

## GET YOUR IMAGINATION GAME ON!

BY DANA SALLY | DSALLY@WCU.EDU

For many of the past 35 falls, I've more or less dutifully returned to my job at a university, often uncritically accepting the high purpose and utility of university education. Over the past several years, like many among us, including our various supporters and sponsors, I have felt compelled to dig deeper for satisfying answers to the questions of purpose, utility, and value in my work, and even in my own pursuit of education. For all of us in today's world, regardless of where we stand in our relationship to higher education, we need to again ask: **Why do they come?**

Simply put, and in today's vernacular, my answer is that they come to get their imagination game on. Yes, that's it; they come to get their imagination game on. In general, they come to promote and advance human culture and understanding through their own individual self-development. In a word, we like to say that they come for an education. But to obtain this education, I want to insist that imagination is key. For the purposes of a university education, it is vital.

This answer and this line of thought are hardly new. Both can be traced back in various forms to classical Greece (Socrates and Plato) and to the very establishment of



Students come to the library for group and individual learning experiences.

the university itself in medieval Italy and England. In more modern times, this line of thinking is thoroughly developed in the reflections of Alfred North Whitehead (among others), especially in his tightly written *Aims of Education*. The fundamental place of imaginative learning is even to be

found in the intellectual peregrinations of the rap artist Lil Wayne in one of his recent releases, "Dr. Carter," though I'll admit that some of us may find it there only with more difficulty and intellectual penetration.

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## Reins, Trains, and Automobiles

### Digital collection gives online ride through history

A digital collection on the history of transportation in Western North Carolina makes stops in towns across the mountain region to show day-to-day life as it was in the early 20th century. And, though it resembles armchair time travel via mouse click, the online tour captures the real world through the letters, photographs, store ledgers, postcards, and newspaper clippings of the people of the day.

"A Region Defined: Taking the Train" is part of the [Craft Revival website](http://www.wcu.edu/craftrevival) and digital archive, a research-based website that documents an historic effort to revive handcraft in the western part of the state during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The transportation segment, which depicts the rapid change that took place in the region during the time of the Craft Revival, is available at [www.wcu.edu/craftrevival/story/train](http://www.wcu.edu/craftrevival/story/train).

The main emphasis of the collection is the turn-of-the-century era of the railroad. It hearkens back to a time when mail, goods and supplies, and people were transported from

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# Hunter Scholar

## An award with an affinity for promising research

The Hunter Scholar award, a small but well-established program that supports faculty scholarship, has a penchant for finding research with the potential for national impact. The faculty members who won the annual award, which provides a special time and place for focused work and a \$400 stipend for travel and supplies, have had articles published in scholarly and professional journals. Some have authored books with prestigious publishers. Some have received international attention for their work.

When he was Hunter Scholar in 1991, [Hal Herzog](#), professor of psychology, did some of the work included in his book, *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals*, published in September by HarperCollins. "I used the award to do the basic research on animal activism that I discuss in one of

the later chapters. Parts of these were published as articles in journals," he said.

Herzog also won the Hunter Scholar award in 2007. "I used the second award to write the book proposal (which was 90 pages) and then to start on the actual writing, which required a lot of library research. The Hunter Scholar awards were tremendously helpful," he said.

In addition to the small stipend, Hunter Scholars receive a reduction in teaching load for the academic year and the services of a graduate student to assist with their work. They have the use of a study room on



Hal Herzog and James T. Costa are former Hunter Scholars

the library's ground floor, making on-site library resources more convenient and help from reference librarians close by.

In the 22 years since it was created, the Hunter Scholar award has supported research on tourism trends in the North Carolina mountains, public education policy in Southern Appalachia, the Cherokee culture, the Civil War and its

# Annette Debo's Research Focuses on African American Women Poets

## Hunter Scholar 2010-11

[Annette Debo](#), associate professor of English, is writing the key theoretical chapters of her monograph-in-progress, *Furious Flowers All: Violence and African*

*American Women Poets*. This study begins with a theoretical and historical exploration of violence in the United States and the American literary imagination. The

major figures considered are representative of three generations of African American poets: Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000), Sonia Sanchez (born in 1934), and Natasha Trethewey (born in 1966). All three poets were transformed by the Civil Rights Movement and the violence engendered in that historical moment. Brooks altered her poetic style and content after attending a conference at Fisk University in 1967. Sanchez published her first book of poetry in 1969. Trethewey's childhood and identity were shaped by that era.

