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Lu Goodrum
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: "Focus on Faculty" is a new column in THE HILLTOP featuring various members of the faculty and highlighting their interests outside MHC.

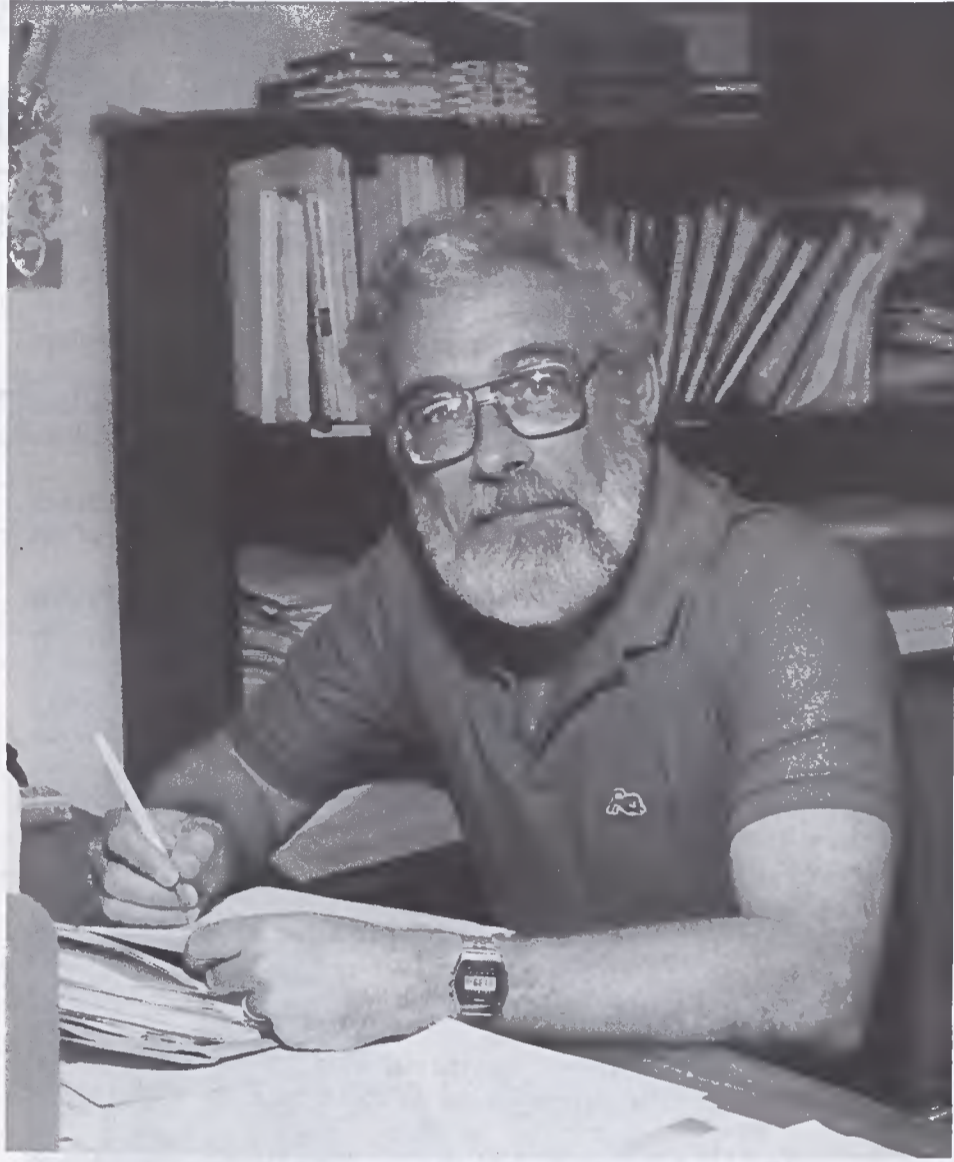
When Jim Lenburg learned there was a teaching position open at Mars Hill College in 1973, he was "bound and determined to get the job." Thirteen years later, his devotion to teaching and love for the Appalachian Mountains blend to form a lifestyle uniquely balanced between work and leisure.

Aside from teaching History at MHC, Lenburg fills much of his time hiking and backpacking in the surrounding area. He enjoys the freedom of wandering through the woods, a pastime he developed while earning his doctorate at Penn. State, which is located in the "Pennsylvania version" of the Appalachian Mountains. With the mountains, the parkway, wild rivers and hiking trails, this is one of the most scenic areas in the country. Why would anyone want to leave on the weekends?"

