom Lamar Lunsford "Minstrel of Appalachia" Festival an individual is recognized for his

Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies  
P.O. Box 6706, Mars Hill University  
Mars Hill, NC 28754



## UPCOMING RAMSEY CENTER EVENTS

**Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies Grand Reopening and Exhibition Opening for “Appalachia a Century Ago: Craft through the Lens of William A. Barnhill.” January 27, 2016 from 3 to 5 p.m., Ramsey Center, First Floor Renfro Library.** Come tour the Ramsey Center’s improved space for archival storage and services and view an exhibition featuring bark baskets and photographs of Western North Carolina craftspeople taken in this region by William A. Barnhill one hundred years ago.

**“America’s First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment.” February 11, 2016 at 7 p.m., Mars Hill Radio Theatre, 70 N. Main Street, Mars Hill.** Join the Ramsey Center at the Mars Hill Radio Theatre for a screening of this film on Carl Schenck, who started the first forestry school in the United States and helped launch this country’s conservation movement. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Please contact Hannah Furguele (contact information below) to reserve your ticket.

**“Unveiling Our Treasures” with Pauline Johnson and Roman Blevins. February 18, 2016 at 3 p.m., Ramsey Center, First Floor Renfro Library.** In this Ramsey Center program, Instructor of History Pauline Johnson and History major Roman Blevins will share their research from

their Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship in Mars Hill University’s Southern Appalachian Archives.

**“Cherokee Women: Respected Not Ranked; Contrasting Ways That Cultures Value Women.” March 29, 2016 at 7 p.m., Broyhill Chapel.** Help us celebrate Women’s History Month with Dr. Barbara Duncan, the Education Director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. This event is sponsored by Regional Studies, Women’s Studies, and the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies. It is a free event and open to the public.

**Visit to the Cradle of Forestry and Hike, all day, April 9, 2016.** This field trip will depart early in the morning to spend time at the Cradle of Forestry in Pisgah National Forest outside of Brevard, North Carolina during its seasonal opening, followed by a hike with Dr. Scott Pearson, Mars Hill University Professor of Biology. Space on the trip is limited. Please contact Hannah Furguele to sign up.

**Josh Goforth in Concert. April 26, 2016 at 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium.** Madison County musician and Grammy Award nominee Josh Goforth will perform Bluegrass, as well as traditional Appalachian vocal and instrumental music in this concert that is part of Mars Hill University’s Presidential Lecture and Performance Series.

**FOR INFORMATION ON EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT HANNAH FURGUELE AT [HFURGUELE@MHU.EDU](mailto:HFURGUELE@MHU.EDU) OR (828) 689-1571. TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT KAREN PAAR AT [KPAAR@MHU.EDU](mailto:KPAAR@MHU.EDU).**