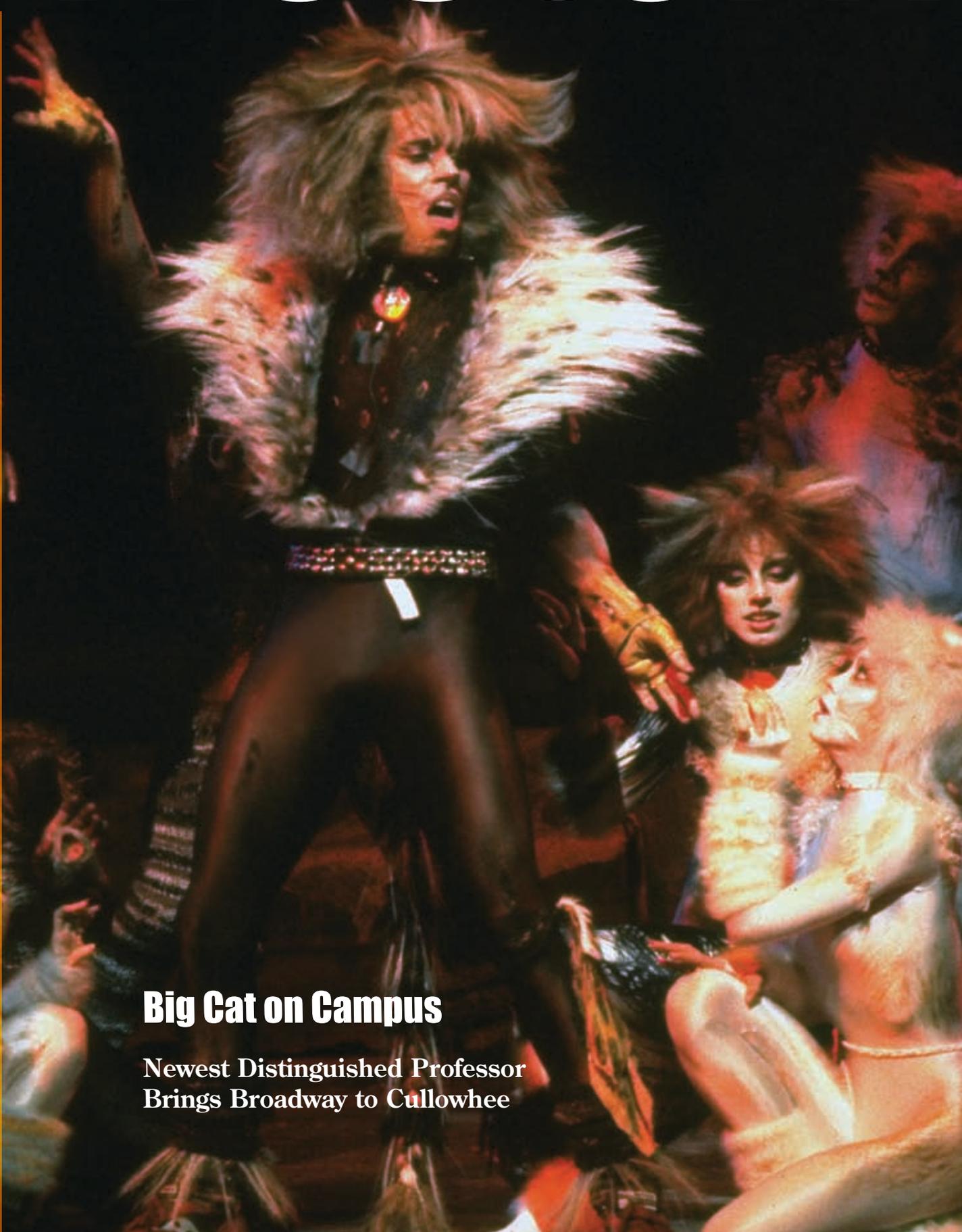


Western

Winter
2007

THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY



Big Cat on Campus

Newest Distinguished Professor
Brings Broadway to Cullowhee



Fast Break

Junior guard Ashley Pellom of Wilmington drives toward the basket in the Lady Catamounts' season opener against visiting Auburn. Coach Kellie Harper's Lady Cats, who upset ACC opponent Wake Forest, and Coach Larry Hunter's Catamounts, who opened the season with a road win over rival UNC-Asheville, are preparing for the heart of the Southern Conference schedule. For game and ticket information, visit catamountsports.com.

Western

THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Winter 2007
VOLUME 11, NO. 1

The Magazine of Western Carolina University is produced by the Office of Public Relations in the Division of Advancement and External Affairs for alumni, faculty, staff, friends and students of Western Carolina University.



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WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

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Cover photo by Martha Swope of musical theatre professor Terrence Mann during his Broadway performance of "Cats"

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Distinguishing Marks
Endowed Distinguished Professors
Provide Benefits to Students, Region



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Make Tough Calls in NFL

THE REYNOLDS RENAISSANCE

Growing Honors College Programs Attract High-Achieving Students

By TERESA KILLIAN



“The reputation of Western is slowly catching up to the actual academics here. It’s a good time to be here.”

Michael O’Shea, student

Somehow, in schedules packed with papers and club meetings, students in the Honors College make time for “chocolate and checkers” and readings from regional authors. They transform a service project to clean debris from a mountain lake into a social event where the dean himself—an outgoing, casual, bow-tie-wearing intellectual—jumps in the water, too. The students do more than enjoy, devour and dissect Ernest Hemingway’s writing. They go to France and Spain through an Honors field course to walk in his footsteps.

Such is the tightly knit, rapidly developing Honors College—an academic community drawing more and more high-achieving students. In 1996, the university’s honors program served 77 students. The number more than doubled a year later with the opening of the residential Honors College—the first in the University of North Carolina system. Today, the college has grown to nearly 1,300 students, and the average freshman SAT jumped 40 points in two years—from 1227 in 2004 to 1267 in 2006.

The goal behind the college was to help top students get more out of their undergraduate education through social and academic initiatives, and university leaders hoped its development would inspire more of the brightest and best students from Western North Carolina to stay in the region for college. It made a difference to Michael O’Shea, a sophomore from Hendersonville. “If not for the Honors College, I might not be at Western,” said

O’Shea, who at first thought Cullowhee was too close to home. “The reputation of Western is slowly catching up to the actual academics here. It’s a good time to be here.”

In the past four years, the Honors College has launched new programs and significantly expanded others. The director of the Pre-Professional Program moved to the college to offer specialized advising to help students prepare for medical, pharmacy, physical therapy, dental, optometry, physician assistant, engineering or veterinary careers.

The Humanities Program, started in 2004, helps students marry their interests to efficiently double major in four years in subjects from Spanish to professional writing. “Why be just an art curator when you could learn French and be an art curator at the Louvre?” **Steve Carlisle ’73**, associate dean of the Honors College, challenges students.

The Undergraduate Research Program refocused on helping students go to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research with research grants and money for travel expenses for students invited to present at the national conference. Last year, Western was second in the nation in the number of participants (*more on page 6*).

