



Friends Dinner on April 29 To Feature John Shelton Reed



The following post was prepared by Jim Schlosser, Chair of the Programming Committee of the Friends of the UNCG Libraries.

John Shelton Reed, an acclaimed humorist on southern culture who once compared the modern South to a pair of comfortable tattered

jeans, will be the speaker at the annual meeting of the Friends of the UNCG Libraries. The dinner gathering will be April 29 at Cone Ballroom in the Elliott University Center.

The William Rand Kenan, Jr. professor emeritus of sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Reed has written widely and spoken often, seriously and wittingly, about the ways of the South.

The novelist Lee Smith summed up Reed as "hysterically funny and the most astute observer of the South that we have." The humorist Roy Blount Jr. included Reed as the only sociologist in Blount's "Book of Southern Humor."

Reed's latest book, published last November, "Dixie Bohemia: A French Quarter Circle in the 1920s," concerns intellectuals who gathered in New Orleans, including William Faulkner. Reed also wrote the immensely popular "1001 Things Everyone Should Know about the South." Fellow southern writer Florence King described the book as "an informative encyclopedia that is also sidesplittingly

funny." The cover includes two iconic, vastly different Southerners, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert E. Lee." Also shown is one of the South's favorite delicacies, the "Moon Pie."

Reed also is the author of "Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue," which he wrote with his wife, Dale.

In his writings defining the South, Reed has been quoted as saying, "The South is like my favorite pair of blue jeans. It's shrunk some, faded a bit, got a few holes in it. It just might split at the seams. It doesn't look much like it used to, but it's more comfortable, and there's probably a lot of wear left in it."

Also, he once said, "I think there's a suspicion in the South of people putting on airs. You see it in most Southern politicians, but you also see it in someone like Richard Petty, who may be a multimillionaire stock car driver, but he's also beloved because he has a nice self-deprecatory way about him."

Reed joins an array of well-known literary people who have spoken at the annual dinner. They include writers Tom Wolfe, Roy Blount Jr., Robert Morgan, Lee Smith, Fred Chappell, Mickey Spillane, John Ehle, John Crowe Ransom, Doris Betts, John P. Marquand and Paul Greene; columnists Leonard Pitts, Clarence Page, Tom Wicker, James Reston, Robert Novak and George Will; cartoonist Doug Marlette and Walt Kelly; historians Harrison Salisbury, John Hope Franklin and Taylor Branch; photographer Hugh Morton; television personalities Roger Mudd and Charles Kuralt; and Southern observer Hodding Carter.

The Friends of the UNCG Libraries, some 285 members with a board of directors, is a volunteer group that advocates and promotes the Jackson Library

and the Harold Schiffman Music Library. The membership is currently raising money to redesign the landscape in front of the Jackson Library facing College Avenue.

The annual dinner, which is the Friends major fund raising event, will start with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by the program and dinner. Tickets for members are \$50 each and for non-members \$60. Table sponsorships are available for \$500. For those who just want to hear Reed, a fee of \$15 will be charged.

Reed knows of what he speaks about and writes. He is a native Southerner, having grown up in Kingsport, Tenn. He went north for his higher education. He graduated with a degree in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia University. He joined the faculty at Chapel Hill in 1969.

Information about tickets to the annual dinner may be obtained by calling the UNCG Box Office at 336-334-4849.

During his long stint in Chapel Hill, Reed also served as director of the Howard Odum Institute for Research in Social Science. He helped found the university's center for the Study of the American South.

Reed has been a Guggenheim Fellow and a fellow of the National Humanities Center. He has lectured at more than 300 colleges and been a visiting professor at many others, ranging from Oxford and Cambridge in England to tiny Centre College in Kentucky. President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has received honorary degrees from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and, aptly, the University of the South in Tennessee.