Debo earned her Ph.D. degree at the University of Maryland, College Park. At WCU, she has taught African American literature, including classes on the Harlem Renaissance, Toni Morrison, contemporary writers, and women writers, as well as surveys of the field. Interests she developed in the classroom became articles in the *African American Review* and *Callaloo*.

Ryan Norton, a graduate student in the M.A. program, and Hunter librarians are assisting Debo with her research. Follow the work on their blog at <https://media.wcu.edu/groups/furiousflowersall/>



Annette Debo (right) receives help with library materials from Heidi Buchanan, reference liaison for English and contemporary fiction.

social impact in the mountain region, contemporary business ethics, insect societies, nonviolent literature, an ethnographic overview of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and other topics. Graduate School and Research, Educational Outreach, the Office of the Provost, and Hunter Library jointly sponsor the award, which is announced in the spring each year.

Robin Kowalski, professor of psychology at Clemson University, was a WCU faculty member in 1994 when she was named Hunter Scholar for a research proposal she had submitted on the topic of complaining behaviors. At the end of her award year, Kowalski made a public presentation of her research. It attracted widespread media interest and led to her appearance on NBC's "Today Show."

"It was an amazing experience," she said. "I did live radio interviews around the world. Clearly, it is a topic that resonates with a lot

of people. The conceptual research that I conducted as a Hunter Scholar has received more attention than any other research in my career," she said.

Kowalski later wrote a book, *Complaining, Teasing and Other Annoying Behaviors*, published by Yale University Press in 2003.

For **James T. Costa**, professor of biology and director of the Highlands Biological Station, a Hunter Scholar award in 1999 became the kick start he needed to start writing his first book, *The Other Insect Societies*, published by Harvard University Press in 2006.

"Time to focus on scholarship was more valuable than I can express. Juggling the usual range of responsibilities from teaching to graduate students to committees – and having a 2-year-old at home – made unbroken blocks of time to think about science a scarce commodity," he said. "The time and quiet space in Hunter permitted me to come up with a

working method that I pursued for the subsequent years of the project and to make headway with my writing."

Costa also found help from the library's reference staff. "I was and am still enormously indebted to Hunter's librarians, who never shrank from the challenge of locating books or articles I needed, however seemingly bizarre or obscure," he said. "The kick start that my Hunter Scholar year provided was invaluable."

Faculty members who want to apply for the 2011-12 Hunter Scholar award can visit [www.wcu.edu/6831.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/6831.asp)

Applications are due Jan. 15. The winner will be announced in the spring.

## Get Your Imagination Game On *continued from page 1*

Whatever the source, the point here is that students come to the university to get an education, and a proper education does not consist in the *mere* conveyance of knowledge and information. University education consists in the *imaginative* consideration of learning. Students come not just for information and knowledge. These commodities are often available in today's information bazaar at a much lower cost and investment of time. They come to have ideas, knowledge, and information put into play, as it were. They come to have learning experiences that are not simply comprised of receiving inert ideas that make them merely well-informed. Whitehead reminds us, after all, that "a merely well-informed man is the most useless bore on God's earth." They come to interact with ideas, facts, general principles, etc., brought to life by being applied to experience, and that, as a result, can be utilized for further understanding, and that can be thrown into fresh and new alternative combinations.

To repeat, they come to get their imagination game worked on: developed, broadened, fine-tuned, validated, and certified. They come because at some level

we all know, perhaps primordially, that the value of a university education lies in the acquisition of imaginative learning; that imagination without knowledge is the fool's game and that knowledge without imagination is the pedant's. They come because they know and understand, if only implicitly, that the true value and utility of a university education – its proper function – is the imaginative acquisition of knowledge. They come for mind game.

They come to acquire the art of putting knowledge and learning to work. That particular art importantly involves the imagination and its active relating of ideas, thoughts, and feelings in known and new ways. In this way, the imagination is the figurative canvas upon which the art of education takes shape. There are some who want to go so far as to say that imagination is so critical to the educational purposes of the university that if the university is not imaginative, it is nothing ... well, at least nothing useful. And that is why they come. They come because they want a type of mentality and intellect that is useful, one through which they and the larger social organism of which they are a part can develop and advance.

