

# Features

## Literature professor publishes new novel in U. K.

By Melinda Pierson  
Staff Writer

Peggy Parris, associate professor of literature at UNCA, has recently published a fictionalized autobiography of Victorian British poet, Charlotte Mew.

The novel, "His Arms Are Full of Broken Things," chronicles Mew's life and work, including her intimate friendship with writer Thomas Hardy.

"I thought it was sad that so few people knew who she was," said Parris in an interview.

Parris was introduced to Mew in college and spent a number of years informally collecting information about her before she turned to more directed research for the book.

Parris chose to write what is called a fictionalized autobiography of Mew

in order to allow the character to speak using her own voice.

In order to achieve this effect in her writing, Parris had to learn the culture and the language of the Vic-

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UNCA literature professor Peggy Parris.

torian era.

"I had to completely immerse

myself in 19th century English language and culture," said Parris.

"It took a lot of ventriloquism," said Parris.

The reviews done in England have been what Parris describes as "simply wonderful."

The good reviews led to an interview with the BBC Radio 4 program, "Kaleidoscope Arts," which was recorded in Asheville at the studios of WCQS. Parris doubts the interview will propel her into fame, however.

"The English are strange about their writers. Books can be famous, but not the author," said Parris.

Parris said her publisher, Viking, chose to publish the book in England only, although there is a possibility of the book being published stateside. This decision is completely up to Viking, according to Parris.

"Publishing is a business. English



PHOTO BY DEL DELORM

Peggy Parris

publishers are much more willing to take a risk on a literary work," said Parris.

Parris wrote the fictional autobiography by filling in the gaps of Mew's

personal life by means of a close reading of Mew's letters, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction prose.

"This was in the nature of a whole liberal arts education," said Parris of her extensive preparation for the book.

The fictional autobiography of Mew is Parris' second novel.

"When you are finished writing, nothing quite like it has ever existed before. It's a real thing. Having done it is very rewarding," said Parris.

Although Parris took nearly three years to complete the book, she says the writing would not have gone faster without teaching.

She wrote mainly on weekends and in the summer, although she took a sabbatical to complete the work in the spring of 1995.

"Novels are hard work. They are all consuming. They take years," said Parris.

Mew published a number of essays, poems, and short stories before her death in 1928. Mew was a modern woman in a Victorian time, accord-

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ing to Parris.

"Mew was a fascinatingly complex person, a loner like Emily Dickinson, very Victorian, yet surprisingly modern," said Parris in the synopsis of the book.

## Exhibit for Women's History Month begins

By Lara Barnett  
Staff Writer

In celebration of Women's History Month at UNCA, Ramsey Library is featuring "The Women of Meriwether County, Georgia," a photography exhibit by Priscilla Turner.

"The Women of Meriwether County, Georgia" are photos that portray the different aspects of women in a rural community.

The women in these photos share much more than just their home of Meriwether County. Most everyone in this small county, just 70 miles from Atlanta, shares names, history, love, humility, and the romance of Meriwether.

Turner is nationally known for her photography. She has received the Jean Purdue Young Award, National X Award, and the Georgian Artist Award. Some of her photos have been featured in *Life* magazine.

Turner spent an extended length of time in Meriwether County, Georgia documenting these women because they are a part of a small town farming community, because it is large county, and because of its proximity to Atlanta.

She happened upon Meriwether County when she went to a potter's studio and became enamored with its



PHOTO BY BONNER BUTLER

Professor Suzanne Tourtillott looks at the Turner exhibit.

"down-homeness." She immediately began to investigate family histories and taking photos of them.

Some of these women were well-educated and wealthy, and some women of the county were illiterate and poor.

The women are of all ages and beam with the pride they have for their community.

Turner portrays these women with

the definite meaning of women up front and visible.

One set of portraits is of Ludie and Jessie Myrtle Keith. "The sisters live in the house their father, David Keith, built in 1870. The house is exactly as it was when he built it. There are not modern conveniences. They still use the wood stove he put in the kitchen. Both are college educated and taught school for 30 years," Turner said.

Turner used to photograph nudes and take artistic photographs until she reached a turning point in her life. She decided that she needed to make her mark.

She photographed these women of Meriwether County and financed the majority of it on her own, primarily living off of the sales of her photo artwork.

Turner is a one-woman operation. She develops her pictures in her kitchen.

"It makes a wonderful darkroom. The only problem is my dishwasher and stove are in my living room," said Turner.

Some of the photos of "The Women of Meriwether County, Georgia" have accompanying poetry.

Turner said she never intended for her private poetry to be used in the exhibition, but they just fit well with the pictures.

"I don't even know why I wrote the poetry. I just did," said Turner.

After 11 years and over 250 photographs, Turner is writing a book to connect the heritage of the people of Meriwether County, Georgia.

She plans to publish it in November. The book is a fictional history of the community.

"The Women of Meriwether County, Georgia" will be on exhibit in Ramsey Library March 3-31.

