

Call for Proposals

2024-2025 Hart-Melvin Archival Research Fellowship

Liston B. Ramsey Center for Appalachian Studies

The Ramsey Center Steering Committee invites proposals for the 2024-2025 Hart-Melvin Faculty Archival Research Fellowship. These fellowships, named in honor of beloved former Mars Hill faculty members Dr. Virginia Hart and Dr. Robert Melvin, are made possible by the Mars Hill Class of 1960 and the National Endowment for the Humanities. **The fellowships support research in the Ramsey Center's Southern Appalachian Archives collections** to develop curriculum materials for use in Mars Hill University classrooms and beyond. *The fellowships may fund a course release or take an alternate form, depending on the fellows' availability. The fellows' work has generally been conducted during the fall semester with a spring presentation, but that timeline can be adjusted.*

The Steering Committee welcomes proposals from across campus. Members of every academic division are eligible. Priority for selection will be based on how well proposed research will energize and enable students to take advantage of the Ramsey Center's Southern Appalachian Archives.

The Southern Appalachian Archives collections include materials addressing nearly every aspect of mountain life in the twentieth century as well as some materials addressing earlier periods. The collections include documents, photographs, sound recordings, and artifacts. They are especially rich for music and dance, religious life, and agriculture but contain important materials regarding other arenas such as craft traditions, foodways, transportation, and forest use. Strong proposals addressing a variety of topics can certainly be developed.

By submitting a proposal, a faculty member agrees, if selected, to do the following:

1. To select and work with an excellent upper-level **student** as project partner. The student will be honored as the Hart-Melvin Student Research Fellow and will participate in carrying out and reporting to the public on the project. The student may receive academic credit for the work. Faculty fellows are responsible for making necessary academic arrangements in cooperation with student fellows and appropriate academic authorities.
2. To work with the appropriate **supervisors**, including department chairs and division deans, so that the fellowship fits with teaching and other obligations.
3. To commit the equivalent of one course's worth of **time** to the project. Fellows are expected to spend an average of at least five hours a week on the project during the fifteen weeks of the fall semester. An average of three hours a week should be spent in the Ramsey Center working with the collections. The rest of the time may be spent on other aspects of the project.
4. To create **teaching materials** that can be used in classes at Mars Hill and possibly beyond.
5. To deliver a **public presentation** of project results at the Ramsey Center's annual "Unveiling Our Treasures" event. This event will occur at a time agreed on by the faculty fellow, the student fellow, and the Southern Appalachian Archives Director.
6. To mentor the student fellow as s/he develops a **SLAM presentation** or other public presentation, based on the research.

Fellowship proposal packages should include:

1. A **500-700 word description** of the proposed project. The description should include a statement of project goals, a note about targeted collections, an indication of which course or courses would make use of the proposed curriculum materials, and a rationale for why the project is important to the scholar, to a department or program, and/or to the university.
2. A **current curriculum vitae** for the faculty member applying.
3. **Letters of support** from the department chair and division dean. The letters should clearly indicate support for the project and the proposed course release and willingness to make schedule adjustments necessary to enable the release or additional load. The fellowship does provide funding to cover the cost of hiring an adjunct substitute instructor.

Proposals are due to the Ramsey Center Steering Committee by 5 p.m. February 28, 2024.

Applicants and the appropriate department chair and division dean will be notified of the committee's decision by March 4th. Proposals and letters of support may be sent via e-mail to Karen Paar, kpaar@mhu.edu . **Past Ramsey Center Faculty Research Fellows and more information can be found here:** <https://www.mhu.edu/about/what-to-do-and-see/ramsey-center/hart-melvin-archival-research-fellowship/> .