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Newsletter for Alumni of the Warren Ashby Residential College of UNCG

Issue # 45
December 2014

Upcoming Alumni Events
Check the website www.uncg.edu/res for updated details or contact ashby@uncg.edu.

Faculty-Student Lunches
Usually the 2nd Friday of the month, noon @ the Caf (aka Spartan Restaurant). ARC will pick up the bill for alumni!

Saturday Night Live
Students put on their own sketch comedy in Arndt Parlor, usually in March.

Valle Crucis Retreat
March 27-29, 2014
Kick back with Fousters young and old. $126 for two nights and six meals; discounts for half stays and children.

Diversity Dinner
Usually in April in Arndt Parlor, this meal is prepared by students with an eye towards international inclusiveness.

Fouststock
Usually in April on the lawn adjacent to Mary Foust, this art, craft & music festival typically includes carnival games and tie dyes.

ARC Graduation
Likely at the end of April in Arndt Parlor. Speaker TBA.

Reunion 2015
May 15-17, Mary Foust Hall
Reunion is for alumni, faculty & staff of all years.

Reunion Set for May 15-17, 2015

Sorry it’s been over a year [gasp!] since we’ve issued a newsletter, but much has happened! ARC has new faculty leadership, and the Alumni Committee is at work planning the next reunion, scheduled for May 15-17, 2015.

ARC reunions happen every five years for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of all eras. Please come and see faces both old and new! If you are interested in helping plan, please contact Kayla Newman (newmankaylac@gmail.com) or Kathy Walters (kathy_walters@yahoo.com).

Meet ARC’s New Faculty Leadership

Gone are the days of the Director, Assistant Director, and Office Manager, but there are still some familiar faces to take up the banner.

ARC’s new Faculty Program Chair is Dr. Sara Littlejohn. Sara taught writing and rhetoric courses off and on at Ashby from 2004-2009. She formerly Directed the UNCG Writing Center for eight years. Her research interests include digital language and literacy, rhetoric, terrestrial and online writing center theory, and composition theory.

Sara earned a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition from UNCG in 2008 with a focus on the rhetoric of food and food narratives. She also holds MA in English literature and BA in art, English, and business, both from Appalachian State University. In her spare time, she plays bad guitar, reads, and hangs out on her front porch stairs with her cat Mycroft.

Christine Flood is now Associate Faculty Program Chair. Chrissy has been teaching at UNCG since 1999 and has been at ARC for more than 15 years – as the faculty in residence (living in the dorm with her family), as lecturer, and as Assistant Director. She primarily teaches U.S. History, including seminars on the Supreme Court, historical films, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Atlantic World. A graduate of the University of Maryland and UNCG, she is working on her dissertation, tentatively titled “North South and Neither.” She is married and has two boys, who quickly bore of her endless discussions on arcane yet fascinating historical subjects.

Student Committees Reorganize for Better Service

The Hall Council has instated a more open forum so all Fousters can express their concerns. Committee Chairs send their committee events to the Secretary each week for better communication through a hall-wide Google calendar. The Budget Committee, a subunit of the Hall Council Executives, is introducing more events by throwing them itself. It’s also endeavoring to make it easier for other committees to submit budget requests.

Orientation Leaders have their own yearlong committee, also a subunit of the Hall Council Executives. Any person that was an OL is automatically a member of this committee. Their mission is to help out any other committees that need it while ensuring that Freshman have not just a good first week but a good year. Their first event was a brunch/study-a-thon to assist others with homework.
Core Classes Integrate Multiliteracy Concept

ARC is building on its liberal arts curriculum by adding a multiliteracy facet. Multiliteracy means being intentional about the way we craft and interpret messages through a variety of means: text, oral communication, sound, movement, visual images, and spatial relations. Understanding how meaning is conveyed in multiple ways prepares ARC students to participate fully in a globalized, technologically-linked society.

Ebola breaks out among entries of the 2014 alumni-sponsored student pumpkin-carving contest.

