



WCU Named to President’s Honor Roll for Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service named Western Carolina University to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll on February 11, for exemplary service-learning efforts and leadership in building a “culture of civic engagement.”

“Service learning that improves the quality of our students’ education while benefiting the people of our region is at the very heart of what this university is all about, and I am proud to see those efforts recognized at the national level,” said WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo. “To be on the Honor Roll says that we are moving in the right direction. We will continue to improve our abilities in service learning and engagement.”

Launched in 2006, the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition that higher education institutions can achieve for commitment to service learning and civic engagement. Honorees were chosen based on factors such as scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the institution offers academic service-learning courses.

During the 12-month period ending June 30, 2007, the service period considered for this year’s award, 7,300 students at WCU completed 38,500 hours of community service, and 2,500 of those students participated as part of their academic courses, said Glenn Bowen, Director of Service Learning.

As part of Make a Difference Day, the university’s Jacob

*By Teresa Killian
WCU News Services*

Medford Service-Learning Scholars served as site leaders and coordinated social activities for residents of Mountain Trace Nursing Home in Webster, and assisted with the “Pumpkinfest” cultural festival in Franklin as well as a fundraising kickoff for Sylva’s Bridge Park Project.



Also during the year, students provided 5,500 hours of community service through the NC-ACTS! (North Carolina Activating Citizenship through Service) AmeriCorps Program; organized a campus Relay For Life that raised \$21,000 for the American Cancer Society; and mobilized 622 volunteers for the Tuckasegee River Cleanup, which helped North Carolina Campus Compact exceed a goal of mobilizing 500 volunteers statewide for National and Global Youth Service Day.

“We appreciate and value this recognition,” said Dr. Bowen. “It is emblematic of our institution’s commitment to community service as a vehicle for civic engagement. Our faculty, staff, and especially our students are to be commended for their participation and support of our community service initiatives.”

Dr. Carol Burton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies, said Western’s inclusion on the President’s Honor Roll is a testament to “the outstanding work accomplished by Dr. Glenn Bowen, his staff, and our students; and community partners reap the benefits of their efforts.”

Provost Kyle Carter also said he was extremely pleased to see Western receive the honor. “This award recognizes the work and effort of a lot of people – members of our faculty; Glenn Bowen, who leads service-learning efforts at Western; and Bob Caruso, who retired last year as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs,” said Dr. Carter. “Bob promoted service learning at Western, and his foresight and vision enabled us to receive this award.”



RELAY FOR LIFE: This WCU event raised \$21,000 for the American Cancer Society.

In This Issue:

➤ Symposium Focuses on Engagement – Page 5

➤ Campus Garden Takes Root – Page 5

➤ “SLC” Designation Approved – Page 12

SERVICE LEARNING IMPROVES RETENTION

An increasing number of colleges and universities are looking to service-learning techniques as a means to stem the tide of attrition. Research reveals that service learning has a positive impact on retention.

Based on their extensive research, Eyler and Giles (1999) concluded that service learning “provides multiple meaningful connections between students, faculty, and community and does so in ways that allow for diversity, which is ... linked to retention.” Specifically, service learning helps students develop a positive view of people, reduces negative stereotypes, and fosters appreciation of different cultures.

In a *Research Brief* published by Campus Compact, the organization quoted from several research reports:

- “Service learning facilitates the intention to re-enroll for a second year of college by its ability to enhance the quality and quantity of faculty interaction and to promote positive academic experiences for students in their adjustment to college in the first year.” (Keup, 2005)
- “Volunteerism and service learning appear to enhance involvement and facilitate integration (both social and academic) during the first year of college, and these, research shows...are critical to student retention.” (Vogelgesang, Ikeda, Gilmartin, & Keup, 2002)
- “Active learning in particular may constitute an empirically reliable source of influence on social integration, subsequent institutional commitment, and departure decisions.” (Swail, 2003)
- “Several academic good practices have been identified as playing a role in an institution’s ability to retain and graduate its students, including: ... providing students with opportunities to practice learned skills, encouraging students to engage in out-of-class interactions with faculty, and providing students with the opportunity to work collaboratively with other students.” (Woodard, Mallory, & DeLuca, 2001)

Studies of specific service-learning courses also demonstrate the powerful link between service learning and retention. For example, after taking a service-learning biological engineering course, 93 percent of minority students (including females) at one institution remained in the discipline – “a strikingly higher number than the national average retention rate of 70 percent.”

