

# HUNTER'S CLARION

The newsletter of Hunter Library at Western Carolina University



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## *Imagine | Discover | Read | Think*

A library is both a fitness center and a playground for our thinking. It is a place purposefully put together for building, supplying, exercising, relaxing and playfully entertaining our thoughts. For our minds, it is at once arduous employment and repose, exercise machine and massage, workplace and spa. It is a place for engagement with ideas; the ideas and thoughts of others, represented in all the creative ways we as humans have devised: the printed and spoken word, music, art, videos, illustrations, graphics, representations, etc. It is a place where you can come to discover new ideas, reflect on old, experiment with and create new. It is a place where you engage with the ideas and thoughts of others, where those others may be sitting next to you, or where those others are talking to you through texts of the past as their thoughts and ideas might most poignantly shed light on our present lives. Welcome to Hunter Library.

BY DANA SALLY | DSALLY@WCU.EDU  
Dean of Library Services



# Letters to Civil War Soldiers

## *"I think of you every hour in the day"*

BY CHRISTY MARTIN | CMARTIN@WCU.EDU

It was October 29, 1861, early in the Civil War, and Elizabeth Watson was composing a "howdy" to her husband James, one of thousands of soldiers caught up in the conflict of the divided nation. He was serving with the 25th North Carolina Regiment on the South Carolina coast. The young couple had three toddlers, all under the age of 3. James had been away for five months.

Writing in the colloquial style of the day, Elizabeth covered the usual concerns of domestic life. The children were healthy. The cows were producing plenty of milk. The corn crop was good. Temperatures were warm for late October. She missed her husband. "My dear I hant forgot you for I think of you every hour in the day and would all most give up my life if you could bea back at home to stay with mea and your children," she wrote.

She filled three pages with local news, then tucked a small item James had forgotten into the envelope. "Here is your shoo strings if you a git them."

Elizabeth's letter to her husband, who returned to his young family in the Hamburg community in Jackson County after serving one year, is one among dozens of letters from the Civil War period in Hunter Library's Special Collections. The letters are receiving renewed attention from historians and researchers as the nation enters the 150th anniversary of the war, which began in 1861 with the bombardment on Fort Sumter in South Carolina and ended in 1865. A webpage of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources about the North Carolina Sesquicentennial can be viewed at [www.nccivilwar150.com](http://www.nccivilwar150.com).

Donated over the years by Western North Carolina families, many of the letters are from wives, friends and relatives to soldiers who were serving in Virginia, the Carolinas and Tennessee. The collection also includes letters written by the soldiers to their loved ones back home. Selections from the collection can be viewed online at [www.wcu.edu/library](http://www.wcu.edu/library) under the Digital Collections section.

"They wrote about community events, local births and deaths, church news, and the simple concerns of the day, such as the weather. It was a way of reassuring one another during a time of great national conflict," said George Frizzell, head of Special Collections. "Theirs was a shared experience that helps us construct a broader picture of what life was like in this region during the war and how it fits into the national picture."

The war caused great turmoil in the Southern Appalachian region, where there often were conflicting loyalties and where soldiers served in the Confederate as well as Union armies. Soldiers could spend weeks in camp or often were on the move for deployment, and mail service was not always reliable. Letters passed through the wartime postal system or might be carried by soldiers of the same regiment allowed to return home on leave.

The Hunter Library collection also contains letters written to two soldiers from Haywood County, Basil and Benjamin Edmonston. They were brothers, stationed

in Petersburg, Va., in 1864, where they received an unusual request from a relative in Webster.

"[W]ill you please go to the marble yard in Petersburg or any yard you may see and select some nice Tombstones," wrote Maggie Edmonston. She was the widow of their brother Rufus, a doctor who served in the war and later died of illness. Maggie wanted grave markers for her husband and son, who also had died. "I want two set one small set for my baby this is all I can do for him and I never will be satisfied until I get that done," she wrote.

Whether the brothers were able to fulfill her sorrowful request is unknown. But evidently Maggie succeeded in her mission. In the cemetery of the Cullowhee Baptist Church, only a few hundred yards from where her letter has found a permanent home at the WCU library, are two headstones marking the gravesites of her husband and son, "Little Charley." The markers are among the oldest in the churchyard.

### Donating Family Letters

In the library's Special Collections, old letters donated by Western North Carolina families make interesting and historically valuable resources. Writings and papers that were once private keepsakes and which may have been stored in an attic or cedar chest can have a brand-new life with a much larger public family. The Special Collections staff members endeavor to share information about its manuscript collections with the public, both in person and with online access.