An Honors College Scholars Program recently began offering optional intensive courses for freshmen. “We felt that students who are in the top 1 percent of the incoming class—students who could go anywhere—needed some additional

Reynolds

Students such as Max Long fill many leadership roles at the Honors College. Long not only coordinates the college’s student-designed mentoring program but also participated in the scholars program that offers an additional academic challenge to Honors students, presented research at a national symposium, and was a finalist for the Truman Award.



academic challenges to become fully engaged at Western,” Railsback said. One scholars group created a magazine they named “Imagine,” in which they chronicled undergraduate research and achievements. A scholars class in philosophy hooked O’Shea. It wasn’t a deadline that kept him up until 6 a.m. It was his research topic—advertising and capitalism, or, more specifically exploring “if advertising was the most necessary industry in capitalism since the post-industrial revolution as production reached levels higher than ever before,” said O’Shea. “I enjoyed that paper.” He went on to present it at the 2006 National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

This year, the college formed the Distinguished Scholarships Council to help prepare students who want to compete for prestigious scholarships such as the Truman or Fulbright award. Students also may be able to seek advice and practice interviewing with members of a new Highlands Advisory Board (*more on page 7*).

Railsback directs a lot of credit for the college’s growth to students, whom he invites to be leaders. Junior Max Long coordinates a student-designed mentoring program. The college’s Web site designer is sophomore Caden Painter, who said he developed the pages at honors.wcu.edu to be attractive and easy to

navigate, taking users where they want to be in three or fewer mouse-clicks or less. The dean himself has an all-student advisory board (*see page 6*) that not only delves into such issues as the college’s student service requirements but also plans social programs and lectures for enrichment. Students were instrumental in such decisions as whether to move the Honors College from Reynolds Residence Hall to a new residence hall to be built near the current Dodson Cafeteria location. “The board advised me that the campus’ future construction and development was moving to the other side of campus—away from us—with the new Millennial Initiative, and it would be a disadvantage to stay where we are,” Railsback said. The result? Half of a \$44 million, 800-bed residence hall designed in part by students will house the Honors College. The first phase is scheduled to open in fall 2008.

“We will arguably be in a position in the near future to say we are among the best honors colleges in the Southeast. What we aspire to do is to provide an excellent private liberal arts college experience on a very modern, comprehensive university campus,” Railsback said. “Our Honors students and the faculty who teach them will get us there.”

Renaissance



Residence Hall

Honors College students helped design the \$44 million, 800-bed residence hall scheduled to open in the fall semester 2008. The design features a Louvre-like arch and such amenities as garage band space, an idea from sophomore Michael O’Shea. “It is impossible to store drums in your room,” said O’Shea. “They built a lot of my ideas into the design, actually.”

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Dean Takes Cues from Student Board

By TERESA KILLIAN



“As much as possible, we try to make the Honors College their college—the students’ college.”

Brian Railsback, dean

The dean of the Honors College admits there is one nationally accepted guideline the college has not adopted. Instead of a faculty advisory board, Brian Railsback said he looks to an all-student group for advice on administrative decisions. “As much as possible, we try to make the Honors College their college—the students’ college,” Railsback said.

The weekly meetings are casual. Railsback joins students in sweatshirts (and some in socks but no shoes) around a table with notebook paper, binders, day planners, a laptop and lots of ideas. Jessica Myers, the board’s president and a junior from Peletier, reviews recent and upcoming social events. The tailgating turnout at Homecoming was good, and even though a banner wouldn’t hang, it seemed to work fine on the ground. “It was sort of a barricade around the pizza,” Railsback said. Jennie V. Dowdle, a junior serving as a board member and resident assistant in Reynolds Hall,

reports that students will clear out the freezer to make room for ice cream for the next board game night, and the decorations from last year’s Halloween party had been found. Sacagawea dollars would be the prize for this year’s costume contest—an event that, in the past, inspired such creative attire as Charlie Chaplin, Marilyn Monroe, Edward D. Wood, and a Freudian note, uhm, “slip.”

In academic business at a recent meeting, the board celebrated acceptance of the official college seal it proposed, scheduled a retreat to review the Honors curriculum and brainstormed how to raise money for an annual bicycle pledge ride for scholarships. “The fact that we have a group strictly made up of students that meets with the dean and makes important decisions, knows what’s going on and brings representatives from the student body is unique,” said Myers. “Having that voice is awesome.”

four-day Undergraduate Expo on campus but also offers grants for research supplies or software, and pays registration, lodging and travel for Western students accepted to present at regional conferences or the national conference.

“This kind of work allows students to apply theory from the classroom to real-world experience—to test drive what they are learning at the university and accelerate their move from students to professionals,” said Brian Railsback, dean of the Honors College. “We emphasize participation in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research because it is the premier conference of its kind and allows students to meet and learn from other students in all disciplines from around the nation.”

RESEARCH

Undergraduates Put Theory into Practice

Western was a hotbed for undergraduate research last year... and the year before that... and the year before that. In fact, for the past few years, WCU has ranked in the top 20 in the number of papers accepted at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, and 2006 was no exception. With more than 49 projects by 70 student presenters on topics from “China and Japan: Defense Policies Following Political Reform” to an “Investigation of High Voltage Generation,” Western arrived at the conference with the second highest number of participants from any school in the country.

Fueling the Bunsen burners of research on campus is the Honors College Undergraduate Research Program open to all Western students. The program not only sponsors an annual

Highlands Group Fosters Opportunities for Students

After an evening exploring the life and work of Edna St. Vincent Millay, the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize in poetry, Highlands resident Dr. Mark Whitehead and WCU guest lecturer Brian Railsback explored another idea—strengthening the link between two bastions of lifelong education, the Highlands community and the nearby university. Railsback, dean of the Honors College, knew the growing college needed an external advisory board and realized Highlands is a unique community of world travelers with successful careers from whom Western students could learn a lot. “People in Highlands have achieved careers that our students aspire to,” said Railsback. “Our Honors students need advice from lifelong high-achievers and people who are proven lifelong learners.”

Now a year later, the Highlands Advisory Board to the Honors College has drawn diverse members from the former president of an insurance company to a founder of the Chattanooga Conservancy. Their recommendations have

recognized the need for students to have global experiences and fluency in another language, Railsback said. “That gives us an important goal and a challenge, and that’s what you hope an advisory board will do,” he said.

In addition, the board is developing internship and mentorship opportunities in Highlands and Cashiers. Students who are finalists for prestigious scholarships, such as a Fulbright or a Truman award, will be offered mock interviews with people whose backgrounds are similar to scholarship selection committee members or who won such awards themselves.

Whitehead said the board also would like to see a bigger WCU presence in Highlands, such as more courses offered in the community that swells from an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 population to 30,000 in summer. “We are going to see what both communities need and facilitate a relationship back and forth,” Whitehead said. “If we work together, we both benefit.”

Highlands Advisory Board

Kaye Gorecki developed a career in visual arts education and is director of the Fine Art Center/Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands.

Carole Light is a clinical psychologist practicing independently and helping Hospice.

William Martin built a career in manufacturing and served as business manager for Trinity Church on Wall Street in New York. He co-founded the Center for Life Enrichment and serves on the Highlands Community Foundation.

Jack Miller, an Asheville native, practiced law in Miami for more than four decades and serves as a board member of the Center for Life Enrichment.

Hugh Normile, a Charles A. Dana Scholar, holds a law degree from the University of Florida at Gainesville and served on the Brevard County Housing Authority.

