

# Hunter's Clarion

## from the University Librarian

October 2004

by Bil Stahl

As you can see from this issue of the *Hunter's Clarion*, the library has been busy, and we've experienced a number of changes. This year, like the rest of the university, the library has benefited from WCU's enrollment growth funding. With this funding we will be able to make enhancements to just about all of our services and collections. These enhancements are desperately needed as the usage of and demands on the library continue to increase.

One of the interesting dilemmas the library is currently working through has to do with vendors' marketing of their information resources. We are considering purchasing an expensive product that several faculty want, even though it may not be the best source of journal articles. The publisher has created a very convenient interface to their online journals. But the interface does not provide access to any journals except theirs. The potential vicious circle is that researchers only use the articles available through this vendor, which in turn raises the prestige of the vendor's journal titles. This could result in one publisher having inordinate control over the scholarly communications in a broad range of disciplines.

I have long been of the opinion that with technology, ease of use usually trumps the quality of the technology. However, it did not occur to me until recently that this might become the case with scholarly information as well. The migration of scholarly publishing from being primarily a service to the

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## Books: Can't Live With Them, Can't Live Without Them

by Brandon A. Robinson

In one of his more famous retirement letters, Thomas Jefferson confided to John Adams, "I cannot live without books." The same could be said of today, despite unceasing digitization; books remain at least a professed prerequisite of civilization. The Banned Books reception at Hunter Library reminds us though, that the history of erudition has been anything but sedentary.



THOMAS JEFFERSON,  
Third President of the United States

Students and faculty met outside the main entrance of Hunter Library on September 29 to hear readings from previously banned books of philosophy, history, political theory, and literature. The focus of Banned Books Week was an exhibit created by members of the WCU History Club, featuring both American and European authors. Among those covered in the exhibit were Aristotle, Darwin, Spinoza, Kant, D.H. Lawrence, Twain and Steinbeck.

Approximately thirty guests attended the event. Ben Locklair, the Master of Ceremonies, began by quoting passages from John F. Kennedy's 1961 Inaugural Address extolling intellectual freedom as central to the preservation of liberty. Following him were a number of undergraduate and graduate students, reading from such authors as Galileo, Machiavelli, Walt Whitman

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### From the University Librarian...

scholarly community to being a very profitable business has occurred in a relatively brief time period. The advent of electronically available full-text articles has opened up many new avenues for publishers to deliver their products. Electronic journals have provided publishers with new, interdisciplinary ways of "branding" their products. The web interface, whether for one publisher's product, or titles from a select group of publishers, becomes the attractive wrapper that draws users to their titles.

An interesting book I recently read is *The Attention Economy: Understanding the New Currency of Business* by Tom Davenport and John Beck. The authors argue that the most valuable commodity a consumer has is their attention span. It is also a commodity that cannot be expanded (the authors do not buy into the concept of "multitasking"). The book addresses the glut of information and how people are simply unable to cope with it. For example, there have been many articles, editorials, TV show rants, etc. about people not being able to keep up with political issues and candidates not getting sufficient attention from voters to discuss major issues intelligently. But have we now outstripped the ability of scholars to keep up in their own areas of specialization? Will scholars now have to consider the market appeal of their articles in addition to their quality? Will our scholarly journals take on the appearance of *USA Today* or the *National Enquirer*? The scientific journal *Nature* changed its format in recent years from a staid collection of articles to full-color, short pieces that seem to ape *Time* or *Newsweek*.

While libraries are not responsible for all aspects of scholarly communication, they play a major role in it. We will see where this is all going and adapt to ongoing changes. However, the library will do its part in keeping our students and faculty thinking about the trade-off between quality and convenience.

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### Books: Can't Live With Them, Can't Live Without Them

and Karl Marx. Participants gathered afterward for discussion over cake and punch.

Dr. Laura Cruz of the History Department asked exacting questions as to why books have been censored by churches and states; this inquiry gave scope and perspective to the event and echoed the week's theme, "Celebrating the Freedom to Read." Dana Edge of Hunter Library's Special Events Committee hosted the event. Students involved included: John Bell, Ben Locklair, Brandon Berg, Meredith Zackin, Jennifer Thomas, Lindsay Montieth, Rebeka Strickland, Jonathan Cummings, Rebecca Pace, Frank Riddle, Jennifer Scism, Brittany Harrison, Chris Rasmussen, Nathan Bartlett and Jennifer Hart.



