Hello to my Appalachian Family!

My first winter in the high country has been an exciting one. After years of living in Illinois, my wife, Jenny, and I are well acquainted with snow and wind, but the steep slopes have been a new experience! We have learned important lessons about mountain living (for example, it’s a good idea to remove the blades of outdoor ceiling fans before the wind kicks up). Some of our new best friends include the local electrician, the snowplow driver (who likes fresh baked cookies), and the local tire company! At every turn, wonderful people are making us feel welcome and helping us learn the ways of high country. What a blessing! 😊

I would also like to share with you that Jenny has joined the Appalachian State family as well. Recently hired as the new Director of Development for the Beaver College of Health Sciences, Jenny brings nearly two decades of fundraising experience in other health sciences programs. Like me, she is excited to be part of this university in these beautiful mountains with all of you.

Finally, I would like to highlight the important role that you all play in helping the University Libraries make a difference for our students and community. In October, an outstanding Children’s Literature Symposium inspired hundreds of local teachers and students, thanks to the support of Chuck and Pauletta Parker, Mary Helen Ridenhour, Charles and Elaine Graham, and the Martha and Nancy Lee Bivens Distinguished Professorship for Children and Reading.

Our donors also help amazing library student employees like Sam Reis, who you will read about below. She and 17 other student employees received scholarships this year, thanks to the contributions of many library friends wanting to support hard-working students in their efforts to make ends meet. We are able to do so much because of you. Thanks to you all!

On October 26-27, Alan Gratz and Heather Bouwman spoke about their novels and the writing process to more than 1000 students in area public schools, led discussions in Appalachian State University classrooms, and offered a program at the Watauga County Public Library.

In addition, Alan Gratz spoke about his novel, *Prisoner B-3087*, at the closing program for Hardin Park’s All School Read. Librarians Candice Trexler and Amy Hiatt designed the All School Read to encourage parents and middle schoolers to read a novel together, engage in book-related activities, and attend an author presentation. This year ninety families participated in this program.

The Saturday, October 28 program provided professional development opportunities for 120 teachers and librarians. Allan Wolf presented the keynote address and joined Alan Gratz and Heather Bouwman in leading breakout sessions on the theme *Crafting Stories with Poetry and Prose*. Donna Washington also provided a storytelling performance.

Margaret Gregor, co-chair of the Symposium planning committee and the Coordinator of the Belk Library Instructional Material Center noted that an author visit encourages children to read. "We know that reading can inspire children to explore history, learn about current events, and become more aware of the world around them. Meeting an author makes literature exciting and important. Authors can also help teachers learn new ways to incorporate literature in their teaching. We are grateful that we can provide these opportunities for children, teachers and librarians in Appalachian's service region."

The Symposium was sponsored by Chuck and Pauletta Parker, Mary Helen Ridenhour, Charles and Elaine Graham, and the Martha and Nancy Lee Bivens Distinguished Professorship for Children and Reading.
November Recaps
Building Renovations and Equipment Survey

In November, we tried out new furniture and technology in the Library and completed a student survey to gage response to some of the pieces we are interested in adding to the library. What we learned from the survey is our student crave private, comfortable study space and additional power outlets. Especially popular was the Brody Work Lounge by Steelcase.

According to specs, the chair is a must have providing high-performance comfort and support. Brody™ features patented LiveLumbar™ technology—bringing thoughtful ergonomic design to the lounge posture. The adjustable, personal work surface holds technology at eye level, reducing neck and shoulder strain. The Brody Lounge creates a shelter from visual distractions, providing privacy and an enhanced sense of psychological security.

Media:Scape

We also brought in a new program for our users to sample. Media:Scape allows our students to collaborate and allows users to plug in up to four laptops or tablets to work on group projects.

Water Bottle Filling Station

We also installed a water bottle station on the first floor near the elevators. The station provides cold, filter water and saves the environment by allowing our students to use their water bottles instead of purchasing new ones. So far, the station is a big hit, we are looking in the future to provide a station on every floor of the library. Doing our part to save the environment.

Video Recording Room

The work is completed in the Library’s Video Room! This month saw the VRR gang (Wil Cummings, Hunter Phillips, Karl Mortez, Hannah Pope, and Bryan Estel) spending many hours mounting monitors, fabricating a mount for the camera, running cables, and trying out different microphones to get the best sound. Bryan spent a considerable amount of time programming the Extron devices that control the various devices and make everything work together. Hannah even made the black and gold camera mount cover on the sewing machine in the Inspire Maker Space. Congratulations crew!