Everett J. Tarbox Jr. is an emeritus professor of humanities at Indiana State University, where he won the school’s President’s Medal for Distinguished Service.

Sally Wallace, a Carleton College alumna, owned a bookstore, served on St. Petersburg, Fla., City Council, and is now a member of the Mahaffey Foundation.

William Wallace, a Princeton University alumnus, retired as president of Wallace, Welch & Willingham, Inc.

He served as president of Florida Orchestra and a member of the board of directors of Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting.

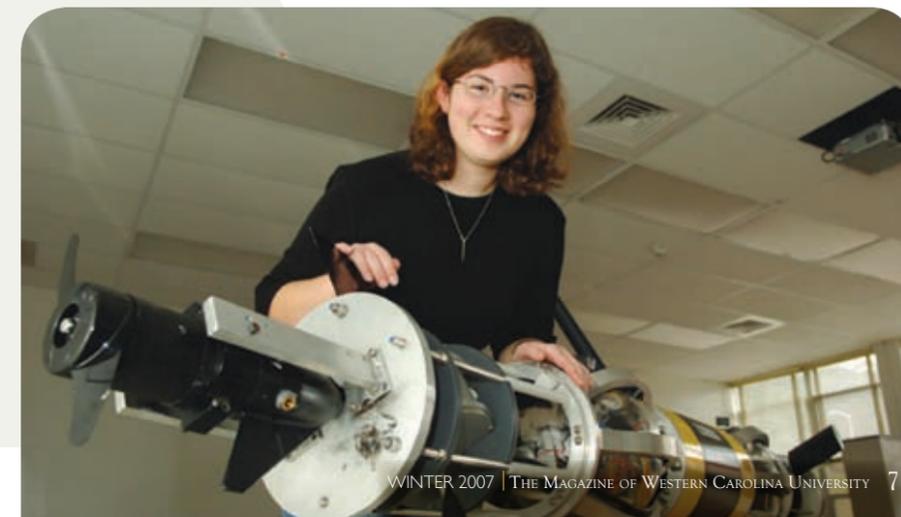
Kathy Whitehead, a music major at Northwestern University, became a registered nurse and owns Carlson-Whitehead Orchids and The Gingham Goose Needlepoint and Knitting Shop.

Dr. Mark Whitehead, a retired urologist, graduated from Washington and Lee University and Tulane Medical School.

Glenda Zahner earned a master’s in biology from University of Michigan and helped found the Chattooga Conservancy.

Advising

Rebecca Frank, an Honors College student majoring in education, wrote a story for *Imagine* magazine about an exploratory mini-submarine that undergraduate students at Western helped prepare for underwater exploration.



Distinguishing Marks

STUDENTS, REGION BENEFIT FROM DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR PROGRAM

By TERESA KILLIAN

Ron Rash eases into a chair and peruses a newspaper as he waits for lunch-to-go at The Mad Batter. His plaid shirt and salt-and-pepper beard blend into the background of the café in Cullowhee, but the casual presence on campus of the local, regional and national award-winning writer is big, especially for students such as **Craig Buchner MA '06**. "I'm a great fan of his poetry and use of language. To be in the company of someone so dedicated to his art was wonderful," said Buchner, who took a fiction writing class from Rash and often stopped in his office for advice about the publishing world and writing. "Meeting him made writing seem more real for me as a possible career. Then, when he won the O'Henry Prize in 2005, I started to think I'd like to win." And earlier this year, with support from Rash and other Western faculty, Buchner did win—an Association of Writers & Writing Program national award for his short story "Good Night."

What brought Rash to Western was an endowed distinguished professorship—the John A. Parris Jr. and Dorothy Luxton Parris Distinguished Professorship in Appalachian Culture. Such faculty positions offer competitive salaries, benefits and research support as a way to draw nationally renowned experts to campus. The jobs are supplemented with money generated from endowments in the amount of \$500,000, \$1 million or \$2 million. The funds are created through private contributions and matching grants from the North Carolina General Assembly.

Ten years ago, Western had no distinguished professorships. Today, the university has 15 that are fully funded—the fourth highest number among the 16 universities in the University of North Carolina system. "Endowed professorships allow us to recruit nationally and internationally known faculty members in a variety of fields to

help us assure that our curricula and the students' education are at the highest national or international levels," Chancellor John W. Bardo said. "We're trying to give students the best instruction, and that means we have to have star faculty. It is exciting to see how donors have responded to the call to improve our academic stature and rankings."

At WCU, distinguished professors have helped students craft commercials, investigate the region's water quality, and welcome the U.S. poet laureate to campus. Bruce Frazier, Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Commercial and Electronic Music, composed a fanfare for the Pride of the Mountains marching band this year and helped guide the first professional recording of the Cherokee national anthem. **Betsy Walker '05**, who now works for the Nashville-based Country Music Association, says Frazier's classes in recording arts and musical instrument digital interface or MIDI helped her find her niche. "I took many classes with Dr. Frazier, and he was also my adviser," Walker said. "He led me through college and inspired me."

For the region, David Westling, the Adelaide Worth Daniels Distinguished Professor of Special Education, has led efforts to win more than \$2.5 million in grants for training and support for special education teachers. Tom Hatley, Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies, is working to strengthen the relationship between the Cherokee community and the university while building Cherokee and Native American programs at WCU. Meanwhile, David Strahan, Taft B. Botner Distinguished Professor of Elementary and Middle Grades Education, is collaborating with public schools in the region on initiatives to improve reading instruction in secondary schools and mathematics instruction in rural areas as well as helping revise curricula for WCU's middle grades program.

Adelaide Worth Daniels

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



BENEFACTOR: Businesswoman and philanthropist Adelaide Key, former member of the WCU Board of Trustees

PROFESSOR: David Westling

IMPACT: Westling helped secure more than \$2.5 million for a teacher support program serving public school teachers who work with special needs students. The program has been embraced throughout the region and named a "program of national distinction."

Carol Grotnes Belk

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN
COMMERCIAL AND ELECTRONIC MUSIC



BENEFACTOR: North Carolina philanthropist Irwin "Ike" Belk in honor of his wife, Carol Grotnes Belk

PROFESSOR: Bruce Frazier

IMPACT: Frazier, twice recognized with Emmy Awards for contributions to dramatic underscore and sound mixing, guides students on projects such as adapting music for commercials for the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad.

Jay M. Robinson

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES



BENEFACTOR: C.D. Spangler Jr., former president of the University of North Carolina system, in honor of public education legend Jay Robinson

PROFESSOR: John F. LeBaron

IMPACT: LeBaron works with a course-development group that helps faculty transition from classroom to online teaching. He shares his expertise internationally, and The Sloan Consortium has cited his work as a best practice in online teaching.

Blanton J. Whitmire

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



BENEFACTORS: Blanton J. Whitmire, president and chief executive officer of Whitmire Research Laboratories, and his wife, Margaret S. Whitmire

PROFESSOR: Jerry P. Miller

IMPACT: Miller involves students in studies of water quality problems in Western North Carolina and stream restoration projects. He also recently explored mercury contamination in the Amazon River basin and the ecology of Australia's Great Barrier Reef.



Ron Rash, an award-winning writer and the John A. Parris Jr. and Dorothy Luxton Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Culture, works with students in a class at Western.