A song he wrote, "My Tears Spoiled My Aim," has been recorded by North Carolina singer Tommy Edwards. Reed's book, "Holy Smoke," inspired Edwards to write a song by that name. Reed was a consultant to the play "Kudzu," based on a comic strip drawn by fellow Southerner and Reed friend, the

late Doug Marlette."

Photos in Women Veterans Historical Collection and Research Travel Grant Attract Doctoral Student from University of Texas at Austin to Visit UNCG



Andi Gustavson in Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives Research Room

What do your snapshots say about the way you look at the world? Andi Gustavson wants to know. The recipient of the University Libraries' Research Travel Grant this year, Gustavson has an unusual dissertation topic for her work in American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, one with a somewhat unconventional methodology. Her dissertation, "What Comes Home: Vernacular Photography and the Cold War, 1945-1991," explores how American nurses, servicemen and servicewomen, and diplomats used their cameras to construct their own worldviews, posing and positioning themselves within an emerging new global order. Because these personal photographs depict the ordinariness of life lived amidst violence, she believes that they are key to understanding how Americans became accustomed to a culture of endless war.

Gustavson says her work bridges a gap in the schol-

arly research on war and photography—a gap that exists because of the practical difficulties of engaging personal photographs as sources of historical and cultural information. Most studies of the era that involve photographs have focused on the work of professional photographers, some of whose work is iconic. Less studied are those taken by veterans themselves. Snapshots are ubiquitous, Gustavson says. Lots of them were taken and shared. Sources that pull them together in one place... not so common.

“UNCG,” she says, “is a treasure trove with the photographs in its Women Veterans Collection.” She can’t say enough positive things about the collection and the help she’s received from the staff at UNCG, before and during her visit. She learned about the collection from its digital presence on the Internet.

That’s the big reason that Gustavson began corresponding with Beth Ann Koelsch, curator of the Women Veterans Historical Collection at UNCG, a collection rich in photographs made and kept by women veterans during the period Gustavson is studying. Finding so much of the UNCG collection in digital format allowed her to do much of her work from Austin, but Gustavson eventually was drawn to visit the collection and see the physical objects, which allowed her to examine how the photographs were used – whether they have backing material indicating that they were used in scrapbooks, or pinholes indicating that they were used in exhibits and displays, or evidence that they were mailed home, heavily handled, etc. The Research Travel Grant offered by the University Libraries to use the special collections here made it possible for Gustavson to make her visit, something that she says could never otherwise have happened with the resources otherwise available to her as a doctoral student. Each chapter in her dissertation is being framed by how the photographs came to be collected, and the chapter on nurses that she is spending most of her time at UNCG studying is an example of an institutional collection devoted to collecting material about veterans. Other chapters will be framed by the myriad other places she finds veterans photo-

graphs, and the ways in which they were collected.

Gustavson is vitally interested in visual culture, and says her ideal professional position would be a university professor in the field of American Studies and visual culture. For now, though, she says she’s about a third of the way into her project, and is out visiting private homes and small collections of photographs as well as institutions, sources she has uncovered by giving talks and meeting veterans, employing what she calls “The Snowball Method” of finding sources of these photographs. She’s also written a grant (pending) to mount a website devoted to her topic, and hopes that will also prove productive.

The Special Collections at Texas were one of the major factors in her decision to do her doctoral work there, Gustavson says. She now works as a curatorial assistant at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin, and says the experience has helped her learn to ask better questions and communicate better with curators of such collections wherever she finds them. She’s grateful that Department Head Keith Gorman and Women Veterans Historical Collection curator Beth Ann Koelsch, in particular, have been so helpful in furthering her research and making her feel welcome here at UNCG.

***New Yorker* Consults UNCG's Women's Veterans Historical Project Resources**

[The New Yorker](#) recently featured a slide show on their website entitled *An Army of Women*. Nine out the Eleven pictures shown came from our own [Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project!](#) We have lots of great online and in person collections you can discover in our special collections here at the University Libraries. The *New Yorker* recently featured a slide show on their website entitled *An Army of Women*. Nine out the Eleven pictures shown came from our own Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project! We have lots of great online and in person collections you can discover in our special collections here at the University Libraries.