The process of donating letters begins with making the important decision that family papers may better serve where they will be preserved and shared. Through the years, many important contributions to the library have come in just this way.

Once donated, the letters are examined by Special Collections staff members. Sometimes they may find an author's handwriting hard to decipher or that the ink has blurred and faded from age. In some instances, they make digitized versions of the letters that can be enlarged and enhanced for better reading.

From the topics described, the staff members develop finding guides that describe and inventory the contents of the letters. Researchers can then use these guides to survey what the collection contains. For instance, people, places, events or other news in the letters may be compared to census records, historic newspapers, state records and other sources to verify or clarify what is written in the letter. For example, when the writer of a Civil War-era letter mentioned making purchases at a local business, the staff was able to refer to the community's store ledger in a separate collection and find information about the writer's family.

# Looking Back: Lost, Lapsed and Forgotten Campus Events

BY GEORGE FRIZZELL | FRIZZELLG@WCU.EDU

Scattered through the *Catamount* yearbooks and *Western Carolinian* newspapers are articles, pictures and passing references to celebrations and events that have fallen by the wayside but that once enlivened campus life. They reveal student life at various levels and might be either solemn and structured or vivacious and more free-spirited. Many of the occasions, although not all, incorporated a dance in the overall festivities.

One of the most popular and long-lasting celebrations was the annual May Day Festival, which was observed throughout the 1930s until the early 1970s to mark the arrival of springtime. May Day featured a May queen and her court of honor, replete – as one publication noted – with “coronation pageantry” and themed musical entertainment. In the 1950s the May queen and court were elected by the student body as early as November. Serene and structured, with rules governing elections, May Day programs often were held in the Woodland Stage, an area created by a natural amphitheater that is still seen today on campus between Moore Building and Madison Hall. A formal dance was associated with the event. Illustrative of May Day’s importance in campus life was its prominent place in the student handbooks of the 1950s. May Day was not only listed among the major “Annual Events,” along with Homecoming, but also garnered another two pages devoted to procedural matters on the election of the queen and court. The celebration was held in early May, before commencement exercises.

In a noticeably more rambunctious vein was Sadie Hawkins Day, during which students reversed the prevailing social norms of the day concerning dating. Sadie Hawkins Day received considerable attention in the *Western Carolinian* throughout the 1950s. Based upon the popular comic strip “Li'l Abner” by Al Capp (1909-1979), the event typically was held in November and was often sponsored by the campus Women’s Athletic Association. It encouraged participating women to “catch” a dance partner for the evening’s event in a freewheeling afternoon footrace. The Nov. 14, 1953, issue of the *Western Carolinian*



At top the 1948 May Queen Clara Padgett is presented during a ceremony at Woodland Stage. May Day festivities that year included a formal dance (bottom right). Photos from the Dr. Robert Mayo Failing Collection, Hunter Library. At bottom left a photo of Sadie Hawkins Day from the 1951 *Catamount* yearbook.

featured a front-page article devoted to Sadie Hawkins Day history, typical activities, and images of the cartoon strip characters. The dance was a costumed event with attendees often dressing as their favorite comic strip characters.

Also appearing in yearbooks and newspapers from the late 1940s through the 1950s were a host of annual dance events, such as the Halloween Dance (with an attendant harvest queen), New Year’s Dance, and the Valentine Dance. Another event held for a few years in the late 1950s was the Mountaineer Ball. Prizes were awarded to attendees based on the best “old-timey” costume and the man judged to have the “best-looking beard.”

Other dances arose from more impromptu occasions, such as the 1959 Beatnik Ball, which enjoined students to “abandon the shrouds of society for the mysticism of Beatland.” Also in the late 1950s was a Blackbeard Ball with a coastal North Carolina pirate theme, apparently held in conjunction with a basketball game against the rival East Carolina College Buccaneers.

These events declined in popularity for a variety of reasons, such as changing social norms or new avenues of interaction, which today include Facebook and Twitter. For some people, such a perusal of bygone events may be reminiscing; for others, it may constitute historical research. Regardless, it can be fascinating and memorable.

# ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Betsy Clementson**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the College of Business, and **Ann Hallyburton**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the health professions, presented "Meet Them Where They Are" at the North Carolina Library Association's College and Instruction Section Conference in Lexington, N.C., in October 2010. Clementson also gave a talk on database selection at the Charleston, S.C., conference in November 2010. Clementson and **Elisabeth Leonard**, associate dean of library services, were accepted to present at the Conference for Entrepreneurial Librarians to be held at Wake Forest University in March. They also will contribute a chapter on the innovative characteristics of business librarians to *The Entrepreneurial Librarian*, a book scheduled for publication this year. In addition, Clementson welcomed her new niece, Abby, born Nov. 9, 2010.

