

Western

Summer
2008

THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Extreme
CATAMOUNT
MAKEOVER

FINGER PICKIN' GOOD

Doug Felt of Marengo, Ohio, provides an impromptu solo performance as part of the ninth annual Mountain Dulcimer Week held on the Western campus in June. Felt, who has attended every WCU dulcimer summer workshop since its inception, started playing in 1982 on an instrument made of cardboard, and has played ever since. Looking for more mountain music? Plan to attend the annual Mountain Heritage Weekend, scheduled Sept. 26 and 27. For information, visit www.wcu.edu/mhd/.



Western

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Summer 2008
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WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

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On the Cover

THE BIG REVEAL

A fresh look for Western athletics and the Catamount logo is coming this fall. You're invited to be among the first to see the 2008 version of the Catamount at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, in the Ramsey Regional Activity Center.

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Former Western Athletes Make It
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News From THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

DAYS OF TOMORROW

New Degrees, Buildings and Policy Changes Are a Part of WCU's Response to a Major UNC Study

By TERESA KILLIAN

Members of the blue-ribbon University of North Carolina Tomorrow Commission set out more than a year ago to identify the most pressing needs facing North Carolinians and then asked UNC institutions including Western to develop plans to meet those needs. WCU responded in May to each priority identified in the commission's 47-page report – from improving public education to aiding economic transformation.

Western's response featured "flag" statements – "bold declarations of where the institution can best serve the interests of North Carolina; that is, where we plan to 'plant our flag.'" They are statements such as "WCU will expand its role as the major provider of allied health and nursing education," and "through its partnerships with the region's schools and its applied research, WCU will influence public policy and practice with regard to teacher preparation and retention, administrative quality and school performance." "Those statements really get at the heart of where we intend to develop our niches," said Melissa Wargo, director of assessment.

Specific plans include adding a bachelor of science in engineering, a master's in environmental science and a doctor of physical therapy to degrees offered. Other proposals include establishing a branch campus in Henderson County, constructing a College of Education and Allied Professions building and developing the "health neighborhood" component of the Millennial Initiative. The health neighborhood would be a cluster of health-related academic buildings, research facilities, private businesses and industries, and housing.

After the university receives feedback on the UNC Tomorrow response, work will begin on the second phase response, due in December. That response will propose ways to align WCU's mission, the academic planning process, faculty rewards system, and faculty recruitment and retention with UNC Tomorrow. Chancellor John W. Bardo said this is not just UNC Tomorrow, "This is UNC yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever." Check out the report online at www.wcu.edu/6264.asp.



Dr. Francis Owl-Smith '83, pathologist at Haywood Regional Medical Center, addresses the UNC Tomorrow Commission.



Keredith Owens '98 MSW '08 of Cherokee is part of the first class of graduates in the master's degree program in social work.

COMMENCEMENT TIMES TWO!

Western Holds Separate Ceremonies for Graduate Students and Undergraduates to Accommodate a Record-Breaking Class

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

Holding a university commencement ceremony sounds simple. The graduating students show up at the appointed time, along with their families and friends. Throw in a few university administrators and faculty members, send the students across the stage to get their diplomas (or, as is the case at Western, their diploma covers), and you've got a commencement. Right?

Wrong. Actually, commencement ceremonies like those that are held in Cullowhee three times each year are complicated events, as highly choreographed as a theatrical production, where every tiny detail has to be managed by someone, right down to how many cookies will be required at the post-commencement receptions. The group charged with taking care of those details on Western's

campus is the 18-member commencement committee, led by Fred Hinson, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

It was the committee that faced the daunting task of taking care of two-times the details when Western officials decided in early April to split May commencement into two ceremonies – one for graduate students and another for undergraduates. The move was necessary because the record-breaking size of the class would have exceeded capacity at the 8,000-seat Ramsey Center, in terms of the numbers of graduating students who would be participating in the ceremony, and the crowd expected to attend.

“Holding high-quality commencement ceremonies is among the most important things the university does,” Hinson said. “It’s our responsibility to make sure we have the most organized and meaningful ceremonies we possibly can because commencement day is one of the most important events in our students’ lives.” All things considered, the double ceremonies on May 10 went “extremely well,” he said. The commencement committee and university officials are now discussing plans for next May.

Western’s May graduates totaled 1,065 students, the largest single class in university history. Adding in the 518 graduates from WCU’s December 2007 commencement, and an estimated 450 students who expect to receive their diplomas in August, the total class for academic year 2008 should top out at around 2,033 graduates. Graduation totals have generally been on the upswing in recent years. WCU graduated 1,510 students in academic year 2004, and 1,762 in 2005. After a temporary dip to 1,723 graduates in academic year 2006, the total climbed back up to 1,845 in 2007, setting the stage for the jump to 2,000-plus graduates this year. By the time August commencement rolls around, about 8,870 graduates will have received degrees at Western since 2004.



Arnold Gore '08, a member of the men's basketball team, is among 30 Catamount student-athletes receiving degrees in May.

HERITAGE IN YELLOW PINE, AND HERITAGE ONLINE

The University's Mountain Heritage Center Launches a
Landmark Furniture Exhibit and a Digital History Project

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

Sometime in the late 1800s, a mysterious furniture maker living near the "four corners" – the point where the counties of Burke, Catawba, Cleveland and Lincoln meet – produced a series of cupboards made of yellow pine, with folksy painted decorations on the doors. The identity of that craftsman remains unknown to this day, but his "Four Corners Cupboards" are a hot topic of discussion among serious antique collectors.

Five of those rare cupboards, never before displayed publicly, are included in a landmark exhibit on display at Western's Mountain Heritage Center through mid-December. "The Artistry of Plain-Style Furniture," guest-curated by WCU women's golf coach Steve Lott, showcases furniture handmade in Western North Carolina in the 1800s and early 1900s. "These pieces represent the embodiment of a Protestant European aesthetic as interpreted in the native wood of Southern Appalachian forests," said Mountain Heritage Center director **Scott Philyaw '83**.

In late May, about 70 antique furniture enthusiasts gathered for the exhibit's grand opening, part of a two-day symposium

hosted jointly by the Mountain Heritage Center and the Cashiers Historical Society. Participants had a chance to discuss plain-style furniture with speakers that included the senior furniture conservator for the Smithsonian Institute, the research director from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, and an expert who appears on the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow."

Several days after the symposium, the MHC staff unveiled another major initiative that will encompass the furniture exhibit, plus a vast number of other representations of WNC's history and culture. The Digital Heritage Project provides a stage on which to present aspects of the region to an online audience through text, audio and video files produced by WCU faculty and students, Philyaw said.

A primary feature of the project Web site is 100 "Digital Heritage Moments," 60-second audio files that are a collaborative effort of the departments of communication, history and music. The "moments" also are being broadcast across a 50-county area on radio stations owned by Clear Channel Communications Inc. as part of that company's effort to increase educational programming in the region.

Some of the "Digital Heritage Moments" have associated videos shot by students of Arledge Armenaki, visiting associate professor of cinematography. For example, last fall, four of Armenaki's students – Evan Heimgartner, Patrick Kennedy, Danielle Callahan and John P. Good – recruited members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and their families to re-enact the Shelton Laurel Massacre, a Civil War skirmish that took place in Madison County. Their video of the re-enactment is available for viewing under the "Shelton Laurel" heritage moment.

Many opportunities exist for WCU students and faculty, and the general public, to become involved in the furniture exhibit and the Digital Heritage Project. The museum staff is still looking for examples to include in an upcoming catalog showcasing WNC handmade furniture, and ideas are being sought for content to include on the Digital Heritage Web site. To become involved, contact Philyaw at (828) 227-7129 or philyaw@wcu.edu.



Carol and Paul Rifkin check out a piece they donated to an antique furniture exhibit in the Mountain Heritage Center.



Photo courtesy Greg Mortenson, Central Asia Institute

FRESHMAN YEAR: THE PROLOGUE

Summer Reading Selection Shows One Person Can Make a Difference

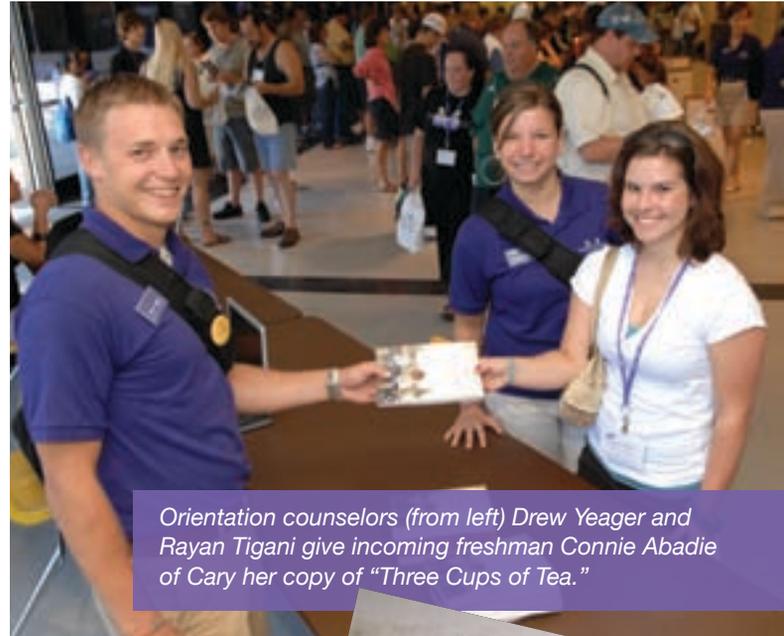
By TERESA KILLIAN

American mountain climber Greg Mortenson sold everything he owned to fulfill a promise to build a school in the Pakistani village that nursed him back to health. Reading the book about Mortenson's quest reminded WCU junior Mandi LaMartiniere that one person – with enough will – can move mountains.

Imagine a freshman class at Western where each student believes he or she could, too. That's the possibility created through this year's freshman reading selection, New York Times bestseller "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time." Every incoming freshman will receive a copy and be asked to read the book before classes start this fall. "In a time where we sometimes feel that we can't do anything to help, this book proves that we can," said LaMartiniere, a member of the committee that selected the book.

Freshman reading books are selected based on criteria including appeal to recent high school graduates, relevance to Western, diversity and effectiveness as a teaching tool. Selections in the program's 10 years have included "Teacher Man" by Frank McCourt; "Interpreter of Maladies" by Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian author Jhumpa Lahir; and "In Mind In Country: From Mount Kenya to Tenewi Island," a journal by then-WCU student **Worth Allen '01**, now an officer with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Ron Rash, award-winning writer and WCU's Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Culture, authored two – "The World Made Straight" and "One Foot in Eden."

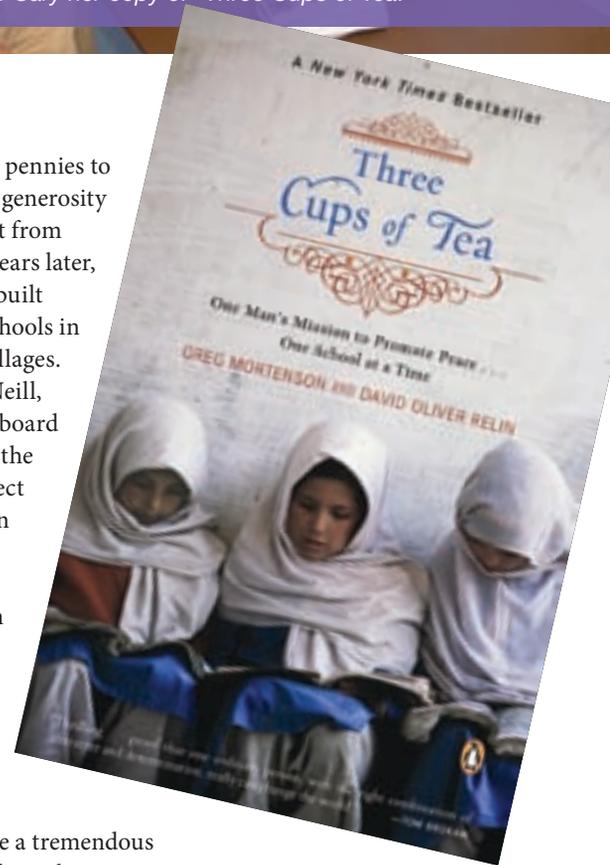
This year's book, "Three Cups of Tea," offers strong examples of community building and service, said **Tammy Haskett '84**, orientation programs director and freshman reading program committee chair, who invited alumni, members of the Western North Carolina community and book clubs to join the campus on its pages. The first chapter takes readers to Mortenson's failed attempt to climb to the peak of K2 in 1993. Exhausted and disoriented, he then drifted into a Pakistani village where he noticed the children writing school lessons in the dirt with sticks. He promised to return to build them a school. Fundraising, slow at first, picked up after children at a Wisconsin elementary school



Orientation counselors (from left) Drew Yeager and Ryan Tigani give incoming freshman Connie Abadie of Cary her copy of "Three Cups of Tea."

donated \$623 in pennies to the cause. Their generosity inspired support from others. Twelve years later, Mortenson has built more than 50 schools in central Asian villages.

Joan G. MacNeill, chair of WCU's board of trustees, said the book is the perfect reading selection for Western. "It's about one person's mission to try to change the world," said MacNeill. "It's a very moving story, and it proves that one person can make a tremendous difference, which is what we are trying to accomplish at Western."



PIECE

*Museum director
Martin DeWitt*

Fine Art
MUSEUM
AT THE FINE & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

by PIECE

Fine Art Museum Crafts Its Permanent Collection

By JILL INGRAM MA '08

Before the Fine Art Museum even opened in fall 2005, the nucleus of its permanent collection was already in place, thanks to the efforts of Robert Godfrey, former chair of the art department. Today, the collection has grown to more than 1,000 objects and is valued at approximately \$2 million. "World-views," an ongoing, rotating selection from the permanent collection remains on display at the museum.

A museum's permanent collection is a means to distinguish itself from its peers by occupying a specific niche in the world of art. Western's collection focuses on work since the 1930s, in a variety of media, by regional, national and international artists – color field artist Kenneth Noland, abstract expressionist Esteban Vicente and Edith Neff, a painter from the school of social realism, are among its best-known artists.