More recent reports have confirmed these findings and have added to the growing body of literature on the positive impact of service learning on retention.

what they're saying ...

Students in **Arledge Armenaki's** Directing the Documentary class created a DVD for the Jackson County Public Library. In an e-mail to Prof. Armenaki, **Dottie Brunette**, Jackson County Librarian, said: “I was pleased not only with the end product, but with how friendly, gentle, engaged, and helpful [students] were each time they came to the Library. ... I cannot thank WCU, Manny, Chris, and Kevin, the Service Learning Project, and yourself for the caring and dedication that went into this DVD. We shall be able to use it for fundraising efforts down the road.” **Jack Sholder**, Program Director for Motion Picture & Television Production, saw this as “an excellent example of service learning and student engagement.” **Dean Robert Kehrberg** remarked: “The College of Fine and Performing Arts does what it does best, makes the intangible tangible.”

Students in ND 190: Personal Nutrition, taught by **April Tallant** (School of Health Sciences), reflected on their service-learning experiences in Fall 2008:

- Service learning is something with which every person should have experience. It is necessary for personal growth and knowledge of the state in which our society is. – **Andrew Cobb**
- If I had to describe my feelings toward the service-learning project and volunteering at the Community Table, it would have to be AWESOME! – **Katie Grammons**
- My service-learning experience was an eye-opening experience that revealed to me the sad realities of food insecurity and how everyone in the world needs help now and then. – **Will Thompson**
- Service-learning assignments have helped me think outside of what we learn in the classroom; instead of hearing about what goes on, you get to see it and experience it for yourself. Not only has it opened my eyes and made me realize the problem [of] food insecurity, it made me want to do something about it. – **Laura McMahan**



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By Jason Woolf

Perspective

A Great Sense of History

It is a rare opportunity to witness the birth of a museum, but that is indeed what I had the privilege to experience with my service-learning commitment. Over the course of the Fall 2007 semester, I was able to tour, learn about, and volunteer at the Monteith Farmstead in Dillsboro, NC, which is in the very early stages of its journey toward becoming the Southern Appalachian Women's Museum.

The Monteith Farmstead was the home of Edna and Edith Monteith, two sisters who lived their entire lives in the house. Despite a rough exterior appearance, the main four-storey house of the farmstead remains in marvelous condition in the interior. The house, which has not been

to begin cataloging the contents of the canning house and the main house.

The cataloging system devised by Osment served dual purposes. The first and most obvious was to begin to establish a rough catalogue of the items in the targeted structures. Individual material culture objects and small like-item groups were wrapped in newspaper, placed in small boxes, and assigned accession numbers that corresponded to the location and date the objects were recorded. Additionally, the contents of each box were photographed, with the digital photograph files being cross-referenced to the accession number of each cataloged box. After establishing the above-mentioned protocol, Osment



Edna Monteith (left), born 1908, and her sister Edith, born 1915. They were the last to live on the Farmstead, which is the subject of this issue's "Perspective" column.

'Working with ... the other volunteers provided me with ... real satisfaction that our efforts would someday be part of the property's future existence as a museum.'

lived in since the beginning of the current century, still contains a significant amount of material culture from the Monteith Sisters' long inhabitation. In addition, the many other structures on the property, including the barn, the canning house, and the greenhouse, contain many other pieces of material culture.

On my first visit to the farmstead, I was given a tour of the property by Tim Osment, a fellow Western Carolina graduate student and the volunteer



The Monteith Farmstead is on the right in this photograph taken circa 1930.

coordinator for the project. During the tour it became obvious that a staggering amount of work would be needed just to clean, organize, and catalogue the massive amount of artifacts located in and around the property. Following my initial tour, Osment and I met again in early November and planned for several volunteer days

and I agreed to oversee several different volunteer days. Osment held the first volunteer day on November 10th while I hosted a volunteer day on November 14th, when I was joined by two classmates as well as Emma Wertenberger, the Town of Dillsboro's representative for the museum.