For the world, John LeBaron, the Jay M. Robinson Distinguished Professor of Educational Technologies, won a Fulbright—his second—to share his talents assisting the University of Helsinki in Finland in establishing a teacher education program utilizing distance education and technology. In October, he participated in an international effort supported by the European Union to advance the use of information communications technology in schools in Europe. Meanwhile, Jerry Miller, Blanton J. Whitmire Distinguished Professor of Environmental Sciences, joined an effort to study the ecology of the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the transport of heavy metals in a river basin in Bolivia.

Future professorships at Western will be in fields including construction management, where Asheville philanthropist Joe Kimmel has committed to fund five endowed distinguished professorships. Donations from members of the WNC Health Organizations collaborative of hospitals and health care facilities in Western North Carolina created

professorships to bring top instructors to the university in physical therapy and nurse anesthesia, fields with shortages of employees in the region. "We felt there was a huge advantage to having a program situated in our region, so that students who go to Western and study will hopefully stay in Western North Carolina for their professional

careers," said Gary Bowers, executive director of WNC Health Organizations.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education cites benefits of endowed professorships that include a better ability to compete with private institutions and to ensure continuity in academic programs. Faculty positions

held by endowed professors would not be cut as a result of budget reductions.

"The bulb burns brighter with endowed professorships, as if you are putting more electricity into the system," said Ed Broadwell, who serves on the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. "Western has a bright future."

Ten years ago, Western had no distinguished professorships. Today, the university has 15 that are fully funded—the fourth highest number among the 16 universities in the University of North Carolina system.

Other Funded Professorships:

Catherine Brewer Smith

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

BENEFACTOR: Estate of Franklin resident Catherine Brewer Smith, whose father attended WCU

Ambassador Jeanette W. Hyde

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK

BENEFACTOR: Wallace Hyde '49 MA '53 longtime benefactor and former trustee of Western Carolina University, in honor of his wife, current WCU trustee Jeanette Hyde

Mountaintop

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN
ADVANCED OPTICS MANUFACTURING

BENEFACTORS: Developers of a lakeside golf club in southern Jackson County

WNC Health Organizations

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

BENEFACTORS: Regional health care providers

WNC Health Organizations

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN NURSE ANESTHESIA

BENEFACTORS: Regional health care providers

Gimelstob-Landry

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BENEFACTORS: Florida real estate businessmen Herbert Gimelstob and Laurence D. Landry

Wesley R. Elingburg

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN BUSINESS INNOVATION

BENEFACTOR Western alumnus Wesley Elingburg '78, retired chief financial officer from Burlington-based Laboratory Corporation of America

Sequoyah

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN CHEROKEE STUDIES



BENEFACTORS: The Friends of Sequoyah; Cherokee businessman Jimmy Cooper; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Harrah's Entertainment Inc.; and a National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant

PROFESSOR: Tom Hatley

IMPACT: Hatley has led a process of joint planning with the Eastern Band that resulted in a new memorandum of understanding with the tribe and new courses and programs, including the Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources project.

Carolyn Plemmons Phillips and Ben R. Phillips



DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN MUSICAL THEATRE

BENEFACTORS: Estate of Carolyn P. Phillips of Waynesville and matching money from the C.D. Spangler Foundation

PROFESSOR: Terrence Mann

IMPACT: Mann, a Broadway star who joined the faculty in November, is teaching master classes in theatre and music.

John A. Parris Jr. and Dorothy Luxton Parris



DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP
IN APPALACHIAN CULTURE

BENEFACTORS: Estate of John and Dorothy Parris
PROFESSOR: Ron Rash

IMPACT: Rash has shared his award-winning writing talents and worked with Western's Mountain Heritage Center on a performance series that highlights Appalachian culture. Presenters have included a Cherokee storyteller, gospel singers and an archaeologist.

Taft B. Botner



DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN
ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION

BENEFACTORS: Estate of Taft B. Botner, former dean of WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions, and his wife, Malvery Botner, who taught in the public schools

PROFESSOR: David Strahan

IMPACT: Strahan helped develop a grant proposal and program for improving literacy instruction funded for more than \$280,000 that created a two-way partnership between teachers from Asheville public schools and WCU faculty.

Stepping up to the Plate

Minor League Owner Helps Provide Business Students a Field of Dreams
By BILL STUDENC

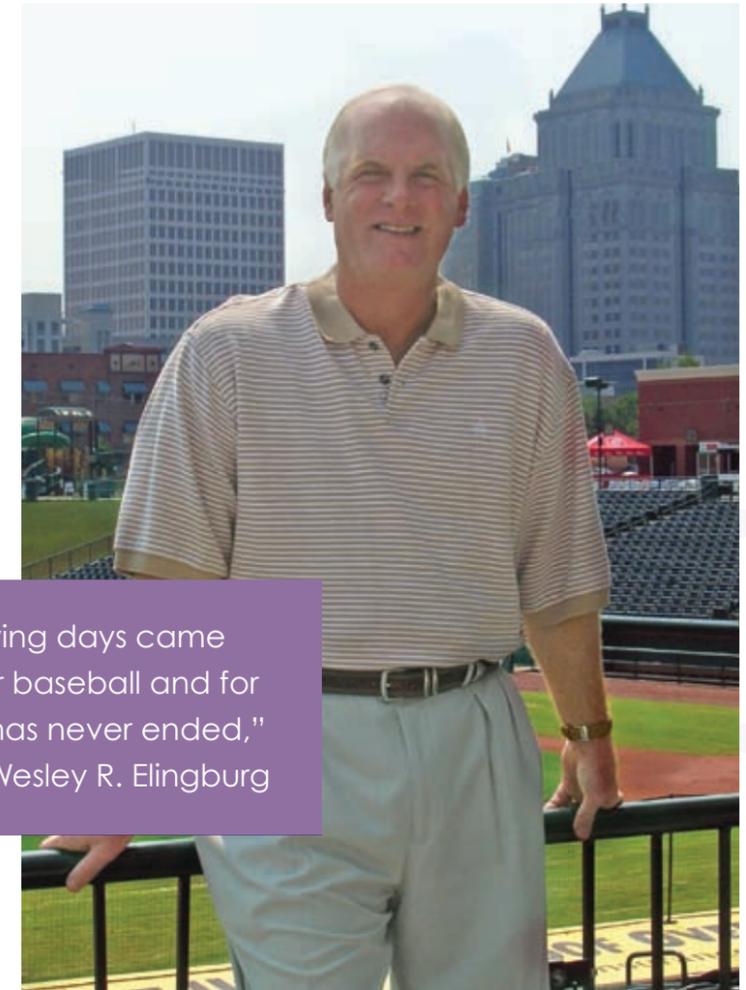
When retired Greensboro businessman **Wesley R. Elingburg '78** arrived at Western in 1974 after a stand-out career as a high school baseball and basketball player, he came equipped with dreams of joining the Catamount baseball team. Elingburg earned a spot on the junior varsity squad his freshman year, but decided to concentrate on his studies, opting to hit the books instead of trying to hit home runs.

It's a decision Elingburg has never regretted, as he would go on to graduate *summa cum laude* (with highest honors) with a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting. He says his time at Western provided him with the education, skills and confidence necessary to embark upon a successful career in the world of corporate accounting. He has now stepped up to the plate in a totally different fashion—through financial contributions that have enabled his alma mater to create an endowed professorship in the field of business education.