University Libraries Score Well in Survey

This posting was prepared by Kathy Crowe, Associate Dean for Public Services.

The University Libraries conducted the LibQual+™ survey in fall 2012 to determine student, faculty and staff perceptions about the UNCG Libraries (Jackson and the Harold Schiffman Music Library). LibQual+ is a standardized measure developed by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in 2000. It measures what service is desired by clients and the service they perceive they are receiving. LibQual+™ also asks what is the minimum level of service with which they would be satisfied.

The survey includes core questions on three dimensions:

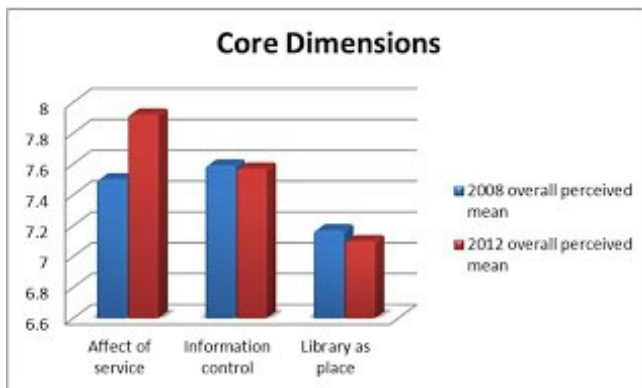
- Affect of Service (services)
- Information Control (collections and resources)
- Library as Place (library buildings)

Additional questions ask about general satisfaction with the Libraries and how often they use it, both in-person and virtually. There is also space for narrative comments.

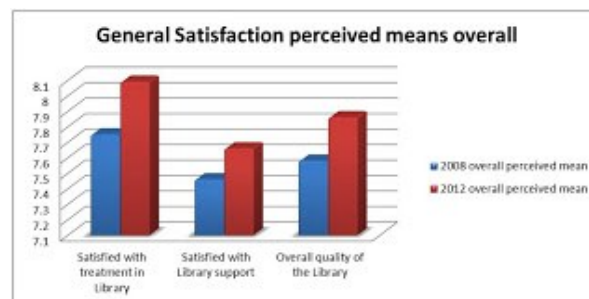
The Libraries last administered LibQual+™ in 2008 so we are able to compare progress. And, because LibQual+™ is administered by libraries nationwide we are able to benchmark results with our peers.

912 students, faculty and staff completed the survey. The highest number of respondents were from the Social Sciences and Education (35%) and undergraduates were the highest user group (35%)

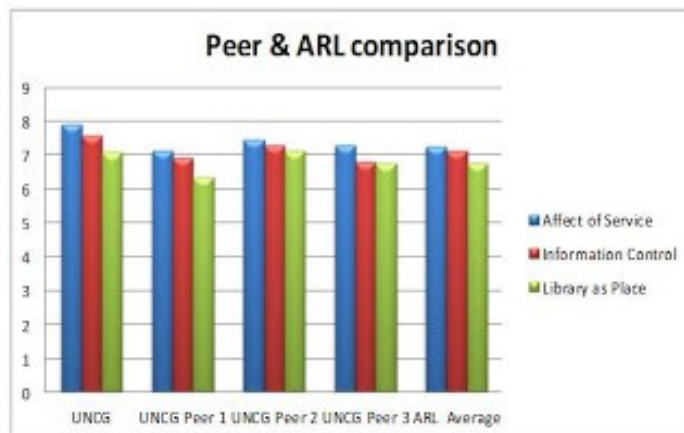
We gained much useful information from the survey and results were generally quite positive. On a nine-point scale the overall satisfaction score was 7.94 (7.47 in 2008).