To support the addition of these high tech additions to the library please contact Tracey Ford at 828-262-4016 or fordtc@appstate.edu.
December Recaps

**Holiday Card Contest**

In December we sponsored a Student Holiday Card Contest. Our grand prize winner was a design by Rachel Colby who works in our Technology Services Area. This year’s contest theme was “Libraries Can Take You Anywhere”. Entries were judged based on how well the art work fit this theme.

Rachel said her inspiration came from our theme. She said, “If libraries can take you ANYWHERE, then why not to the dark outer reaches of the universe? So my artwork features an unsuspecting man holding a long-forgotten tome, with an eldritch horror reaching out to him from within.” Congratulations, Rachel!

**Library Cares Campaign**

The Library sponsored a chance for a break and relaxation for students during finals week. Library Cares program is a series of library-sponsored activities and snack breaks designed to help students navigate the sometimes stressful period during exam week. This campaign is supported by many campus and community organizations. We provided yoga, chair massages, visits with therapy dogs, snacks with the Chancellor, walking meditation and Quigong with the library’s own, Jonathan Priest and much more.

The Belk Library would like to thank the following university and community partners for volunteering their time and/or resources:

- Alchemy Center for Healing Therapies
- Wired Scholar Coffee Shop
- Therapy Dogs
- Wellness and Prevention Services
- Strong Ties A Cappella Ensemble

Please let us know if you would like to be a part of the Library Cares Campaign held during exam week, May 2018.
January Recaps

Black Mountain College Exhibit

A new Special Collections exhibit, “Black Mountain College Writers & Artists in Printed Word,” provides just a glimpse of the numerous rare publications in Special Collections by writers and artists associated with Black Mountain College, which operated from 1933 to 1957 in the Swannanoa Valley of North Carolina. Items on display are part of the W.L. Eury Appalachian Collection and the Rare Books and Manuscripts units, with a special focus on books collected by F. Whitney Jones and Paul Carroll. The exhibit, located in the 4th floor atrium of Belk Library and Information Commons, runs from January to July 2018.

Black Mountain College attracted faculty and lecturers that included America’s leading visual artists, poets and influential writers, musical composers, dancers, and designers. Many students of the college become well-known and extremely influential individuals and artists in their own rights in the latter half of the 20th century. The exhibit includes the works of Robert Creeley, Charles Olson, Jonathan Williams, Fielding Dawson, M.C. Richards, John Cage, and Joseph Fiore. Also on display are issues of The Black Mountain Review, a literary journal started in 1954 that contained many of the subsequently known “Black Mountain Poets.”

The exhibit was curated by Kelsey Wagner and Greta Browning. Student assistants Jonah Inestroza and Mandi Burnison helped with installation. Photographs are by Mandi Burnison.

This exhibit is part of the Black Mountain College Semester. For more about the semester, please visit https://cas.appstate.edu/black-mountain-college and https://appcenter.appstate.edu/node/22

February

African American Read In

Our 2nd Annual African American Read-In was held on Monday, February 5th in the Library Atrium in honor of Black History Month. The read in was held from 11:30am – 1:30pm with many impromptu drop in readers. More than 20 faculty, staff and students participated in our event. The readers were allowed to choose their favorite literary works from African American authors to share.
The Library in the News

Special Collections Archivist, Trevor McKenzie was featured in this year’s copy of the Appalachian Magazine in an article entitled, “Alumnus Trevor McKenzie turned his childhood interest in Appalachia into a career” You can find the article in the online version of the magazine linked below:

http://appalachianmagazine.org/stories/id/595

Congratulations Trevor!

Motorsports.com has written a great article about our stock car racing collection.

Based largely on an interview with Special Collections, Suzanne Wise, the article provides a history and wonderful summary of the collection, its contents and significance.

The Stock Car Racing Collection contains books, magazines, and videos, as well as files of clippings, photographs, race programs, press kits, and other material.