"I will forever be grateful for the foundation of education that Western provided me. To give back to the institution is my way of saying thanks. The professorship will benefit many students in the future and will help provide them with a similarly solid foundation," said Elingburg, who recently made the final contribution in a series of gifts totaling \$250,000. Combined with a dollar-for-dollar match through a program initiated by the General Assembly to encourage private support of public institutions of higher education, Western has created the \$500,000 Wesley R. Elingburg Distinguished Professorship in Business Innovation.

It is the 15th endowed professorship announced at Western since 1996. The professorship will enable WCU to recruit a nationally recognized expert in a business discipline to join the faculty of the College of Business. The professor will work closely with WCU's undergraduate and graduate programs in entrepreneurship, including a master's degree program that was named best in the nation in 2005—just two years after its inception.

"These generous gifts will have a significant and lasting impact on academic quality and will substantially strengthen Western's future," Chancellor John W. Bardo said. "It is only through the contributions of alumni, supporters and friends that the university will be able to continue to move forward. Thanks to gifts such as those from Wes Elingburg, we can build upon our tradition of academic excellence by attracting some of the nation's top scholars to our faculty to share their knowledge and expertise with our students."



"Although my playing days came to end, my love for baseball and for Western Carolina has never ended,"

—Wesley R. Elingburg

Wesley R. Elingburg '78 is co-owner of the Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball team.

Elingburg recently retired after 25 years with Laboratory Corporation of America, including the last eight as chief financial officer. Also known as LabCorp, it is a Standard & Poor's 500 company and the second-largest medical testing firm in the nation, with revenues in excess of \$3 billion and employing 25,000 people nationwide. He said he made the contribution to Western out of a desire to give something back to a university he credits for much of his success in his career and life.

"Although my playing days came to end, my love for baseball and for Western Carolina has never ended," said Elingburg. In fact, today he finds himself combining his passion for the game with his educational and career path—as the co-owner of Greensboro Grasshoppers, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Florida Marlins organization.



Duke
UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



James Smith (above) meets with staff from the Institute for the Economy and the Future.



Professor Rob Young (left) looks over coastal maps with Orrin Pilkey.

Western Union Rise in Reputation Attracts High-Profile Faculty

By BILL STUDENC

Western's status as a university on the move—a reputation due in part to dramatic growth in the number of endowed distinguished professors—is beginning to entice high-profile faculty members to come to campus even in areas not supported by private endowments.... at least, not yet. That rising academic stature helped convince two internationally known academic figures to relocate to Cullowhee from major North Carolina research institutions this fall.

One of the nation's foremost economists, James F. Smith, director of the Center for Business Forecasting in the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, joined the faculty at Western earlier this fall. Orrin Pilkey, founder of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, is moving his internationally prominent program known for the integration of coastal science and management from Duke University to WCU.

"When we are able to attract professionals with the credentials of James Smith and Orrin Pilkey to join us at Western, we know we are not just doing something right, we are doing a lot of things right," said Provost Kyle Carter. "Dr. Smith and Dr. Pilkey are widely regarded as being at the top of their respective fields. With enrollment increases, the development of new academic programs, the dramatic growth of the Honors College and the future possibilities to be found in our Millennial Initiative, Western is in a very different position than it was just a few short years ago. That's why we are able to lure people of this caliber away from institutions like UNC-CH and Duke."

Smith, recognized in January by Bloomberg News for having the most accurate forecast for long-term interest rates among a national forecasting panel, holds a joint appointment in the College of Business and in WCU's Institute for the Economy and the Future. In the IEF, which is WCU's regional think tank and economic development arm, Smith has special responsibility for developing thought leadership and organizing, implementing and leading policy studies, research and policy forums.

During a career spanning 30 years, Smith has been an economist and analyst at the Federal Reserve Board; the National

Association of REALTORS; Sears, Roebuck and Co.; Union Carbide Corporation; the University of Texas at Austin; and Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates, now Global Insights. He served as a consultant to the President's Council of Economic Advisers in 1981, and formalized the process of economic forecasting for the Reagan administration. The Wall Street Journal named him the "most accurate forecaster" three times in the past six years. He serves on the forecasting panels of USA Today, Bloomberg News, Forbes magazine, MMS International and the National Association for Business Economics.

For Pilkey, relocation of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines from Durham to Cullowhee represents a passing of the gavel from a pioneer in the study of American shoreline development policy to one of his top protégés. After deciding to focus on writing books and articles, Pilkey says he found just the right person to take over the program in his former student Rob Young, associate professor of geosciences at WCU, who has become known as one of the nation's leading experts on the science of hurricane impacts and coastal management issues.

Set to open at WCU in January, the PSDS will continue its emphasis on research focusing on beach replenishment and other forms of shoreline stabilization, hazard risk mapping on barrier islands, sedimentary processes on shorefaces, and mitigation of hurricane property damage on barrier islands. "I believe the collaboration with WCU puts this program in a powerful position to have an even greater impact on coastal management programs nationwide," said Pilkey. "This is coming at a time when global warming-induced sea-level rise is increasingly a threat to coastal dwellers. I think the collaborative program will provide international leadership in the search for economically viable and environmentally sound solutions to our disappearing beaches and our increasingly threatened beachfront development."

The Music Mann Tony-Nominated Broadway Star Leads Musical Theatre Program

By BILL STUDENC



The career path for the newest Western faculty member to hold an appointment as an endowed distinguished professor has taken him from the cast of "Cats" to the land of the Catamounts. Terrence Mann, who originated the role of Rum Tum Tugger in the Broadway production of "Cats," is WCU's Carolyn Plemmons Phillips and Ben R. Phillips Distinguished Professor of Musical Theatre.

Mann's appointment means students in WCU's musical theatre program are learning tricks of the trade from a bona fide Broadway star. He originated the role of the Beast in Broadway's "Beauty and the Beast," earning Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations. His stage credits include two additional roles he originated on Broadway—his Tony Award-nominated performance as Inspector Javert in "Les Miserables" and his portrayal of Chauvelin in "The Scarlett Pimpernel." He also has taken the Broadway stage in "Lennon," "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," "Getting Away With Murder," "A Christmas Carol," "Rags," "Barnum" and "Jekyll and Hyde."

Tony Brown '78, theatre critic for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, gives rave reviews to Western's new hire. "Terry Mann is one of Broadway's and North Carolina's true theatrical treasures. His resonant voice, the intensity of his stare and those big, strong teeth have allowed him to impose his outsized personality onto iconic roles, which is especially notable because he injected that personality despite makeup painted on an inch thick or mechanical stage pyrotechnics that tend to steal the spotlight from the actors," said Brown, son of a WCU English professor, who got his theatrical start in a Cullowhee production of "South Pacific" at age 9. "Those roles are notable because they are all 'heavies,' yet Mann made them not black-and-white bad guys, but shows us their humanity. The theatre is full of great singers, but few artists can sing as gorgeously as Terry does and, at the same time, capture the essence of a character with his acting skills and heart."

Mann is founding artistic director of the Carolina Arts Festival and served as artistic director of the North Carolina Theatre for 14 years, directing more than 25 musical productions during his tenure. He also was artistic director of "The Lost Colony," North Carolina's long-running outdoor drama.