If the imaginative consideration of learning is what elevates university education above the mere conveyance of information, then there are corollaries to it as the answer to the question as to why they come. The most salient: *They come for the faculty and for the classes that the faculty teach*. This is so because it is the faculty whose learning is lighted up with imagination. In fact, this matter seems to be the whole of the art of organizing a university: providing a faculty who impart and convey learning imaginatively. In that connection, for those who adhere to this line of pedagogical thought, two other educational corollaries seem to follow: 1) don't teach too many subjects; and 2) those you do teach, teach thoroughly.

For me, books, videos, music, images, etc., are forms of intellectual content that, when properly composed, eloquently and elegantly support the art of imaginative learning. They are fuel and spark to the engine of imagination. They feed the human appetite for imaginative discovery and keep the imagination's light shining brightly on the present. That's why I come back.

– Dr. Sally is dean of library services



# ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hunter Library employees show through their many collaborations that they work to embody the ideal of engagement that defines the university.

**Beth Breedlove**, cataloging library specialist, has worked as a proofreader through her church to publish new editions of the Bible in several Native American languages. The newest publication is in Choctaw with additional books still being proofread in Northern Cheyenne and Cherokee.

Several librarians made notable contributions to the 18th edition of *Magazines for Libraries* (December 2009), a classic tool in the library world. **Heidi Buchanan**, acting head of research and instruction, co-authored with Heath Martin the chapter "Literature." **Susan Metcalf**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the social sciences, contributed the chapter "Criminology and Law Enforcement." **Krista Schmidt**, research and instruction librarian and science liaison, authored the chapter "Health and Fitness."

**Betsy Clementson**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the College of Business, attended the December 2009 meeting of Business Librarianship in North Carolina. Topics addressed included information support for nonprofit entities and social networking. Clementson is part of BLINC's Google group, which shares information and solicits input and feedback from business librarians across North Carolina.

**Anna Craft**, metadata librarian, **Tim Carstens**, head of content organization and management, and **Jason Woolf**, Craft Revival staff member, co-authored the chapter "The Craft Revival Project: Library Leadership in Creating Connections Between Small Cultural Institutions" in *Digitization in the Real World: Lessons Learned From Small to Medium-Sized Digitization Projects*. The Metropolitan New York Library Council is publishing the text.

**Jill Ellern**, systems librarian, co-authored "Recognition and Reward: SOTL and the Tenure Process at a Regional Comprehensive University" for the Summer 2009 issue of *Mountain Rise* with WCU colleagues **Laura Cruz**, associate professor of history and associate director of the Coulter Faculty Center, **George Ford**, assistant professor of construction

management, **Hollye Moss**, associate professor of business, and **Barbara Jo White**, assistant professor of computer information systems. In April, Ellern attended the Innovative Users' Group meeting in Chicago, an international conference of users of the Innovative library system software, where she received the Crystal Award.

**Anna Fariello**, Craft Revival project director, wrote the book *Cherokee Basketry: From the Hands of our Elders* (The History Press, October 2009, reprint April 2010). This year Fariello also was co-author and juror for the exhibition "Iron: Twenty Ten" at the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis, Tenn., and authored the exhibition catalog for "Forged, Quenched, Tempered" at the Houston (Texas) Center for Contemporary Craft. She organized, created, and installed an exhibit on historical copper work and the works of Cherokee metalsmith Arch Miller at Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual in Cherokee. Fariello has authored several Web pages detailing artisans of the Craft Revival and given presentations on the Craft Revival at multiple conferences and meetings. "Arcadian Monuments," an exhibit of rustic Appalachian structures photographed by Fariello, was on exhibit at Hunter Library last year. It was originally a touring exhibit of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

**Ann Hallyburton**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the health professions, and **Barbara St. John**, associate professor of nursing, co-authored "Partnering With Your Library to Strengthen Nursing Research" in the March 2010 issue of *Journal of Nursing Education*. Hallyburton also co-authored the manuscript "Leisure Reading's Value in Academic Libraries" with Heidi Buchanan and Tim Carstens. The manuscript is under consideration by *Collection Management*. Hallyburton has begun classes in the leadership distance program of UNC-Chapel Hill's master of public health.

**Robin Hitch**, technical support analyst, **Ruby Banerjee**, research and instruction library technical assistant, **Susan Metcalf**, and **Ann Hallyburton** were in Memphis,

Tenn., last January to celebrate the birthdays of Hitch and of Elvis Presley. They attended the monumental festivities at Graceland and the surrounding area and visited the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel.