While working on the 14th, the other volunteers and I worked on the second floor of the main house. We were able to clean, box, and catalogue all but one room on the second floor. During the course of our work that day, we cataloged shoes, clothing, and pieces of furniture. Several items, including a quilt, were moved to the canning house under Mrs. Wertenberger's instruction, as it was believed to be a safer storage option and it offered more protection from the environment.

The following Saturday, November 17th, Tim and I worked together to clean and, in places, stabilize the wraparound porch of the main house. We were joined once again by one of my classmates and Mrs. Wertenberger, as well as WCU's Hunter Library representative Ruby Banerjee. We were also able to relocate a few more items to the canning house for safekeeping, including several honeybee boxes. Other tasks accomplished that day included the cleaning of the greenhouse structure and the safe removal of broken glass from the main home.

In addition to our sense of accomplishment and the visual and organizational improvements, our efforts on the 17th were most unexpectedly rewarded. The Mayor of Dillsboro, Jean Hartbarger, who also owns the Jarrett House Inn and Restaurant, provided the volunteers with a wonderful warm meal from the restaurant's menu. As I sat on the freshly cleaned porch of the Monteith House enjoying a generous portion of chicken and dumplings, I could not help but imagine the many previous meals enjoyed by the Monteith Sisters and their relatives on that very porch.

Working with Tim Osment and the other volunteers provided me with a great sense of the history of the property, as well as real satisfaction that our efforts would someday be part of the property's future existence as a museum.

Editor's Note: Jason Woolf is a graduate student at Western Carolina University. He submitted this service-learning report for Associate Professor Scott Philyaw's Introduction to Public History (HIST 571) last semester. Graduate student Brandy Kiger also wrote an excellent paper for HIST 571 while undergraduates Ashley Cromer, Zach Goings, and Jamie Reid provided excellent reflection papers for HIST 471. Introduction to Public History (HIST 471/571) is a "split-level course," Dr. Philyaw explained.

Service-Learning Award Nominations Underway

PARTICIPANTS AND ACHIEVERS TO BE RECOGNIZED AT APRIL 24 BANQUET

The Center for Service Learning is accepting nominations for its annual awards.

Awards will be presented for community service, academic achievements, teaching, research, and partnerships. Students, faculty, staff, and community partners will receive awards in recognition of their contributions and achievements at the 4th Annual Service-Learning Awards Banquet on April 24 in the University Center Grand Room.

As in previous years, the event will be “a Celebration of Learning and Service to the Community.”

Specific award criteria include outstanding achievements in the service-learning component of courses, significant contributions through community service, and strong collaboration with community agencies.

There are 10 award categories: *Community Service (Individual)* – Individual students for outstanding participation in volunteer/community service projects; *Community Service (Organization)* – Student organizations for outstanding participation in volunteer/community service projects; *Shining Star* – Student leaders for outstanding contributions to peer education and demonstrated commitment to promoting the Service-Learning Program; *Meritorious Service* – Staff members for meaningful support of the mission, goals, and programs of the Center for Service Learning; *Outstanding Achievement (Students)* – Individual students for academic excellence in the service-learning component of a course; *Outstanding Achievement: Teaching* – Faculty members for demonstrated excellence in using service learning as a teaching and learning strategy; *Outstanding Achievement: Research* – Faculty members for notable research (including publications or presentations) on, or related to, service learning; *Outstanding Achievement: Service* – Faculty members for direct, exemplary participation



Recreational Therapy students won a Service-Learning Award in 2007. They organized a “Senior Prom” at the Mountain Trace Nursing Center as part of a service-learning project under the guidance of Dr. Margaret “Peg” Connolly, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Recreational Therapy degree program at WCU. In all, 46 students and three student groups, eight faculty and five staff members, as well as six community partners, received recognition for service-learning participation and achievements. (Photo: Mark Haskett)

with students in a service project in the community; *Partnership* – Agencies or representatives of agencies for effective collaboration with WCU faculty/staff and students to achieve community-service and service-learning goals; and *Leading Light* – An Academic Department for significant integration of service learning into the curriculum.

The nomination deadline is Friday, March 28.