## Special Collection's New Digitizing Grant

by Brandon A. Robinson

The Hunter Library Special Collections unit recently secured a grant, entitled "Kephart: Revealing An Enigma," enabling the digitization of selections from the Horace Kephart archive. This wealth of historical content includes Kephart's twenty-seven journals; correspondence; 280 photographs; hundreds of magazine and newspaper items; 400 brochures; and 179 maps. The archive is at once a living monument to the author's life and work, and a cornucopia of perspective for interested readers. The Kephart grant can be utilized until June 30, 2005.

## Debussy or Bearden, Anyone? by Brandon A. Robinson

Time draws nigh to register for the third annual Friends Weekend in Atlanta, taking place on the weekend of February 5, 2005, and affording handsome cultural engagements in both music and art. Bill Kirwan, University Librarian Emeritus and Coordinator of the Friends Weekend in Atlanta, will be hosting the event, which will include a ticket to The Art of Romare Bearden (1911-1988) at the High Museum. The exhibit will feature an upwards of 130 works of drawings, photos, paintings and other masterpieces.

The Weekend in Atlanta also offers a ticket to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Concert, the selections of which include: Ives' *Thanksgiving Day*, Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, Debussy's *La Mer* and Ravel's *Bolero*.

The registration deadline for the Friends Weekend is October 29, 2004. The cost of the trip per person is \$108 (double occupancy), covering tickets, hotel, breakfast, tax expenses and a \$25.00 per person tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of Hunter Library. Further information regarding the trip can be obtained by contacting Bill Stahl, University Librarian, at 227-7307.



# In Pursuit of Southern Highlanders

by Brandon A. Robinson

Historians have long struggled with the realization that parts of our human past defy definitive portraiture. We see snapshots of ourselves in bygone times, and we learn much through the study of letters, journals and other memorabilia; but the finer lines of personality remain elusive, hidden as they are by layers of time. The pursuit of these lines, however, remains a noble affair, and Western North Carolina's "Together We Read" program afforded this opportunity—at a serene pace of thirty-five miles per hour.

On August 29, Hunter Library faculty, local historians and residents took a train ride between Dillsboro and Bryson City in search of the region that inspired Horace Kephart to write *Our Southern Highlanders*, selected by the "Together We Read" program. The event was timed to commemorate the centennial of Kephart's arrival in Western North Carolina—after attending Cornell University, working as a librarian at Yale, and traveling in Italy. He served as Director of the St. Louis Mercantile Library for a time, and at the age of forty-two, Kephart turned his literary gifts and powers of observation to the Great Smoky Mountains. *Our Southern Highlanders*, his most famous work, was first published in 1913 and revised and expanded in a 1922 edition. Revered since its publication as a classic of Appalachian culture, it is a wide-ranging reflection on the Southern mountaineer, who Kephart considered different "from all other folks by dialect, by customs, by character, by self-conscious isolation."

Passengers on the Kephart train learned about the times and places integral to the author's life: George Frizzell, Head of Special Collections at Hunter Library, guided listeners through the towns in the area, highlighting what Kephart experienced there in the early twentieth century. Nancy P. Coward, former English teacher at Cullowhee High School and "Together We Read" volunteer, distributed chapter summaries from *Our Southern Highlanders*. Local historian and Smoky Mountain News columnist



Participants on the Kephart train trip learn more about the writer from George Ellison.

George Ellison walked participants through Kephart sites in Bryson City and gave a presentation on his life in the region. As the train returned from Bryson City to Dillsboro, Appalachian folk singer Lee Knight entertained the guests with regional songs and tales.

"Together We Read" is a collaboration among libraries, bookstores, community and educational entities to promote dialogue on subjects important to Western North Carolina—"One Book, One Community." The program encompasses book discussion groups and is sponsored by Glad Tithings, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Asheville-Buncombe Library System, Mountain Area Information Network, Western Carolina University, and other sites in seventeen counties.