Themes within the collection include art of the region; contemporary American Indian art, including work by members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; female artists who have worked steadily throughout their lives and made significant contributions to the world of American art; book arts, which incorporate printmaking, typesetting, papermaking, binding, sculptural elements and poetry and prose; and works on paper, which include prints, drawings and photographs. A recent gift from art giant Harvey K. Littleton and his wife, Bess, of hundreds of prints by different artists "greatly strengthens our work on paper collection," said Martin DeWitt, museum founding director.

The art museum's permanent collection has the primary function of education. It includes works by graduates, and is accessible to students, scholars and community members for research and study. "We are expanding the collection by means of modest purchases and generous gifts," said DeWitt, who must also consider the resources required to house and protect the collection pieces. The museum is seeking accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

Don Reitz (United States, b. 1929)

Untitled, 2007 Wood-fired stoneware, 9 x 11½ x 11 inches
Gift of the artist, 2008

After reviving salt glazing, which produces a shiny finish when the salt's sodium vapors combine with clay silicate, Don Reitz reintroduced the technique to U.S. potters. His pottery is a personal record, with the evolution of his style marking his life's transitions. "Making pots isn't about making pots," he has said. Reitz donated this robust, teapot-like vessel to the permanent collection after creating it during an October 2007 workshop at Western and then firing it in a local, wood-burning kiln.



1 Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

(Flathead Reservation, U.S., b. 1940)

“Ghost Dance Dress,” 2001 *Seven-color lithograph, 26 x 20 inches (ed. 29/35) Museum purchase through the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, 2005*

A member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, of Montana’s Flathead Reservation, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith is a painter and printmaker and part of a groundbreaking generation of American Indian artists. This piece is part of a limited edition print portfolio, now in the museum, by 10 American Indian artists from across the country.

2 Ken Abbott (United States, b. 1958)

“Barn at Hickory Nut Gap Farm,” 2005 *Hasselblad medium format photograph on color negative film, inkjet printer on archival paper; 9½ x 9½ inches Museum purchase, 2007*

A landscapist, Ken Abbott’s subjects include man-made objects returning to nature and spaces between urban and rural, or as one critic wrote, “down dirt roads soon to be paved, past farmland left fallow in anticipation of development.” This photograph is part of a limited edition portfolio that Abbott, who moved to North Carolina from Colorado in 2001, made of a longtime family enterprise in Buncombe County.



3 Fumio Fujita (Japan, b. 1933)

“Early Spring,” 1963 *Five-color woodcut, 16 x 11 inches Gift of Nathalie Sato, 2007*

Over the years, Fumio Fujita’s work has become increasingly popular. Working with woodprints, printmaking’s oldest method, Fujita is a landscapist whose later work is minimalist and stylized without being abstract. He graduated from art school in 1955 and began his woodblock career in the 1960s.

4 Rosemarie Beck (United States, 1923-2003)

“Study for Hippoclytus Being Mourned,” 2000 *Gouache on paper, 12 x 15 inches Museum purchase, 2004*

With her paintings and embroideries, Rosemarie Beck built “volumes with small strokes of closely related tones,” wrote one critic. Her later work included figures, and mythology was a primary thematic inspiration. Giving one’s self fully to work is a means of embracing the unknown, Beck once said. A favorite phrase was “Nothing can obscure the idea so much as beauty for its own sake.”

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5 **Brant Barnes** (United States, b.1949)

"Vases," 2006 Stoneware pottery; from left, 10½ x 5½ inches, 8¾ x 6 inches, 9¾ x 5 inches Museum purchase through the Jackson County Arts Council and the N.C. Arts Council, 2006

Brant Barnes '74 appreciates the simplicity of the potter's tools – natural objects such as carved wood and sea sponges. He creates his own glazes from ground rocks that produce various finishes and colors. Barnes has said he could spend forever mastering technique, but that "I have never, ever run out of ideas."

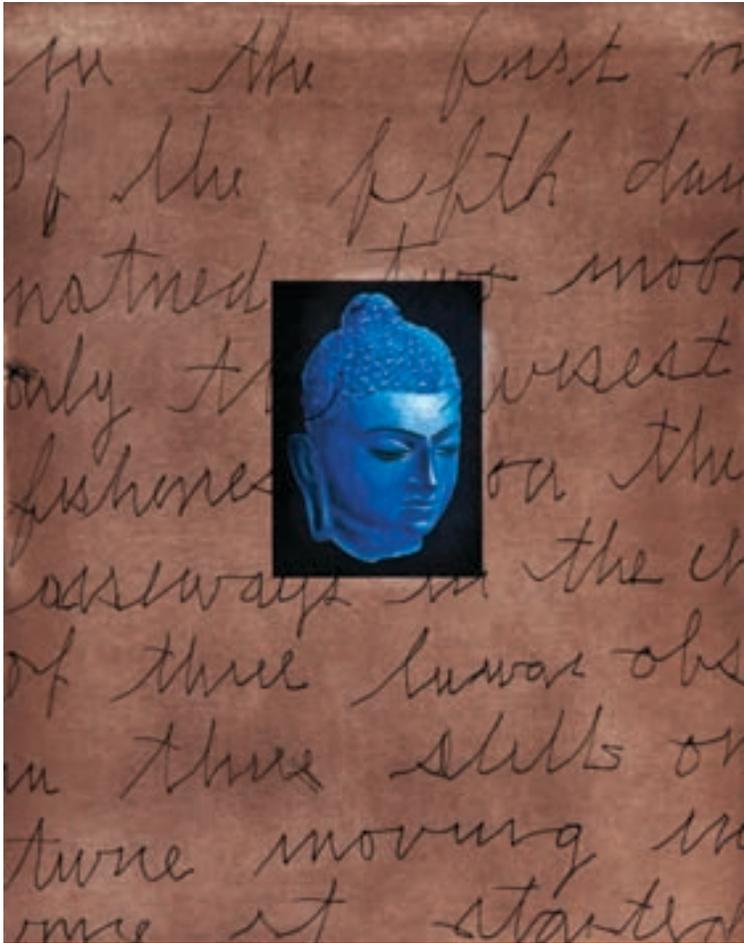
6 **James "Bud" Smith** (Qualla Boundary, U.S., b. 1954)

"Waiting," 2006 Woodcarving, 29½ x 5 x 7 inches Museum purchase through the Jackson County Arts Council, 2006

Bud Smith considers woodcarving a fine art more than a craft. A member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, he learned to carve from the late Amanda Crowe, a highly trained and much-loved Eastern Band woodcarver who for many years taught the skill at Cherokee High School – where Smith himself is now the woodcarving instructor. "To carry on for Amanda Crowe is my mission," he has said.

the LITTLETON PORT

1



During 2005 and 2006, Harvey K. Littleton and his wife, Bess, contributed a personal print archive to the museum's permanent collection of 723 prints made by approximately 80 artists over three decades. The prints all are vitreographs, a technique that employs an etched glass plate rather than traditional surfaces such as metal, wood or stone. Harvey Littleton, who led the U.S. contemporary studio glass movement, pioneered vitreography in the mid-1970s. "The portfolio is an archive of the print production of Littleton Studios and the composite of work done in vitreography to this date," DeWitt said. These prints, ranging widely in style and color, are by artists who work principally in other mediums and over the years were invited to Littleton's Spruce Pine studio to explore another dimension of their creativity. The prints are almost exclusively bon a tirers, or BATs, the proof on which the artist and printmaker agree that the print edition is ready to run.

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1 Therman Statom (United States, b. 1953)
 “Buddha-Forest Stories,” 1999 *29½ x 23¾ inches*

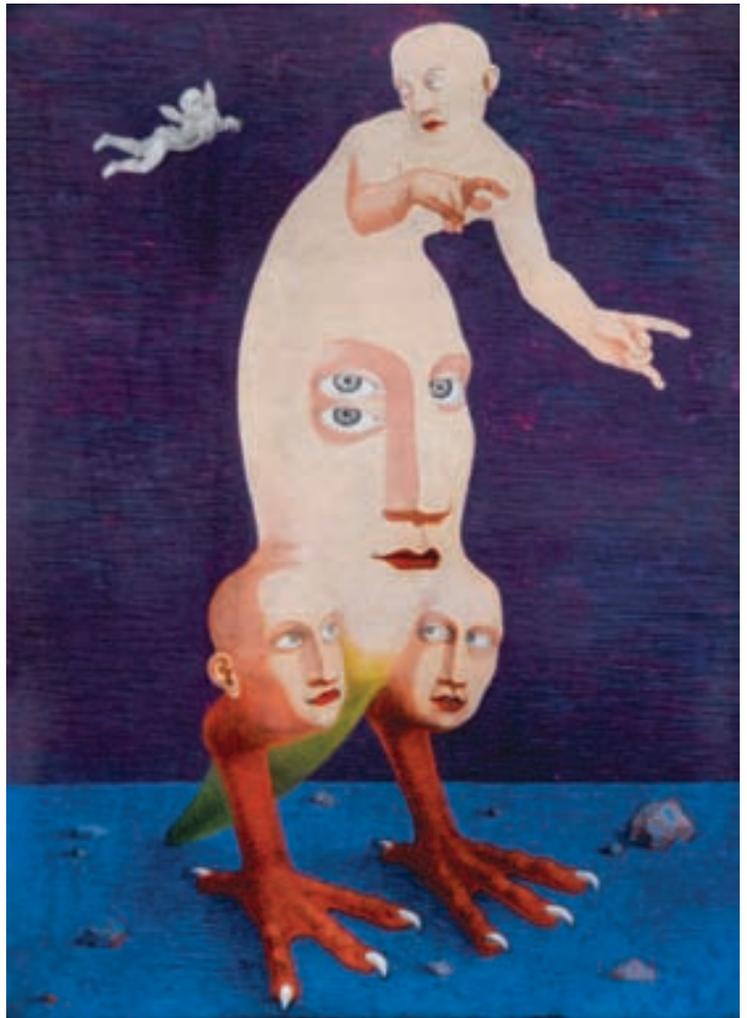
Therman Statom is among a group of black artists whose methods “were predicated upon exploring the multivalent, abstract complexities of black consciousness,” fellow artist Terry Adkins wrote in 2004. A glass artist, Statom is known for house, chair and ladder forms that one critic writes “combine the painterly and energetic traits of Abstract Expressionism with the ideas and industrial materials of Minimalism.”

2 Clarence Morgan (United States, b. 1950)
 “Subconscious Deduction,” 2003 *15¾ x 15¾ inches*

Painter and printmaker Clarence Morgan produces abstractions in colors that range from bright to limited palettes of black, brown, beige and whites. In the studio, he is spontaneous and intuitive, but has said that this way of working produces “moments of absolute clarity and sublimity.” Pattern is central in Morgan’s work, with underlying grids that are Modernist in approach.

3 Judith O’Rourke (United States, b. 1960)
 “Flower Lady,” 2000 *22½ x 15 inches*

For two decades, Judith O’Rourke has worked as master printer at Littleton Studios, collaborating with artists to produce vitreographic prints. The natural world, including her response to it, is O’Rourke’s inspiration. “For me nature is not a single tangible thing or set of things to be literally interpreted,” O’Rourke has written. Arthur Dove, Georgia



4 James Tanner (United States, b. 1941)
 “Big South,” 2003 *24 x 18 inches*

As a student, James Tanner focused on painting and ceramics before turning toward glass, which he studied under Harvey Littleton. Elements of his ceramic sculpture often are abstract and reflect his African-American heritage. Tanner experiments with color, and sometimes applies glaze in drips that echo Jackson Pollock. Tanner finds the “unlimited plasticity” of glass exciting. “While in the molten state it can take any form which is imposed upon it,” he has said. “This quality gives the medium a great deal of life.”

5 Sergei Isupov (Russia, b. 1963)
 “Buzz,” 2000 *24 x 17½ inches*

Sergei Isupov is a ceramicist known primarily for his hand-built, figurative yet surreal porcelain sculpture that combines the human with other animal forms. Using the sculpture’s surface as a canvas, Isupov draws and paints colorful scenes that contrast the serious with the humorous. “The front is cartoon-like, but the back of each figure features an intimate painting of the being’s spirit,” Isupov has said. Isupov’s “Buzz” vitreograph references his sculptural work, which often reveals representations of thoughts and dreams. The theme of the relationship between the sexes often recurs through his work.

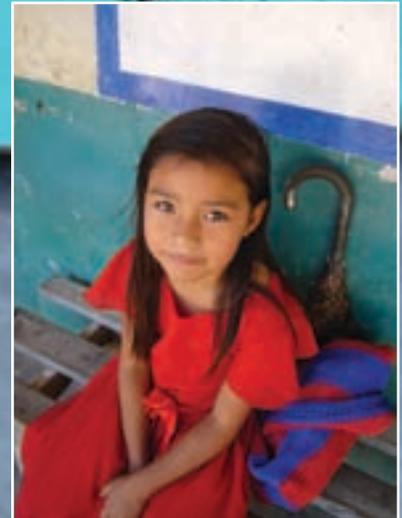
O’Keeffe, Charles Burchfield and Joan Snyder inspire O’Rourke “for the way they experience the environment symbolically, abstractly, sensually.”



SERVING & LEARNING

A Western Nursing Contingent Helps Provide
Medical Care for the People of Rural Honduras

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE



Four representatives of Western's nursing program embarked on a 12-day service-learning trip earlier this year to help provide medical care for impoverished residents of rural Honduras. Assistant professor **Janet James MSN '02** organized the trip and led the group, which also included faculty member Judy Mallory and two working nurses enrolled in WCU's family nurse practitioner program – Suzanne Green and Beth Lohse.

The WCU contingent traveled to the Central American country in affiliation with the nonprofit corporation Shoulder to Shoulder Inc., an Ohio-based organization that began offering health care assistance to rural Hondurans in 1990. After its arrival in Honduras, the WCU group joined volunteers

from other universities on an eight-hour bus ride on winding mountain roads to establish primary clinics in three "base camp" villages. From those villages, the group traveled by truck to deliver services to other villages in the surrounding areas. A particular focus on the trip was assessments for malnutrition in the villages, particularly among children, and treatment for vitamin deficiencies, parasites and infections. At night, team members slept in tents under mosquito netting to protect them from malaria and dengue fever.