**Katy Ginanni**, collection development librarian, has twice edited (in addition to writing for) the *Serials Review* column "SR Visits." The column deals with excursions to interesting or unique libraries and collections containing serials. The column appearing in the June 2011 issue (volume 37, issue 2) was written by former Metadata Librarian **Anna Craft**. Craft visited the library at the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Library users will be able to read it via the subscription to the journal *Serials Review* through ScienceDirect.

**Tara Gleason**, circulation assistant supervisor, recently returned from maternity leave following the birth of her daughter

Ayla Holley Gleason on Aug. 10, 2010. In addition to her circulation duties, Gleason serves as part-time assistant to Hunter Library's business manager.



**Ann Hallyburton**, **Heidi Buchanan**, head of research and instruction, and **Tim Carstens**, head of content and organization management, have had their article *Serving the Whole Person: Popular Materials in Academic Libraries* accepted for publication in the journal *Collection Building*.

**Bethany Ketting** is the newest member of the interlibrary loan department. She is assisting with lending and borrowing books for patrons and helping pilot a document delivery program. She is a WCU graduate who worked for three years in the circulation department.

**Jasmine Kimmel** has assisted the reference department this year as a research and instruction librarian. She has provided research services for library patrons, taught information literacy classes and created online learning tutorials. Kimmel has also worked as a reference and instruction librarian at UNC-Asheville. She is a graduate of Saint Louis University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in international studies with minors in Spanish and political science. She holds a master's degree in library and information science from Florida State University.

**Susan Metcalf**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the social sciences, has been invited to return as the author for the "Criminology and Law Enforcement" section of the book *Magazines for Libraries*, now in its 20th edition.

**Bob Strauss**, cataloger, edited the recently published third volume of the collection *Erie Tales: Saturday Evening Ghosts*. Strauss has also been tapped to edit an upcoming fourth volume of the publication. Strauss has continued his work with horror literature by proofreading for Cemetery Dance Publications and several individual authors.

**Alessia Zanin-Yost**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the visual and performing arts, is involved with the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries Image Resources Committee, which is developing the National Visual Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. For the next two years, Zanin-Yost will work with the ACRL Arts Strategic Planning Committee in aligning the committee's strategic plan with that of ACRL. Locally, she has been elected secretary of the Arts Librarians of North American Southeast chapter for the next three years.

Zanin-Yost also published the article "Library 2.0: Blogs, Wikis, and RSS to Serve the Library" in the journal *Library Philosophy and Practice*. This article is an English

translation of the same article published in 2009 in the Italian journal *AIB Notizie*. Her article has already had a tremendous impact with the Italian library community and has been cited widely. Most notably, the article was cited by the Italian Senate in a piece discussing the use of blogs to facilitate communication. Zanin-Yost published the chapter "Liaison for the Visual Arts: Responding to the Needs of Diverse Demands" in *The Handbook of Art and Design Librarianship*. Her other chapter, "Seeing is Learning: The Synergy of Visual Literacy" in the book *Observe, Reflect, Act: A Primer on Applied Qualitative Research for Librarians* is due to be published soon.

Zanin-Yost also presented with **Elisabeth Leonard** at the ARLIS/SE annual conference held in Georgia. Their presentation, "Roundup in the Library: A Design Competition" focused on how the academic library can become a catalyst to foster collaboration with faculty and students.

## Meet our New Electronic Resources Librarian

Kristin Calvert, the library's new electronic resources librarian, began her job March 1. She will be responsible for setting up, managing and resolving problems with electronic information resources, including e-journals and databases. Calvert comes to WCU from Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire, where she served in the position of head of periodicals. She also has worked at Yankee Book Peddler, a major academic book vendor, and the University of California's Northern Regional Library Facility. She holds a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's in library and information science from the University of Rhode Island.



## Peter Johnson, Head of Access Services

Peter Johnson of Hiawassee, Ga., has been named head of access services. He will have responsibility for the circulation desks, interlibrary loan and document delivery services and the Curriculum Materials Center of the library.



Johnson comes to the WCU library after five years as regional technology librarian for the Mountain Regional Library System of Young Harris, Ga. The library system serves three counties through four branch locations. He was on the staff of the Chapel Hill Public Library for 11 years and supervised the circulation department there for six years.

He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and earned his master's degree in linguistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was awarded a master of library science in 2004 from North Carolina Central University in Durham.