At Western, Mann is leading a program designed to provide students with practical work-related experience, build skills needed in both music and theatre, and work on developing on- and off-campus opportunities for undergraduate students. Working with music director and coach accompanist Bradley Martin, he has guided master classes for actors and singers, and will direct the February production of "The Music Man." Mann also plans to take students to New York to observe the behind-the-scenes activities that go into mounting a major Broadway production.

"Terry has the talents and personality to take an honored place in the pantheon of theatre graduates and faculty at Western," said Brown, the theatre critic. "I've always looked back at the many hours I spent on the Niggli Theatre and Hoey Auditorium stages as some of the most fun and valuable of my life, and I think WCU's theatre department has long been one of the best small programs in the region. The addition of Terry to the faculty will certainly further WCU's expansion into musical theatre and will attract a host of top-notch prospects to that valley known as Cullowhee."



Terrence Mann on stage at WCU, and in cast of "Cats"



Screen Gems

New Motion Picture Production Degree Helps Prepare Students for Careers in Growing Industry

By BILL STUDENC

It's "lights, camera, action" and "quiet on the set" at Western these days, as the university is offering a bachelor of fine arts degree in digital motion picture and television production, a program of study led by a veteran Hollywood director and screenwriter. The new degree—along with existing programs in commercial and electronic music, music performance, broadcasting, theatre, dance and musical theatre—means Western is preparing an increasing number of students for careers in the performing arts, be those jobs on the stage or on the screen, behind the scenes or behind the camera.

"Western's motion picture and TV program is a very important piece in building the base of skills for this generation necessary to work in an ever-increasing visual world," said Mary Trimarco of the Western North Carolina Film Commission. "It is critical for students to learn how to express themselves visually, both creatively and in business. We are looking

forward to working with the students and graduates on their future projects."

Western is no starry-eyed ingénue when it comes to the film and television industry. The new degree and the recent relocation of several entertainment professionals from the hills of Hollywood to the Cullowhee mountains is just the latest chapter in the university's long-lasting love affair with the motion picture industry. Before the late Josefina Niggli, whose name graces Niggli Theatre on the WCU campus, joined the faculty in 1956, she enjoyed a successful career as a scriptwriter for 20th Century Fox and Metro-Goldwyn Mayer. And WCU professors in theatre and related areas have for decades been honing their skills on movie and TV sets (see page 16).

Following in Niggli's footsteps is Jack Sholder, director of "A Nightmare on Elm Street 2" and "The Hidden," who came to Western in 2004. Sholder, who won an Emmy Award for his editing work on the

TV production "3-2-1 Contact," is preparing students to take part in a rapidly evolving entertainment industry. "The motion picture and television industries have changed more in the last 10 years than they have in the previous 50. With the advent of the digital age and broadband, technology will continue to change the face of these arts and industries at a rapid pace," said Sholder, who has directed some 20 films and TV programs. "Students need to understand the whole process, even though they may only work in one segment of it. They need to know how the real world of motion pictures and television operates—the unspoken rules, shortcuts and etiquette."

Students at Western also are getting the inside scoop from Terry Curtis Fox, a Hollywood screenwriter whose credits include "Hill Street Blues," "Diagnosis Murder" and "Stargate SG-1"; Padraig Acheson, who heads WCU's television production program after 28 years of network

experience in New York; Bruce Frazier, Western's Belk Distinguished Professor of Commercial and Electronic Music, who has won Emmy Awards for contributions to TV programs; Arledge Armenaki, a cinematographer with 19 motion picture credits; Donald Connelly, director of WCU's broadcasting program who has 20 years experience with Clear Channel Communications; and Elizabeth Heffelfinger, a specialist in documentary and nonfiction films. Terrence Mann, a Broadway star who just joined WCU's faculty to lead the musical theatre program (see related story on page 13), will help students perfect their craft as performers on the stage.

The New York Times recently called degrees in media-related fields "the new MBA" because they teach skills such as teamwork and team-building, time management, writing, critical thinking and technical competence with complex equipment. Western's program exposes students to the history, craft and art of motion pictures and television while providing hands-on experience with some of the most up-to-date equipment in the industry. Students are working in audio and video studios located in Western's Center for Applied Technology. The studios feature \$4.5 million worth of leading-edge video camera, recording console, video switcher and video editing

equipment. The equipment includes a high-definition digital video camera similar to the one used to produce the latest "Star Wars" movie and the same type of video switcher used to broadcast "Monday Night Football" and "The Tonight Show."

While students are learning in a studio with all the latest bells and whistles, Sholder said he also stresses the artistic side of the business. "We teach students how to tell a story on the screen—be it a cinema screen, a television or a computer—in an entertaining and original way. We give them the technical skills to do so. And we provide them with the breadth of knowledge and the creative strategies to adapt to whatever new technologies may emerge," he said.

Students already are working on several projects, including a production based on the short story "Chemistry" by Ron Rash, who holds WCU's Parris Distinguished Professorship in Appalachian Culture, and the making of a documentary about the creative process. Alex Dillard of Wilkesboro worked as a camera assistant on the project. "This program is the whole reason I came to Western. I think the potential is incredible for this program and the students in it," said Dillard, a 2003 graduate of Wilkes Central High School. "I am astounded that we have all this expertise from the industry to share their

insights, that we have all this technology on our campus and that we are actually able to use the equipment as students. The sky is the limit."

And that's a wrap.



Western student Corey Utke prepares the cast and crew for action on the set of an on-campus motion picture production (clockwise from top left), while Michael Montanez gets camera pointers from faculty member Arledge Armenaki. Jack Sholder, director of the new motion picture degree program, reviews set notes with student script supervisor Christopher Hamilton.

Character Studies

Professors Pick up Classroom Pointers from Movie, TV Roles

By BILL STUDENC

Students studying drama and film at Western Carolina University are learning acting techniques from faculty members who sometimes find themselves in front of the camera almost as much as they are in front of the classroom these days. Stephen Michael Ayers, associate professor of theatre arts, recently wrapped production on two major motion pictures—"The List," a thriller starring Malcolm McDowell, and "Mr. Brooks," a crime-mystery starring Kevin Costner and Demi Moore. Meanwhile, Terry Nienhuis, professor of English and an experienced stage and screen performer, nabbed his largest television appearance to date in a supporting role in the Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation of "The Water is Wide" earlier this year. It marked the fourth time Nienhuis has worked on a Hallmark Hall of Fame production, widely acknowledged as one of the highest quality series on television.

Ayers, head of WCU's professional acting and directing program, also enjoyed a four-episode guest-starring role on the NBC science-fiction thriller "Surface" and landed roles on three other motion pictures during the past year, including an upcoming basketball film starring Haley Joel Osment of "The Sixth Sense." A member of the Western theatre arts faculty since 1985, Ayers portrays a high school basketball coach in "Home of the Giants," a coming-of-age story filmed in Greensboro. He also spent about six weeks last summer working on two films—"The Work and the Glory: American Zion" and "The Work and the Glory: A House Divided"—directed by Sterling Vanwagenen, co-founder of the Sundance Film Festival.

