

The Duke Days: Where it all Began for The Rhine Research Center

Stacy Horn

"What's more fun than a ghost story," Stacy Horn asked when she finished her last book and began looking around for ideas for her next. Months later she answered, "What went on inside the Duke Parapsychology Lab."

An editor at HarperCollins grew up not far from the Lab and always wondered, "What they were doing in there??" She asked Stacy to find out and write about it. Now Horn is in Durham for the next few months searching through 700 boxes of archives stored in the Duke Special Collections Library, collecting material from the RRC Tanous library, and interviewing individuals who have memories of JB and Louisa Rhine and early Lab workers, such as Charlie Stuart, Gaither Pratt, Betty Humphrey and Betty MacMahan.

The answer that is emerging is not at all what she expected. It wasn't just "Ghostbusters in Durham," as she expected, although she is finding some of that. It was the first serious, sustained scientific explanation for the unexplained, and, predictably, they were hit with a critical onslaught that they were forced to battle for the entire history of the lab. And it was a battle fought by smart, interesting people who naturally found some of the most interesting people of their time to join them from time to time (Carl Jung, Timothy Leary, Aldous Huxley, Upton Sinclair, not to mention the various Hollywood stars streaming thorough te lab, curious as anyone else as to what went on in there).

Stacy Horn's previous book *The Restless Sleep: Inside New York City's Cold Case Squad*, (Viking Press) came out last summer.