Green, a registered nurse who works for Accredo Therapeutics, a specialty pharmacy based in Greensboro, reflected upon the trip after the WCU group's return...



Beth Lohse, Suzanne Green, **Janet James MSN '02** and Judy Mallory (left-hand photo from left) share some smiles with the children of Honduras.

My most vivid memories of our trip are of the beauty of Honduras contrasted with the poverty of the people, which would be unimaginable to most people in the United States. In spite of this, the people really seemed to be truly happy and content with their simple lives. There was such a feeling of community there that we don't really feel in our country. Maybe it is the necessity of having to work together to survive in the remotest region of a poor country.

The people were so kind and generous to us, and they really seemed to deeply appreciate everything we did for them. I learned a lot about giving up my accustomed comforts and the amenities of home and working hard for the benefit of a community of people in need. This trip was the most rewarding thing I have ever done.



MARCHING

U.S. ARMY

ORDERS

Bob Buckner and WCU Band Directors to Lead the Nation's Top High School Musicians – Again

By TERESA KILLIAN

Eleven months of screening audition tapes, preparing music, writing drill and other preparations culminated for WCU athletic band directors **Bob Buckner '67**, **Matt Henley '93 MA '95** and **Jon Henson '05 MAEd '07** earlier this year in San Antonio's Alamodome. There, after 16 hours and 45 minutes of rehearsals under Buckner's direction, a band of the top high school marching musicians in the country performed with the All Texas Color Guard before a crowd of about 40,000 at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. The musicians were members of the first-ever U.S. Army All-American Band, and they were phenomenal, said Buckner. "Imagine a marching band doing an exhibition performance on the second day of band camp," he said.

"It's like learning drill on steroids."

The event was months ago, but the show goes on at WCU, where preparations are under way for next year after

the national association of music education invited Buckner and his staff to direct the group again. "Bob Buckner's experience and knowledge were invaluable in making the first year of this national recognition for high school seniors such a huge success," said Lynn Brinckmeyer, president of MENC:

The National Association for Music Education.

"We are thrilled that Bob can once again act as director."

Buckner said WCU band students helped with preparations, and he was particularly grateful to the event staff, including Henley, who wrote the percussion and rhythm section arrangements, and Henson, who developed instructional videos and handled electronics issues, including the sound enhancement system.

The show was called "Red Hot, White and Blue." Songs included "We're an American Band" by Grand Funk Railroad. "The arrangements of the music were really effective and featured every section of the band," said Buckner. "Even the tubas had a place to show off a little bit."

The musicians selected for the band each earn an all-expense paid trip to the event. Their uniforms were provided by DeMoulin Uniform Company, of which **Steve Trull '74** is the national vice president. Students worked with directors including **Bobby Lambert '97**, assistant director of the nationally recognized Marian Catholic High School Band.

For All-American Marching Band participant Molly Underwood, a senior piccolo player, flutist and drum major from North Lincoln High School in Lincolnton, the experience was "absolutely awesome." Underwood said band members bonded quickly and everyone, like her, wanted to pursue a career in music. She is planning to attend WCU this fall. Buckner said the WCU staff was not there to recruit, but they were happy to talk about WCU to students who asked about the program. "The average grade point average for the All-American band was 3.6, and many of the students participated in community service activities such as the Special Olympics and Relay For Life," said Buckner. "We are honored and excited to have Molly join us this fall."



Thanks to her participation in first-ever U.S. Army All-American Band, incoming freshman Molly Underwood (left), from the marching band at North Lincoln High School, will become a member of WCU's Pride of the Mountains this fall, under the guidance of Bob Buckner '67 (right).

PRIME TIME

Players



Broadcasting Students Work behind the Scenes and behind the Cameras on Several Large-Scale, National-Level Video Projects

By JOHN KENYON

As Western's broadcasting program continues to grow, so do the scale and complexity of video projects offered to students, including some that provide hands-on learning while also creating finished products that will be viewed across the nation. A multi-camera project that involved approximately \$15,000 worth of specialty video and audio cables loaned to WCU by Turner Broadcasting and an on-location video shoot for a History Channel program recently provided students with advanced practical knowledge in how the broadcast industry really works.

When the Cypress String Quartet was scheduled to bring its performance "Inspired by America," a blend of chamber music and multimedia images, to WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center, the group wanted the concert videotaped to use for promotional purposes. "The quartet got in touch with me because they had seen what our facilities were like online," said Padraig Acheson, director of studio operations at WCU.

Acheson and a crew of students assembled an elaborate setup

that involved thousands of feet of triax video cables and audio cables provided by Turner Broadcasting. The crew interconnected the control room of the television studios inside the Center for Applied Technology with multiple cameras in the FAPAC. The live performance was then videotaped by student camera operators, while another student crew worked in the control room switching between camera feeds and recording the performance, a process commonly referred to in the broadcast industry as "live to tape." "This was the first time any of our students had been involved in a project of this size, and I am excited to have been able to give them this opportunity," said Acheson. "The same issues were involved that would be involved in a network broadcast."

Another endeavor that had WCU students working behind the scenes on a project designed to be seen by a national audience was an all-day video shoot at the Wheels Through Time motorcycle museum in Maggie Valley. Producer Bernie Dudek conducted an on-camera interview with William Dulaney, WCU assistant



From far left, professor William Dulaney is interviewed for a documentary about motorcycle gangs while students Phillip Chandler and Janna Gurtler work behind the scenes. In a second video project, students Ian Vigstedt and David Ward prepare to record a concert by the Cypress String Quartet as professor Padraig Acheson supervises in the control room. The national projects are possible because of the quality of equipment in WCU's television studios (above).

professor of communication, for documentary programs about “outlaw” motorcycle clubs that will air on the History Channel and A&E Network. Students worked with the producer and a freelance videographer, took care of lighting and sound on the set, and operated a second camera.

“It was an amazing experience to work with a producer from the History Channel and a professional videographer,” said Snellville, Ga., resident Phillip Chandler, director of operations at TV62, WCU’s student-run closed-circuit television station. “We spent a lot of time learning from them. It was really valuable information about everything.”

Part of the value of working with industry professionals comes not only through the sharing of knowledge, but also from establishing contacts and networking. “It was real exciting to have made those contacts because I am graduating soon and contacts are a big part in getting your foot through the door,” said Franklin resident Janna Gurtler, broadcasting student and news director for TV62.

A recent graduate found herself in the position of being one of those industry contacts. “The communications business is all about contacts and networking,” said **Sarah Kepley ’06**, who

works freelance in sports video production in the Charlotte area and was recruited by Acheson to be part of the “Inspired by America” project. “It was great to go back and not only help with the project, but also become a contact for the students,” Kepley said.

Students say the projects provided valuable experience and were great preparation for life after college. “Those two events overshadowed everything else I have done,” said Joe Mullins, WCU broadcasting student from Denver, N.C., and general manager for TV62. “My resume looks like a professional’s and I haven’t even graduated college yet.”

The professional contacts established through these and other projects continue to pay off for Western’s broadcast program as two WCU students recently were recruited to work as production assistants on a music video for country-music singer Rhonda Vincent. The video was shot in Bryson City and the Los Angeles-based production company contacted Acheson after getting a referral from the videographer who worked with WCU students on the Wheels Through Time project. “It’s all part of learning how to network and staying in touch with people you worked with in the past,” said Acheson.



FRONT AND CENTER

Western Takes a Serious Look at Creating a New ‘Town Center’ to Serve the Needs of a Growing Campus and a Developing Community

By BILL STUDENC

If we build it, will they come? That’s what Western administrators are asking as they begin determining whether the campus and surrounding community would support a major retail complex containing shops, restaurants, entertainment venues and other businesses.

Christened “the Town Center,” the proposed commercial development would help address a lack of amenities available within walking distance for students, faculty and staff. Also factoring into the decision to study the viability of such an enterprise is the explosion of residential development south of campus, where more than 800 homes are under construction or on the drawing boards.

The Town Center idea has been around since the 2006 purchase of 344 acres across N.C. Highway 107 from the main campus and the unveiling of the Millennial Initiative, an economic

development strategy through which public-private partnerships would create multiple-use neighborhoods. Original plans called for location of the center west of the highway, but subsequent master planning now suggests a more central site.

“We believe that a true college town or collegiate ‘Main Street’ is one of the missing components of campus,” said **Chuck Wooten** ’73, vice chancellor for administration and finance. “We also believe there is real need for services for the surrounding community. As a university, our interests are first and foremost to enhance the experiences of students, faculty and staff. But we may be able to take advantage of the expanding nearby population to develop a place to serve our campus needs, while also providing services to nearby residents.”

The center also could serve as a magnet to attract private partners as the university develops “neighborhoods of

interest” on the existing campus and the Millennial tract. The first neighborhood to be developed on the new property – beginning with the university’s \$46 million health sciences building – is expected to include private health care facilities, specialty housing for aging populations, and companies that supply products related to health and aging. “Companies that may locate here will want places to eat, shop and play for employees and their families, the same things Western wants for its employees and their families,” said Eva Klein, whose consulting firm is nationally recognized for planning university-related projects.

If a preliminary market-needs analysis indicates the Town Center would succeed from a business perspective, the university would seek a private developer to build the complex. Although Western may not own any of the buildings on the site, the university may relocate some existing



services to the complex – perhaps the bookstore, campus clothing and gift shop, and some food services and administrative offices.

The updated master plan has identified about 22 acres for the Town Center, a tract stretching from Camp Building to the parking lot across Cullowhee Creek from the Ramsey Regional Activity Center. The site could accommodate a complex with as much as 270,000 square feet of commercial, housing and multi-tenant office space, with parking for 871 vehicles, including a 320-space parking garage.

“This is a real front-door spot, a highly visible location off Highway 107, so we want to create a college-town setting that is pedestrian-oriented and mixed-use, with residential space located above commercial and retail space,” said Kenneth Bullock of Charlotte-based design firm Woolpert Inc., which is guiding WCU’s master plan. “The center will provide amenities to support the Fine and Performing Arts Center, Fine Art Museum, athletics venues, and the Ramsey Regional Activity Center, providing a place for people to go before and after concerts, cultural activities and sporting events. The ‘feel’ will be a traditional town, not a retail center or strip mall.”

The concept study comes as business owners and residents of the “old Cullowhee community” on Old Cullowhee Road are trying to revitalize that once-booming entrance to campus. “We see



The proposed Town Center at Western (left) would create a college “Main Street” area like Chapel Hill’s Franklin Street. Meanwhile, Suzanne Stone (bottom right) is among the entrepreneurs setting up shop in Cullowhee’s existing business districts.

the Town Center as complementing, not competing with, what those folks are doing,” Wooten said. “We encourage the community organization to do on that side of campus some of the very same things we are trying to do.”

The university is especially supportive of efforts to utilize benefits of the Tuckasee River, which flows along Old Cullowhee Road. “That could be a tremendous focal point for the university and surrounding community,” Wooten said. “There is so much untapped potential there, with all of the interest in whitewater sports.”

In addition, renovations are on hold for 2.8 acres of commercial property in



the heart of campus purchased by WCU in 2007. Administrators want to see how the Town Center concept develops before doing major work on the existing retail strip, which eventually would be renovated as part of the Town Center approach. The university will refurbish the property as necessary, and recently welcomed a new tenant – Rolling Stone Burrito, owned and operated by the family of WCU Kimmel School faculty member Wes Stone.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Community and Campus Join Forces to Revitalize Old Cullowhee

By TERESA KILLIAN

An old photograph of Cullowhee hanging at Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva shows stores, warehouses, storage buildings and a railroad bridge – a different picture than the mix of businesses, apartments and empty buildings there today. “The photo was taken before the flood of 1940, and if it weren’t labeled, I don’t think many people would recognize it as Cullowhee,” said the Rev. Tim Moore, past director of WCU’s Wesley Foundation and a Jackson County native. “Cullowhee used to have a booming little downtown.”

It can again, say community members and students, faculty and staff who recently joined together as the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor, or CuRvE. “When you begin talking with Cullowhee residents, you quickly notice that they care deeply about this place,” said Christopher Blake, assistant professor of English and CuRvE co-chair. The nonprofit organization aims to unite business owners and residents interested in developing the community in a way that reflects the culture, history and natural beauty of the area. Long-term goals include supporting

Stroll down Memory Lane in Cullowhee



Townhouse 101

“What have you got this hour?” “Townhouse 101.” Some students made a “class” out of gathering at the now-closed Townhouse Restaurant, which featured a Motown-heavy juke box and fried apple pies, heated honeybuns, Yankee (hot) dogs and egg sandwiches.

Mayor of Cullowhee, Self-Appointed

The late Clarence Pressley was not only a barber but also mayor – a self-appointed mayor, that is. Pressley offered regular customers haircuts and conversation until 2004, when the shop closed.

Tubing on the Tuck

In the 1970s, students competed in a winter tubing contest on the Tuckasegee River. On Jan. 25, 1971, **Livingston Kelley '73**, who owns Livingston's Photo in Sylva, was the inaugural winner – motivated by the \$50 prize. “I paddled and kicked as hard as I could,” said Kelley. “I think it was about 38 degrees.”



Cullowhee – The Band

Terry Edwards '73, Mike Clark, Sandy Flynn, Thom Jenkins '73, Fred Hubbard and Woody Jenkins, together, were a band called Cullowhee. They performed what they called “mountain music” before audiences of 10 to 20,000 before they stopped touring in 1984. Reconnect with the group and hear audio clips at www.myspace.com/cullowheemountainrock.



Jeanette Evans, owner of the Mad Batter Bakery & Café and member of the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor, said she would consider opening a second business in Old Cullowhee someday.



From left, Christopher Blake, co-chair of the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor steering committee; Carole Wood, CuRvE volunteer and Cullowhee resident, and Chris Coburn, past president of the Cullowhee Daybreak Rotary Club, add flower boxes to a bridge over the Tuckaseegee River in Cullowhee.

current businesses and attracting new dining, shopping and entertainment venues; building safe paths that connect the area to campus; and increasing the availability of clean, attractive and affordable housing.