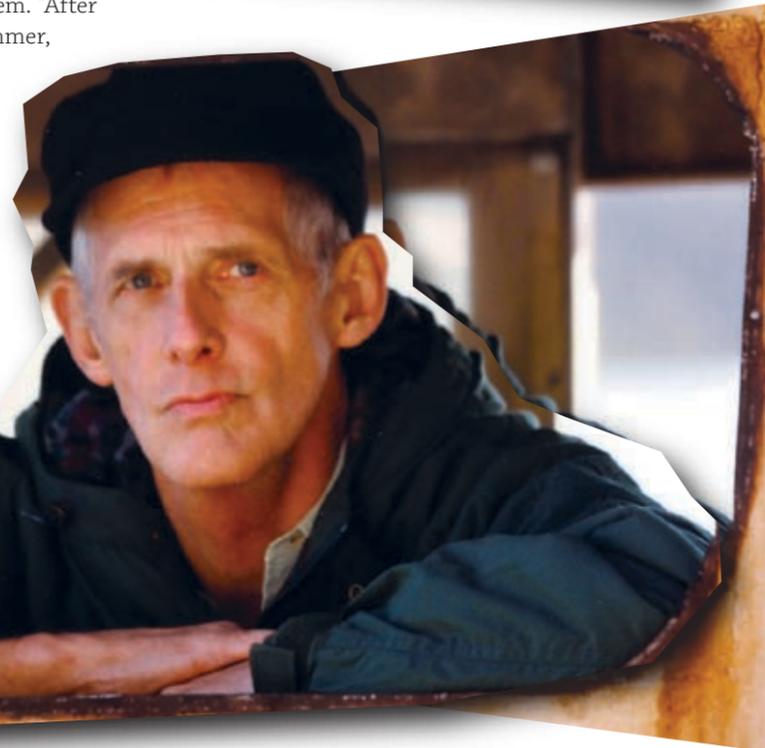
"It has been sort of crazy all of a sudden," said Ayers, an accomplished television and movie actor whose credits include recurring roles on TV shows "Matlock" and "I'll Fly Away" and parts in several motion pictures, "Days of Thunder" and "That Darn Kat" among them. "After working on the two 'The Work and the Glory' films last summer, I was really ready for golf and my yard. Then I got a call about a new feature being done with Haley Joel Osment. They sent me the script, and I loved it. I went to read for the director, and that was that," he said.

During his work on the now-canceled NBC series "Surface," which was filmed in Wilmington, Ayers shared screen time with a former student, **R. Keith Harris '92**. The two also worked together on the film "The List," slated to hit theaters sometime in 2007. "How cool is that—professor and former student working side by side in the industry," Ayers said.

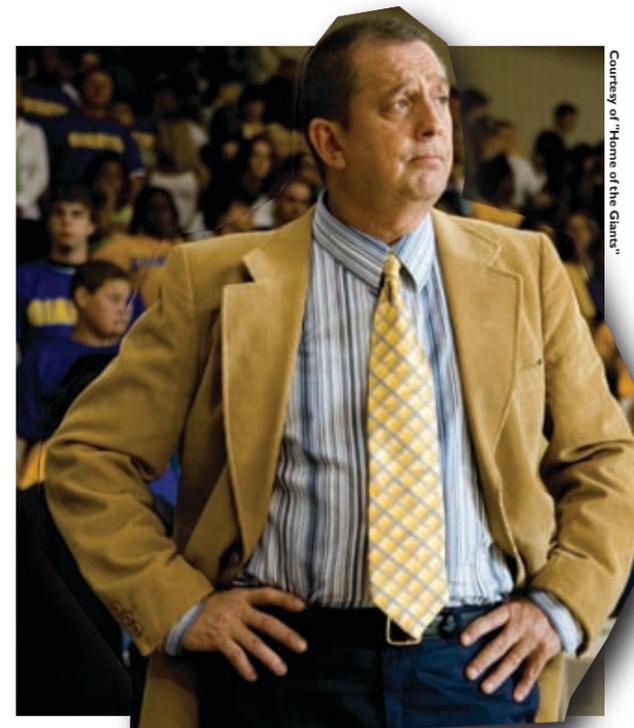
Another alum, **Sean Bridgers '92**, also has found steady work in the movies and on TV, including roles in the major motion pictures "Nell" and "The Chamber" and a



Courtesy of HBO



Courtesy of "Hallmark Hall of Fame"



Courtesy of "Home of the Giants"

co-starring role on the critically acclaimed "Deadwood" on HBO. Bridgers attributes his success to the multitude of acting opportunities he received as a student at Western. "At other universities, students don't act in front of audiences much," he said. "At WCU, I got a lot of practice."

A Sylva native, Bridgers sometimes finds his way back to his alma mater to work with students. So does **Nonalee Davis '95**, who has worked as stunt coordinator and performer in film and television. Davis returned to campus last year to give a series of workshops on basic stage combat, hand-to-hand combat, fight choreography and weapons choreography for theatre arts students and members of the University Players and Black Theatre Ensemble.

For Nienhuis, who teaches drama and film classes in Western's English department, earning a role as a significant character on the Hallmark Hall of Fame production of "The Water is Wide" is the latest in a string of appearances on the series. "This was the third time I had worked with director John Kent Harrison, and it's my biggest screen role so far. It's certainly the most lucrative with the most screen time. My character doesn't have a whole lot to say, but he is certainly around all of the time, and he is constantly being referred to by other characters," said Nienhuis, who also has appeared in past Hallmark Hall of Fame productions "What the Deaf Man Heard," "Having Our Say" and "The Old Man;" in films including "Days of Thunder" and "Paradise Falls;" and in TV commercials for Shoney's and First Union.

But Ayers and Nienhuis both say they get more out of their extracurricular acting gigs than extra spending loot; their work on TV and in motion pictures is helpful in the theatre and film classes they teach at Western. "It's extremely useful to have the kind of practical experience you gain from being on set. It's really been invaluable to see what happens in the process of making a film. I don't think that I truly

understood film and how it works

until I started getting some jobs and began to set foot on film sets," Nienhuis said.

Western alumni and faculty are making their mark in Hollywood. Counterclockwise from top left, Sean Bridgers '92 had a major supporting role in HBO's "Deadwood." Terry Nienhuis, professor of English, co-starred in the television production of "The Water is Wide" earlier this year. Stephen Michael Ayers, associate professor of theatre arts, plays a coach in the upcoming basketball film "Home of the Giants." And above, Nonalee Davis '95, a professional stunt coordinator and performer, gives new meaning to the phrase "hands-on learning" during an on-campus workshop on fight choreography.



GENE MACHINE

Business Grad Leads Biotech Revolution

By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

Tony L. White '69 made his mark on the world by involving himself in scientific explorations of the human genome, the complicated DNA recipe that is the foundation of all human life. But it was the underpinnings of his own life that were on his mind during WCU's summer commencement ceremony.

White, president and chief executive officer of Applera Corporation, attended the August ceremony to accept an honorary doctorate of science. In his position at the Connecticut-based company, White has helped open the way for a revolution in medicine based on the genome. His company accelerated the race to decode the genome in 1998 when it announced plans to finish that project in three years, and two years later, completion of that mission was announced at a White House ceremony. Just a few months before, White found his face on the cover of *Forbes* magazine with the headline: "The making of a \$24 billion gene machine." He has been widely recognized for the key businessman's role he is playing in the biotechnology revolution and in development of the new field of pharmacogenomics.

