Written by Lauren Ohnesorge Thursday, 07 June 2007 05:56

## Yesterday, Appalachian State University faculty member and translator William Hutchins conducted readings in honor of International Iraqi Author Week.

The award winning translator read excerpts from his translations in English, which were then followed by passages in the original language. While the translating process takes on average about a year, you won't hear any complaints from Hutchins. He enjoys what he does.

It's the stories themselves that captivated the audience, however. Although authors like Mohammed Khudayyir live across the globe, Hutchins brought several comparisons between his world and the High Country.

Just like in Boone, he said, there is a side of Basra that tourists and visitors do not see. Khudayyir fills his book with the stories, the unique local characters that make Basra home. According to Hutchins, Khudayyir never leaves Basra and it is unknown whether he has a copy of his own book.

If you'd like to expand your summer reading list with some unique Iraqi authors, visit the ASU bookstore. The bookstore is currently offering a ten percent discount on Hutchins' translations.