

A FUTURE

The Endowment for the Southern Appalachian Archives created with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities will mean:



- Collections stored in secure, climate-controlled conditions.
- Archival materials shared online through digitized collections and online finding aids.

- Enriched student primary research opportunities at Mars Hill College using archival sources.



- Opportunities to draw connections with Southern Appalachia's rich past in the areas of culture and natural history.
- The ability to keep faith with generations of mountain people who entrusted these resources to Mars Hill College.

Top photograph: Leo White Collection. Middle photographs Appalachian Oral History class conducting archival research. Bottom photograph: James G.K. McClure Collection.

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

A COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE

Your tax-deductible gifts are needed now to help Mars Hill College meet the NEH Challenge Grant goals for stewardship of the Ramsey Center's Southern Appalachian Archives.

YES! I want to help preserve our Southern Appalachian heritage with a gift for the Mars Hill College NEH Challenge Grant.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Total Gift or Pledge Amount:

\$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ Other _____

My gift: is a lump sum _____ will be given in installments _____
Installments will begin: _____ and end: _____

(Please note pledges must be paid by July 31, 2012, to count toward the NEH Challenge.)

Credit Card Information: Visa _____ MC _____

_____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card: _____

Please make all checks payable to Mars Hill College (include "NEH Challenge" in the memo line of the check).

We welcome the opportunity to discuss other giving options, such as real estate, insurance, charitable trusts and annuities. Please contact Tim McClain at (828) 689-1435 for more information.

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

**Please mail this form to:
Mars Hill College Office of Advancement
P.O. Box 370, Mars Hill, NC 28754**

**Advancement Office: (828) 689-1435
Ramsey Center: (828) 689-1262**

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 Documental Studies at Duke University

The collections in Mars Hill College's Southern Appalachian Archives have a national, and even international, reputation, known to such institutions as the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).



Bascom Lamar Lunsford playing music with Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Brooks and Gaither Robinson. Bascom Lamar Lunsford Scrapbook. Cover photograph is Miss Rose Cook from James G.K. McClure Farmers Federation Collection.

A LEGACY

The Southern Appalachian Archives has unusually rich collections for a small, private college. Generations of mountain people have entrusted their photographs, papers, scrapbooks, artifacts, oral histories, and



Community members Laura Boosinger and Joe Sam Queen explore the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Scrapbook and other archival materials at a Ramsey Center event.

musical recordings to the archives. Together these collections provide valuable documentation of life and culture in the southern Appalachian region.

Stewardship of these treasures is

expensive, requiring both human and financial resources. The very survival of these materials depends on proper storage. Professional staff with the training and tools to care for and provide broad access to these collections is essential in order to preserve these resources and to share them with the world.

A CHALLENGE

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has recognized the value of the Southern Appalachian Archives collections with the award of a highly competitive Challenge Grant. The grant provides \$500,000 to Mars Hill College for the stewardship of its archival treasures, the maximum amount possible. Through this award, the NEH is challenging the college to raise \$1.5 million in matching funds.



The 2010-2011 Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellows, the faculty-student team of Dr. Carol Boggess and Kristina Blackford, explore the Lunsford ballads.

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 to care for archival collections and share them with the college and the community.

A BEGINNING

Bridging funds have allowed the Ramsey Center to begin the type of work that the Southern Appalachian Archives endowment will support in perpetuity.

Each academic year...

Preservation and Access

The archivist targets collections for preservation and cataloging. Here students and faculty members discuss artifacts from the Gertrude M. Ruskin Collection.



Research and Teaching

Under the Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship created by the



Class of 1960, faculty-student



teams explore ways to use archival collections in Mars Hill College classrooms. They present their findings to the college and wider community.

Above left: the 2009-2010 faculty-student archival research team of Dr. Phyllis Smith and Tyler Greene. Above right: English 112 students explore Appalachian ballads in facsimile.

Public Programming



A wide variety of programs highlight themes featured in the Southern Appalachian Archives collections and raise awareness of the archives and its holdings.



Above left: Cherokee elder Walker Calboun sings at Mars Hill College in a Ramsey Center celebration. Above right: scene from a program on the origins of the Farmers Federation at Hickory Nut Gap Farm in Fairview, N.C.