To stay in shape for these weekend outings, Jim enjoys cross country running. A serious runner for over 10 years, he sees a definite connection between the physical and mental attributes of running. "It's a form of meditation. I often find solutions to problems and can come up with things I want to do in my free time. It's a way to problem solve."

Cooking is another one of Lenburg's passions. An avid gardener, he not only grows his own food, but enjoys preparing it as well. "I like to cook just about anything - especially Chinese and French food." And, having spent part of his European vacation this summer visiting the French countryside of Dordogne, he was able to experience authentic French cuisine. A part of France that is sometimes compared to Appalachia, he describes the area as "real France, not tourist France," and says the food is great and the scenery beautiful. He speaks French adequately and would also like to learn German. Since he feels that becoming personally acquainted with a foreign language is the most effective way of learning it, he plans to return to Europe in the future and enroll in an intensive French language course. His travel plans also include spending a year in China teaching at a Chinese university.

When comparing America's educational system with that of Europe's, Lenburg notes that the fundamental difference is that Europeans, in general, believe the primary function of education is technical training, while in this country more emphasis is placed on social development. Sports events and social functions are not part of the European school system. Students participate in these activities on their own time. "I don't think it's a question of one system being better than the other. Our educational system reflects our needs, their educational system reflects their needs." When asked what turns him on about teaching, Lenburg replied, "I like to see students wrestle with new ideas, new values. It's rewarding and satisfying." He enjoys grappling with problems of motivation in young people and feels he can



make a difference in their lives. He adds, "My efforts are usually rewarded." Dr. Lenburg speaks optimistically of Mars Hill's future. While maybe not keeping up with the "gizmos" of larger universities, such as computerized libraries, he believes the college is academically sound and that students here receive a solid liberal arts education. He feels the new general studies curriculum is one of the best in the country and he is currently working to secure a support grant to help strengthen the Humanities program. But, even with such efforts, he says it is ultimately up to the students to get involved and to realize and appreciate the unique opportunities available here at MHC.

Workshop Held

Barbie Turner
Staff Writer

September 9, the Alumni in Admissions Network had a workshop. This was one of the first major steps in getting the Network off to a great start. The workshop was attended by 21 alumni from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The main purpose of the workshop was to train alumni to talk with prospective students and to bring the alumni up to date with the MHC campus of today. A speaker, Jean B. Post, of Wellesley College in California, spoke to the group about how Alumni-in-Admissions is working for her alma mater. A faculty panel of Charles Pressley, David Russell and Jane Thomas and a student panel of Michelle Fender, David

Baldree, Skip Wood, Lisa Griffin and Rod Hemphill held a question and answer session with the alumni to bring them up to date on Mars Hill College and to add their support to the Network. There was an excellent response from the alumni. They were all extremely excited about helping Mars Hill College through the Network. Many valuable suggestions were given to help Mars Hill meet their enrollment goals with quality students. Also in attendance was President Bentley. He was present for the entire workshop. He gave his highest endorsement to the Network and expressed his appreciation of the Alumni wanting to help Mars Hill College.

Concert Series

by Delia K. Cabegill
Contributing Columnist

Famed cellist Janos Starker will be the guest soloist for the opening concert of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra's 1986-87 concert series at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, Asheville Civic Center, on Saturday evening, Oct. 4 at 8:15 pm. Mr. Starker will perform Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* and Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme* with the orchestra. Robert Hart Baker, ASO Music Director, will conduct the program, which includes Brahms *Academic Festival Overture* and the *Symphony No. 5 in E minor* by Tchaikovsky. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students, available from the Civic Center Box Office in advance or at the door. Remaining 1986-87 season tickets will be offered as well at the door.

Music Series for more than thirty years, and was a personal acquaintance of Mr. Starker. Starker will perform a cello recital at Asheville High School Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 5 at 3:00 pm to open the 1986-87 Asheville Chamber Music Series. Tickets and season memberships will be available at the door, and in the tradition established by Mr. Vandewart, students will be admitted free. The collaboration between the Asheville Symphony and the Asheville Chamber Music series to bring Janos Starker to Asheville had been a dream of Mr. Vandewart's since 1983, when the two organizations brought the renowned Emerson String Quartet for a weekend of concerts here. For more information about Mr. Starker's appearance, call Marcia D. Onieal, general manager, at the Symphony office (704) 254-7046.