Letter from Sara
By Sara Littlejohn, Faculty Program Chair

It has been a great and eventful fall as I transition into my new role directing Ashby Residential College. Though I won't be teaching classes until this spring semester, I have been keeping myself busy meeting with all the students. They are a lively and smart group! I have also been spending my time working on curriculum and schedule planning. As some of you may know, we have added the concept of multiliteracy to our already solid Core course curriculum. Students continue to explore ideas in history, political science, writing, religion, rhetoric and literature, but they will also start thinking about the content of their courses through the lens of multiliteracy. This lens helps prepare students to intentionally interpret and make meaning in the global and digitally connected world they find themselves in.

We have also been working on the building. We were able to update the sofas in the lounge and office as well as find less wobbly tables for the library and classroom space. It's great to see students routinely settling down to work in the library, now that the tables don't list 45 degrees to port! Other than these few housekeeping chores, Ashby and Mary Foust are much the same.

The website is under construction, as the leadership of the unit has changed, and I expect to see those pages updated soon. (Oh, the pace of academic progress is miserably glacial at best!) Hope to see many of you during the reunion in May.

Murray's Book Club
By Murray Arndt, Former ARC Director

A couple torn rotator cuffs have shelved my golf game pretty much for good (just when I was beginning to shoot my age!), but on the bright side they have offered me a good chunk of time for sedentary pleasures. I have continued my re-exploration of the golden (sometimes leaden) oldies by reading four more 19th Century classics.

The first was Charlotte Bronte's "other" novel, Shirley. Since her Jane Eyre has always been among my very favorites, Shirley was under considerable pressure but to my pleasant surprise lived up to her sister
nicely. Although without the Gothic drama of Jane, the novel has a good story, fascinating characters, and Charlotte's usual sense of life and humanity.

After that, I picked up Thomas Hardy's The Woodlanders, mainly, I think, because I found it FREE on my Kindle. I've always thought that Hardy was too dark and pessimistic to really enjoy, so I was quite unprepared for this one. The novel is a simple and lovely romance and quite changed my mind about TH. Try this one; you'll like it.

My third read was an obvious one. I have for one reason or another always avoided George Eliot's work, so I bravely dived into what is considered her masterpiece, Middlemarch, and never regretted a moment. Her prose is eminently readable, her attention to detail admirable and always relevant, her characters real and sympathetic, and her story wonderfully told.

Lastly I tried Dickens, another writer who had largely escaped my attention. Bleak House was the book that was lying around our house, so I began working at that. The novel is obviously among the greats, but I was ambivalent about it. Though it is inhabited by a variety of comic and tragic characters and was clearly sensitive to the human condition, especially that of the poor, I had a hard time being patient with Dickens' tireless exploration of detail, some of it seeming quite unnecessary and even irrelevant. I guess I learned a lot about the poor in London in the 19th Century, but it was hard slogging.

Read well and prosper!

Hi from Fran

By Fran Arndt, Former ARC Director

It is difficult to write when I have been so long away from ARC, but you alums are still very much my friends, even family in a way, and I don't want to lose touch with you. For those of us who date back to the earliest days of the program, the most important event this year was the death of Helen Ashby. She was 99 and had been in very poor health for a long time. If there is some conscious life beyond death, then Warren must have been very impatient to be with her again. There was a good memorial celebration of her life in the familiar house on Wright Street. Her family, former students and their families, folks who knew her contribution to our city, Quakers, artists, and more than I can enumerate were present to feel her presence once more and to say good-bye.

The Ashbys had always welcomed members of the RC family to their home: for classes, for celebrations, for concerts, for good discussions. In one of my last years as director, we had a course in "sacred places." For many of us, 1710 Wright Ave will always be this sort of place where there were real "communions" of thought, of Helen's wonderful food and friendship, of caring for each other.