*Magic Search: Getting the Best Results From Your Catalog and Beyond*, a book co-authored by **Becky Kornegay**, **Heidi Buchanan**, and **Hiddy Morgan**, has received positive reviews in *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, *Journal of Documentation*, and *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*. Kornegay is research and instruction librarian and liaison to history, philosophy, and religion. Buchanan is acting head of research and instruction. Morgan is the former assistant head of cataloging. She retired last February. In July, **Kornegay** welcomed her son, Henry, home from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan. He is with the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, one of the two Marine battalions sent by President Obama to clear the town of Marjah, Afghanistan.

**Elisabeth Leonard**, associate dean of library services, and **Alessia Zanin-Yost**, research and instruction librarian/liaison to the visual and performing arts, will present "How to Lasso a Cooperative Learning Opportunity" at the Arts Libraries of North America/Southeast Chapter conference in Cartersville, Georgia, in November. Their presentation will focus on a collaborative project between the library and senior interior design students. Leonard and Barbara Moran, Louis Round Wilson Distinguished Professor in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, co-authored the entry "Academic Librarianship" in the third edition of *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (2010). Leonard, Moran, and Jessica Zellers, electronic resources librarian, Williamsburg Regional Library, co-authored "Women Administrators in Academic Libraries: Three Decades of Change" for *Library Trends* (Fall 2009).

Leonard also participated in a panel discussion on the question "What is your library doing about emerging technologies?" at the annual conference

of the American Library Association Conference held in Washington, D.C. in June. In August, she was an invited guest for the "Conversations" program of WCQS Public Radio to discuss the future of libraries in the digital age.

**Joel Marchesoni**, technical support analyst, **Robin Hitch**, and **Jill Ellern** helped organize and sponsor a conference of the Code4Lib, an organization of computer programmers and library technologists, held in Asheville in February.

**Beth McDonough**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the College of Education, and **John LeBaron**, recently retired Distinguished Professor of Educational Technologies, co-authored "Meta-review of ICT in Education: Phase One" and "Meta-review of ICT in Education: Phase Two," research reports funded by the Global e-Schools

and Communities Initiative (Dublin, Ireland). McDonough and **Dana Sally**, dean of library services, presented "The Care and Feeding of Curricular Materials in the Academic Library" at the 2009 Charleston Conference, an international conference for publishers and information professionals. **Nancy Newsome**, head of serials and collection development, and **Becky Kornegay**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to history, also attended the conference.

**Susan Metcalf**, research and instruction librarian and liaison to the social sciences, has assumed responsibility for the library's federal and state government documents.

**Aileen Moss** has been promoted to the library specialist advanced position. Moss joined the staff in 1986. She has held multiple clerk and technical assistant positions in her 24 years at the library.

**Serenity Richards**, cataloging library assistant, has completed her master of library science from North Carolina Central University. In addition, she raised in the past year more than \$8,000 for charities, including Equality Now, Kids Need to Read, the Al Wooten, Jr. Heritage Center, and the Atlanta Children's Shelter. Funds were raised and then distributed through the Southeastern Browncoats, a group in which Richards holds a leadership position.

**Dana Sally** co-chaired with Sharon Lasoff Murphy of Pfeiffer Partners Architects the program "Zip Learning: 12 Learning Commons in a Flash" at the annual meeting of the American Library Association held in Washington, D.C., in June. The program was sponsored by the Buildings for College and University Libraries Committee of the Library Leadership and Management Association, a *continued on page 6*

## Database Comparison Is Topic at Charleston Conference

BY BETSY CLEMENTSON | CLEMENT@WCU.EDU

Have you ever wondered how academic libraries decide which research tools, journals, and books to buy? The process includes a combination of suggestions from faculty, staff, and students; browsing through catalogs; reading articles and blogs; noticing patterns of questions at the reference desk; and reviewing professional literature.

I recently undertook the task of comparing two business databases in order to select one to add to Hunter Library's offerings, and I will be discussing this process at the Charleston Conference in Charleston, South Carolina (November 3-6).

For multitasking librarians, selecting a new database can prove a daunting task. Both of the databases compared are highly regarded in both the academic and corporate business research worlds. Gathering and analyzing the information to make an informed choice is not as simple as it

might appear though. Comparing content provided by each of the vendors can be like trying to compare apples and oranges. What is considered scholarly and peer-reviewed to one vendor might be market research to another. Search capabilities and user interfaces might seem remarkably similar. Some content provided through the two products overlaps, and both return relevant search results. With the addition of instructor expectations, vendor marketing strategies, professional opinions, publisher restrictions, and constricted budgets, a seemingly simple task becomes overwhelming.