## Mark Stoffan, Head of Digital, Access and Technology Services

Mark Stoffan has joined the library as head of digital, access and technology services. He comes to WCU from The Florida State University in Tallahassee, where he was associate director for library technology at Strozier Library for the past three years. Prior to that he was director of technical services and technology at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He also held faculty and technical support positions at the libraries of Appalachian State University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and was an assistant librarian at Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine. From 2003 until 2007 he served as the network librarian for the Western North Carolina Library Network, the collaboration among the UNC-Asheville, Appalachian State University and WCU libraries to share books and other materials through the delivery system known as ABC Express.



Stoffan earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Maine, master of arts in American and New England studies at the University of Southern Maine and master of library and information science at the University of South Carolina. He has published a number of articles and reviews in professional journals, including *College and Research Libraries News* and others. He is a member of national organizations including the American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries, Library Administration and Management Association and the Libraries and Information Technology Association, where he served as chair of the heads of library technology interest group.



## Carstens Leads COM Department

Timothy Carstens has been promoted to head of the content and organization management department of the library. The department is responsible for cataloging and metadata, collection development, acquisitions, electronic resource management and serials and consists of 16 employees.

Originally from East Brunswick, N.J., Carstens has been a member of the library faculty for 21 years. He came to WCU from the D.H. Hill Library at N.C. State University in Raleigh, where he was assistant catalog librarian. He earned his bachelor's degree at Colby College and the master's of library science at Rutgers University. He has published widely in professional journals, including *Library Resources and Technical Services*, *College and Research Libraries* and *Technical Services Quarterly*. He has served on several committees of the Western North Carolina Library Network, including secretary, vice chair and chair of the Technical Services Committee. He has been a member of the American Library Association since 1983 and has served on a number of committees within that organization.

## Nancy Newsome Retires

Nancy Newsome, head of serials and collection development, retired in December after a career of 33 years in higher education, including 15 at Hunter Library.

A native of Columbus, Georgia, Newsome came to WCU in the spring of 1995 from the J. Murrey Atkins Library at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She was on the staff there for several years, having started as a student assistant working on her bachelor's degree in English. While there, her interest in libraries blossomed, and she began work on her master's of library science degree, earned at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. At the time she accepted the offer to join Hunter Library, she was head of the serials acquisitions department at the UNC-Charlotte library.

At Hunter, Newsome was largely responsible for developing and overseeing a major collection of monographic volumes, academic journals, music and video series and electronic databases. She was instrumental in the rapid growth in recent years of the library's electronic database holdings used by students and faculty for research. Newsome also consulted with faculty members in order to acquire relevant materials in their disciplines for the library collection.

She has been active for many years in the North American Serials Interest Group American, an international professional organization. On campus she served on the Faculty Senate and a number of university committees, including the Committee on Nominations, Elections, Councils and Committees; and the Council on Faculty Affairs.

Chancellor John Bardo has awarded emeritus status to Newsome. She holds the title professor emeritus of collection development and resource management. "This is the highest honorific status awarded to retiring faculty and we all know how richly deserved it is," said Dana Sally, dean of library services.

Newsome and her husband, Linwood, a retired Haywood County elementary school teacher, live in Whittier. They have three sons and seven grandchildren.



Teresa

Kindra

## Two Seniors Honored as Outstanding Student Workers

Teresa Moery and Kindra Foy have been chosen outstanding student workers for 2011 at the library.

Teresa is an elementary education major from Asheville, N.C. After graduating from WCU this spring, she plans to pursue a career in teaching and begin work on her master's degree in school psychology. At the library, she has worked in the Curriculum Materials Center since August 2009, helping to process new books, assist patrons, check materials in and out, perform shelf maintenance and prepare displays. "Teresa is excited about what she's doing and has what it takes to be a great teacher," said Shirley Beck of the library's CMC staff.

Kindra is an environmental science major from Albuquerque, N.M. After graduating from WCU in May, she wants to become an environmental impact assessor. She has worked in the circulation department for three years, helped with shelving, shelf maintenance, organizing, shifting and assisting patrons at the circulation desk. "Kindra always has a smile for everyone and is cheerful and resourceful in her projects," said Shirley Finegan of the library's circulation department.

Beck and Finegan are co-chairs of the committee composed of library staff members who supervise student assistants.

## Collins Named Hunter Scholar for 2011-12

Todd Collins, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs, has been named Hunter Scholar for 2011-12.

Collins earned his doctorate from the University of Georgia and his JD degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research has appeared in both political science journals and law reviews. His research and teaching focus on the judicial process, constitutional law and judicial behavior. He also serves as the pre-law adviser for his department.

Collins' Hunter Scholar project will examine variations in newspaper coverage of the Supreme Court. One of his goals is to create a unique measure of issue salience that may be used by scholars in quantitative studies of judicial behavior.