The overall satisfaction scores improved from 2008:



UNCG compared very favorably nationally and with peer institutions:



The specific questions that received the highest ratings were "Employees who are consistently courteous" (8.18), "Employees who have the knowledge to answer user question" (8.09) and Employees who deal with users in a caring fashion" (8.05).

LibQual+™ also provides feedback on what is most important (desired) to our users. All groups rated information control as most desired with specific

needs centered around easily accessible electronic information and journal collections.

The survey also provides the Libraries with the opportunity to address services that need improvement. The area that received lower scores was primarily related to the Jackson Library building and, in particular, the need for quiet study space. Specific plans to address areas targeted for improvement are now being developed.

The narrative comments also provide a rich source of information. Some examples include:

- I was very anxious about my ability to use a university library system after only using a community college system. The information sessions that were offered and that I attended were wonderful. I was even able to do this from home on my own! That's how good the sessions were. (undergraduate)
- The library is a very warm, inviting, and useful place to obtain the required information I need for my work. It is also an excellent site for group work, discussions, and project completion. (graduate student)

The Libraries continue to follow up on the data gathered from LibQual+. For example, one issue identified was the need for an improved web site which will be addressed in the coming year. We will also improve signage in the quiet areas.

Check [here](#) for additional results from LibQual+.



Friends Welcome Author and Alum Wiley Cash Back to UNCG on February 13

Wednesday, February 13 —
UNCG alum Wiley Cash, author of *A Land More Kind Than Home*. Hodges Reading

Room, Jackson Library, 7 p.m. FREE

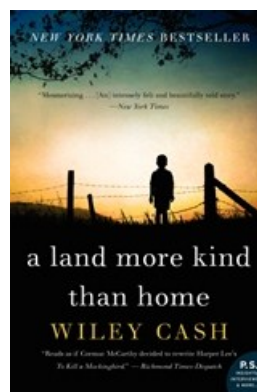
UNCG grad Wiley Cash (M.A. '01) burst onto the book world last year with a literary thriller set in his native Appalachia that met with considerable critical success and landed its young author on the New York Times Best Seller list during its first week of release, then rejoined the list as positive reviews came in and readers learned more about it. It eventually was named a 2012 New York Times Notable Book.

Author of *A Land More Kind Than Home*, Cash will appear for a talk and book signing at UNCG on February 13, courtesy of the Friends of the UNCG Libraries. The paperback version of the book is being released today, January 22.

An early reviewer in a publication called *Fine Print* asked two questions that seem to frame the book:

"What would you do if you saw something you weren't supposed to see and got caught in the act? More importantly, if you were on the other end and wanted to keep it a secret, how far would you go to make sure it never gets out?."

A Land More Kind Than Home is told from the perspectives of three other characters: 81-year-old Adelaide Lyle, who represents the moral conscience of the community; the adolescent Jess Hall, who has a dangerous knack for discovering things adults would rather keep hidden; and the middle-aged sheriff Clem Barefield, who has never recovered from a loss he suffered years ago.



Cash is a native of western North Carolina who now lives in West Virginia. He says he has a lot of great memories from UNCG, many of them revolving around the library. As an MA student, he recalls, "I spent a ton of time there doing research on my thesis about North Carolina writer Charles W. Chesnutt, and really got to know the place well." He continues, "I have a lot of memories of taking breaks at sunset and walking across campus to Tate Street to

grab a slice of pizza or visit the Indian buffet. Those are some wonderfully rich memories. Cash says he owes much to other North Carolina writers, and cites UNCG's own Fred Chappell as a major influence on his writing. Of Cash's book, Chappell himself says, "I try to state the truth and dislike flinging superlatives about with mad abandon, but I have been so deeply impressed that only superlatives can convey the tenor of my thought: it is one of the most powerful novels I have ever read." Another influence was Louisiana writer Ernest J. Gaines, the subject of Cash's dissertation for his PhD at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

Cash has received grants and fellowships from the Asheville Area Arts Council, the Thomas Wolfe Society, the MacDowell Colony, and Yaddo. His stories have appeared in Crab Orchard Review, Roanoke Review and The Carolina Quarterly, and his essays on Southern literature have appeared in American Literary Realism, The South Carolina Review, and other publications.