What sparked CuRvE's formation was research by **Todd Henry '07**, whose presentation at WCU's 2007 Undergraduate Expo suggested a river park could boost economic development near campus along Old Cullowhee Road. Henry's presentation got people talking: What would revitalize "Old Cullowhee?" Could

the Tuckaseegee River, already a draw for anglers and boaters, be an untapped treasure?

"Many towns don't have a river that runs through them," said Moore. "I have traveled, and I know if there is a restaurant overlooking the water, people are drawn to it. The more we can do to enhance the river, the better." Riverfront resident **Rick Bennett '70 '75** said there's a lot to watch and enjoy, from beavers to a variety of birds. "You just never know what is around the next bend," Bennett said.

Continued on Page 24

Carl the Cop

The first security officer at Western was the late Carl Hopkins, who dedicated 20 years to the job. Today, his son Sam Hopkins owns Hop's Gas and Grocery in Cullowhee where College Gulf used to be.

The WHEE

Tim Moore, Cullowhee native and past director of the WCU Wesley Foundation, said he and his childhood friends used to call Cullowhee "the Whee," so the Wesley Foundation created "Whee" bumper stickers as a fundraiser. More than 2,000 have been sold.



Image of WHEE bumper sticker courtesy of The Wesley Foundation in Cullowhee (www.wcuwesley.com)

Hitchhiking to Sylva

Thomas Lyndon Smith '61 of Smyrna, Ga., said he remembers hitchhiking from the Cullowhee bridge to Sylva to go to the theater, which was located downtown and featured first-run movies.

Cullowhee Cafe

From a new location in an old Pizza Hut, the family-owned Cullowhee Café started by the late Berlin Ashe turns 60 years this year. "I have been in that restaurant when there were four generations of the Ashe family together in the same building," said **Rick Bennett '70 '75**.



GoCullowhee.org

A group of Cullowhee residents and business owners form a nonprofit called the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavour to support the community. The band Cullowhee will play a reunion concert as a fundraiser for CuRvE on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 4, at WCU.

A RIVER

Continued from Page 23

Duke Energy has plans, as a result of relicensing and lease agreements, to improve canoeing and kayaking access to the river in Cullowhee, construct additional parking and add landscaping. Those plans fit right in with CuRvE's vision for supporting development of picnicking and walking areas, and a river park similar to the recreation area developed in Cherokee, said Mary Jean Herzog, CuRvE co-chair and professor of educational leadership and foundations.

So far, the organization has "adopted the highway" along Old Cullowhee Road, and the Mad Batter Bakery & Cafe in Cullowhee conducted the first clean-up this spring as part of its employee party. Flower boxes with yellow marigolds, purple trailing petunias and white begonias were installed on a bridge over the river as part of CuRvE's first beautification day in May – an event that drew about two dozen volunteers. Also, group members have met with transportation representatives to discuss safety issues and possible improvements, such as sidewalks, on Old Cullowhee Road. Work is under way to raise money for a native stone and cedar "Cullowhee, N.C." roadside sign.

Members of the WCU community taking part say this effort dovetails with the university's commitment to serving the people of the region and the state. During the spring, students in WCU's Freshman Leadership Institute hosted a 5K fundraiser on campus for the organization. Despite a heavy downpour, 11 runners completed the course. "The money that was raised for CuRvE will support efforts to make our community a better place to live," said Brandon Ward, the event coordinator and a rising sophomore from Charlotte. This summer, WCU's Institute for the Economy and the Future housed and supported a recent WCU graduate who worked part time to research grant opportunities and coordinate activities for CuRvE. This fall, a service-learning class taught by Todd Collins, assistant professor of political science and public affairs, will develop a survey to find out what community members would like to see in Cullowhee commercial areas. "This project shows students a practical application of what they learn in the classroom, and in a community close enough to campus that they will be able to see the results," said Collins.

The revitalization activity has stirred hope in business owners such as **Norman West '72**, who owns Cullowhee Real Estate and



Canoeists regularly launched from Cullowhee onto the Tuckaseige River in the 1980s.

has called the area home for decades, and **Lori Richards MA '98**, who has been teaching Kindermusik and Suzuki flute lessons in Cullowhee for 10 years at The Music Village, the former home of Brenda's Mini Market. Richards also owns and operates Suds Your Duds Laundromat and Kokopelli Village Apartments in Cullowhee. "The people here are very friendly and good-natured," said Richards. "I love the quaintness of many college towns, and would love to see Cullowhee regain some of its past charm."

Learn more about the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavour at www.gocullowhee.org.

Homecoming 2008

*Come Home
to Cullowhee*
October 3-5



Events Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Noon — **Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament**, a Homecoming tradition, tees off at Laurel Ridge Country Club in Waynesville. Shotgun start. Cost: \$80 per person, includes fees and cart. Four-person “captain’s choice” format. Refreshments available during play. Social following the tournament. RSVP is required by Friday, Sept. 26. Call the Office of Alumni Affairs at (877) 440-9990 or (828) 227-7335, or email magill@email.wcu.edu.

6:15 p.m. — **Homecoming 2008 Main Street Parade in Sylva**. Cheer as community and student floats, Western cheerleaders, the football team, Homecoming Court and Catamount Marching Band parade through downtown Sylva. Prizes awarded for best floats; winners announced during Saturday’s football game.

8 p.m. — **Spirit Night**. Join students, faculty, staff and alumni for a pep rally, music and food. Location and additional details to be announced.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:30-11:30 a.m. — **WCU Alumni Brunch**. The A.K. Hinds University Center Multipurpose Room becomes Alumni Central! Come join fellow WCU alumni and friends for a complimentary brunch. It’s a great time to make weekend plans with your old classmates, or simply reminisce about those good old days in Cullowhee!

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — **Tailgating** before the WCU vs. Samford football game.





1 p.m. — Football. The Catamounts do battle against the Samford Bulldogs in the cozy confines of Whitmire Stadium and Bob Waters Field.

7 p.m. — Stompfest 2008, a step-show competition featuring African-American fraternities and sororities. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. For tickets or information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (828) 227-2276.

10 p.m.-1 a.m. — Stompfest Afterparty. University Center Grandroom. For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (828) 227-2276.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

3 p.m. — The crowd-pleasing Inspirational Choir Concert will bring Homecoming Weekend to a close with a performance in the University Center Grandroom. For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (828) 227-2276.



For more information
 Contact Marty Ramsey '85,
 Director of Alumni Affairs
 (828) 227-7335 (877) 440-9990
 mramsey@wcu.edu

Reunion Brunch

CLASS REUNION BRUNCH

9:30-11:30 a.m. — Class Reunion Brunch.

Reunions for the classes of 1998, 1988, 1978, 1968, 1958 and 1948. Come visit with your classmates from years gone by. You and your class will be provided a complimentary brunch in the Multicultural Room of the A.K. Hinds University Center.

10 year reunion!

CLASS OF 1998

20 year reunion!

CLASS OF 1988

30 year reunion!

CLASS OF 1978

40 year reunion!

CLASS OF 1968

50 year reunion!

CLASS OF 1958

60 year reunion!

CLASS OF 1948



CHANGING COURSE



WCU Celebrates 50 Years of Integration

The Western Carolina University Alumni Association recently marked the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the institution's first African-American student.

Levern Hamlin Allen (top left, center) came to Western in the summer of 1957 already working as a speech therapist and seeking advanced North Carolina teaching certification. As part of the celebration, WCU Alumni Association president **David Andrew '83** (left) and alumni affairs director **Marty Ramsey '85** present Allen with a commemorative photo display recognizing her role as a civil rights pioneer. Also taking part in the anniversary observance are, counterclockwise from bottom left, **Carol Vaughan Crocker '75** and **Joe Crocker '74**, while **J. Michael Naylor '82 MBA '88** addresses the crowd. Finally, **Teresa McKenzie '87** captured former members of the WCU Inspirational Choir in action at the event.





CREATING *extraordinary*
OPPORTUNITIES
THE CAMPAIGN FOR WESTERN

Robert J. Conley, the new Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies, visits the Fine and Performing Arts Center, a building that features numerous Cherokee-inspired design elements.



COMING HOME

A Prolific Cherokee Author Returns to Ancestral Lands as Western's New Sequoyah Distinguished Professor

By BILL STUDENC

Although noted Cherokee scholar Robert J. Conley hails from the American Southwest, his recent selection as Western's new Sequoyah Distinguished Professor in Cherokee Studies represents a homecoming of sorts for the prolific author. After all, the mountain region of the Southern Appalachians is the ancestral homeland of the Cherokee people.

"Making the move to North Carolina is like going home, even though I was born in Oklahoma, because North Carolina is home to all Cherokees," said Conley, who has 80 books to his credit during a career spanning 40 years. "The first time my wife and I visited North Carolina some years ago, a Cherokee lady said to us, 'Welcome home.' When it came time for us to leave, neither of us wanted to go."

Now Conley is here to stay, appointed July 1 to the endowed professorship named in honor of Sequoyah, an 18th-century Cherokee man who devised the Cherokee syllabary – the first Native American system of writing in North America. Conley will expand upon the work of former Sequoyah Professor Thomas Hatley, an acclaimed scholar of Colonial-era Cherokee history named to the post in 2002, said Wendy Ford, dean of WCU's College of Arts and Sciences.

"Tom Hatley has played a vital role in developing important partnerships between Western Carolina and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians," said Ford. Hatley was instrumental in creating a memorandum of understanding between tribal and university leaders, an agreement that has led to projects to restore once plentiful rivercane (a staple of Cherokee basketmakers) and to expand programs to prevent the loss of the Cherokee language. "We look to Robert Conley to provide leadership for continued development of educational programs, cultural enrichment and research for the benefit of all who are interested in the preservation of Cherokee heritage and the future of the people of the Qualla Boundary," she said.

An enrolled member of the federally recognized United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Conley has held teaching and administrative positions at Northern Illinois University, Southwest Missouri State

University, Eastern Montana College, Bacone College, Morningside College, University of New Mexico and Lenoir-Rhyne College. He has won numerous writing awards, including the Wordcraft Circle "Wordcrafter of the Year" in 1997 and "Writer of the Year" in 1999 for fiction for his "War Women." His "The Cherokee Nation: A History" was selected by the American Library Association as an "outstanding academic title" for 2005.

Conley said he is eager to get to work. "I know this will be an exciting and rewarding venture. I am looking forward very much to working with and getting better acquainted with students, faculty and administrators at WCU, and with members of the Eastern Band of Cherokees. I want to seek dialogue with tribal officials and tribal members to find out what they want from WCU and then to see if that is something that we, at the university, can pursue," he said.

Rainy Summer Brake, of Cherokee and Tuscarora descent and a WCU graduate student in English, said she is looking forward to the Native American perspective Conley will bring to the university. "His insights will contribute to a fascinating academic dialogue, and he will challenge others at Western to examine their own viewpoints," Brake said. "What I am most excited about, however, is that I believe his presence and the ideas that he wants to implement will become a beacon to attract more Native American students to Western."

The \$1 million Sequoyah Professorship was fully funded in 1998. Funds to match a state grant for the position came from several sources, including the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, National Endowment for the Humanities, the Friends of Sequoyah Organization, Cherokee businessman James A. "Jimmy" Cooper and Harrah's Entertainment. Funding for additional endowed professorships, which enable the university to continue to attract accomplished scholars in a variety of disciplines, is a top priority of The Campaign for Western, the \$40 million fundraising campaign announced in February 2007.

HOGAN, HERO

The Honors College Scholarship Fund Becomes Fully Endowed as the Dean and an Alumnus Join Forces to Boost It to \$100,000

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

The student scholarship fund of Western's Honors College had a bit of a humble start more than a decade ago – a lonely university dean pedaling his bicycle through a November snowstorm to the deserted summit of the highest mountain in the East to raise a couple of thousand dollars in pledges.

But things have been looking a lot sunnier since then – especially in the past year as the scholarship fund has soared from about \$20,000 to its current total of \$85,000. And now Honors College Dean Brian Railsback, who rode through the snowstorm in November 1997, and **James Hogan '03**, a college alumnus who also happens to be a professional fundraiser, are charting a new campaign to raise another \$15,000 from honors alumni and boost the fund to \$100,000.

Since Railsback's original three-day ride from Cullowhee to Mount Mitchell, he has undertaken five more pledge rides to increase the scholarship fund. However, the big jump over the past year resulted from large donations made by members of the college's advisory board, composed of a group of Highlands residents, and one anonymous gift of \$13,000. Reaching the \$85,000 mark meant the fund had become large enough to be "endowed" – scholarships can be paid out from interest earned, rather than being taken from the fund itself.

"Advisory board members brought the scholarship to a level we could not have achieved on our own," Railsback said. "Also, I'm thrilled to have an honors alumnus of James Hogan's caliber and experience to lead the effort to finish up our fund."

Hogan, who earned a bachelor's degree in English education, now works as an annual fund gifts officer for Davidson College. Although he never received the Honors College scholarship as a student, he has pledged a personal contribution of \$1,000 annually.

"We've taken on an ambitious goal, but I think it's certainly possible to raise this additional \$15,000 through alumni giving," he said. "There are a lot of us who directly benefited from what the Honors College experience did for us, and I'm hoping we can capture those good feelings and use them to generate resources to help the college today. This new generation of Honors College students is accomplishing incredible things, and their work every day makes my Honors College diploma more valuable in the workplace."

Railsback and Hogan plan to contact some 400 Honors College alumni by mail this summer to seek donations, and plans are being made for a final pledge bicycle ride in the fall. For more information about WCU's Honors College, call (828) 227-7383 or go to www.wcu.edu/5499.asp.



James Hogan '03 is an annual gifts officer at Davidson College.

Photo courtesy Davidson College



Professor Steve Yurkovich works in a geology laboratory with student Amy Kunst.

SEISMIC SHIFT

Longtime Professor Starts a New Scholarship Fund for Geology and Earth Science Education Students

By TERESA KILLIAN

Professor Steve Yurkovich acted on his love of teaching geology and the love of his late wife, **Valerie Yurkovich MAEd '87**, for teaching earth science when he established an endowed scholarship for geology or earth science education students. "Both of us had good experiences with the institution, and I thought it was time to give something back," said Yurkovich, who came to work at WCU in 1971.