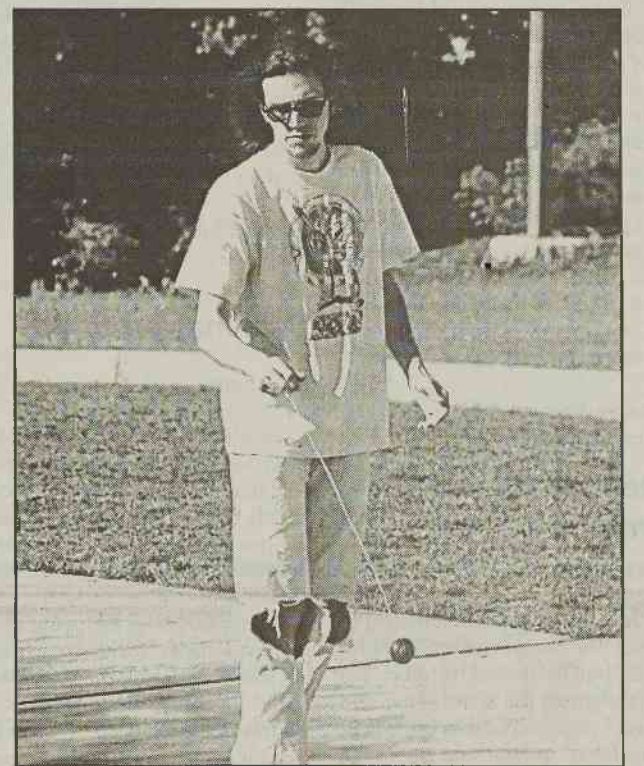


PHOTO BY DEL DELORM

Nat Sternbergh contemplates the etymology of the word yo-yo.

## Beanstreets: the ultimate coffee experience

By Kristi Howard  
Staff Writer

For those searching for a comfortable, coffee shop atmosphere, featuring good food, live music, and psychic advisors, all in a smoke-free setting, Beanstreets Coffeehouse, on the corner of College Street and Broadway in downtown Asheville, is the place to go.

Beanstreets offers a variety of treats for the coffee lover, as well as hot beverages to warm the bones and cool ones to quench the thirst.

For those who can't live without their caffeine, Beanstreets has plain coffee, hot or iced, as well as espresso, cappuccino, cafe latte, and their own concoction, the primoccino, a delightful mixture of espresso, hot chocolate, steamed milk, and whipped cream.

For non-coffee drinkers, Beanstreets offers a variety of hot and herbal teas, Snapple, fruit juice, bottled water, soda, and the Italian Fizz, a mixture of Italian flavoring,



PHOTO BY BONNER BUTLER

A patron enjoys the quiet environs of Beanstreets.

from a variety of pastry desserts, which changes daily, or they can go the healthy route by choosing granola with fruit and yogurt, or a cup of fresh fruit.

The adventurous might opt instead for the sundae waffle, a Belgian waffle served with bananas, chocolate, nuts, and whipped cream.

For lunch or dinner, Beanstreets' sandwich menu runs from the simple egg, tuna, or chicken salad, to the unusual, such as the grilled mozzarella, garlic, and roast pepper sand-

wich, or the tuna melt on raisin bread. Beanstreets offers both non-vegetarian and vegetarian selections, such as grilled tofu with sprouts, tomato, and mustard.

All sandwiches come on a variety of breads, and can be served with the soup du jour.

Beanstreets offers bagels, croissants, French bread and brie, and a variety of salads.

For live entertainment, Beanstreets features the music of featuring local and regional bands on most weekend

nights. Thursday nights from 9-11:30 are "open mic" nights.

Searching for spiritual guidance? On Thursday nights, Beanstreets houses psychic advisors who do Tarot, rune, and palm readings for a suggested five dollar donation.

The ambiance of Beanstreets is cozy, eclectic, and relaxed. Original artwork lines the walls, paintings and sculptures in bright colors sharing space with stuffed animals, out of place bathroom hardware, and pictures of Albert Einstein and Bob Marley.

While enjoying food and drink, it is possible to relax on the variety of comfortable couches and chairs scattered about the brightly-colored, white Christmas light-illuminated coffee house and converse about the relevant subjects of the day.

Chess and checkers tables are also provided, in addition to the literature on the shelves of the Beanstreets library.

The delicious variety of food and beverage is easy on the poor student pocket book. The average price for coffee is under two dollars, the average sandwich less than four.

Beanstreets is a lovely place for quiet contemplation, spirited conversation, a smorgasbord of sweet eats, and, of course, some of the best coffee in town.

## The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions—indiscriminately. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is readily treatable, only 1 in 5 ever seeks treatment. Why do so many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there's the lack of awareness of depression—as an illness and as the threat that it is to each and every one of us. Second, there's the unwarranted negative stigma attached to it. You know, the "mental" thing. It's time to collectively face depression. To know it's an illness, not a weakness. And it's a challenge that's long overdue. It's taken too many of us already.

**UNTREATED DEPRESSION**

#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAIVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>



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## Review

soda, and whipped cream. Those with a sweet tooth can pick