

The Mars Hill College Southern Appalachian Archives collections...



have a national, and even international, reputation known to such institutions as the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, Columbia University, and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

A LEGACY...

The Southern Appalachian Archives has unusually rich collections for a small, private college. The extensive holdings of photographs, documents, publications, scrapbooks, artifacts, oral histories, and musical recordings provide a rare window into life and culture in the southern Appalachian region.

Stewardship of these treasures is expensive, requiring both financial and human resources. The very survival of these materials depends on secure, climate-controlled storage using archival containers. Professional staff with the training and tools to catalog and provide

broad access to these archival holdings is essential, not only to preserve, but also to share these virtually hidden treasures with the world.



A CHALLENGE...

With the award of a highly competitive Challenge Grant, the National Endowment for the Humanities has recognized the value of the Southern Appalachian Archives collections and enabled Mars Hill College to meet the stewardship challenge these collections represent. The grant will provide \$500,000 in federal funds, the maximum award possible. The challenge, however, is that the award requires the college to raise \$1.5 million in matching funds.

The \$2 million total...

- will establish an endowment to:
- ✎ permanently fund a professional archivist for the Southern Appalachian Archives
- ✎ establish a preservation and programming fund
- ✎ provide three years of bridging costs so the work can begin



A BEGINNING...

Each year of the bridging period highlights collections from the Southern Appalachian Archives for:

- ✎ preservation
- ✎ creation of online finding aids
- ✎ digitization projects
- ✎ development of teaching resources
- ✎ community programming—speakers, tours, performances, and workshops

Bridging Period Highlighted Collections...

will give focus to the bridging period years, but funds raised for the NEH Challenge Grant will benefit all Southern Appalachian Archives collections.

The 2008-2009 academic year...

will focus on the Gertrude M. Ruskin Collection of Native American artifacts.



Items in the Ruskin collection date from 3,000 B.C. to the early 20th century and include a rich assortment of points, pottery shards, pipes, sculpture, and other artifacts from the Cherokee and

other peoples of the Southern Appalachian region.

The 2009-2010 academic year...

will draw on the James G.K. McClure Farmers Federation Collection of more than 3,000 photographs, as well as manuscripts, scrapbooks, publications, and recordings that provide a window onto many aspects of life in western North Carolina in the early twentieth century.



The 2010-2011 academic year...

will center on the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Collection of 2,000 handwritten ballads, letters and



photographs, musical recordings, and an enormous scrapbook that document the rich musical heritage of Southern Appalachia.



A FUTURE...

Our goal is to raise the \$1.5 million in matching funds by 2011 and, with the \$2 million endowment, permanently fund a professional archivist position and a preservation and programming budget for the Southern Appalachian Archives. This endowment will ensure that these materials survive for future generations and allow our collections to continue to grow.



A COMMITMENT...

How can you help Mars Hill College meet the National Endowment for the Humanities challenge for stewardship of the Southern Appalachian Archives?

- ☞ Tell your friends!
- ☞ Send a check to the address below, payable to Mars Hill College, with "Ramsey Center NEH Challenge Grant" in the memo line.
- ☞ Participate in Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies programs & events. Send in the form below to sign up to receive our free newsletter and other publicity.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Information Requested _____

How I Can Help! _____

Mars Hill College
 Office of Advancement
 P.O. Box 370
 Mars Hill, NC 28754
 828/689-1102
 Ramsey Center
 828/689-1262

Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant

to

Mars Hill College

in support of the

Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies Southern Appalachian Archives



"The Mars Hill College collections are among the most important in this region."

--Tom Rankin, Director, Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University