## The Crafts Project LSTA Grant

by Brandon A. Robinson

Hunter Library recently received a Project Planning Grant through the NC State Library LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) program. This grant will fund the planning process needed to plan for a large, multi-year grant to document the Crafts Revival Movement in Western North Carolina that occurred from the late 1890s to the late 1930s.

The most important outcome of the Crafts project will be a "virtual archive" of photographs, documents, publications, oral histories and museum objects. Anterior to this goal is a survey of many regional collections, including the John C. Campbell Folk School, the Penland School of Craft, the Southern Highland Craft Guild and the Arrowmont School of Arts. Based on the findings of this survey, an integrated web site with digitized historical sources will be created to help teach others about the importance of Appalachian crafts and how they continue to shape the economic fabric of the region.

The Crafts project has encompassed extensive collaboration among faculty and staff from many regional institutions and organizations including Appalachian State University, the John C. Campbell Folk School, Penland School of Craft, the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, and Western Carolina University. Among those active in discussions and planning are: Bil Stahl, University Librarian and Chair of the grant's steering committee; Suzanne McDowell, curator of the Mountain Heritage Center; George Frizzell, Head of Special Collections; and Martin DeWitt, Art Gallery Director. The consultant for the project is Anna Fariello, an experienced archivist and writer on Appalachian crafts.

# The Friends of Hunter Library and Ralph Peters

by Brandon A. Robinson

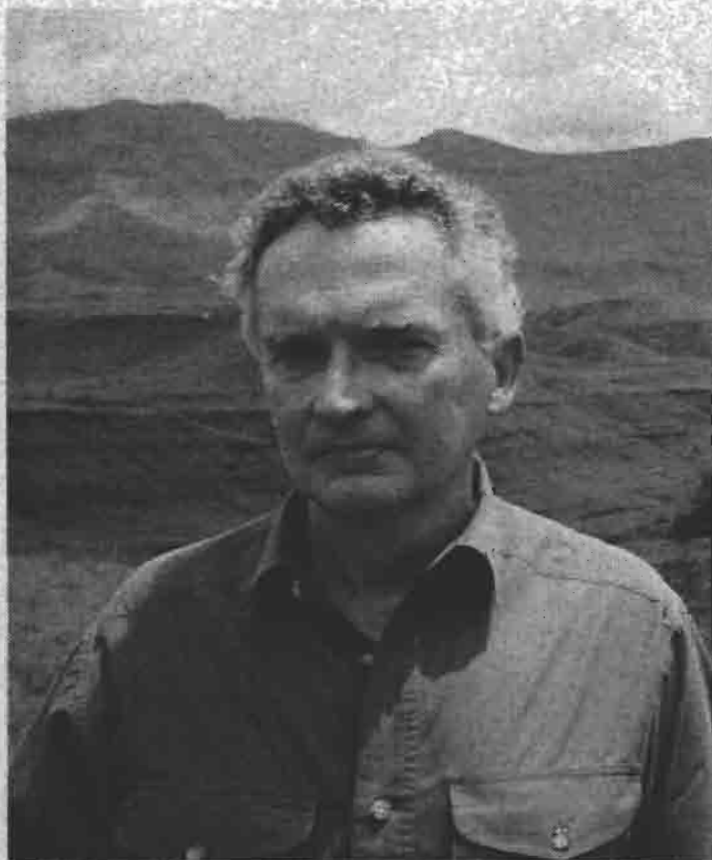
On September 8, students, faculty and interested members of the community were privy to engaging views on America and the world. Ralph Peters, a nationally acclaimed writer and career soldier, delivered a talk, "The New American Revolution: How Our Freedoms Challenge the World." This contemplative evening was made possible by the Friends of Hunter Library and Western Carolina University.

Ralph Peters, a resident of the greater Washington, D.C. area, retired recently from the U.S. Army, having attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. He has written nineteen books—both fiction and nonfiction—most notable of which are *Red Army*, *The War in 2020*, *Fighting for the Future: Will America Triumph?* and *Beyond Terror: Strategy in a Changing World*. *Newsweek*, *Harpers*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Los Angeles Times* are among the publications that have syndicated his hundreds of columns, articles and essays.