The idea of starting a scholarship popped in his head after the launch of The Campaign for Western and the opportunity it presented to fill unmet needs. "I see many students come into our program and have to take a job in addition to their academic work," said Yurkovich, who noted that coursework is intense and includes research projects such as evaluating the restoration of Cullowhee Creek or monitoring conditions of once-plentiful rivercane sought by members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

This spring, the scholarship was awarded for the first time to Amy Kunst, a senior earth science education major from Jacksonville. Kunst will receive \$1,000 for the fall semester. Kunst said she came to Western to study elementary education, but after

taking some geology courses chose to major in secondary earth science education. "The two courses I took with Dr. Yurkovich were, hands down, the most challenging courses I have taken to date," said Kunst. "He is a great teacher. I learned a lot about geology, and I also learned about myself as a learner and as a future teacher."

Yurkovich said Kunst has been his student and his advisee, and that the scholarship committee made a wonderful choice. "She is a brilliant student," he said. "Amy exemplifies the characteristics of a good educator. She has a strong scientific background, possesses an intellectual curiosity about science, and has a passion to teach younger students."

Jim Manring '74 MBA '76, senior director of development and executive director of the campaign, said gifts such as Yurkovich's reflect how deeply the faculty and staff at Western care about the university and the success of their students. "Dr. Yurkovich's creation of this important fund means much to Western and to advancing the study of geology and earth science. However, it will mean the most to the students who will benefit directly every year from his thoughtfulness," said Manring.



WCU Athletics

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

By LAURA HUFF '03

The “Dennis Wagner Era” officially begins Thursday, Aug. 28, when the Catamount football team holds its opening game at E.J. Whitmire Stadium. The Catamounts kick off at 7 p.m. for the first game of the inaugural season under Wagner, named head coach in December.

Athletics department insiders say they are seeing an energized new direction in the football program, coupled with

the team’s hard work, dedication and cohesiveness, all building to what should be a great product on the field. To capture the rising excitement, the home sideline is moving back to the east side of the stadium after five seasons on the west side.

“During the spring, Coach Wagner met with many student groups and noted a common desire of students to be more connected to the team,” said Chip Smith, director of athletics. “We welcome their support and feel this move is one way in which we can respond to that sentiment.” Student-athletes will now be on the same side of the field as their fellow students.

Catamount Club members will be able to choose priority seats on either side of the stadium.

With the change, E.J. Whitmire Stadium is now an all-reserved seating facility. A new ticketing system allows fans to choose the best-available seats at the time of purchase, on either side of the stadium and at two ticket levels: gold-level reserved and purple-level premium reserved.

Western’s 2008 schedule features six home dates, culminating with the annual “Battle for the Old Mountain Jug” against arch-rival Appalachian State. All six home games are bundled into gold- or purple-level season ticket packages, providing significant savings over single-game ticket prices. Holders of season passes at both



DATE	OPPONENT
Aug. 28	Shorter College
Sept. 6	at Florida State
Sept. 13	vs. Liberty
Sept. 20	at Presbyterian
Sept. 27	at The Citadel *
Oct. 4	Samford *
Oct. 11	at Furman *
Oct. 18	at Wofford *
Oct. 25	Georgia Southern *
Nov. 1	Chattanooga *
Nov. 8	at Elon *
Nov. 22	Appalachian State *



COURSE CREDIT

By DANIEL HOOKER '01

Led by senior Matt Cook, the men's golf team earned its first-ever at-large bid to an NCAA regional tournament this spring, capping a standout season for the Catamount golfers. Cook, named to the NCAA Division I PING All-South Region team as announced by the Golf Coaches Association of America, barely missed qualifying for the NCAA National Championship Tournament, with a seventh-place finish in the regional competition. He also earned national PING All-American honorable mention.

This past season, Cook averaged an even-par score of 72 through 12 events and 34 total rounds to post the second-best single-season round in school history. All told, the Murphy native holds four of the top five single-season scoring averages at WCU, including the three all-time lowest.

Cook concluded his four-year playing career at Western as the only four-time All-SoCon selection and as the school's all-time career stroke average leader. He recorded 25 top 10 individual finishes with nine individual medalist honors, twice garnering the top finish at the SoCon Men's Golf Championship. The 2006 SoCon "Player of the Year," Cook made three appearances in the NCAA East Regional, twice as an individual and this past season as a member of the Catamount squad.

levels also get first dibs on extra tickets to the Appalachian game, first choice renewal for next year's seats and a collectible Catamount season pass card.

Tracy Linville '05, WCU athletics ticket manager, said the season pass is a great way to stay connected. "Plans to get together in Cullowhee with friends and associates do not always pan out," said Linville. "With Catamount football season tickets, you're guaranteed to get together six times throughout the season." Fans are encouraged to come early, enjoy the pregame social activities and take the opportunity to impress friends with that new tailgate setup, she said.

Also new for 2008 is the Family Fun Zone. Families can now experience all six home games at a cost of \$165 for two adults and two youth tickets. "That's \$6 and change for each person to enjoy each home game this fall," Linville said. "Why not make a day of it? Bring the kids early and cook out in the family-friendly tailgating area."

The Family Fun Zone package is just one season special available to Catamount fans. Go online to catamountsports.com or call (800) 34-GOWCU to learn more about special packages for WCU faculty and staff, recent graduates and youth.

SITE	TIME	SPECIAL EVENT
Cullowhee	7:00 pm	Faculty/Staff Appreciation
Tallahassee, Fla.	6:00 pm	
Cullowhee	6:00 pm	Kids Weekend
Clinton, S.C.	1:30 pm	
Charleston, S.C.	1:00 pm	
Cullowhee	1:00 pm	Homecoming Weekend
Greenville, S.C.	2:00 pm	
Spartanburg, S.C.	1:30 pm	
Cullowhee	1:00 pm	Wcu Family Weekend
Cullowhee	1:00 pm	Hall Of Fame Weekend
Elon, N.C.	1:30 pm	
Cullowhee	3:00 pm	Battle For The Old Mountain Jug

All times are subject to change

*denotes Southern Conference Game – All times listed as Eastern

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED



Only one Southern Conference school can count among its alumni former athletes who are currently active in each of the three major professional sports leagues. Through early June, Western was the sole SoCon member with ex-players on rosters in the National Basketball Association (**Kevin Martin**, Sacramento Kings), National Football League (**Brad Hoover** '00, Carolina Panthers, and **David Patten**, New Orleans Saints) and Major League Baseball (**Jared Burton**, Cincinnati Reds, and **Mark DiFelice**, Milwaukee Brewers).

"Having representatives in all three of the most successful professional team sports speaks volumes about the tradition, quality and commitment of Western's athletics department," said Southern Conference Commissioner John Iamarino. "Catamount fans should feel pride in this achievement."

After coming to Cullowhee from Zanesville, Ohio, basketball standout Kevin Martin needed only three seasons to rack up 1,838 career points – and to catch the eyes of NBA scouts. Following his junior season, Martin was drafted by the Sacramento Kings as the 26th selection in the first round of the 2004 NBA draft, becoming the first Catamount ever selected in the first round of any professional draft. Martin's playing time has increased each of his three seasons, and he has become a "go-to guy" for the Kings' offense. This

past season, Martin finished seventh in the NBA in scoring average, netting 23.7 points per game.

"Being at WCU was the best time of my life," said Martin. "There were no major distractions, so I could focus on my goals. The student body, coaching staff, my teammates and the administration were all very supportive. Being in the NBA is a major accomplishment that my former coaches and teammates at WCU helped me achieve."

On the gridiron, Thomasville native Brad Hoover became a favorite of Catamount football fans from 1996 until 2000 with his smash-mouth style of play. Hoover holds the single-game rushing record, with 251 yards in a 1998 contest against VMI. He finished his career at WCU with 3,616 net yards – second best all-time. Entering his ninth year with the Panthers, Hoover has served primarily as a blocking back, but also has made his mark on the NFL team's record book, ranking seventh all-time with 852 rushing yards.

"It's been one of those dreams come true, not only to be able to play in the NFL, but to be able to play here in my home state of North Carolina with the Panthers. It's been a great ride so far," said Hoover. "When I first came into the league, I was a little in awe because I came in as an undrafted rookie free agent.

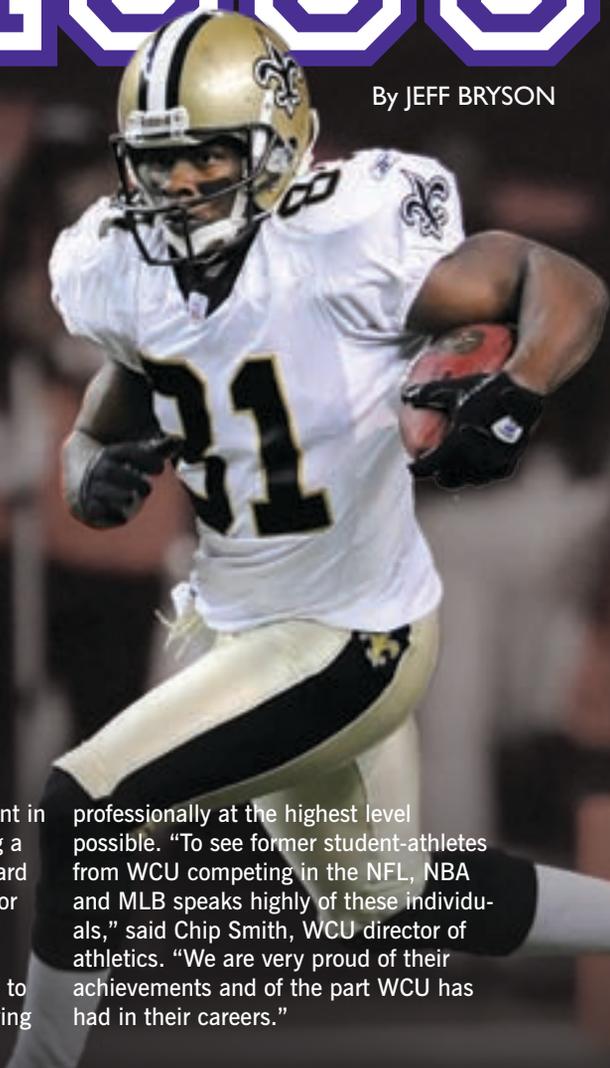
To be able to stick around and do all of the right things to play here has just been unbelievable. Hopefully, I still have a few good years left in me and I will be able to end my career as a Panther."

Hoover was one of two former Cata-mounts on opposing squads in Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004, when his Panthers lined up against the New England Patriots and receiver David Patten, a four-year letterman at WCU after arriving from Columbia, S.C. Although Patten was an all-conference receiver during his senior year in 1995, he was not drafted and spent time working in the landscaping business, as an electrician and hauling coffee bags until he joined the Arena Football League in 1997. He quickly caught the attention of the New York Giants, and has played every season since in the NFL, also spending time with the Cleveland Browns and Washington Redskins. Now with the New Orleans Saints, he collected three Super Bowl rings with the Patriots.

Patton attributes his success and longevity in the NFL to hard work, dedication, sacrifice and commitment. "Despite the fact that I wasn't drafted, I'm going to come in every day and give you what I have, and put it on the field day in and day out," he said. "From the standpoint of having gone to a small school, you do not have as much exposure other than the great folks in Catamount nation. The

ILLUSTRIOUS

By JEFF BRYSON



support of the people there comes from the heart.”

The two newest members of WCU’s professional sports fraternity make their livings on the baseball diamond – pitchers Jared Burton and Mark DiFelice. A native of Westminster, S.C., Burton was 248th pick in the 2002 MLB draft, selected by the Oakland A’s. Burton’s dream of pitching in “the show” became a reality when he broke spring training camp with the Cincinnati Reds in 2007. He has remained on the team’s 25-man roster since, being used as a relief pitcher. Through early June, Burton had pitched in 27 games for Cincinnati with a 2-1 record and a 2.93 earned-run average.

After twice being named All-SoCon pitcher for the Catamounts and compiling a 34-13 career record, DiFelice was taken in the 15th round of the 1998 MLB draft by the Colorado Rockies. Over the next decade, he spent time with farm teams of the Cubs, Orioles and Nationals, and two stints in the independent Atlantic League, before signing with Milwaukee in 2006. DiFelice’s perseverance paid off when he was called up to the majors by the Brewers on May 15. He appeared in four games in relief through early June.

“Being at WCU was a great experience,” said DiFelice, a native of Haverstown, Pa. “Coaches Rodney Hennon ’93 and Keith LeClair ’89 prepared me to play

professional baseball. Every year I spent in the minors was worth even just having a day in the major leagues. It is really hard to describe how amazing it is to play for the Brewers.”

It’s equally hard for fans of WCU athletics to describe how amazing it is to watch several former Catamounts playing

professionally at the highest level possible. “To see former student-athletes from WCU competing in the NFL, NBA and MLB speaks highly of these individuals,” said Chip Smith, WCU director of athletics. “We are very proud of their achievements and of the part WCU has had in their careers.”

Several former Catamounts are continuing their playing days professionally, albeit on a somewhat smaller stage than their teammates in the NFL, NBA and MLB. Here’s a look at the fields and courts of play where those athletes are still on the prowl, from Canada to Israel to points in between.

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE:

Eddie Cohen ’07 – Hamilton TigerCats

Nick McNeil ’03 – Winnipeg Blue Bombers

ARENA FOOTBALL LEAGUE:

Michale Spicer ’04 – New Orleans VooDoo

Kevin McAlmont ’06 – New Orleans VooDoo

ARENAFOOTBALL2:

Rico Reese ’05 – Tennessee Valley (Ala.) Vipers

Mitchell Dukes ’07 – Spokane (Wash.) Shock

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL:

Ryan Basner ’03 – Richmond (Va.) Braves

Greg Holland – Wilmington (Del.) Blue Rocks

Jonathan Greene – Clinton (Iowa) LumberKings

BASKETBALL OVERSEAS:

Terrence Woodyard ’05 – Leicester Riders (Britain)

David Berghoefer ’07 – Duesseldorf Magics (Germany)

Corey Muirhead ’06 – Cholet Basket (France)

Willie Freeman ’03 – Baitar Benyamina (Israel)

From left, Brad Hoover photo courtesy of the Carolina Panthers; Kevin Martin photo by Mark Haskett ’87; Jared Burton photo courtesy of the Cincinnati Reds; David Patten photo by Michael C. Hebert/New Orleans Saints



Gorham Bradley '04 is wearing two caps these days – Catamount Club director and men's golf coach.