The Charleston Conference is dedicated to the discussion of just such issues. The conference is described by organizers as "...an informal annual gathering of librarians, publishers, electronic resource managers, consultants, and vendors of library materials." Formal and informal

gatherings at the conference often yield career-long professional relationships. The serious issues discussed at the conference, from escalating publishing costs and the impact of the Internet to electronic archiving, highlight issues that all parties face in the negotiation process. During my presentation, I will discuss the reasons why I undertook this comparison, my process for comparing the two databases, what conclusions I came to as a result of this comparison, and how I made my final decision. I hope to spark an insightful discussion with and among session participants, emphasizing the variety of ways that librarians can make thoughtful and evidence-based decisions regarding the selection of new resources.

*– Betsy Clementson is research and instruction librarian and the liaison for the College of Business.*

division of ALA. Sally is the 2010-11 chair of the Association of College and Research Libraries' Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Award committee. The committee awards, through a competitive process, national fellowship support to those completing doctoral dissertation work in a library-science-related field. He also chairs the Library Leadership and Management Association's officer nomination committee.

**Krista Schmidt**, reference and instruction librarian, recently accepted the additional

duties of liaisonship to the Mathematics and Computer Science Department and the Kimmel School of Construction Management and Technology. More personally, Schmidt gave birth to a lovely daughter, Aeryn, on August 25, 2009. Aeryn also is the daughter of Seán O'Connell, head of the WCU Department of Biology. She already loves books as her prodigious chewing and slobbering over them indicate, according to her parents.

**Bob Strauss**, cataloging library technical assistant, has completed editorial

work on the third volume of *Erie Tales: Saturday Evening Ghost*, by the Great Lakes Association of Horror Writers.

**Alessia Zanin-Yost** authored the chapter "Liaison to the Visual Arts: Responding to the Needs of Diverse Demands" in *The Handbook of Art and Design Librarianship* (edited by A. Gluibizzi and P. Glassman, June 2010). Zanin-Yost has been nominated for membership to the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries' Visual Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education Advisory Group.

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## Katy Ginanni Named Collection Development Librarian

**Katy Ginanni** has joined the library as collection development librarian. She comes to WCU from Trinity University in San Antonio, where she was e-access and serials librarian for the Coates Library. She also has held positions in serials acquisitions for the libraries of Vanderbilt University, Auburn University, and Old Dominion University.

Ginanni earned her bachelor's degree at Auburn University in speech communication and the master of library science from the George Peabody College at Vanderbilt.

In addition to her work in academic libraries, she has 15 years of experience with EBSCO Information Services, which serves libraries and research organizations by providing subscription services to print and electronic journals and research databases. She joined EBSCO in 1992 as account services manager in Birmingham, Alabama, and served libraries in several states within the southeastern United States. Her next position was as a training specialist for EBSCO personnel and customers around the world. Most recently, she was sales manager for EBSCO's regional

office in Johannesburg for two years.

A former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, Ginanni taught English and helped raise funds for a library building in a rural secondary school in Zimbabwe for eight months, until she was evacuated by the Peace Corps in April 2000 due to political tensions in the country.

Active in professional library associations at the state, national and international levels, she is currently president of the North American Serials Interest Group and a column editor for *Serials Review*, an international scholarly journal.

"The library is exceptionally fortunate to have a professional librarian with Katy's singular talents, abilities, and background on board. She brings a highly regarded and decidedly rich set of qualities and national experiences," said Dana Sally, dean of library services. "We have every confidence in her ability to advance our



support of knowledge-building programs among our students, faculty, and staff. Katy is a delightful addition to Hunter Library and the university, and we look forward to everyone's getting to know her."

"It's an exciting time to be working in libraries and an exciting time to come to WCU as it grows and changes," said

Ginanni. "I'm especially tickled to be right in the middle of the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina."

As collection development librarian, Ginanni will coordinate and support the collection activities of the librarian liaisons to academic departments. Working with the liaisons, she will help shape the collection – both print and electronic – of the library. This includes evaluation and analysis of the collection to ensure that it continues to support the academic programs of WCU and oversight of the library's role in new course and program proposals.





## From Singapore to Your Front Door Where in the World Is Interlibrary Loan?

BY SUZANNE RAETHER | SRAETHER@WCU.EDU

Research can lead anywhere. A piano recital can take you to Germany. Microbes in soil samples may require a detour to Arkansas. Quality research takes time and legwork, and for Western Carolina scholars, interlibrary loan is an ace in the hole.