Wiley teaches in the Low-Residency MFA Program in Fiction and Nonfiction Writing at Southern New Hampshire University.

No reservations are required to attend the reading, which is free and open to the public. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event

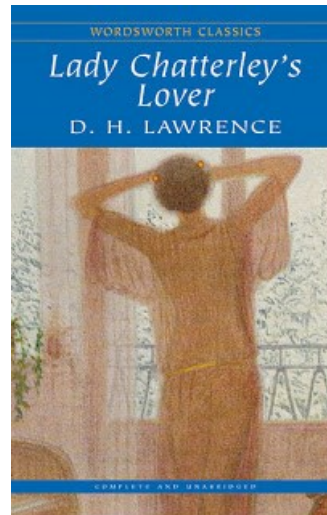
Cash gives a self-deprecating 10 reasons why you should read the book in a video on his website at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UW3waK0-d6w>.

This video trailer communicates the feel of the book, and, Cash says, "the music is fantastic."

Cushman to Lead February 25 Book Discussion Examining "Lady Chatterley's Lover"

Monday, February 25 at 7:00 pm: Lady Chatterley's Lover by D. H. Lawrence. Faculty Leader: Dr. Keith Cushman, English.

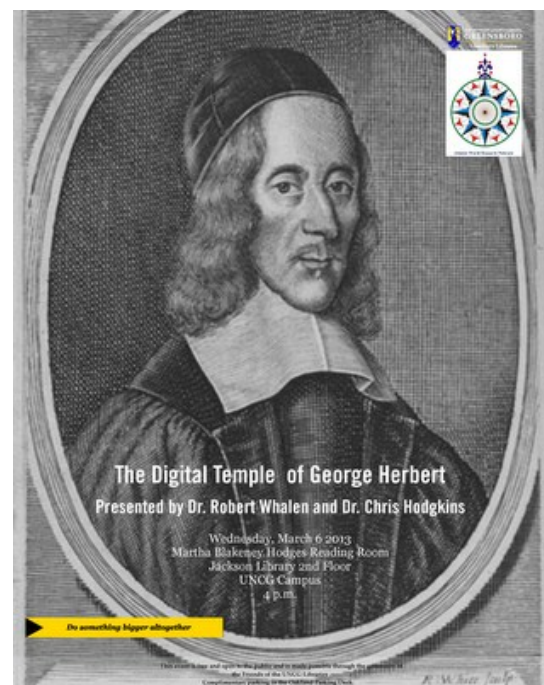
"At last a publisher in one of the English-speaking



countries has dared to bring out the full text of one of our century's greatest romance, which has for too long been a smugglers' trophy. . . . In the novels of contemporary writers of a stature comparable to Lawrence's, love is usually treated shabbily, as something perverse, ironic, or merely annoying. But his book

dealing with love as a serious, major, and sacred theme has been taboo here and in his native England for the thirty-on years of its existence. . . Only a reading of the book can reveal its power, its depth of complication, its psychological and social intricacy, all of which contribute to the effectiveness of the long slow process which the gamekeeper and the lady of the manor go through in order to find enrichment in love." (Harry Moore, New York Times, 1959)

Christopher Hodgkins of UNCG and Co-editor Rob Whalen Introduce New Digital Resource About George Herbert on March 6





Dr. Whalen

The following post was prepared by Dr. Chris Hodgkins of the English Department:

When Robert Whalen of Northern Michigan University began to explore how he might apply emerging digital technology to the English poetry of Metaphysical master George Herbert (1593-1633), he thought with youthful optimism that such a project might take, oh, a year or two. After all, the complete printed works of Herbert fit into only one volume. How long could it take to transcribe, encode, and annotate the lyric poems of *The Temple* (1633)? Thirteen years later, he knows. The Digital Temple, more than a decade in the making, is now available from University of Virginia Press/Rotunda, America's leading academic digital publisher, where it keeps company with the digital papers of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, and is being