CHIP SHOTS

Athletic Director Names the Men's Golf Coach to Take the Catamount Club Reins

By DANIEL HOOKER '01

As head coach of the Catamount men's golf team, **Gorham Bradley '04** certainly is no stranger to the local country clubs. Now he's also leading a club of a different sort – the Catamount Club.

Chip Smith, WCU's director of athletics, recently announced Bradley as the new director of the Catamount Club. Bradley is pulling double duty for Western, continuing in his role with the men's golf squad while also overseeing activities of the university's athletics fundraising organization.

While Bradley concentrates on directing the club's social activities, Brian Frerking is taking over the organization's fundraising efforts. Recently appointed as assistant athletic director for development, Frerking comes to Western with several years of collegiate experience from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Texas A&M.

"We are fortunate to have Gorham as director of the Catamount Club. Having had the opportunity to work him over the past few years, I have been very impressed

with his enthusiasm, professionalism and love for Western. He has already met many of our Catamount Club members and alumni throughout the area and will be a superb director," Smith said.

"Brian brings a great deal of experience from two of the most successful athletic fundraising organizations in the country," said Smith. "At the Ram's Club at UNC, he primarily worked with annual giving and with club members. While with the 12th Man Foundation at Texas A&M, he was a very important part of a recent \$61 million capital campaign."

Bradley is overseeing all operations of the Catamount Club, and his responsibilities include maintaining correspondence with donors, coordinating and supervising all club activities and fundraising events, working with both the club members and the WCU coaching staff, and fulfillment of member benefits.

"I am very excited about this opportunity," said Bradley. "With the energy surrounding the football program as well as the recent success from many of

our other athletic teams, this gives the Catamount Club an incredible opportunity to reach out to students, alumni and friends of Western and share with them the excitement surrounding Catamount athletics."

Bradley already has combined his two career interests of golf and Catamount athletics for one of his first items of business – the 2008 Catamount Golf Tour, a conglomerate of seven golf events with the common goal of supporting WCU athletics and its summer school scholarships.

Frerking, who began work in mid-June, said he became impressed during the interview process with the coaching staff at Western. "I am very excited to join the Catamount athletic staff at this critical juncture," he said. "I look forward to working with the staff and the passionate alumni and fans of WCU athletics to build championship programs in every sport."

For more information about club activities, contact Sandy Neuenschwander at (828) 227-3047.



HOW SWEEP IT IS!

Women's Track and Field Team Earns Outdoor Title

By MATT HARRIS

Mere weeks after the WCU men's and women's track and field teams claimed the 2008 Southern Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships, the women completed the season sweep, taking the overall team victory at the SoCon Outdoor Championships. The Catamount women overcame a double-digit deficit after the first day to earn their first team title since taking three straight from 1999-2001, their fifth since 1997. The men just missed their third consecutive championship, finishing second and pulling within one point of the lead after being down by more than 100 points during the meet, held in Cullowhee.

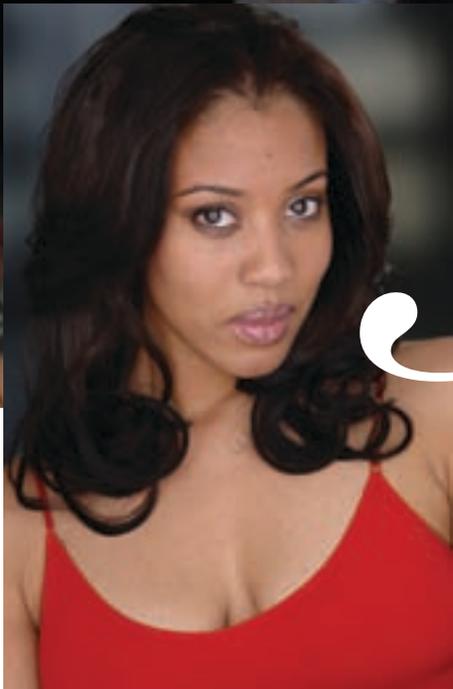
Western garnered four individual awards, with senior Raquel Ramseur wrapping up her SoCon career by being named the Most Valuable Track Performer. Joining her were women's Freshman of the Year Felicia Paulding and junior Manteo Mitchell, who added to his indoor awards by winning the men's Most Valuable Track Performer award. Coach **Danny Williamson '84 MAEd '86** took home his 25th career Coach of the Year award, his third of the 2007-08 season.

Nine school records were broken between the two teams during the outdoor season, and in nine meets, WCU accounted for 82 victories, with both the men and women achieving the top spot

41 times apiece. A total of 29 student-athletes garnered All-SoCon honors in 28 different events, with 17 Catamounts crowned as conference champions. WCU also had a school-record six student-athletes who traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, for the NCAA National Championships in the second week of June, after their performances in the East Regionals in Tallahassee, Fla., in May.



alumniACHI



Act BUSY

Bobbi Baker '01 portrays Claudia in the stage adaptation of the Toni Morrison novel "The Bluest Eye." Photo by T. Charles Erickson. Courtesy of Hartford Stage.

EVENEMENTS

Theater Major's Acting Career Takes Off with Roles on Stage and Screen

By JILL INGRAM MA '08

Bobbi Baker '01 knew at least one thing when she arrived at Western as a student. "I had never done a play before, but I knew that I wanted to be onstage," recalled Baker, 27, who majored in theater. Now a member of the cast of a successful television comedy, a character in the debut of the stage adaptation of a best-selling author's first novel and an actor in a popular film series, Baker has found success in the career for which Western helped her prepare.

"What Bobbi came with to Western was a desire to be very good," said Stephen Michael Ayers, a recently retired professor in Western's department of stage and screen. "You can't teach talent, and Bobbi was dynamite when she got here. She was intelligent and articulate and gifted and polite and funny, and I thought, 'Here's an engaging young woman who has the discipline for this business.'" Ayers cast and directed Baker in university productions including "Romeo and Juliet," "Don't Dress for Dinner," "A Few Good Men" and "Picasso at the Lapin Agile."

That foundation helped prepare her for an acting career, said Baker, a native of Raleigh. "There's no training like being onstage," she said. "The greatest gift that Western gave me was the opportunity to be onstage almost year-round."

Baker has been onstage nearly nonstop since leaving Western. After graduation, she spent four years studying drama at the Juilliard School, using the time to concentrate fully on her craft. She graduated in spring 2007, and by October had secured the part of Claudia in the stage adaptation of Toni Morrison's first novel, "The Bluest Eye."

As that job, a co-production of the Hartford Stage Company and the Long Wharf Theatre, was about to begin in January in Connecticut, Baker submitted an audition tape for the TBS show "Tyler Perry's House of Payne." "Usually when you submit something for a job out-of-state, it can take weeks to hear back,"

Baker said. "They contacted me the next day, and I had to be in Atlanta the next week."

Baker played the recurring character of Kiki, a female barbershop employee, on the show's third season. The character, a slick-talking Northerner, was a challenge for Baker. "Kiki's a pistol," Baker said. "People don't see me as tough. I decided to dig deep and find this character. When we started shooting, she just started to emerge."

When the "House of Payne" season wrapped at the end of January, Baker flew from Atlanta to New Jersey, where she makes her home, packed her bags, and left for Connecticut the next day.

Baker earned a solid review for her part in "The Bluest Eye," with The New York Times writing, "Bobbi Baker is just terrific as Claudia, easily conveying both her adult perspective on the events of her girlhood and the child's more limited understanding of them." That production wrapped at the end of April.

Since then, Baker has been asked to join "House of Payne" for additional seasons, and was cast in the part of an assistant district attorney in an upcoming film, "Madea Goes to Jail," the latest in a series of Tyler Perry's successful "Madea" pictures. "It's been sort of a 'work begets work' type experience for me," Baker said.

The schedule becomes more impressive considering Baker is a newlywed. In August 2007, she married Nate James, a former forward on the Duke University basketball team. James, a team captain when Duke won the 2001 NCAA championship, is now an assistant coach at the school.

Baker's goal is to be "well-rounded in all of the entertainment mediums of acting," she said. Ayers believes Baker has the potential. "The possibilities for her are endless," he said. "She's extraordinarily gifted. I wouldn't be surprised to see her gravitate toward theater because she loves the live reaction. If I had to guess, she will be an enormously successful Broadway actress."



Mustang Monfort

An Inventing Spirit Drives this Businessman to Sell a Solution to the Gas Crisis

By TERESA KILLIAN

Ed Monfort '92 used to read *Popular Mechanics* from cover to cover as a Waynesville high school student. Decades later, the Tampa Bay-area businessman cruised his way into its pages, or at least a muscle car his company developed did. In December 2007, the publication featured the Ronaele 300EV Electric Mustang as one of the “Top 10 Brand-New Electric Cars and Gadgets for Driving Green.” Monfort estimated the car’s top speed at 140 mph and a 2 cents per-mile driving cost. “You plug them right into your garage,” he said.

The car is just the latest creation driven by Monfort’s interest in how things work and how they could be improved. As a child, he used to take apart bicycles, radios and anything electronic, and draw pictures of futuristic planes, cars and buildings. After graduation, he worked as a sales engineer for a company that offered industrial heat sensors and controls. “It was a dream job going into factories, on tours and seeing how things are made,” said Monfort.

His fascination with how satellite parts were prepared to withstand extreme temperatures led him to start tinkering in his garage on a coffin-sized machine that would rapidly and cyclically expose metal to extreme heat and cold in an effort to increase its wear resistance. Monfort said he would stay up until 3 a.m. trying

different motors, insulation, seals or other controls. In 2001, he was awarded a patent, and a few years later the billion-dollar NCH Corp. bought the rights and his company, COLDfire Cryogenics.

The sale allowed him to start building his dream house and dream car: a classic car – specifically the Eleanor featured in the movie “Gone in Sixty Seconds” – but with modern features. On a 2005 Ford Mustang, he replaced bumpers and added a side exhaust system, high performance tires, suspension, a new motor, brakes, engine parts and, of course, new paint. The project turned into a new company, Ronaele (Eleanor spelled backwards) Mustang, and Monfort started taking special orders.

Now, Monfort is developing an electric Mustang to be priced under \$60,000 and designed to go 120 miles on one charge. An added hydrogen unit could triple the mileage on less than one gallon of water, he said. “There just has to be a solution for the gas crisis,” he said.

Bill Moore, publisher and editor-in-chief of *EV World*, said the market for electric muscle cars is small but growing. “What’s interesting about what Ed is doing is he is attempting to produce electric vehicles on a little bit of a larger scale,” said Moore. “It takes a person that has a certain amount of foresight to realize that this is the direction we need to go – and a lot of guts.”



Playing 'Til Infinity

A Western Alumna Develops a New Card Game

By JENNY JARAMILLO '08

When gin rummy has become too boring, when Crazy Eights is too childish, when Uno is exactly the number of times the game can be played before insanity occurs, what card game is left to be played? A Western alumna suggests you try your hand at Infinity, a new card game that takes a little of all these popular games, blends the rules and gives game night a new purpose.

Created by **Betsy Schaub-Lauber '91**, the card game is similar to gin rummy, but the players can take cards they need from other players' runs and sets while playing reusable "action" cards that increase the pressure for their opponents. Throw in an outer space theme, three wildcards, two or more players trying to get rid of all their cards first and some easy-to-follow rules, and the game is on.

With five years of research and development, Schaub-Lauber finally found a mix of rules and cards that she says is not only challenging, but also fun. After the letdown of seeing a game similar to one she, husband **Ken Lauber '86** and friend Dave Allyn designed already on the shelves, Schaub-Lauber wasted no time in moving forward with Infinity.

The game features 111 cards and consists of two decks of normal playing cards that, instead of four suits, have four colors: red, yellow, blue and green. There are four action cards that can be played anytime, including two "countdown" cards to make players hurry on their turn, one "refuel" card to add cards to

their hands and one "re-entry" card. Wildcards can substitute for a card needed to complete a set or run.

Dave Yearick, creator of the card game Kuuduk, believes Infinity will be successful. "It has the right balance in that people are familiar with it from other popular games, and it has a unique twist in the shape and graphics that makes it special, but it's not so completely different that it's difficult to learn," he said.

An elementary education major at WCU, Schaub-Lauber is a former first-grade teacher. When asked what her goal is, she replied, "To get on 'Oprah.'" She has been changing the rules of card games for years, starting with Crazy Eights games she played as a child with her grandparents in Odessa, Fla. It's safe to say that this is one player who will play 'til Infinity ... and beyond?

For more information, contact Betsy Schaub-Lauber at (864) 918-1840 or bets71@charter.net, or visit the Web site www.infinitythecardgame.com.





PICTURE IT

Adventurous Alum Lands Aerial Photography Gig

By JILL INGRAM MA '08

Many hold memories of Paris as the City of Light, the most romantic place in the world, or at the very least home to the Eiffel Tower. For photographer **Liz Goettee '06**, Paris will forever be the place where, at the tail-end of a three month trip through Europe, all her camera gear got lifted at the airport.

Goettee, a fine arts major who concentrated in photography, initiated the trip after her December 2006 graduation in large part to strengthen her portfolio. Among her stolen possessions was the iPod she had used to store the 4,000 images from her trip. "I came home with no portfolio photos," Goettee said. "It was very depressing."

The year following her graduation included obstacles and opportunity. In August 2007, Goettee, 24 and originally of Atlanta, relocated to southern Maryland, where her boyfriend, Ben Wolter, works for a defense company in Lexington Park. On arrival, Goettee described herself as jobless, broke, still despondent over the loss of her images and in recovery from painful eye surgery. Then she got lucky.

After meeting Goettee, one of Wolter's co-workers contacted a friend who worked in the photo lab of the nearby Naval Air Warfare

Center at Patuxent River. The lab was hiring a photographer. Two interviews later, Goettee was chosen for a position she describes as "unlike any regular photography job."