HOMECOMING PARADE '07: Smart Start, a program of Region A Partnership for Children, was represented on the Center for Service Learning float in the WCU Homecoming Parade, downtown Sylva, in October. Emma Miller, a former member of the WCU Service-Learning Advisory Board, joined Director Glenn Bowen, Assistant Director Melanie Clark, and others on the float. (Photo: Ashley Evans)

Symposium Focuses on Engagement

“Advancing the Engagement Agenda through Campus and Community Collaboration” is the theme of the 4th Annual WCU Symposium on Service Learning & Civic Engagement, scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2008.



Sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the A.K. Hinds University Center.

The symposium provides a forum for scholarly discussion of issues, perspectives, and best practices in service learning. In addition, it facilitates the exchange of information and ideas on innovative and creative civic engagement strategies and programs.

Robert Shumer, Ph.D., Vice Chair of the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement, will be the lead presenter.



Rob Shumer

A long-standing author and prolific presenter at national and international conferences, Dr. Shumer was the Director (1993-2001) of the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, which he founded. He co-directed the Center for Experiential Education and Service Learning at the University of Minnesota and is a former President of the National

Experience-Based Career Education Association. Dr. Shumer, who has been involved in education for 38 years, is currently a Lecturer in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Shumer's publications include *Youth-Led Evaluation: A Guidebook*; "Connecting Students and Communities Requires a New Role for Teachers"; "Service-Learning and Evaluation: An Inseparable Process"; and "Teacher Education and Service-Learning: A Critical Perspective."

Higher education faculty, researchers, administrators, and upper-class or graduate students who have an interest in service learning and civic engagement are the target audience for the symposium. Community partners are also invited.

Proposals for 50-minute seminar/workshop presentations, as well as for poster sessions, should be submitted by Friday, March 21. The early-bird registration deadline is April 25.

Campus Kitchen Garden Idea Takes Root

The idea of a Kitchen Garden on the WCU campus has taken root. Students have been lining up and signing up for this project.

A Center for Service Learning initiative, the project is supported by the Department of Facilities Management, which responded to the Center's request to the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance to make land available for this purpose.

The primary purpose of this student-managed project is to provide a service-learning opportunity for students and healthy, nutritional food for needy people in the community. Food insecurity and obesity are prevalent in Western North Carolina.

Also, the project will serve to enhance the University's partnership with social service agencies in the region, the organizers anticipate.