Having traveled to sixty countries, Peters is a committed empiricist regarding world affairs—a view that pervaded his talk at Coulter Recital Hall. He began by urging the young to transcend partisan dogmas and euphemisms; political leaders should only be judged by the efficacy of their ideas. America to him is a nation in perpetual revolution, as he listed women's self-emancipation and religious freedom to have been the most important fundamental changes.

According to Peters, these two freedoms are largely responsible for engendering anti-American sentiment, particularly in the Middle East. Our happiness and prosperity have increased as the circle of freedom widened, thus implying that less humane cultures are not working. Added to this is the effect is the exposure of foreigners to popular media, which Peters believes has distorted the truth about American values and morality.

However challenging the present state of affairs, Peters is no cynic; contrariwise, he believes that America might rise to new heights in the twenty-first century. The key to actualizing this possibility, says he, is to reeducate the world about America through a foreign policy built upon two pillars: national interest and human rights. Peters is clear that there



must be no more ideological wars: "The beauty of American thought is that it has never been locked into theories," Peters said. "We just want to know what works." But due to European influences before Pax Americana, the twentieth century was the bloodiest of all—ideological warfare at its worst, a point illuminated with uncanny precision in Jacques Barzun's 1959 classic, *The House of Intellect*.

On a more domestic front, Peters believes that cultural diversity has been one of America's greatest assets—a hallmark of our civilization that still arouses envy and wonder in many nations. This, along with pragmatism and the capacity for improvisation—to "remake oneself over," as he says—are the secrets of her success. But the safeguard of our humanity, he believes, is a constitutional democracy in which diverse ideas are eagerly discussed and considered in both living rooms and political campaigns.

Former President Bill Clinton recently gave an interview in which he articulated his belief that America must envision the day when she is "no longer the big kid on the block." Once that day is envisioned, America must work to build a world of trust—one that will be safe for her and others when her hegemony declines. It seems that Ralph Peters' views are in many ways parallel; the audience at Coulter will long ponder these, emanating as they do from a thoughtful man of action.





# PROFILES



## Ann Hallyburton

*by Brandon A. Robinson*

**A**nn Hallyburton joined the Hunter Library staff as Reference Librarian and Health Sciences Liaison on July 1st. Her paramount goal is to “educate majors in the health sciences to find the best health information available.” With a rich background in epidemiological and government-funded research, Ann is amply prepared for this challenge.

Ann received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Carolina University in English, with a concentration in professional writing. In graduate school she became particularly interested in medical research when she worked with the librarians at UNC-Chapel Hill’s Health Sciences Library and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. At UNC-Chapel Hill Ann received her Master of Science in Library Science degree, and since then has deepened her knowledge through collaboration on such projects as the Sister Study: A Study of the Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors for Breast Cancer ([www.sisterstudy.org](http://www.sisterstudy.org)), a government-funded study devoted to breast cancer research. The fruits of these labors she brings on her return to Western.

In her new role, Ann aspires to ignite student interest in medical research: “Our tax dollars fund great research that sometimes isn’t well covered in the popular media.” Moreover, Ann believes that students should utilize more extensively the resources of University Health Services when they have concerns about personal health issues. She has already contacted various faculty in health sciences, and plans to give tutorials on database searching this fall, in addition to building Hunter’s collections in these areas.

In her free time, Ann likes to read medical literature and Gothic romance, and spend time with her cats. Her husband, Chad Hallyburton, teaches biology at Southwestern Community College. She also hopes to further her studies in the area of public health in the near future.



## Eloise Hitchcock

by Brandon A. Robinson

**E**loise Hitchcock commenced the newest chapter in her library career as Hunter's Assistant Director for Personnel and Planning on July 1, 2004. She brings to this position a rich blend of acumen and experience in the library field.

Eloise's formative years were ones of diverse travel: during her college years she was able to work for the military newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, based in Darmstadt, Germany. It was while working for this publication—in newspapers and photograph collections—that Eloise decided upon a career in librarianship. She attended Tennessee Technological University, majoring in history (B.S.) and working as a library assistant for acquisitions. This led to her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Eloise began her career as Reference/Instruction Librarian at Berea College in Kentucky, where she was involved in the integration of library resources into course assignments. She was able to draw upon her experience in acquisitions when she accepted the Head of Acquisitions position at the Andrew Todd library at Middle Tennessee State University. After serving in these positions Eloise returned to Tennessee Technological University, first as Head of Periodicals and Gifts, and later as Reference Librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences and coordinator of the library's instruction program. Eloise left Tennessee Tech to become Head of Reference at the University of the South's Jessie Ball duPont Library in Sewanee, Tennessee. Just before coming to Western, Eloise was an assistant professor and the Collection Management Librarian at Middle Tennessee State University, where she primarily managed fund allocations and the ordering of library materials.