Dr. Christopher Hodgkins

hailed by advance reviewers as the state of the art in digital editions.
<http://digitaltemple.rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/>

With his co-editor, UNCG's Christopher Hodgkins, who joined the project in 2008, Whalen shared a 2010-11 NEH Digital Humanities Grant to finish building a born-digital documentary edition which makes instantly available not only exact transcriptions of the earliest known textual witnesses of *The Temple*, but also densely detailed digital captures of these three oldest witnesses: the Williams Manuscript of 1628, the Bodleian Manuscript of 1633, and the first printed edition of 1633. Herbert's *Temple* has been compared to a "book of starres," and the

amazingly interactive search capacities of this electronic engine—which in digital parlance is called "the Versioning Machine"—include literally telescoping powers of textual magnification. These powers bring into startling focus many of Herbert's configurations that have previously been little noticed, and allow us to see his storied constellations in deep and brilliant new ways.

What took so long? The digital capture was the least of it—expert technicians at the British, Bodleian, and Folger Shakespeare Libraries with their cutting-edge equipment made relatively quick work of producing the beautifully high-density page-for-page facsimiles. These are so fully "pixelated" that one can zoom in to analyze watermarks and count inkspots, flyspecks, or binding stitches—if one fancies such details. No, the real labor turned out to be in the encoding—that is, embedding the transcribed texts of the poems in intricate TEI-XML code language that enables a dazzling range of searches about both style and substance, from rhyme and meter to spelling and word choice. This powerful search engine will discover as-yet-unknown patterns. Above all, the instant parallel display of the three witnesses—with richly-encoded transcriptions, expert explanatory notes and high-resolution images—discovers in ways not possible with any print edition how the creation and experience of poems is a living process, not merely a static final product.

Come join Professors Whalen and Hodgkins at the March 6th, 4 pm book launch event in the Hodges Reading Room where they'll demonstrate many of these features and discuss the practice and the power of digital editing. Their next project: *The Digital Works of George Herbert*, which will capture the manuscripts and first editions of every other Herbert book—most of which will come from UNCG's own world-class Herbert archive in the Amy Charles Collection!

New Exhibit: “French History Illustrated: The Action Images of Job”



The following post was prepared by Dr. William K. Finley, Special Collections Librarian.

The Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections & University Archives in

Jackson Library is currently mounting a visiting exhibit of vibrant illustrations from late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century French books. “French History Illustrated: The Action Images of Job” represents the breathtakingly colorful book and magazine images of Jacques Onfroy de Breville (1858-1931), who was known by the pseudonym of “Job.” Included in the exhibit are numerous illustrations from French books and magazines, as well as toys (soldiers and farmyard scenes), commemorative plates and other artifacts designed by Job. While Job’s illustrations were basically drawn for children, his images (especially those done in pochoir) will fascinate adults and children alike.

The exhibit will be open for viewing between February 4 and March 14 during Special Collections’ opening hours of 9-5, Mon-Fri. On February 18, at 4:00 P. M. in the Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library, guest curator Robert Maloney will discuss and display the works of this fascinating artist. This event is free and open to the public.



New Exhibit About the First Two African American Students at UNCG

The Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives invites students, facul-

ty, and researchers to view an artistic exhibit created as a tribute to Joanne Smart Drane and Bettye Tillman, the first two African American women to graduate from UNCG. Using 1956 original photographs from the archives, art student Rachel Propst created her own unique images through the process of cyanotype, which uses ultra violet light to create the image.

This exhibit will be on display in the Multicultural Resource Center located on the bottom floor of the Elliot University Center from January 11-March 8, 2013.

There will be an artist talk on Wednesday, February 06, 2013 from 3-4 p.m.