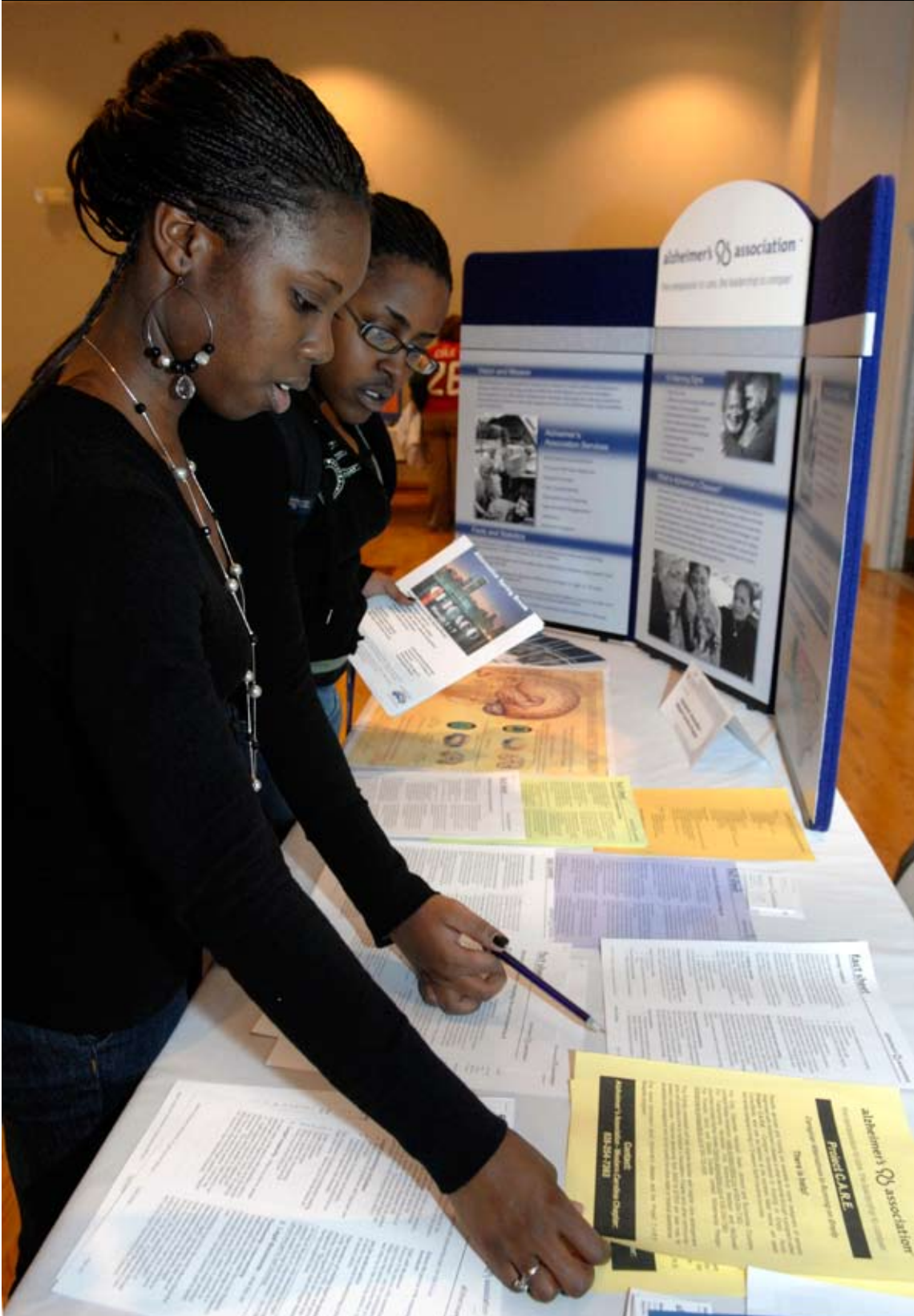
The project will involve row-crop gardening initially on a 30'x 60' plot on the Cullowhee campus. Students will cultivate such crops as cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, lettuce, peas and beans, spinach, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. The harvested crops will be donated to a community agency for distribution to people who need fresh vegetables to improve their diets.

Students in such programs as Biology, Entrepreneurship, Health Sciences (Nutrition and Dietetics), and Social Work will benefit from this project. However, any student with



a green thumb or a passion for serving the community can participate. Students will develop technical skills including soil preparation and garden construction, compost making, and organic pest management. In addition, they will learn interpersonal skills including participatory problem solving and decision making, conflict resolution, and negotiating.

Sentinel Snapshots



*Photos: Ashley Evans, WCU News Services/Office of Public Relations
Design: Clint Hardin, WCU Printing Department*



... At Community Service-Learning Fair 2008

Community Service-Learning Fair:

CONNECTING CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

More than 30 community agencies participated in the 3rd Annual Community Service-Learning Fair at Western Carolina University on January 29.

The event, aimed at making students, faculty, and staff more aware of community service opportunities in Western North Carolina, “has strengthened the WCU-Community partnership,” reported Melanie Clark, Assistant Director of Service Learning.

The community partners that had displays at the Fair provide services in such areas as children and youth development, elder care, anti-violence, recreation, food and hunger, animal care, disability services, environmental concerns, local government, housing, and legal issues. Participating community agencies included the Alzheimer’s Association—Western Carolina Chapter, Appalachian Homestead Farm & Preserve, Asheville-Buncombe Education Coalition, Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, Cashiers Historical Society, Cherokee Tribal Child Care, Community Health Link, Community



Assistant VC Carol Burton saluted our community partners.

Outreach for Pregnancy-Related Health, Community Table, GEAR UP, Girl Scouts—WNC Pisgah Council, Golden Age Senior Center of Jackson County & Department on Aging, Guardian ad Litem, Haywood-Jackson Volunteer Center, Haywood Vocational Center, Haywood Opportunities, The Healing Place of Hendersonville, Jackson County Big Brothers Big Sisters, Jackson County Habitat for Humanity, LightShare, Meridian Behavioral Health Services, Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, NC Bartram Trail Society, NC Cooperative Extension/Jackson County 4-H, Pathways for the Future, Pigeon Community Development Center, Project Challenge North Carolina, REACH of Jackson County, Region A Partnership for Children, Skyland Care Center, and Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center.