I have been thinking of past times recently, partly as a result of reading novels by Connie Willis. If you do not know these, try Doomsday Book. Despite the title, it is not finally depressing. Willis's characters do not travel to the future or to some sort of dystopia, but rather they go back in time to discover what certain eras actually felt like for those who lived in them.

I wish that you RC or ARC alums could somehow communicate what your years in Mary Foust were like, what you learned (and I don't mean just in classes), what you have taken with you. I know that there are photographs of old times, but most of them are of special events and parties. What we never recorded were the important things. Perhaps someday one of you will write about these things, collecting memories from many years and many of us. I hope so.

Retirement? Let's Find Another Word.

By Jeanne Aaroe, Former ARC Assistant Director

I was pleased to be asked to contribute a brief article for your ARC Reunion-year Newsletter to report on this new chapter of my life. I am happy to say that my team of "retired" advisors was right – life after "work" is a rebirth of sorts.
How to Donate to ARC

Online
1. Go to http://advancement.uncg.edu/giving
2. Choose “Give Online.”

Endowments
Contact Miriam Bradley, Director of Development mebradle@uncg.edu 336.944.2778

Enrichment Fund
Make check payable to “Ashby Residential College” and send to the ARC office.

The Enrichment Fund helps us plan reunions and other events for alumni and current ARC students. It helps fund the Alumni Book Scholarships, goodie bags during exams, refreshments during Move-in Days, and other events such as Pizza & Pumpkins.

ARC Wish List
- Art
- Blu-ray player
- Books
- Croquet set
- Cookware
- Dinnerware
- Mugs, glasses
- Metal outdoor furniture

Retrieving parts of my life that were temporarily shelved was a priority. I’ve been traveling – in October we visited our daughter Mary in New Orleans – and I’m honing my creative-crafty side, learning how to knit socks, for instance, and sewing vintage dresses based on 1930s and 1920s styles. I’ve also been able to shift from a stereotypical “weekend painter” toward pursing a more respectable daily practice.

Even the simpler daily routines feel satisfying: drinking coffee and puzzling over the day’s crossword, picking up Chris for lunch every day, and long overdue organizing of cluttered shelves and drawers. I signed up for a gym membership and regularly join the other Boomers during a mid-morning or early afternoon workout. Oh—and I’ve discovered hot yoga!

In this new life, I wondered how I would maintain a foot in the life of Ashby College, but I’ve found that there was no need for concern. I traveled with the students to Valle Crucis last fall, dined with them at their Thanksgiving dinner, attended ARC alumni events, participated in judging this October’s pumpkin-carving competition, and with Kathy Walters and Chrissy Flood, assembled goodie bags for the students for exam week.

I admit to missing my time with students and watching them evolve. We take for granted, as stewards of this amazing community, just how much WE benefit from being in the presence of 120 energetic, intelligent, and sometimes angst-ridden 18- and 19-year-old students. Their idealism and drive should inspire us all to be more than we are. Watching them wrestle successfully with challenges and dilemmas influenced me then, and remembering their struggles continues to inform this new chapter. If I emulate their efforts, then I will be learning something new every day, throwing myself headlong into worthwhile adventures, finding a way to serve others, and scheduling time to play. I wish the same for you.

Other Faculty/Staff Notes & News

Paul Ashby, Office Manager from 2005 to 2010, recently purchased and is moving into Bob Calhoun’s old house.

Bob Calhoun retired to Valle Crucis.

Jeff Colbert is returning to teach Intro to Political Science in the dorm this spring.