The Appalachian State University Library Stock Car Racing Collection is preserving racing history for future generations by building a comprehensive repository of stock car racing materials. We welcome the public and assist them in their research. The collection is housed and organized according to professional archival standards of preservation and bibliographic cataloging, and trained staff provide reference assistance to both local and remote patrons. Information about resources in the collection is made available internationally via the Internet. (https://www.motorsport.com/nascar-cup/news/appalachian-state-houses-premier-collections-1002626/)

Congrats to Suzanne!
Irwin "Ike" Belk passed away at his home on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Mr. Belk was 95 years old. Please see the obituary below:


Mr. Belk was one of the university's most dedicated and generous benefactors. His family name adorns our building, The Carol Grotnes Belk Library and Information Commons, named in honor of his late wife. Mr. Belk also donated many outdoor sculptures on campus including the bronze Mountaineer statue located at the entrance to Stadium Drive.

Mr. Belk’s other gifts to the library include a collection of sculptures located in and along the Belk Library and Information Commons’ perimeter. He also commissioned the mural “The Quest for Knowledge” located in the library’s atrium. Mr. Belk also gifted the library with two vehicles including a van and expedition.

He also established the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professorship for Library and Information Studies, the first professorship for a library within the UNC system. A portion of the proceeds from this endowment supports the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Lecture held each summer on campus.

Belk and his wife also funded the Anne Belk Distinguished Professorship, which provides funds that support the research and community outreach of the W.L. Eury Appalachian Collection Librarian and opportunities that improve the library collection.

http://www.news.appstate.edu/2010/05/10/appalachian-awards-honorary-degrees-to-charlotte%E2%80%99s-ike-belk-and-wilkesboro%E2%80%99s-pete-kulynych/
Student Employee Scholarship Recipient Profile

Introducing Sam Reis
Emma Horton Moore Scholarship Recipient (2017-2018)

“Last semester I was encouraged by my supervisors to apply for a library scholarship. Not confident that I would receive one, I applied anyways. Fast forward to reading day, the day scholarship recipients would be announced, I almost didn’t go to the employee lunch because I was so busy running around for other clubs I am involved in. I am the President of Psi Chi, the national psychology organization on campus and a peer leader for the Alternative Service Experience (ASE) study abroad programs. Psi Chi had a picnic I was in charge of and leaders were finding out which program they would be leading, all on reading day, so I almost didn’t have time to stop by the library. I was able to stop by and just in time to hear the scholarship announcements. Names were being called and we moved on to the graduate student scholarships, all without hearing my name. I was a little disheartened, but tried not to get my hopes up from the beginning. I thought all the scholarships had been announced, but there was one left, the prized Emma Horton Moore scholarship. My jaw dropped to the floor when my name was called out.

I was a rising junior at the time and just finished my first year as a library employee. I was ecstatic to receive the scholarship and a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders when I realized how much this would help with the financial burden I have been dealing with. Receiving the scholarship allowed me to focus on opportunities, like participating on an ASE to the Dominican Republic, instead of sacrificing these incredible opportunities because I cannot afford school. I am so grateful of the generosity of my donors and cannot thank them enough.

Working in the mailroom for the past year and a half has been great. I love my job and the people I work with. The entire library staff has been nothing but supportive and welcoming. My supervisors, Adam Jones and David Fletcher, have been some of the best supervisors of any job I’ve had. They continue to be there for me and encourage me to take opportunities, such as applying for this scholarship. I look forward to continuing working at the library until I graduate and am so grateful to be a recipient of the Emma Horton Moore Scholarship.”

- Sam Reis, Class of 2019

To make a positive difference for a library student employee, please contact Tracey Ford at 828-262-4016 or fordtc@appstate.edu.
Upcoming Events
The 6th Annual Appalachian Lecture in British History
Thursday, April 26 at 7:00pm
Room 114 Belk Library and Information Commons

Dr. Denis Paz from the University of North Texas will bring a lecture entitled, “Anti-Semitism in the Chartist Movement: Rife or Rare?”

Library Advisory Board Meeting
Friday, May 11
8:30am refreshments, 9am meeting
Room 421, Belk Library and Information Commons

Belk Distinguished Lecture
TBA

Novel Experience Fund Raising Dinner
Thursday, September 13, 2018
Location: TBA

Until our next snowfall! March, in like a lion out like a lamb?

Dane Ward, Dean of Library
PO Box 32026
Belk Library and Information Commons
Appalachian State University
Boone, NC 28608