

Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies

Summer/Fall 2011 Volume 3, Issue 2

Photograph by Travis Proffitt

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2011-2012 Theme Explores “Where There Are Mountains”

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the Ramsey Center will structure its programs around the theme, “Where There Are Mountains.” This phrase comes from a Spanish chronicle of the Hernando de Soto expedition written in 1540 as the Spanish explorer and his troops plundered their way through the American Southeast. The full phrase from that chronicle is “Where there are mountains, there are chestnuts.” Ramsey Center staff see “where there are mountains” as a very evocative phrase and realize that it can be completed in many ways. Please join us this year as we explore the nature of mountains and their meaning through programs with naturalists, activists, writers, artists, musicians, and scholars from a range of disciplines.

The Mars Hill College group listening to Professor Alan Smith on the Mountains to Sea Trail at Craggy Gardens.



The “Where There Are Mountains” year launched with a hike for Mars Hill College students, faculty, staff, and friends in the



History professor Kathy Newfont and Biology professor Matt Milnes examine a yellow birch tree. All hike photographs by Marc Mullinax.

Craggy Mountains on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Professor Alan Smith led the group of twenty on a rocky trail that proved rich in illustrations of the formation of the Appalachian mountains. Smith gave many examples of the ways that plants and animals have adapted to this environment. Members of the group found two species of the lungless salamanders that southern Appalachia is known for and saw several plants that are found few—if any—



*Spring Salamander
(Gyrinophilus porphyriticus)*

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NEH Challenge Grant Fundraising Approaches Goal as Deadline Nears

Mars Hill College has raised \$1,160,000 of the \$1,500,000 required to meet the funding match for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant to build an endowment for the Southern Appalachian Archives, part of the school's Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies. The NEH has given Mars Hill College until July 31, 2012 to raise \$1.5 million in order to receive the full \$500,000 in matching funds. When complete, the endowment will support a permanent professional archivist position and a preservation and programming fund for the archives.

Mars Hill College and the Ramsey Center appreciate the many generous contributions that have brought us this far. Now we need your help to reach the final \$1.5 million goal. A list of all NEH Challenge Grant donors will appear in the 2012 Winter/Spring issue of the Ramsey Center newsletter. To help, please send a contribution to the Office of Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 370, Mars Hill, NC 28754. Make checks payable to Mars Hill College, with "NEH Challenge Grant" in the memo line. Call Tim McClain at (828) 689-1435 to discuss other giving options.

You can also help raise funds for the Challenge Grant by attending the Asheville Antiques Fair, November 4-6, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Thanks to the generosity of the Vetust Study Club, proceeds from this year's fair will go toward the Mars Hill College NEH Challenge Grant in support of the Southern Appalachian Archives. Bring the coupon below to attend at a discount.



\$1.00 OFF ONE ADMISSION
Asheville Antiques Fair
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Asheville
November 4-6, 2011
www.ashevilleantiquesfair.com

2011-2012 Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows



*Jordon Crawford and Dr. Marc Mullinax.
 Photograph by Marc Mullinax.*

Dr. Marc Mullinax, Associate Professor of Religion, and Jordon Crawford, a Zoology major, are this year's Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows. Mullinax and Crawford have begun to explore the holdings of the Southern Appalachian

Archives for primary sources on religion. They plan to use these materials to develop teaching resources for the Religion in Appalachia course that Dr. Mullinax will teach in Spring 2012. The team plans to pay particular attention to documents related to Mars Hill College's progressive Christian heritage dating to the early twentieth century when people such as Walter Johnson and Martin England taught religion at the college. The Hart-Melvin Fellowship takes its name from Dr. Virginia Hart and Dr. Robert Melvin, beloved Mars Hill College professors, who were the class sponsors for the Class of 1960. In 2010, this class gave its 50th anniversary gift to creating this named archival research fellowship in support of the NEH Challenge Grant. Join us on Thursday, February 16, 2012 for this year's "Unveiling Our Treasures" event where Dr. Marc Mullinax and Jordon Crawford will present the results of their research.

2011-2012 James H. Montgomery Regional Studies Scholars

Since James H. Montgomery of Austin, Texas donated \$500,000 to Mars Hill College in 2007 for the creation of his scholarship, awarded to a Regional Studies minor, the program has grown rapidly. Montgomery Scholars maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average, show good progress toward completing the requirements of their Regional Studies minor, participate in Ramsey Center programs, and, in some cases, perform service hours at an agency working in the region. The 2011-2012 Montgomery Scholars are Kristina Blackford, Jordon Crawford, Ericka

Hincke, Jaimie Little, Rebekah Musselwhite, and Rachael Rogers. Kristina Blackford is transcribing Lunsford ballads in the Ramsey Center as a continuation of her Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship in 2010-2011.

Jaimie Little is working on the preservation of textiles in the Ramsey Center.