In addition to her extensive library work, Eloise has contributed to the field of research: for the past eight years, she has been the book review editor of the *Tennessee Librarian*. She has also co-edited two books: the *Bibliography of Tennessee History, 1973-1996* (Univ. Tenn. Pr., 2001), and *The War of the Spanish Succession, 1702-1713: A Selected Bibliography* (Greenwood 1996). Eloise has contributed several articles and book reviews of her own in the *Tennessee Librarian*, *Library Journal*, *Choice* and *Collection Building*.

In leisured intervals, Eloise enjoys gardening, sewing quilts and jackets, and reading Appalachian literature. Her husband, John Nye Hitchcock, is Head of Cataloging at Middle Tennessee State University. They have a fifteen year-old son, John Phillip Hitchcock, an avid reader and student at Smoky Mountain High in Sylva.





## Deb Moore

by Brandon A. Robinson

**D**eb Moore, Administrative Services Assistant for Hunter Library, joined the library staff during Summer 2004. A native of Michigan, Deb attended college at Concordia University (located in the greater Chicago area), majoring in business administration. She has had experience in the banking industry.

In her role at Hunter Library, Deb assists Library Administration in the maintenance of personnel files and serves as Hunter's liaison to the University's Human Resources Department. She oversees matters concerning student workers and employment procedures for faculty and staff.

Deb recently moved to North Carolina from Wisconsin. Her husband Scott, an educator and former sports editor, is currently attending graduate school at Western Carolina University in physical education, with aspirations to become a college basketball coach. He and Deb have a three-year old son, Dylan. Deb described her tastes and pastimes as "eclectic," including rafting, travel, word-puzzles, and reading fiction. She also serves as a volleyball coach at Smoky Mountain High School in Sylva.



## Melissa Young

by Brandon A. Robinson

**M**elissa Young joined Hunter Library this summer as Web Services Assistant. A native of New Hampshire, Melissa attended the University of New Hampshire and majored in linguistics, a field that still widely shapes her interests. In addition to the history and structure of language, Melissa studied English literature, Spanish, German, Latin and French. "Language is power; how you use it helps explain who you are," she said. While in college Melissa also minored in Spanish and sociology.

After graduating Melissa worked at Yale University as a research assistant, comparing the Spanish and English languages. Her interests began to shift as she declined pursuing linguistics as a career. She accepted a Director of Web Research position at AIRS, a firm that provides training for people working in human resources. Melissa then went to Dartmouth College, where, until her move to Western, she served as Library Information Coordinator.

These experiences have deepened Melissa's knowledge in spheres applicable to her responsibilities at Hunter Library. Since July she has taken on the maintenance of Hunter's home page and creating new web pages as well. She is interested in making the library's resources better known to students, and improving the navigability of its website. Melissa is also working on an online bibliography for WCU faculty.

Watching movies and touring Western North Carolina are among Melissa's favorite pastimes; she also enjoys reading fiction, biographies and books on sociology. Her husband, Bobby Young, is with the Macon County Sheriff's Department.



*Special thanks to Brenda Moore for beautifying Hunter Library.*

## **HUNTER LIBRARY HOURS**

### **Fall Semester 2004**

<b>Mon. - Thurs.</b>	<b>7:30 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Noon to 1:00 a.m.</b>

#### **Java City at Hunter Library**

<b>Mon. - Thurs.</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Closed Saturday &amp; Sunday</b>	



**Hunter Library**  
**Western Carolina University**  
**Cullowhee, NC 28723**

## **Hunter's Clarion**

<http://library.wcu.edu/whatsnew/clarion/index.htm>

Editor .....Eloise Hitchcock  
Technical Editor .....Brandon A. Robinson