In addition to the Center for Service Learning, participating campus departments/organizations included the Office of Career Services & Cooperative Education and Last Minute Productions (cosponsor of Alternative Spring Break). AmeriCorps Programs,

Canton Connections, and Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor (CuRvE) also had displays at the Fair.

Dr. Carol Burton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies, noted that the event was “designed to showcase the exemplary relationship between our community partners and our university and to provide opportunities for education, support, and communication regarding the importance of service learning on and off campus.”

Speaking during the opening of the Fair in the University Center Grand Room, Dr. Burton said Western’s emphasis on service learning would become even more focused in the years to come “as we embark on a new plan of educating our students.” This plan, entitled *Synthesis: A Pathway to Intentional Learning*, includes “increased opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and community partners to become even more engaged in programs, research, and projects,” she explained.

Dr. Burton saluted community partners participating in the Fair “as Western Carolina University pursues an even stronger connection with our community and with our region at large.”

WCU SELECTED FOR NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY RATING PILOT PROJECT

Western Carolina University has been selected to test the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), recently developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

The system is designed to create a measurable, comparable way of assessing sustainability at diverse institutions of higher education, incentives for continuous improvement toward sustainability, and a vehicle for sharing information about sustainability practices and performance.

“There is currently no system that adequately enables colleges and universities to comprehensively measure and easily compare their sustainability – how well we promote health in our communities, healthy environments, social justice, and secure livelihoods,” said Lauren Bishop, Energy Manager at WCU.

“By participating in the STARS pilot project, we will

be part of an effort to develop a system for measuring sustainability at colleges and universities that is similar to the LEED (Leadership in Energy Environmental Design) green building rating system,” Ms. Bishop elaborated. “Through our participation, we also will identify, proactively, the ways at Western that we can become more sustainable.”

Noting that Western is the only North Carolina institution among the 91 colleges and universities selected for this project, Dr. Lisa Keyne, Executive Director of North Carolina Campus Compact, offered her congratulations.

“We have taken significant steps at Western to become a more sustainable campus, including expanding the service-learning projects that benefit our community to using biodiesel and E10,” Ms. Bishop added. “We make measurable improvements every month, and I think through collecting this data for STARS, we will see a lot that we can be proud of.”



Construction Management students add a handicap ramp to a Caney Fork house near the WCU campus. Construction Management is a program in the Kimmel School. (Photo: Mark Haskett, University Photographer)

WCU Athletes Provide 1,692 Hours of Service

The Fall semester numbers are in:

Track/cross country – 593 hours, football – 400, men’s basketball – 178, cheerleading – 148, soccer – 146, softball – 108, women’s basketball – 75, and men’s golf – 44.

Assistant Athletic Director Jennifer Brown reported that WCU athletes provided 1,692 hours of community service during the Fall 2007 semester. Dr. Brown, the Center for Service Learning Liaison in Athletics, said the student athletes were learning the value of service and were also becoming committed to “giving back” to the community.

The men’s basketball and track teams helped the university exceed its goal of 10,000 hours of community service for the 2007 Homecoming. WCU students, alumni, faculty, and staff provided 16,600 hours of service during the one-month period leading up to the Homecoming football game.

The Center for Service Learning is a clearinghouse for community service opportunities and assists faculty in integrating community service into the curriculum. (Curriculum-based community service is known as service learning.)

Campus volunteers interact with local community members, sharing time and talents with children, young adults, and senior citizens alike.

HOLIDAY GIFTS



Faculty and staff answered the call to give to children, elderly people, and a family in need during the December holiday season. “It was heart-warming to observe the generosity of members of the WCU community in giving unconditionally to those who are sometimes forgotten,” observed Melanie Clark, Assistant Director of Service Learning. “The gifts were delivered directly to a family in Asheville and to other people in Western North Carolina through the Salvation Army. “The family in Asheville was humbled and thankful for the love shown to them. The Salvation Army expressed thanks and gratitude for the food and gifts to take care of those in need this holiday season,” the project coordinator reported.