Will Dodson, Faculty-in-Residence, is in his fourth year at Ashby. His wife Skye has been working children at Our Child’s Community School. Their oldest daughter, Huxley, celebrated her 12th birthday in July with a spooky sleepover that included a (possible) visit by the ghost of Mary Foust herself! Daughter Harper, 7, has made a number of friends in the dorm and particularly likes painting and crafting with the Art Committee. Daughter Helen turned 2 on Halloween, and Fousters threw her a ghoulish birthday party. Will is publishing several essays in edited collections in the next year. He also signed a contract with Anthem Press to publish his book, Teen Comedies and The Crisis of Masculinity. The book examines post-Vietnam American film comedies and their portrayals of men, "rape culture” in American schools, and cultural attitudes of class, race, sex, and sexuality. Several recent Ashby alumni, now juniors and seniors at UNCG, have served as teaching interns and research assistants in his classes, which has been a great opportunity for them to remain part of the community and develop their academic skills.

Ben Ramsey is the Director of the new University Teaching and Learning Commons.

Thank you,
Recent Donors!

Sharon Applegate
Abby Berry
Rebecca Bosley
David Scott Carpenter
Ken and Joyce Johnson
Margie McKelvy
Erika Schlager
Katherine Baker Shott
Christina Helen Taylor
Bruce R. Vail
Betty Wolfe
Alumni Notes & News

Katie (Mooney) Anderson (1998) is an Academically Gifted Specialist with Wake County Schools, working with gifted youngsters and turning them into future Fousters. She also teaches classes for the Duke TIP program. When she’s not teaching, you can probably find her hanging upside down at Cirque de Vol Studios, where she trains as an aerialist. She has been married to husband Chris for 10 years, and they have two kids: Veroncia (7) and Tristan (5).

David Arnold (1988) and his partner of 12 years, Rob Paris, bought a home and got married. David was promoted to Manager of Campaign Planning and Capital Gifts at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem. He would love to hear from fellow RCers on Facebook or via his new email address: reynoldadavid at gmail.

Tim Bilbro (1984) lives in Burke, VA (a suburb of DC) with wife Daniela and two sons Ben (16) and Jake (13). Tim works at DEA as a Unit Chief in IT Mobility Services. Tim left the Facebook party a while back before it got lame but welcomes former RCers to email him at trbilbro@icloud.com while keeping in mind that he has a Top Secret clearance to maintain.

Jeff Carroll (1985) has embarked on a second career as a real estate broker for Allen Tate Company in Raleigh. Contact him at Jeff.Carroll@allentate.com

Greg Gulas (1986) lives in Toronto, Ontario and works at the Toronto Reference Library. He did not vote for Rob Ford. bowlmonkey@gmail.com

Shawn Linehan (1988) and Ken Beck (1988) bought a mid-century house in North Portland, OR. Shawn’s excited about having a garden and Ken has already bought a big torch to create a fence in the Japanese Shou Sugi Ban style.

Dana Kepple Pietromonaco (1990) and husband Paul are celebrating 10 years of marriage. Dana homeschools her 7-year-old, Rose, and enjoys learning to work with glass (blowing and tool work) at a local hot shop. Inspired by Rose’s Bollywood dance class, she enrolled in the adult Bollywood dance class, and participated in her first public performance on stage in 20 years. The family lives on Capitol Hill in Seattle but Dana misses NC and tries to spend several weeks a year there.

Jeff Richey (1990) is Associate Professor of Religion and Asian Studies at Berea College in Kentucky. He is still the husband of Kelly Smith (1991) and father of two sons, Nathan (born 2001) and Colin (born 2006). Jeff spent June 2014 teaching religion and literature in Japan. He has published Confucius in East Asia: Confucianism’s History in China, Korea, Japan, and Viet Nam (Association for Asian Studies, 2013) and contributed chapters to Sacred Matters, Stately Concerns: Essays on Faith and Politics in Asia (Peter Lang, 2014) and Berkshire Dictionary of Chinese Biography (Berkshire, 2014). He also edited two forthcoming volumes, The Sage Returns: Confucian Revival in Contemporary China (SUNY Press, 2015) and Daoism in Japan: Chinese Traditions and Their Influence on Japanese Religious Culture (Routledge, 2015). He released an EP, Let It Shine (CD Baby, 2014), and an LP, Down To The Sea (CD Baby, 2014), of original music performed by The Jeff Richey Experience (http://www.reverbnation.com/TheJRE).

