

At-Risk Children Helped Through Literacy Program

By Freda Banther
Hilltop Staff Writer

This semester the Mars Hill College Center for Community Service and Internships began a literacy program, in which Mars Hill college student volunteers tutor at-risk students in elementary and middle grades in Madison and Yancey counties.

Laura Henderson, a sixth-grader at Madison Middle School, was tutored this fall by Angela Webb. Of her experience, Laura said, "The tutoring helps me learn more, and she [Angela] is sweet." Being tutored helps her feel better prepared for class, and it helped her make the A-B Honor Roll this fall. Perhaps even more importantly, young Laura has a true friend and role model in her tutor.

The program was designed by Dr. Richard Hoffman, assistant to the president of the college, and Wanda Kidd, director of the school's Center for Community Service and Internships. Students who want to become tutors take twelve hours of training over a three-week period, after which they do 40 to 50 hours of tutoring

and mentoring per student each semester, which breaks down into four hours per week. For this, tutors receive two credit-hours. The service is done at the Center, and in schools, homes, and housing projects.

It is hoped that the program, funded by a \$100,000 four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, will decrease the drop-out rates in both Madison and Yancey counties.

The program coordinator for the Mars Hill College Literacy Corps is Ruby Gayle Anderson, an elementary school teacher with over 20 years experience who currently is on leave of absence from Mars Hill School. Assisting her as the site coordinator is Regina Lynn, a MHC student recognized by president George Bush in 1991 for her achievements through the Kennan Literacy Program in Madison County. The student coordinators are Valerie Darnell and Michelle Galyeon.

Many of the tutors this fall are Grayson Scholars, but any student interested can become involved in the program as a tutor if he or she signs up for GE 261 - section 2 for two credit hours,

which will require participation in the training sessions and thereafter four hours per week of one-to-one tutoring.

If any interested students have questions they may call the Center for Community Service at 689-1162. Mars Hill, by the way, is one of only a few colleges that has a full-time Center for Community Service.

MHC Literacy Corps

Members for this year:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Joshua Callahan | Christy Little |
| Riche Claggett | Cherie Nelson |
| Sherri Dyshuk | Amy Oakly |
| Amanda Frazier | Angela Webb |
| Lara Lequire | Woody Woods |

Tips On Christmas Shopping For College Students

By Peter Alexander
Hilltop Guest Writer

Long lines. The hustle and bustle. Congested parking lots. Fitting rooms. Layaway. Cash or charge?

Christmas shopping has begun! Out to get the best bargain, never missing a sale, we search endlessly for the perfect gift. Often that is the problem with our shopping experience. We have to realize that the "perfect gift" isn't always available at the "perfect price." But never fear because there are alternatives.

Guys: When buying for that special someone, the most important thing to remember is that the meaning and purpose behind the gift you buy is just as important as the actual gift. A gift to the lady in your life should be practical yet meaningful. Just because a gift is inexpensive does not mean it has to be trite.

Girls: When considering that special man in your life, think of the time spent in buying the gift in relation to how much the gift will actually be used. Again, practical is a key word but also consider "the fun" derived from your gift. Men treat gifts as new toys, ready to be played with now and discarded later. Give him something that will last and be

useful for months to come.

Christmas shopping does not have to be the headache that it often tends to be. Go along with friends to shop for other friends. Seeking another's advice is often a good idea.

Holiday Gift certificates are a great idea. Usually purchased for any amount desired, gift certificates can be used now or later and may be used in other store locations other than where it was published.

Pre-Christmas sales are important to watch for. Let retailers assist you in shopping; if you are unsure about a gift, ask the sales clerk for suggestions. Let them do what they're paid to do - give you customer service. Start shopping now. Give yourself time to find special gifts. Don't rush. Don't panic! Make spending money fun.

Christmas shopping is not always easy, but it can be fun when approached in the right way. Your gifts should be a reflection of you and should show how much you care.

So, whether it is at the GAP or at WAL-MART, the "perfect gift" for that special someone is out there.

Fill up the car with gas. Head for the malls. Let the spending begin!

Happy Holidays!

Special Editorial

This Issue of **The Hilltop** ends a special era. For four years, Kelly Wingate McElveen has served the paper as writer and assistant editor. She has been an outstanding member of **The Hilltop** team, making sure the level of work in the paper was always as it should be. She has worked by my side, assigning stories and helping to decide the issues of the day for three years. Her unfailing loyalty and dependability has meant a great deal to me and to the success of **The Hilltop**. We will all miss Kelly as she graduates, completing her courses this December. Thanks, Kelly.

-Michael S. Roten, Editor



Saying Goodbye

By Kelly McElveen
Hilltop Assistant Editor

College is wasted on the youth. I heard this quote on a television program one night, and although I could see the speaker's point at the time, I now firmly believe it to be false. College for most students is the height of youth, and although it is portrayed stereotypically full of partying and debauchery, the students who stay for the duration experience something else. Rites of passage are an essential part of every culture in the world, and in America, college is one such event.

It is with this thought in mind, that I prepare to take my leave of Mars Hill College. I came to Mars Hill in the fall of 1990, a freshmen suddenly tossed into the turbulent world of dorm life, semester hours, and hall bathrooms. It did not take me long to gradually get accustomed to the changes in my life. The taste of freedom from eighteen years of parental guidance led to a few mistakes, but it also led to wisdom. Therefore, college is not wasted on the youth because it is during this crucial time of life that youth turn into adults, and the forces that shape an adult's life are found in college.

However, this is not to undermine the academic importance of being a student. During my time at Mars Hill, the knowledge gained is immeasurable. Learning suddenly began to take on a different meaning for me. It was no longer memorization; learning took the shape of participation, class discussions, and idea development. I learned how to learn through supporting my

ideas and challenging others. To me, this process has been one of the most important experiences of me life from which I will take with me along with skills and knowledge. Before I came to Mars Hill I had never read the *Gilgamesh Epic*, listened to Mozart, developed photographs, touched a computer, or knew that professors were real people.

Although the last fact might be a surprise to exam-frazzled freshmen, it is the truth. The professors at Mars Hill, while often cursed for assigning seemingly impossible projects at the worst time, have a lot to offer students. I have been extremely impressed with the amount of maturity they expect from students, and in return, they treat students with respect.

Now as I prepare to take my last exam at Mars Hill College, I realize that life on the Hill will go on after I am gone. I will go to my room, take my posters from the walls, and pack my car with the knowledge that next semester, someone else will sit in the same desk I sat in, listen to the same lecture I have heard, and trace their pen over the "K" in Kelly carved into a wooden arm rest.

Leaving this place evokes happiness and sadness. The memories of people, places, and experiences will forever stay with me. Although I am glad of completing a goal, I will still feel that indescribable twinge as I descend from this mountain of learning and pause to whisper into the cool Appalachian air, "Goodbye and thank you."

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