

# Professors Contribute To 'Encyclopedia of Appalachia'

What is a moonlight school? How are heirloom vegetables grown? How can a family graveyard have artistic value? WCU professors answer these questions and more as contributors to the recently published "Encyclopedia of Appalachia."

"The encyclopedia is a herculean endeavor to peel back the layers of misinformation on Appalachia and deepen the scholarship on the mountainous states that extend from northern Alabama to New York," said Jeff Biggers, author of "The United States of Appalachia."

The 1,832-page encyclopedia consists of 34 topic sections, each edited by recognized experts in the field. Jean Haskell and the late Rudy Abramson, co-editors, began deciding topics and authors in 1995, eventually choosing, along with dozens of others, WCU professors Anna Fariello, leader of Hunter Library's Craft Revival Project, Mary Jean Herzog of the department of educational leadership and foundations, and Curtis Wood of the department of history. Others from WCU who contributed writing or editing to the volume include: Tyler Blethen and Richard Starnes from the history department; William L. Anderson, John L. Bell and Max R. Williams, retired history professors; Harold Herzog from the psychology department; Michele Glover and

Suzanne H. McDowell from the Mountain Heritage Center; Sharon L. Jacques from the nursing department; James Manning from the communication, and stage and screen departments; Kevin Pennington from educational leadership and foundations department; Nancy Carol Joyner and Karl Nichols, retired English professors; Robert B. Pittman, a retired education professor; Karl Rohr, a former history instructor; Newton Smith, an English professor; and Jane L. Brown, an anthropology instructor.

The encyclopedia, which covers such diverse topics as land, food, religion, art and government, was started by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at the East Tennessee State University and was published by the University of Tennessee Press.

The Center for Appalachian Studies and Services and the Appalachian Regional Commission raised money to try to place one copy in every middle school and high school in distressed and at-risk counties. Approximately 1,000 books have been distributed so far through the Books-In-Schools program.



*Anna Fariello, leader of Hunter Library's Craft Revival Project and an editor of the "Encyclopedia of Appalachia," labels a basket held by Tonya Carroll.*

"The encyclopedia is an outstanding contribution to our knowledge about Appalachia," Blethen said. "Before it, there was no one place where we could go to find reliable answers to all kinds of questions about the region."

—By JENNY JARAMILLO



*Mary Jean Herzog*