Typically, a library's ILL department is how patrons utilize items owned by other libraries. However, Hunter Library's ILL is anything but typical. Due to the fast-paced academic setting and wide array of scholarship produced at Western Carolina, interlibrary loan offers additional services not found in other libraries.

ILL develops and maintains strong relationships with special libraries that hold esoteric items. Through ILL, patrons have access to items at the British Library, Harvard Law, Library of Congress and Stockholm University, including others. Interlibrary loan prides itself on reaching as far as possible for patrons' needs because we understand that sometimes the perfect dissertation is overseas.

However, patrons can get more than traditional research items through ILL. Sheet music, popular CDs, special collections material, plays, even a full season of the television show "House" are within interlibrary loan's grasp. Creative scholarship is a staple of Western Carolina academics, and ILL will go the extra mile to get those off-the-wall items WCU artists of all genres require.

Moreover, part of that extra mile is making sure faculty members can utilize interlibrary loan, ABC Express and Hunter Library items without having to come to the library. Research occurs at all hours and outside of campus. Interlibrary loan knows

that getting to the library can be the biggest hurdle a scholar has to cross. That's why ILL will soon be launching a new faculty delivery program, Bookie. Faculty can use this service to have items delivered to their home or on-campus or satellite office. One of the goals of Bookie is to enable faculty to request current items they learn about at symposiums or conferences and have those items waiting on them when they get back. With Bookie, Western Carolina faculty can travel at the speed of research and not miss a single step.

Beyond getting materials from far away to a patron's front door, interlibrary loan ships Hunter Library items to equally distant libraries. Patrons in Canada, South America, and Denmark regularly borrow items through Hunter's ILL department. However, ILL is happy to service NASA, the CDC, and CIA right here in the states. Supplying fellow libraries with materials is a central component of keeping healthy interlibrary relationships, and it allows WCU patrons to get the items they need.

And, getting patrons what they need is the interlibrary creed. Hunter Library's support of interlibrary research allows WCU scholars to continue producing award-winning academic and creative works. Whether an item is four miles or four days away, ILL will do whatever it can to get it into our patrons' hands.

For more information about setting up an ILL Loan Shark account or about the upcoming Bookie program, log on to <http://www.wcu.edu/1628.asp> or call the ILL department at 828.227.3412.

– Suzanne Raether is interlibrary loan coordinator

## Higdon Family Donates \$1,000

The membership of the Higdon Family Association, Inc., recently made a \$1,000 contribution to Special Collections. The funds will be used to support work that is under way to preserve and process materials the association has donated.

Materials in the Higdon collection include meeting records, print materials, newsletters, photographs, scrapbooks, and other information about the Higdon family and allied families. Among other purposes mentioned in the organization's bylaws, the association endeavors "to encourage Higdons and Higdon descendants to develop an interest in and educate themselves in their family heritage" and also "to assemble and publish a source of genealogical, historical, and educational material" that will be a resource for members and interested parties. Information about the association is available online at [www.higdonfamily.org](http://www.higdonfamily.org).

The gift to the library will assist with various efforts, such as preservation concerns, processing, and additions to enhance the collection's research value. "We greatly appreciate the generosity of the association in sharing these materials and in providing support for work that will make them accessible, expand their scope, and enhance their research value," said George Frizzell, head of Special Collections.



Minerva Thompson, student assistant, tries one out.

## Kindles Are Here

The library has six Kindles to loan that are preloaded with a virtual library of reading pleasure. You'll find popular selections in contemporary fiction and nonfiction, mysteries and thrillers, romance, science fiction and fantasy, even a cookbook or two. There also is an assortment of timeless, public-domain classics. In all, there are 240 books to choose from; and with a few exceptions due to licensing issues, each of these titles is loaded on every Kindle.

College and university libraries across the nation are providing Kindles and other e-book readers so that their patrons can try out new reading technologies that they may not be able to buy for themselves. And having the readers available is yet another way to encourage reading, a goal of libraries everywhere.

The Kindles come with a carrying case, charger, and basic instructions. They can be checked out by WCU students, faculty, or staff members for three weeks. To find out if one is available, go to [www.wcu.edu/library](http://www.wcu.edu/library), click on "Classic Catalog," and do a keyword search for "Kindle device." If all are checked out, you can place a hold on one online using your library account.