As media coverage is influential in fostering an informed citizenry, this project also has normative implications as the quality and quantity of case coverage may influence both knowledge and public opinion of the Supreme Court.

The Hunter Scholar award, now in its 23rd year, provides time, a place and special resources to support focused research and noteworthy scholarship by WCU faculty members. The winner receives a reduction in teaching load and the assistance of a graduate student for the academic year, and a \$400 stipend. Use of a study room on the library's ground floor also is provided. Graduate School and Research, Educational Outreach, the Office of the Provost and Hunter Library jointly sponsor the award.



## On Exhibit

When you come to the library for study, research or pleasure reading, be sure to enjoy two exhibits that celebrate the creative contributions of WCU faculty members. Currently on display on the second floor is the Phyllis Jarvinen exhibit "Local Watershed." Jarvinen is an adjunct art instructor at WCU and local artist whose drawings and paintings feature local landscapes, including many rivers and streams, with titles that indicate the geographic coordinates of the location. She earned her master's degree in fine arts from WCU in 2010. A special exhibit on the ground floor features the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet and its latest trip to China. Patrons can learn about these musicians and listen to their performances at this exhibit, titled "Cultural Ambassadors: Building International Relationships through Music." Both exhibits will run through December.

## Museums Find Online Resource in Craft Revival Project

Museums, libraries and folk art institutes are finding the Craft Revival digital archive online and asking to use its content in their own educational outreach projects. In recent months, requests for digitized images of historic photographs that appear on the website have come from several organizations in North Carolina and others as far away as Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Using writings, photographs and other content, the Craft Revival website and digital archive documents the story of an historic effort of the 1890s to the 1940s to revive the handcraft movement in the North Carolina mountains. The website can be viewed at [www.wcu.edu/craftrevival](http://www.wcu.edu/craftrevival).

The Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens of New Bern, North Carolina Museum of History of Raleigh, North Carolina Folklife Institute of Durham, Cherokee Nation of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings are among the organizations that recently asked permission to use Craft Revival content in their publications, exhibits and on their websites.

The Craft Revival project, which began in 2005, is a collaboration among the John C. Campbell Folk School, Penland School of Crafts, WCU's Mountain Heritage Center, Southern Highland Craft Guild and Hunter Library.

## Library Remodeling Opens New Doors, Java City Expands

A remodeling project has created another entrance to the library, as well as new spaces for students, faculty and staff members. Now, in addition to the main entrance and the entrance on the ground floor by the Technology Commons Service Desk, patrons can enter the library through Java City, passing through a furnished and spacious lounge – good space for study, collaboration or relaxation. By the end of spring semester, there also will be two film-viewing rooms in this space. These rooms, complete with surround sound and big-screen TVs, will be available for course-related film screenings and will be reserved through the circulation department.



### Before and After

*Java City at the library has expanded its size and menu in its new location on the main floor. The space, formerly occupied by a snack area with chairs, tables and vending machines, was gutted for the renovation in fall 2010.*



### Enter!

*Patrons can enter the library directly from Java City now. Until recently, the glass doorway at the front walkway was the only entrance.*





## Got a Suggestion?

Do you have recommendations for library collections, hours, furnishings?

Let your voice be heard by anonymously submitting suggestions online.

Go to "Library Suggestions" at [www.wcu.edu/library](http://www.wcu.edu/library). Include your contact information if you'd like a personal response. You also may offer suggestions (also anonymously, if you choose) by dropping a note in the suggestions box located on the table in front of the main floor rest rooms.

Suggestions are passed along to those library folks best equipped to consider and respond to the type of recommendation offered. Please note however that while we thoughtfully consider all suggestions, we cannot promise to fulfill all of them.

Most suggestions, whether received electronically or in print, are posted with a response on the bulletin board right above the drop-off box. Even if you don't have a recommendation, the board offers enlightening and sometimes entertaining reading.

### LIBRARY HOURS

Monday–Thursday	7:30 a.m.–Midnight
Friday	7:30 a.m.–7 p.m.
Saturday	Noon–7 p.m.
Sunday	Noon–Midnight

Hours vary during holidays and semester breaks.

### JAVA CITY IN THE LIBRARY

Monday–Thursday	7:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	6 p.m.–9 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION, GO TO: [www.wcu.edu/1643.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/1643.asp)

## Join the Friends of Hunter Library

Your membership in the [Friends of Hunter Library](#) helps strengthen and sustain our library's activities and programs. Members enjoy the satisfaction that comes from participating in a worthwhile activity with others who share common interests. Membership is \$25. To join, call the Library Administration office at 828.227.7307.

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