WCU volunteers Charli Lehman and Ramona Dowdell (second and third from left) assist children with art and craft work on MLK Day of Service.

MLK Day of Service

Western Carolina University was one of nine NC Campus Compact member institutions awarded a 2007 MLK Challenge mini-grant. The application was submitted by the Center for Service Learning on behalf of the Western’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, chaired by Tanisha Jenkins, Director of Multicultural Affairs.

“We applaud Western Carolina for honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by mobilizing the campus community to complete service projects that expand or improve the ability of local agencies to help the people they serve,” said Kristen Carter, NC Campus Compact’s Special Projects Coordinator.

The \$300 “Enhancement Designation” grant required that WCU recruit at least 50 volunteers, partner with five community agencies, and incorporate at least 15 percent minority participation in MLK Day events. “We exceeded those goals,” reported Melanie Clark, Assistant Director of Service Learning.

On January 21 – MLK Day of Service – volunteers served at the Mountain Trace Nursing Center in Webster; Pigeon Community Development Center in Waynesville; Hawthorn Heights Children’s Home in Bryson City; the Swain County Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Reception, also in Bryson City; and at the Housing Authority Development in Asheville.



Students and staff members who made January 21 “a day on – not a day off” with children at the Pigeon Community Center in Waynesville. (Photo: Tanisha Jenkins, WCU Multicultural Center.)



Sentinel SNIPPETS

WOW:
WCU's
Center for Service Learning is one of the sponsors of **WOW** – Walking the World – a new program created by Jackson County Department of Public Health's Community Health Link. The program involves a partnership with social studies classes in five Jackson County elementary/middle schools to provide an adventure in walking around the world. Teachers choose destinations based on the NC curriculum. Students, teachers, and parents help the class reach the destination by walking throughout the community and tracking their miles on a classroom chart. Participating schools are Blue Ridge, Cullowhee Valley, Fairview, the Jackson County School of Alternatives, and Smokey Mountain Elementary. "The Center for Service Learning has had the joy of participating in the kick-off celebrations and is looking forward to continued involvement," reported Assistant Director **Melanie Clark**.



AIDS QUILT: Nine panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt were on display in the Grand Room of the A.K. Hinds University Center at WCU during the first week of December 2007. The 12x12-foot panels were

part of more than 5,700 panels of the entire Names Quilt, an international monument to those who have died of AIDS. The Center for Service Learning helped to organize the WCU display. The goals of the AIDS Memorial Quilt are "to provide a creative means for remembrance and healing, to effectively illustrate the enormity of the AIDS pandemic, to increase awareness of HIV and

AIDS throughout the general public, to assist others in providing education on the prevention of HIV infection, and to raise funds for community-based AIDS Service Organizations." WCU Health & Wellness Educator **Karrie Joseph** coordinated the AIDS Quilt Display project.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS: Service-Learning Faculty Fellow **Jeanne Dulworth**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Social Work, made a presentation on "Taking the Leap: How to Add Service-Learning Components and Assessment to Courses" at North Carolina Campus Compact's 10th Annual Service-Learning Conference on February 13. At the same conference, held at Elon University, **Glenn Bowen**, Director of Service Learning, co-presented "An Agenda for Service-Learning Faculty Development and Persistence." NC Campus Compact is a coalition of 34 college and university presidents and chancellors, representing 32 individual campuses, two system offices, and 28,000 students.

OPEN HOUSES: The Center for Service Learning is continuing its participation in Open Houses and Information Fairs, organized by the WCU Offices of Admissions and Orientation Programs. The first Open House for the Spring 2008 semester was held on February 23. Also, members of the Service-Learning staff participated in the International Student Orientation, organized by the Office of International Programs and Services, on January 11. They discussed volunteer and service-learning opportunities with the new students. The Center participated in all Orientation Open Houses/Information Fairs last semester. In addition, the Center was represented at an Open House organized by the Department of Residential Living on August 13, 2007.