## Yodel-Ay-Ee-Whooo?

BY GEORGE FRIZZELL | FRIZZELLG@WCU.EDU

In an online age when print news media struggle to find their way, take time to remember the golden days when newspapers, including *The Cullowhee Yodel*, were indispensable sources of information.

The earliest newspaper of WCU (then known as Cullowhee Normal & Industrial School) was *The Cullowhee Yodel*, first published in February 1924. The paper began as the intention of students to communicate to the campus community, alumni, and the region. It was both an informative and creative outlet for students and had columns for "Personals," "Alumni Notes," and "Social Activities." It also carried poetry, humorous items, and advertisements from local businesses.

Prior to the first issue of the paper, a contest was held to select a name. A panel chose the name proposed by Clutie Bloodworth, who was a demonstration teacher in the institution's elementary school. The name, *The Cullowhee Yodel*, was meant to evoke the refrain of the Swiss mountaineers and

hearken to a time when Western North Carolina was compared to Switzerland. The editors, who had envisioned a paper that "sounds its call of neighborliness and goodwill into the surrounding mountains," repeatedly found it necessary to explain its name. Four articles over the course of five years detailed the name's history.

Perhaps the most unusual consequence of the name was that sports teams also decided to use it. In its December 1924 issue, the paper featured a story about the football team with a headline that read "Yodellers [sic] Close Successful Football Season." Later articles also used Yodelers as the basketball team name.

The last issue of the *Yodel* on file was dated June 1, 1931. In its place was born the *Western Carolinian*. And of Miss Bloodworth? She had moved to Alabama a few years earlier and become a paid subscriber to the newspaper she had named.

—George Frizzell is head of Special Collections





## Reins, Trains and Automobiles

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town to town by the steam locomotives of the Southern Railway across rugged mountainous terrain where the grades were both scenic and heart-stopping.

The collection includes scanned images of the library's rare archival materials from the 1890s to the 1930s. The period was a time of rapid change as wagons gave way to rails and then to roads. Improved transportation opened the region to tourism and the development of business and industry, including large-scale mining and logging. It gave mountain people more exposure to the world beyond their small villages and towns. Mountain products, including timber and clay, were exported. Prominent Americans, from President Franklin Roosevelt to George Vanderbilt, discovered the region and what it offered.

"This collection offers a snapshot of what life was like during this time and what was happening in mountain communities," said George Frizzell, head of Special Collections. "Improved methods of transportation were drawing the region into the national economy, and the resources of the mountains were making contributions. People were writing about what was going on in their lives and towns in what was the present time for them."

"A Region Defined" features many firsthand observations about the mountains as seen through the eyes of its residents. There are accounts of locust nails from the forests traveling by train to shipyards in Maine, and clay from mountain soils going to the Midwest to be made into pottery. Residents of some towns were lamenting the lack of good schools. Others were worried about a local epidemic of the mumps. There are stories of passengers being stranded on the train during a cloudburst, of having to stop and wait for bears to move, and of huge boulders crashing down from the mountainside onto the tracks just after the train passed.

The information presented includes original sources and is verified through census records and other historical records, such as early business directories and county heritage books. Much of the explanatory text is taken from Southern Railway's original 1912 travel guide, *The Western North Carolina Section at a Glance*.

Twenty-seven towns are on the tour, which covers the 123-miles of railroad that lie between Murphy and Asheville. Major stops include Asheville, Waynesville, Sylva, Bryson City, Andrews, and Murphy. Lesser-known, small villages, such as Bushnell and Forney, which would be underwater after the construction of Fontana Dam, come back to life on the website.

When exploring a town, viewers can click on "the 1910s" to see what it was like during the railroad era, or go back in time by clicking "the 1890s" to see the days of the horse and wagon, or "the 1930s" for a look into the future to the time when better roads brought the first automobiles.

"This was a remarkable few decades in which the region was discovered by modern America for its potential for industrial development and for tourism," said Curtis Wood, professor emeritus of history at WCU, who uses the site as a resource for research. "I've seen very little that lives up to the Web promise of a virtual tour as well as this."

The transportation website was created by Frizzell, Anna Craft, Tim Carstens, Bob Strauss, and Ann Hallyburton, of the library, and Melissa Young, Web developer.