Becky Musselwhite is performing her service hours at the Madison County Arts Council. The Regional Studies Program and the

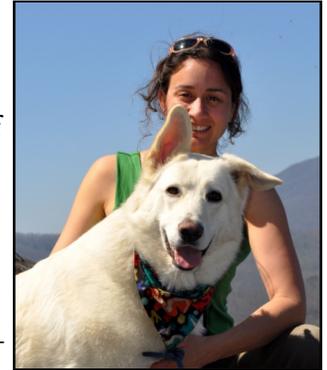


The 2011-2012 James H. Montgomery Scholars: (from left to right) Rebekah Musselwhite, Kristina Blackford, Ericka Hincke, Jordan Cranford, Rachael Rogers, and Jaimie Little. Photograph by Hannah Furguele.

Ramsey Center welcomed this excellent group of scholars with a reception on September 20, 2011.

Hannah Furguele Joins Ramsey Center Staff as Program Coordinator

Please join Mars Hill College in welcoming Hannah Furguele as the new Program Coordinator of the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies. Hannah grew up in Boone, N.C. She completed her M.A. in Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University in May 2011. Earlier, Hannah Furguele received a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Visual Art at Oberlin College. Hannah is a musician, and she brings to her new role as Director of the Lunsford Festival a strong interest in Appalachian fiddle music. She has also worked as a photographer and looks forward to involving students in music and photography projects.



Hannah Furguele and Izzy

44th Annual Bascom Lamar Lunsford "Minstrel of Appalachia" Festival October 1, 2011



Paul Crouch is this year's Bascom Lamar Lunsford Award winner. Photograph by Joshua Doby.

The 44th annual Bascom Lamar Lunsford "Minstrel of Appalachia" Festival will take place on Saturday, October 1, 2011 on the Mars Hill College campus. Activities at the festival include craft demonstrations and games with the Madison County 4-H, as well as music at a daytime stage on the Upper Quad of the Mars Hill College campus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The 19-time national champion Bailey Mountain Cloggers will perform at 11 a.m. in the Anderson Amphitheater. From 1-3 p.m., three generations of Madison County ballad

singers will share this important musical tradition in a ballad and story swap. The day of music and dance finishes with a 7 p.m. concert in Moore Auditorium. As part of this concert, Paul Crouch, known as the "Fiddling Fireman," will receive the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Award. The Bailey Mountain Cloggers will perform again in the evening, along with the Cole Mountain Cloggers and the Green Valley Cloggers. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, and free with a Mars Hill College i.d. Mars Hill College would like to thank Wells Fargo Bank for its generous sponsorship of the 2011 Bascom Lamar Lunsford "Minstrel of Appalachia" Festival. The town of Mars Hill will hold its annual Heritage Festival on October 1st, so join us for a fun day on the hill! For more information, see www.mhc.edu/ramsey-center/lunsford-festival.

**THE 44th ANNUAL
BASCOM LAMAR
LUNS福德
"MINSTREL OF
APPALACHIA"
FESTIVAL**

**October 1, 2011
Mars Hill College**
Exit 11 off Future I-26/US 19-23

10 am - 4 pm
Daytime Stage
Upper Quad
Free

10 am - 3 pm: Madison County 4-H
Demonstrations and Games

11 am: Bailey Mountain Cloggers

1-3 pm: Ballad Swap

7 pm
Evening Show
Moore Auditorium
\$10/\$5 (Under 12)
Free with MHC ID

For more information:
www.mhc.edu/ramsey-center/lunsford-festival
828.689.1571

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

Photo Credit: Bascom Lamar Lunsford Scrapbook, Southern Appalachian Archives at Mars Hill College

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other places. All these lessons impressed upon the hikers the rich biodiversity of the Southern Appalachian region.

Mars Hill College has a “regional studies,” instead of an “Appalachian studies,” program, although many of its courses and programs focus on Southern Appalachia as our home region. During the “Where There Are Mountains” year, the Ramsey Center will step back from that purely local focus and examine other mountainous regions and issues facing those places, as well as ways mountains have influenced other regions’ history and culture. On October 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in Wren College Union on the Mars Hill College campus, journalist Tricia Shapiro will share her experiences as an embedded reporter in the West Virginia Mountaintop Removal resistance movement. Ms. Shapiro will also show portions of the film “Low Coal,” in which both sides of the coal mining debate tell their stories. Please watch the Ramsey Center web site and Winter/Spring 2012 newsletter for other “Where There Are Mountains” programs.

Save the Date

October 25, 2011, 6:30 p.m., Belk Auditorium, Wren College Union, Mars Hill College:

“Mountain Justice,” a program with author Tricia Shapiro on Mountaintop Removal in West Virginia and efforts to oppose the destruction of that landscape.

November 4- 6, 2011, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Asheville:

Asheville Antiques Fair sponsored by the Vetust Study Club. Archivist Karen Paar and Program Coordinator Hannah Furguele will offer talks daily at 11 a.m. on the topic, “‘Minstrel of the Appalachians’: Bascom Lamar Lunsford as Folk Music Collector” in keeping with this year’s fair theme, “In Harmony: Preserving and Collecting Mountain-Made Music and Crafts.”

February 16, 2012, 3 p.m., Renfro Library, Mars Hill College:

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.

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



Bascom Lamar Lunsford's “dehorned fiddle”

Bascom Lamar Lunsford Collection, Southern Appalachian Archives, Mars Hill College.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO FILL THE FIDDLE

We are past the \$1 million mark for the NEH Challenge Grant to endow the Southern Appalachian Archives. We still have \$350, 000 to go! See page 2...