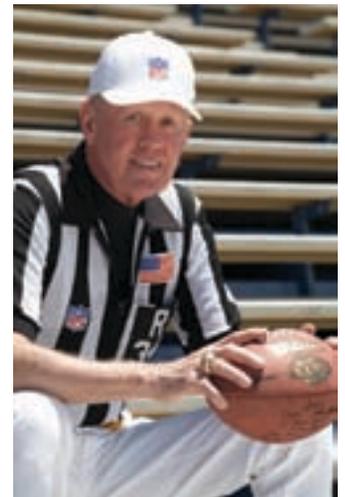
According to senior aerial photographer Randy Hepp, Goettee's supervisor, the Patuxent center evaluates the Navy's new aircraft, and (among other things) the lab photographers document those evaluations – from the air – with still and video cameras. To qualify for the position, Goettee underwent physical and psychological testing that included mock ejection from an aircraft and a blindfolded escape from a device meant to mimic an upside-down cockpit fully submerged in water.

Goettee described the latter experience as "kind of scary."

The job is challenging and demanding and requires travel and a high degree of skill – a perfect fit for Goettee, an adventurer and risk-taker who spent a semester studying in Australia.

Hepp is pleased with Goettee, who finished her flight qualifications in early spring. "She's working out great," Hepp said. "I'm very pleased with her motivation and her skill."

1964



Gerald Austin MAEd '69 has retired after 26 years as a senior official with the NFL. Austin worked three Super Bowls and officiated an Orange Bowl and a Liberty Bowl. His final game as an official was the American Football Conference divisional playoff in January between San Diego and Indianapolis. Austin trains young officials and is founder of the Austin Group, a leadership training and strategic planning firm. He and his wife, Sylvia, of Summerfield, have six children and eight grandchildren. Referring to the opening of the NFL season this fall, Austin told the Greensboro News & Record, "It's probably a good thing there's not a stadium nearby. I might just put that uniform back on and crash the gate."

NOTES

1969

Vickie Dinkins Long has been married to her husband, Bill, for 40 years and retired in 2000 from her career with the Yadkin County School System. The couple celebrated the Oct. 24 birth of granddaughter Camille Adair Pianpanya.

J. Randall May, former Guilford County assistant public defender, was recently appointed to serve as one of 10 North Carolina administrative law judges. Working out of the Office of Administrative Hearings, administrative law judges hear contested cases between state agencies and businesses or individuals.

1972



In May 2007, **Steve Barron** spent 12 days traveling 336 miles by kayak on a solo adventure trip from Cooleemee Dam on the South Yadkin River all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. Barron portaged past six dams on a route that followed the Big Yadkin River to the Pee Dee River to the Waccamaw River to the Intracoastal Waterway to Oak Island. "One of the main reasons I did this trip was because I wanted to motivate some of the Boy Scouts in this country into doing something like this," said Barron, assistant Scoutmaster of Ventures Crew 505, a program for young adults. Trip wildlife included bald eagles, deer, blue herons, owls, turtles, fish and alligators. Barron, a

former Marine, is retired from Duracell and now works as an environmental senior specialist with the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

1975

Sam Greenwood was hired as Franklin's town manager in March and will focus on helping Franklin transition from a mayor-council to a council-manager form of government.

1976

"Shew Bird Mountain," a book of poetry by **Brenda Kay Ledford MAEd '79** of Hayesville, received the 2007 Paul Green Multimedia Award from the North Carolina Society of Historians in October.

1977

Carolina Day School inducted longtime coach and administrator **Ernie Lasher** into its Athletic Hall of Fame in June. Lasher was a catcher and outside linebacker at Western. He has been athletic director and boys' basketball coach at CDS, in Asheville, since 1980, and has overseen the expansion of the school's athletic program and facilities.

1983

In April, **Doug Kinsey** became senior vice president of resort acquisition and development for Diamond Resorts International, based in Las Vegas and one of the largest vacation ownership companies in the world. Kinsey's primary responsibilities include the acquisition, planning, design and development of DRI properties to support the company's growth strategy.

Jeff Ryan co-presented three papers in April at the Geological Society of America's Southeastern Section meeting in Charlotte, including two with former WCU faculty member V.L. Peterson. Ryan is a professor of geology and assistant chair of the geology department at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

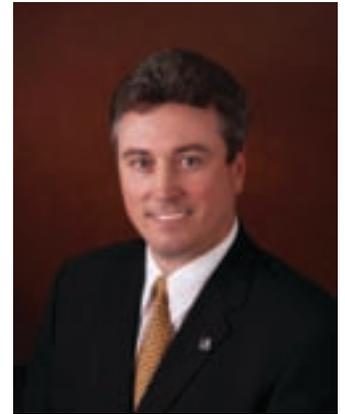
1985

In September 2007, **Robert C. "Toby" Hayes**, graduate of the criminal justice program, was promoted to special agent in charge of the State Bureau of Investigation's Western district, comprising the state's 16 westernmost counties. Hayes is responsible for providing management oversight and leadership for sworn and non-sworn personnel assigned to the district.

1988

The new owners of radio station WTZQ in Henderson County recently named **Mark Warwick** general manager. Warwick has been with the station since 1995.

1990



Anthony Bare, a certified estate planner, joined First Citizens Bank in August 2007 as financial services manager in the Concord branch.

Greg Briley of Stallings has been working as a professional photographer for three years, with assignments including official photographer for the Wachovia Championship golf tournament in Charlotte.

YOUR CULLOWHEE CONNECTION

Login

Because Western alumni live and work all over the United States and around the world, the WCU Alumni Association has launched an exclusive new online community to help ensure that your purple-and-gold ties stay strong, wherever you may be.

The Web-based community will include an online alumni directory, allowing you to reconnect with old classmates or make new friends. You can update your personal records and your profile, and even post photographs. Through the online community, you can send Class Notes, register for alumni events and order the latest in Catamount merchandise.

But like any brick-and-mortar neighborhood, an online community can't exist without people.

Initial response to the online community has been good, but the more alumni who register, the more vibrant and successful our new community will be.

Sign up today by visiting WCU's alumni home page at www.wcu-alumni.com. For information or assistance in registering, contact Cindi Magill in the Office of Alumni Affairs by calling toll-free (877) 440-9990 or via e-mail at magill@email.wcu.edu.

www.wcu-alumni.com

classNOTES

Kelley Thompson oversees a staff of three as superintendent of Goose Creek State Park in Washington, N.C. Thompson, a graduate of the natural resources management program, has 13 years of experience with the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

1991
Leslie Hatcher operates a pressure-washing and restoration-cleaning business called Triangle Professional Services. He does extensive work at Duke University, including the windows of Duke Chapel, and performed

the restoration cleaning of the historic 1850s LaBelle House in Wilmington. "Leslie loves the 'weird and unusual' jobs that require a lot of attention to detail and careful planning," said his wife, **Barbara Meachum Hatcher '92**. The Hatchers recently transported a circa 1939 farmhouse built by Leslie Hatcher's great-grandfather onto land they purchased in Benson. Leslie Hatcher is performing the restoration work himself, and the couple and their two children will live in the farmhouse once the project is complete.

1992
In May, Georgetown University named **Jeffrey M. Van Slyke MPA** as its new director of public safety. "I am committed to nurturing the trust of the public by providing high standards of public service based upon a community policing philosophy that involves transforming lives for the betterment of society," said Van Slyke, who holds a doctorate in education from the University of Texas at Austin.

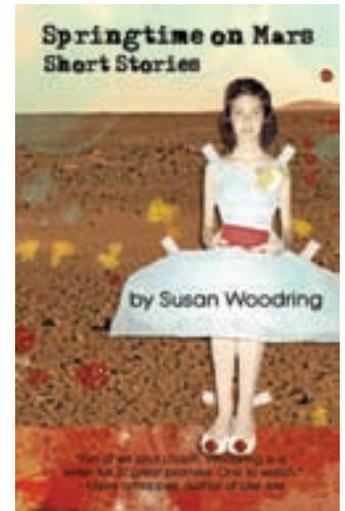
1994
In May, **R. Parrish Ezell** became resident director in Merrill Lynch's Hendersonville office. Ezell, a native of Waynesville, majored



in business administration and previously worked as a branch manager with Citigroup. He and his wife, Aimee, have two children.

Lobbyist **Ken Melton MPA '96** formed Ken Melton & Associates in April. Melton previously worked with Electricities and Alley Associates, and as a legislative liaison at the N.C. Department of Revenue.

1996



Susan Yergler Woodring recently published a collection of short stories, "Springtime on Mars." The stories "feature characters who grapple with the human extremes of despair and hope, holding faith in both God and science, and in the love and courage of those around them," according to a description by Press 53, who published the book. Woodring is married, lives in Drexel and home-schools her children.

1997
Shawn Sampson is a recreational therapist in Morganton and has been married to **Kimberly Dennison Sampson**, a middle school English teacher, since 2000.



WHEE WILL ROCK YOU

To borrow a phrase from an old bumper sticker, Cullowhee is not just a place or a state mind. It's also the name of a popular band that used to perform across Western North Carolina in the 1970s and early 1980s. Composed of former WCU students **Terry Edwards '73**, **Mike Clark**, **Sandy Flynn** and **Thom Jenkins '73**, along with Fred Hubbard and Woody Jenkins, the band hung up its guitar strings in the mid-1980s. Cullowhee (the musical group)

will reunite for a special Homecoming weekend concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, in the recital hall of WCU's Coulter Building. The performance is a fundraiser to help build a \$15,000 roadside sign made of native stone and cedar, which is part of an effort to revitalize the area known as "Old Cullowhee" (see story on Page 22). To tide you over until concert time, visit the group's Web site at www.myspace.com/cullowheemountainrock.

JOINING THE CLUB

Hospitality and Tourism Alumni Receive Awards to Further Their Training

Joshua Paris '01 and **Treena Threatt Norwood '02** each received a 2008 Willmoore H. Kendall Scholarship from the Club Managers Association of America. The scholarship provides \$7,000 in tuition assistance for assistant club managers wishing to pursue club manager certification. Both Paris and Norwood majored in hospitality and tourism management. Paris is the food and beverage director at the Atlanta Athletic Club in Duluth, Ga. Norwood is food and beverage manager of the Rolling Hills Country Club in Monroe and serves on the Carolinas chapter of the Club Managers Association of America. In April, they participated in a club manager panel discussion for professor Sandy Grunwell's club management students.



1998



Vance Henry Jr., a boatswain's mate second class and part of the Navy Customs Battalion TANGO, returned recently from his deployment in Kuwait. While there, he earned his emergency medical technician certification and received awards including the Army Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. Henry will return to Franklin Middle School this fall, where he teaches eighth-grade mathematics and coaches football and soccer.

1999

The Illinois Jaycees in May recognized **Alysia Lambert** as one of its 2008 Ten Outstanding Young Persons. Lambert is a music and vocal teacher at Lincoln-Way East High School in Frankfort, Ill. "I am continuously impressed with Alysia's passion and attention to detail not only with music, but the dedication and positive impact she has with her students as well," said SueAnn Del Vicario, a parent who nominated Lambert for the award.

William Gray "Bill" Newton

married Kristen Park Tara of Bend, Ore., on Oct. 21 at the Bodie Island Lighthouse on the Outer Banks. The couple will reside in Bend.



Shawn Oakes (above) is a senior manufacturing engineer in the automotive industry and works with products that improve fuel economy. He is married to **Tanya Christensen Oakes '96**. They have two children, live in Fletcher and are building a home in Fairview. Tanya Oakes, a nutrition major, recently started a business as a dietician consultant working with area nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities.

2001

In April, **Patrick C. Moore**, director of marketing for Macon Bank in Franklin, and his wife, Laurel, welcomed a son, Gus Elliott Moore.

2002

After earning a master's degree in medicinal chemistry at the University of Virginia and working for contract research organizations in that state, **Crystal Olson** returned to her hometown of Hickory in May 2007 to be closer to family. Olson now works as a clinical research coordinator for Piedmont Medical Group, a network of nine independent research clinics based out of Winston-Salem. "My main job is enrolling patients into different studies and following them throughout the study process, beginning to end," she said. "It's interesting work and I'm constantly learning. My main studies right now are in the arthritis and high cholesterol therapeutic areas."

Allison Hinson Kenney

ME '05 is residence director of The Courtyards, student housing at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Kenney, originally of Charlotte, was resident director of Harrill Hall while at Western. She and her husband, **Nicholas A. Kenney '05**, moved to Nebraska while Nicholas Kenney pursues a doctoral degree in musical arts. While at Western, Nicholas Kenney studied horn under Alan Mattingly.

2003

Emily Anne Adams married **Byron Raphael '02** in November. The couple met when they were both resident assistants at Western.

Ebub B. Autry Jr.

graduated from High Point University in 2005 with a master's degree in sports studies and is pursuing a career in sports or collegiate administration.

2004

Nick Bozdog, a geologist with the Asheville office of the North Carolina Geological Survey, co-presented a paper in April at the Geological Society of America's Southeastern Section meeting in Charlotte.

In May, **Linda Harrison MS** was named director of the Women's House at the AIM House in Boulder, Colo., a residential mentoring program for troubled young people. Harrison accepted the AIM House position after 17 years as a social worker with the state of North Carolina and 11 years as a counselor in the addictions field.

Vanessa Ruiz lives in Atlanta and is a marketing manager for Nielsen Business Media, a division of the Nielsen Co., in Alpharetta, Ga.

2005

Todd Herms MPA '06 recently accepted a position as manager of the town of Maiden. The move comes following two years as town manager of Badin. Herms and his wife, Melissa, have an infant daughter.

classNOTES

Kathryn Hoffarth Tasillo is in the doctorate of physical therapy program at East Tennessee State University and plans to graduate in December. **David J. Tasillo** is a manager for Bank of America in Greeneville, Tenn. The couple married in 2006 and lives in Johnson City, Tenn.

2006

Jonathan Pettus required wrist surgery after suffering an injury during Homecoming 2007. He received his care at Charlotte's Carolinas HealthCare System, where he is an employee in the Materials Management Contracting Department. His post-operative nurse was **Allison Risha '02**, who according to Pettus' father, **Mickey Pettus '75**,

gave his son "exceptional care." "Orthopedics is not Allison's usual specialty of care, but her ability to adapt in Jonathan's case was most noteworthy," Mickey Pettus said.

Lindsay Merritt Steele married Marc Steele in January. The couple lives in Greensboro.