Wendy Broderick Schwaeber (1987) lives in Cumming, GA with her husband, three kids, a guinea pig, and newly adopted cat. Wendy is having a hard time with the fact that her eldest son, Aaron, will graduate high school in May 2015. Daughter Hannah, an 8th grader, achieved her goal of dancing en pointe in ballet last summer (her goal since age 3). Youngest son Elijah is in 2nd grade and well on his way to being a pro baseball player or President. Wendy didn’t think she was busy enough, so this year she got a job as a retail merchandiser for Hallmark. Since Aaron has his own car now, she traded in her minivan for a beautiful blue VW Beetle.
Deaths

ARC regrets to announce the passing of several members of our community.

Helen Ashby, wife of ARC’s first director, Warren Ashby, passed away on August 23, 2014 at Friends Homes of Guilford in Greensboro, where she was a longtime resident. She was 99 years old. Helen was born in Bellefontaine, OH; earned a BA in English from Maryville College in Tennessee in 1940; and worked for the Farm Security Administration after graduating. In 1958 she earned an MS in Child Development and Family Relations from Women’s College (UNCG) and was active in the Family Life Council and Faculty Women and Church Women United. She was Assistant Director of UNCG’s Institute for Child and Family Development and also served as President and Executive Director of the Greensboro YWCA and as a consultant for the Ford Foundation at Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, India.

In the early 1970s, she learned to weave after watching a demonstration in the mountains of Tennessee and later studied at Penland School of Crafts, NC; Saterglantan Vavskola, Insjón, Sweden; and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Maine. Her work was shown in numerous places around the country and hangs in many residences, businesses, and public buildings, including UNCG’s Jackson Library, Mary Foust Hall, and Three College Observatory. Helen also loved and played the piano.

She married Warren in 1941, and together, they worked diligently and constantly for equal educational, civil, and women’s rights. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Memorials may be made to NC State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, to Friends Homes Inc. of Greensboro, or to Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro.

Charlotte Frye (1989) passed away August 27, 2014. She was born in Forsyth County and earned a Bachelor’s Degree from UNCG, a Master’s Degree in English from Wake Forest, and a PhD in philosophy from the University of Illinois. At one time she was a public school teacher. Memorials may be made to Snow Hill United Methodist Church Fund, 1995 Snow Hill Church Rd., Danbury, NC 27016.

Theda Leatherwood Rudd (1987) passed away on June 5, 2013. After graduating UNCG, she lived in NC and VA before returning to Asheville in 1993, where she served as a National Board Certified teacher of English at the School of Inquiry and Life Sciences. She was an educator in every sense of the word and gave of herself to family, friends, and students. She was a member of Grace Episcopal Church, where she served on the Altar Guild. She is survived by her husband of 21 years, Haig Rudd; children, Sadie and Keith; her parents; and her sister, Delena Leatherwood Jay (1989). Donations can be made to Theda L. Rudd Memorial Fund at Asheville City Schools Foundation, www.acsf.org or P.O. Box 3196 Asheville, NC 28802. Theda died of a rare form of breast cancer, advocated for breast cancer awareness, and talked about her illness in a video viewable online here: http://archive.citizen-times.com/VideoNetwork/2469905031001/Teacher-Theda-Rudd-talked-about-her-illness-in-fall-2012

Fred Nash, Residence Director at Mary Foust (1988 to 1994ish), died July 12, 2014. He was 58 and had been living in Jamestown. He is survived by his mother, brother, and three sisters. Fred earned a BFA and M.Ed. from UNCG and followed an acting career for many years, at one time hosting The Furniture Show on HGTV. He enjoyed photography, guitar, and discussing politics. He volunteered regularly at the animal shelter. Memorials may be made to Triad SPCA, P. O. Box 4461, Greensboro, NC 27404 or Red Dog Farm, 5803 Bur-Mill Club Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.