

Preserving our Treasures

The Southern Appalachian Archives, housed within the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies at Mars Hill College, is home to collections with a national, and even international, reputation. The Ramsey Center is working hard to preserve these archival materials. Stewardship of such treasures is expensive, and Mars Hill College is very fortunate to have been awarded a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant to create a permanent endowment that will support an archivist position and create a preservation and programming fund for the Southern Appalachian Archives. The NEH will give Mars Hill College the maximum award of \$500,000, with the stipulation that the college raise \$1.5 million in matching funds.



James G.K. McClure Farmers
Federation Collection

Dr. Virginia Hart

She is known as a teacher, mentor, friend, and maybe best of all, coach. Coach Virginia Hart, Class of 1943, has been associated with Mars Hill for nearly seventy years and still is making memories with faculty, staff, students and alumni while working in the cafeteria. She is credited with teaching physical education and initiating women's varsity basketball, volleyball, and tennis teams at Mars Hill College. Over the years, Coach Hart has developed lasting friendships with hundreds of Mars Hill College students.

Dr. Bob Melvin

Dr. Bob Melvin, Class of 1951, is known for sharing his passion and appreciation for the Mars Hill experience as a student, chaplain, and well-respected professor. He began his Mars Hill College teaching career in the History department, filling in for another beloved professor, Dr. Evelyn Underwood. He then moved to the Religion department, where he continued to mentor and inspire Mars Hill College students and faculty members until his retirement in 1996.

YES! In honor of my fiftieth reunion, I want to join my Class of 1960 friends in securing the Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship endowment as a part of the Mars Hill College NEH Challenge Grant with my tax-deductible gift.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Total gift or pledge amount:

\$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500+ Other: _____

My gift: is a lump sum will be given in installments

Installments will begin: _____ and end: _____
(Pledges must be paid by August 1, 2011 to count toward Challenge Grant)

Credit Card Information: Visa MasterCard

#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Please make all checks payable to **Mars Hill College** and include **"NEH Challenge—Hart-Melvin Fellowship"** in the memo line of the check.

Please contact **Bud Christman** (828/689-1194) for more information on other giving options, such as real estate, insurance, charitable trusts and annuities.

- Please add my name to the Ramsey Center mailing list to receive newsletters and information on events.

Thank you for your generosity!

Mail this form to:

Mars Hill College, Office of Advancement
P.O. Box 370, Mars Hill, NC 28754

Questions?

Institutional Advancement: 828/689-1102
Ramsey Center: 828/689-1262

Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship

Southern Appalachian Archives,
Mars Hill College



"Class of '60, Miss Virginia Hart, Robert Melvin, Sponsors," Laurel '59, Mars Hill College

**A fellowship established by the
Class of 1960
that supports archival
research by faculty-student teams,
named for two Mars Hill College
professors, beloved by their students**

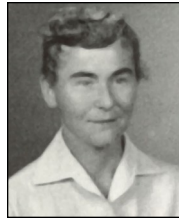
*Part of the National Endowment for the
Humanities Challenge Grant awarded to
The Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional
Studies, Mars Hill College*



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Honoring their Legacies

Commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation from Mars Hill College, the Class of 1960 has chosen to honor its sponsors, Dr. Virginia Hart and Dr. Bob Melvin, by endowing an archival research fellowship in their names. This Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship, with its emphasis on faculty-student collaboration, is a fitting tribute to two professors known



for their devotion to students. This gift acknowledges the great importance of Dr. Hart and Dr. Melvin to the Mars Hill College community.



The Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship will allow one faculty member each year to spend time in the Southern Appalachian Archives with a student partner to explore the rich archival collections and to develop teaching materials for Mars Hill College courses. In the process, the Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows will

- raise campus and community awareness of the treasures in the Southern Appalachian Archives;
- strengthen the college's commitment to undergraduate research; and
- promote preservation of the rich history and culture of the region.

Describing the Mars Hill College experience of the 1950s, Dr. Melvin says in *The Mystique of Mars Hill*, "It all went back to relationships and to the availability of faculty to the students." The Hart-Melvin fellowship fosters these relationships and the important learning opportunities provided by faculty-student research partnerships.

Coach Hart loads up students for a tennis meet.



Photographs from the Laurel, 1959 and 1960, Mars Hill College.



Dr. Phyllis Smith and student Tyler Greene

Sharing the Collections

Funds raised for the Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship count toward the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant awarded to Mars Hill College's Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies for the Southern Appalachian Archives. One of the innovative programs featured during the bridging period of the NEH Challenge Grant is the use of faculty-student research teams. The Class of 1960, through its endowment of the Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship, makes this successful program permanent.



Gertrude Ruskin Collection



Gertrude Ruskin Collection

During the program's first year (2008-2009), History professor Dr. Phyllis Smith and senior History major Tyler Greene explored the Gertrude Ruskin Collection of Cherokee artifacts and the Bascom Lamar Lunsford scrapbook with an eye toward creating materials for use in the Cherokee unit in the college's Civic Life course, taken by all Mars Hill College students as part of the core curriculum. Dr. Smith and Tyler



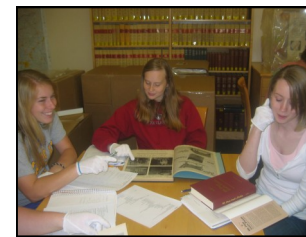
Greene presented their findings to the college community at an "Unveiling Our Treasures" program. Tyler Greene also spoke about his work in the archives as part of the spring 2009 Student Liberal Arts Mosaic (SLAM) on the Mars Hill College campus, a daylong event designed to highlight undergraduate research. Civic Life students in the 2009-2010 academic year benefitted from the team's research.



Civic Life students learn about the Ruskin Collection artifacts with archaeologist Dr. David Moore.

Continuing the Work

During the 2009-2010 academic year, History professor Dr. John Gripenrog and History major Amanda McMahan are surveying the James G.K. McClure Farmers Federation Collection for resources to use in the United States History survey course. The Farmers Federation Collection contains over 3,000 black and white photographs, as well as manuscripts and publications that document agriculture and rural life in western North Carolina from the 1920s to the 1950s.



Amanda McMahan (center) researching the Farmers Federation

In 2010-2011, English professor Dr. Joanna Pierce and a student will explore the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Collection as the first Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows. The Lunsford Collection captures the rich traditional music of Southern Appalachia through handwritten ballads, photographs, recordings, and Lunsford's own enormous scrapbook.

Bascom Lamar Lunsford Collection