Jason Stogner, an emergency management major, became emergency management coordinator for Rockingham County in March.

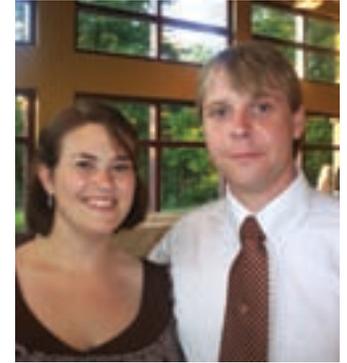
Patrick Whelan (above right) with clients Adriene Roselle, Amy Dawson and Elizabeth Engle, clockwise from bottom left) is an account executive for 1010 WINS-AM in New York, a news



and talk radio station. Whelan has brought new clients on the air and initiated an ad campaign with Manhattan's Carnegie East House, nonprofit housing for the elderly, where individuals associated with the building voice their own commercials in the WINS studio.

2007

After three years of dating, **Liz Barnum** and **Chris Watras** married on April Fools' Day at the Cherokee County Courthouse and settled in Andrews. Barnum, an education major, works in early intervention. Watras is program director for a company that serves developmentally disabled adults.



CARE PROVIDER

The University Looks to an Alumna to Lead Its Campus Health Services Department

By TERESA KILLIAN

Western did not have to go far to find its new director of health services, selecting alumna and Sylva resident **Pamela M. Buchanan '91 MBA '99**, former director of planning and operations at nearby WestCare Health System, for the job. In her new position, Buchanan is responsible for supervising health services staff, developing and managing the health services budget, advising the campus emergency medical services, directing the student insurance program, monitoring policies and compliance, and promoting wellness for students and university staff.

"Ms. Buchanan has nearly two decades of experience in health care, including serving as WestCare Health System's director of planning and operations, chief financial officer and controller," said Sam Miller, vice chancellor for student affairs. "Her background and her expertise will help us further our mission of providing uncomplicated and affordable access to quality health care for all students."

At WestCare, Buchanan collaborated with the emergency department in an effort to improve patient wait times and redesign the flow of patient traffic through the clinic area. She also worked on a project to redesign pharmacy processes between the hospital and long-term care center to ensure patient safety and compliance with standards set by regulatory agencies. In addition to managing fiscal accounting functions and patient care areas including radiation and oncology centers, the sports medicine clinic and rehabilitation services, she oversaw implementation of a multimillion dollar hospital information system. A member of the WCU Alumni Association's board of directors, Buchanan also assisted in the design and oversight of a self-funded health plan



From left, Jeff Hughes, director of A.K. Hinds University Center, and Keith Corzine '82, director of residential living, welcome Pam Buchanan '91 MBA '99 as the new director of health services.

to provide cost-effective health care coverage to employees and a related wellness program.

"I look forward to working with students, faculty and staff to continue to provide quality health care on campus," said Buchanan. "I am excited to become a part of the university system and the mission of preparing young people to meet their future, as I was prepared in my days here as a student. The chance to combine my knowledge gained at WestCare with my enthusiasm for WCU is a wonderful opportunity."

Brittany Harris, a public relations and marketing major, is a project manager with Trone, a business with High Point headquarters that provides services including public relations, advertising and marketing.

2008



Bryan Shore was named outstanding senior by the College of Business shortly before his May graduation, a fact that tickled his father, **Richard Shore '73**, who was among the first class to graduate with degrees in recreation and also was named outstanding senior by his program. The younger Shore, also named the College of Business outstanding banking major, is an employee with Edward Jones and is studying to pass his stockbroker's examination. The elder Shore has worked for 36 years in the city of High Point's parks and recreation department, currently as recreation supervisor. His nephew, Tyler Shore, is planning to graduate from Western in August with a degree in sports management. "Western Carolina has been very good to us," said Richard Shore, who lives with his wife, Patsy, outside High Point.

Alumni Deaths

Donald "Frank" Allison '58, March 18; Spartanburg, S.C.

Veronica C. Alzheimer '67, May 11; Jackson, N.J.

Gary Wayne Atkinson '64, March 25; Matthews.

Melissa Kay Bakatsas '99, April 5; Asheville.

Dianne Melton Bowen '71, May 13; Forest City.

Mildred B. Braswell MAEd '55, May 3; Wadesboro.

James W. Brookshire, '52, March 24; Annandale, Va.

Lois Edwards Burch '61, March 21; Hayesville.

James Harold Burden MAEd '70, March 10; Anderson, S.C.

Josiah M. Butler '56, April 20; Bessemer City.

Elda "Buck" Carney Jr. '69, March 27; Hayesville.

Catherine Walker Feagan '42, March 14; Columbus.

John Albert Fulk Jr. '77, Feb. 25; Winston-Salem.

Dorothy Mixon Gage MAEd '83, May 3; Gastonia.

Margaret M. Gash '39, April 7; Hendersonville.

Madia Heatherly Clark Green '55, March 21; Canton.

Thomas Daniel Grindstaff '65 MAEd '66, March 14; Leicester.

Allie Wilson Huff '54, May 26; Sylva.

Lawrence Leland Hux '92, March 28; Asheville.

Helen Louise Shipman Warwick Johnson '62, May 25; Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Dennis Michael Kasprzyk '78, Sept. 8; Gainesville, Fla.

Maurice L. Millsaps '62, May 7; Taylors, S.C.

Lisa Jo Mummert '04, May 29; Franklin.

John Edwin Nisbet MAEd '89 EdS '03, June 5; Van Wyck, S.C.

Donna S. Painter MS '01, April 30; Asheville.

John Carroll Pettit '50, June 5; Jacksonville, Fla.

John Bennett Reed Jr. MAEd '77, March 29; Gaffney, S.C.

Harry Joe Rhinehart '69 MA '71, May 17; Kennesaw, Ga.

Homer Earl Rodgers '64, April 1; Greenwood, S.C.

Lawrence Hoyle Stewart '43, Feb. 25; Reno, Nev.

Yolanda Afalda Taylor '50, March 21; Knightdale.

Carol Keith Underwood '68, April 19; Waynesville.

Richard Underwood '52, March 7; Charlotte.

Douglas Lee Ward MBA '90, May 10; Waynesville.

Byrdell Freeman Wiggins '33, March 18; Bryson City.

John C Wishon Jr. '72, June 5; Andrews.

University Deaths

Ron P. Edwards, former assistant professor of psychology, April 14; Daphne, Ala.

Charles R. Hess, friend and benefactor, March 27; Brookville, Pa.

Martha Hyde Jones, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Hyde, April 22; Clayton.

Joe Ed Ketner Jr., friend and benefactor, May 7; Lincolnton.

Ray "Bouncer" Seay, friend and benefactor, April 8; Waynesville.

Eugene W. Vosecky, former accounting professor, May 24; Cullowhee.

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Cullowhee, NC 28723
or via e-mail: bstudenc@wcu.edu

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Office of Alumni Affairs, Suite 242, H.F. Robinson Building
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723

State Credit Union Fund to Benefit Child of Slain Trooper and Alumna

The N.C. State Employees Credit Union has established a fund to help the family of **Michaela Layman Blanton '06**, wife of N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Shawn Blanton, who was shot and killed in the line of duty June 17. The fatal shooting came just two and a half weeks after their son, Brendan Tyler, was born seven weeks premature. The infant remained in the neonatal intensive care unit at Mission Hospitals in Asheville at press time.

On With The Shows

The song's the thing in the 2008-09 Galaxy of Stars Series, featuring eight shows of theater, music and dance from September to May in the performance hall of Western's Fine and Performing Arts Center. Highlights of the series' fourth season include Mark Russell, pianist and master of political satire; "Rave On!," a celebration of the music of Buddy Holly; and "Fiddler on the Roof," the Tony Award-winning musical under the direction of Broadway's Terrence Mann.

"Audience surveys showed that people like concerts and Broadway-type musicals," said Paul Lormand, FAPAC director. "In response, all but one show is song-related."

Full Season Schedule

Chapter 6, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. *This Chicago area a cappella group performs parodies, signature pieces and fresh arrangements of swing standards and pop/rock covers*

Mark Russell, 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5. *Russell, a political satirist who has appeared on PBS for more than 25 years, riffs on current events during a stand-up routine and on piano, where he parodies news items to the tune of standards.*

"The Blues Brothers Revival," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. *A musical sanctioned by Dan Aykroyd and the John Belushi estate, the narrative follows Elwood's efforts to get Jake into heaven.*



Political satirist Mark Russell takes the stage Oct. 5.

"Red, Hot... & Blue!" celebrates Christmas with song and dance.

Jake Blues wants into heaven in "The Blues Brothers Revival."

2008-2009 GALAXY OF STARS

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21. *A N.C. Stage Company production, this version of the Frank Capra classic takes place in a radio station circa 1946.*

"A Red, Hot ... & Blue! White Christmas!," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12. *This musical journey through the decades includes ragtime, jazz, big band, swing, rock and disco by a six-person song-and-dance revue from Branson, Mo.*

"Rave On!," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6. *A revue of Buddy Holly's music on the 50th anniversary of his death, "Rave On!" has actor, musician and singer Billy McGuigan performing hits such as "Maybe Baby," "Peggy Sue" and "That'll be the Day."*

"Fiddler on the Roof," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28. *Presented by WCU's musical theatre program and including classics such as "Matchmaker" and "If I Were a Rich Man," "Fiddler on the Roof" tells the story of a Jewish family living in a Russian village circa 1900.*

"The American Piano Show" starring Linda Gentile, 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 8. *Gentile, mentored by Liberace, performs the music of Gershwin, Berlin, Bernstein, Carmichael, Rogers and Hammerstein, Scott Joplin and more.*

Series subscriptions are available now from the FAPAC box office. Subscriptions offer a 40 percent savings over single tickets, first option on seating and invitations to special events.

For more information about the Galaxy of Stars Series, contact FAPAC director Paul Lormand at (828) 227-2505. To purchase tickets, call (828) 227-2479, visit the box office or go online to <http://wcuwapac.ticketsexchange.com>.

events CALENDAR

JULY 2008

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Summer Concert Series – Catfish Whiskey, rock 'n' roll, blues, country and folk. 7 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center lawn. Rain location: Club Illusions, UC. (828) 227-7206



SATURDAY, JULY 26

Catamount Club Auction – 20th annual auction to raise money for athletic scholarships. Featuring a coaches reception at 5:30 p.m., silent auction at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. and a live auction after dinner. Hickory Metro Convention Center. (828) 227-3047

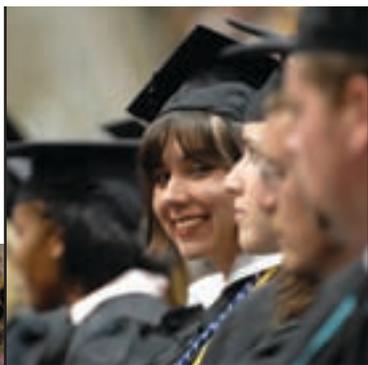
TUESDAY, JULY 29

Summer Concert Series – Austin "Walkin' Cane" Charanghat, blues from Cleveland. 7 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center lawn. Rain location: Club Illusions, UC. (828) 227-7206



THURSDAY, JULY 31

Summer Concert Series – Farpoint, progressive rock from Sumter, S.C. 7 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center lawn. Rain location: Club Illusions, UC. (828) 227-7206



AUGUST 2008

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Summer commencement – 7 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (828) 227-7495

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Celebration of Catamount Athletics – with unveiling of the new Catamount logo. 4 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (828) 227-7337.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Valley Ballyhoo – Annual back-to-school celebration. 4:30 p.m. A.K. Hinds University Center lawn. (828) 227-7206

Catamount women's soccer – Alumni scrimmage. 2 p.m. Catamount Athletic Center. (828) 227-7338

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Catamount football – vs. Shorter. Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day. 7 p.m. E.J. Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field. (828) 227-7338

SEPTEMBER 2008

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Meeting – WCU board of trustees. 9:30 a.m. Room 510, H.F. Robinson Administration Building. (828) 227-7100

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Reception – For the exhibit "Lewis Buck: Systems + Structure: Lifeworks in Collage and Painting," a career survey spanning 50 years of the Black Mountain artist's life. 2 p.m. Fine Art Museum. (828) 227-3591



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Catamount football – vs. Liberty. Kids Weekend. 6 p.m. E.J. Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field. (828) 227-7338

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
"Plaza Suite" – A comedy by Neil Simon and directed by D.V. Caitlyn, the stories of three successive couples occupying a suite at the Plaza. A WCU Mainstage production. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Hoey Auditorium. (828) 227-7491

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series – Fushu Daiko, Japanese drumming. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19-SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Catamount Clash volleyball tournament – vs. Norfolk State, 2:30 p.m. Friday; vs. Arkansas State, 7:30 p.m. Friday; vs. Presbyterian, 2 p.m. Saturday. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (828) 227-7338

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

Catamount women's soccer – vs. South Carolina. 2 p.m. Catamount Athletic Center. (828) 227-7338

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26-SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

Mountain Heritage Weekend – Bluegrass concert by Balsam Range. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Fine and Performing Arts Center. From 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday on Western's campus, celebration of mountain culture with music, dance and food; arts and crafts; contests and demonstrations; antique auto show; and 5-K foot race. (828) 227-3193

OCTOBER 2008

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series – Henry Rollins, musician and provocative spoken-word artist. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Homecoming weekend – Parade in Sylva, Spirit Night and Saturday football game vs. Samford. (828) 227-7335 or (877) 440-9990

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Reception – For the exhibit "Selections from the Collection of Perry Kelly," 6 p.m. Fine Art Museum. (828) 227-3591

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Catamount football – vs. Georgia Southern. WCU Family Weekend. 1 p.m. E.J. Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field. (828) 227-7338

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

"War of the Worlds" – Faculty/staff performance of the radio adaptation of the H. G. Wells' novel on the 70th anniversary of its first airing. A WCU Mainstage production and scholarship fundraiser. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-7491

Western's women's rugby team takes on a squad from Wake Forest University in the annual season-ending "Prom Dress Match," in which teams play a regulation match, with all the standard rules in effect, except players wear prom dresses instead of traditional rugby uniforms.



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