DISCUSSION: "Real Talk about Racial and Ethnic Tensions: What Should We Do?" was the topic of a discussion organized by the Center for Service Learning on behalf of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee in January.

Members of **James Holbrook's** English 102 class volunteered for "cleanup duty" at REACH of Jackson County on February 16. After learning about REACH and its programs to assist victims and survivors of abuse, the class, as part of its service learning, gave up part of their Saturday for the project. "They thoroughly cleaned the community building, helped get a residence ready for new tenants, and cleaned up the outside of the Village campus," reported **Sandy Frazier**, Community Outreach Director at REACH.

Western Carolina University student groups have been taking time this semester to assist Jackson County Habitat for Humanity. The **Women's Soccer Team** contributed over 60 hours of service at a building site on January 26. This semester, the **Greek House Managers and Assistant Resident**

WCU Groups Participate in Community Service Projects

Directors of the Village made a service project part of their training. On January 10, the group of 17 assisted Jackson County Habitat at a building site and in the Habitat Resale Store in Glensville.

Medford Scholar **Katie Graunke** and Faculty Fellow **Paul Jacques** (College of Business) joined members of the Center for Service Learning staff on a visit to MANNA Food Bank in Asheville on December 13.

The five-member team sorted and packed food items for distribution to people experiencing food insecurity and hunger. MANNA provides food to more than 347 member agencies throughout Western North Carolina, which serve 9,000 meals each day throughout the year.

WCU students, faculty, and staff contributed to the success of a festive Holiday Party for Jackson County children and families, hosted at the Ramsey Center and sponsored by **Region A Partnership for Children**. Students, faculty, and staff volunteered for behind-the-scenes tasks such as making holiday decorations and event set-up. Also, they had fun during the event, volunteering at "interactive stations" to engage children in games and other activities.

– *Charli Lehman*



LOVELY LANDSCAPE: During the Fall semester of 2007, students in Dr. Erin Tapley's Art Education course created murals for several organizations in Western North Carolina. The lovely landscape depicted here adorns a wall at Autumn Care Nursing Home in Waynesville.

SERVICE-LEARNING COURSE DESIGNATION APPROVED

Six courses (sections) have been given the “SLC” – Service-Learning Component – designation.

Based on the first two rounds of reviews, the following courses are now SLC-designated:

- *RTH 360: Recreational Therapy for Older Adults (Peg Connolly)*
- *SOCW 564: Generalist Practice with Communities & Organizations (Jeanne Dulworth)*
- *CIS 455-01: Systems Analysis & Design (William Richmond)*
- *CIS 651-01: Information Systems for Competitive Advantage (William Richmond)*
- *CIS 651-70: Information Systems for Competitive Advantage (William Richmond)*
- *PSY 678: Family Systems (Mickey Randolph)*

“The designation is for those courses that meet the highest, most rigorous standards of service learning as defined here at WCU,” explained **Carol Burton**, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies.

Documenting service learning in the catalog/course schedule and on the transcript with the “SLC” notation was unanimously approved by the WCU Faculty Senate’s Academic Policy & Review Council (APRC) on September 14 and by the full Senate on October 5, 2007. APRC Chair **Sean O’Connell** and Faculty Senate Chair **Richard Beam** congratulated the Center for Service Learning on this initiative, which has received the full support of University Registrar **Larry Hammer**.

The course review is based on seven criteria, including evidence (in the syllabus) of “direct and deliberate connections between the community service and the course content” and the appropriateness of the community agency

or service site to the course goals. In addition, students must complete at least five hours of community service for each credit hour, and the service-learning component must count for no less than 20 percent of the total course grade.

Assistant Professor **Claudia Bryant** of the Department of Political Science & Public Affairs chairs the Course Review Council. Other Council members are English Department Lecturer **Leah Hampton**, a former Service-Learning Faculty Fellow; Faculty Center Director **Anna McFadden**, Chair of the Service-Learning Advisory Board; Associate Professor of Health Sciences, **Burton Ogle**; Computer Information Systems Associate Professor **William “Bill” Richmond**, a member of the Service-Learning Advisory Board; Associate Professor **Phillip Sanger**, the Service-Learning Liaison in the Kimmel School; and Service-Learning Director **Glenn Bowen**.