ASHEVILLE, 1890s



HALL STATION NEAR SYLVA, 1890s



SYLVA, 1930s



# Author Sue Ellen Bridgers

## “Why I love libraries”

As a WCU student in the 1970s, Sue Ellen Bridgers used to walk over to the library just to browse through the stacks. Thirty years later, she is among the authors whose books line those shelves. An award-winning writer who has won praise from the American Library Association, *The New York Times*, and others, Bridgers travels extensively to promote reading and writing. Through the years, she has donated working manuscripts for her seven novels to the library's Special Collections. She has been the subject of a biography, a Ph.D. dissertation, and numerous magazine and newspaper articles.



Always a strong supporter of libraries, Bridgers holds a lifetime membership in the Friends of Hunter Library. She also is a member of the Friends of the Jackson County Main Library and helped organize the successful campaign to create a new library complex in the historic Jackson County courthouse in Sylva.

We asked her:

### *Why do you love libraries?*

Sue Ellen Bridgers: “I’ve always enjoyed going into the stacks to look through the books. I might want to find one certain book, and then another one on that shelf or a nearby shelf

will catch my eye, and there I go. I often did this when I was in school at WCU. I’ve always appreciated that Hunter Library permitted full access to the stacks, because that’s something that many academic libraries don’t allow.”

“When I was a girl growing up in Winterville, in eastern North Carolina, there wasn’t a library in our town. There was a shelf in a community building that held a few books for the public, but that was it. There wasn’t even a bookstore in Winterville. But in my family, we had avid readers who always gave books as gifts. I had an aunt who lived in Indiana who mailed books to us. And my grandmother instilled a love for stories and reading. My husband, Ben, and I now have 10 grandchildren of our own. We have walls and walls of books. We have our own stacks. So we have created something of a library in our home. These little girls and boys come to visit, and they see the books and want to be read to!”



## New Look at the Library

Part of the library building has undergone improvements that have given it a more contemporary look. A new set of energy-efficient windows was installed in the building's oldest section, which is more than a half-century old. The section houses the Faculty Commons, Writing Center, and the library's administrative offices. The most dramatic change was the replacement of a tall, solid wall of glass on the side of the building that fronts Central Drive. The library's main entrance was located there from the time the building opened in 1953 until 1982, when a major library renovation moved the entrance to the west side of the building. The glass removal and reinstallation was done by workers from Blue Ridge Glass Inc. of Waynesville. Some improvements also are in the works in the old snack bar room. It is being remodeled to accommodate an expanded Java City operation.



# Library Exhibits Feature Music, Cultural Heritage, and More

Several exhibits that will be on display at the library this year offer opportunities to learn about different cultures and to celebrate the scholarship and creative contributions of WCU faculty members.

A special musical exhibit, "Cultural Ambassadors: Building International Relationships through Music," features the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet and its latest trip to China. Patrons can learn about these WCU musicians by perusing notebooks and souvenirs from China and listening to their performances. The exhibit is located on the library's first floor and will run through December 2011.

Jamaican students enrolled in the art education class for teachers during the summer learned how to use information from the library and Mountain Heritage Center to tell a story through quilts. The results of their work can be seen in an online exhibit hosted by the library at [www.wcu.edu/1624.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/1624.asp) (select 2010 from the list).

National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is featured in first-floor exhibits on display through December. National Hispanic Heritage Month was the subject of an exhibit earlier this semester.

The Faculty Scholarship Celebration in February 2011 will showcase the scholarly achievements of the university community. The weeklong event offers the opportunity to see and discuss the work of WCU faculty members.

The annual Black History Month exhibit, also scheduled for February on the library's first floor, will highlight important people and events in the history of the African diaspora and achievements of African Americans in the history of the United States.

"We're pleased with the variety of exhibits planned for the year," said Alessia Zanin-Yost, chair of the library exhibit committee. "Having exhibits in our building creates an inviting environment for our patrons and

helps to integrate the library more fully into campus life. Our goal is to provide the type of exhibits that stimulate academic discourse and also encourage the use of library resources."



## New Art on Display

*Family Portrait*, a painting by WCU alumnus Matt Zales of Greensboro, has been installed on Hunter Library's first floor. It overlooks the reference desk and replaces Robert Bannard's painting *Jonquils*, which was removed to undergo preservation. Zales, a 1998 graduate of Southeast Guilford High in Greensboro, was the recipient of the prestigious Chancellor's Purchase Prize in the 2004 annual Student Art Exhibition. *Family Portrait* will be on view until June 2011. The removal and installation of the art pieces were supervised by Denise Drury, assistant curator at the WCU Fine Art Museum, and Kevin Kirkpatrick, studio tech/instructor.





## 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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