But grand Washington ceremonies and magazine covers weren't mentioned in White's acceptance speech. Instead, his speech focused on a few words spoken in a long-gone Cullowhee landmark more than three decades ago.

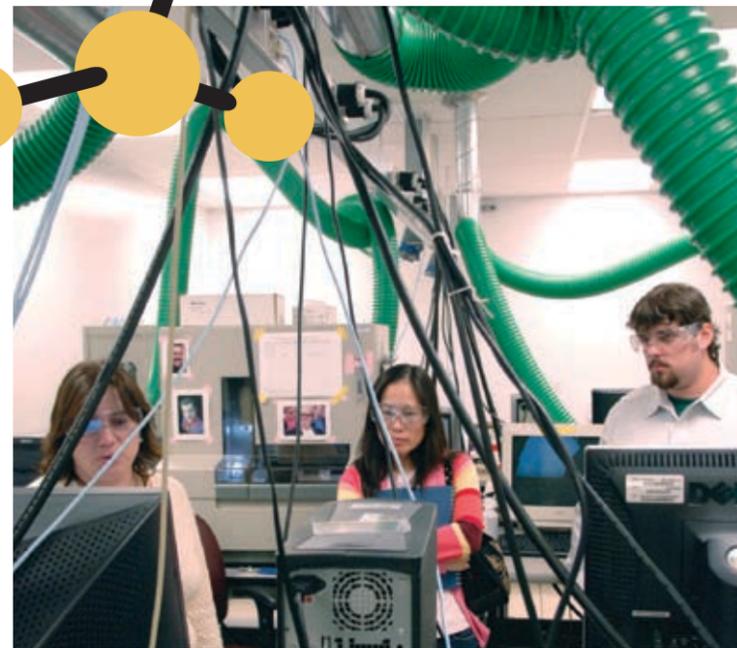
"A couple of days before I left for the military, I was having lunch at the Townhouse with my two favorite teachers, (business professors) Bill and Patsy Scott," he said. "As we parted, Patsy said to me that she thought my only limitation in life might be my own imagination. For the rest of my life, I have worked hard to keep that from coming true."

Born in Havana, Cuba, White was raised in his father's hometown of Asheville and arrived in Cullowhee as a freshman in 1965. "This is where I gained the confidence to go ahead and grow up," he said. "I had not been success-oriented in high school, but here I got a second chance in an environment that was perfectly suited to my needs. I was embraced by friends and faculty in very positive ways and allowed to be transformed into a young man intent on success."

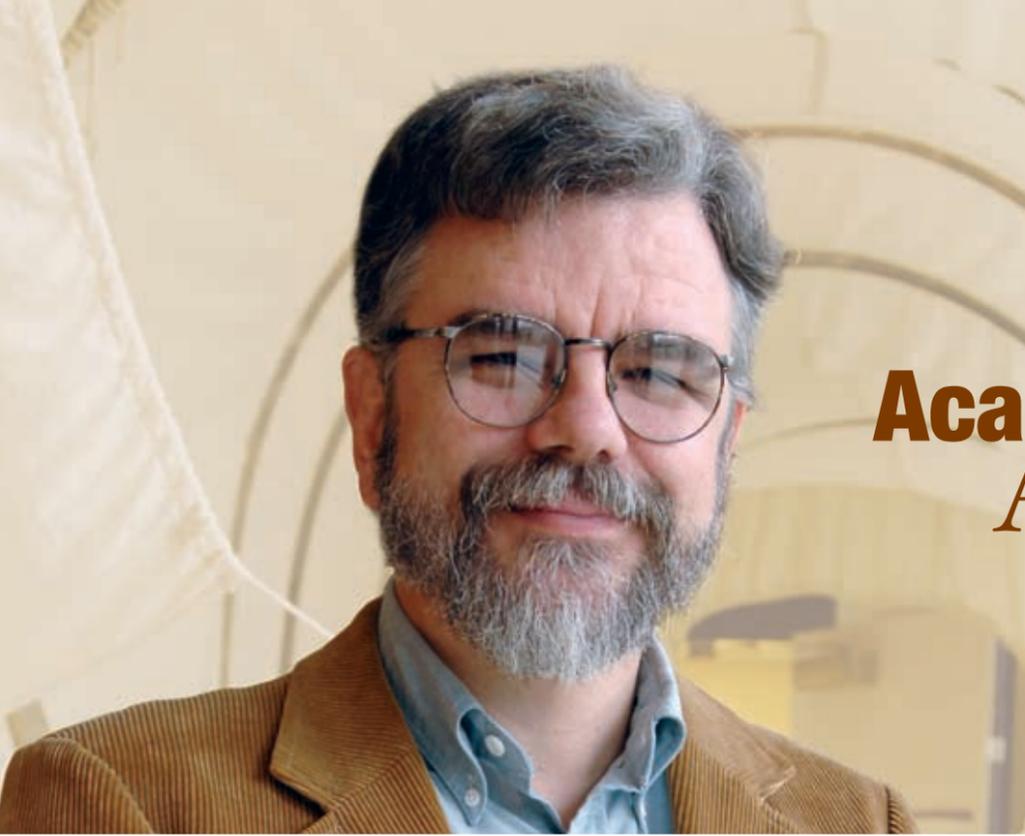
After earning his undergraduate degree in social sciences and economics, and following a stint in the Army, White began a 26-year career at health care services company Baxter International Inc., rising in rank from sales representative to executive vice president. In 1995, he left Baxter to head Applera, the company formerly known as Perkin-Elmer Corporation. He now heads an organization of 6,000 people. "I have been lucky enough to make some pretty good moves during my journey," White said. "But the best one, hands down, was made while I was still here at Western. It was here that I convinced

Susan Bradley '70 to be my wife." White credited his mother, Brevard resident Aida T. White, for providing the foundation for his success. "There is probably only one person who might have predicted this," he said. "My mom always made us believe that we had great potential."

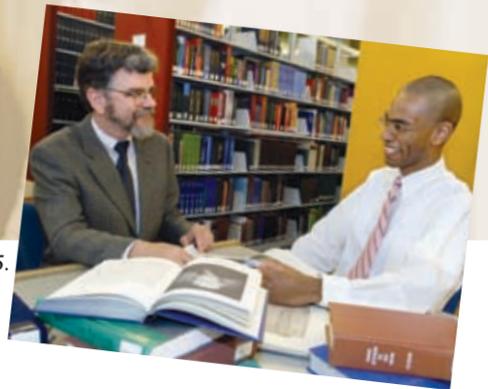
"I'm sure Chancellor Bardo has grown tired of me always making the point that one of the great gifts this school provides young people of our community is that second chance," White said. "I'm grateful I got mine here, and I hope I have made the best of it."



Former *Forbes* magazine cover model **Tony L. White '69** helped a group of WCU students and faculty take the term "field trip" to a higher level recently when he arranged to have them flown by private jet to tour the California headquarters of Applera Corp., the international life sciences company he heads. The Catamount contingent enjoyed a guided tour of company laboratories with White (lower left) to see how science works in the corporate world. Students Carmen Batchelor and Chris Tennant (lower right) even got some hands-on experience using microfluidics products.



Academic Accolades



Scott Philyaw '83 shares a laugh with Brandon Robinson '05.

Professor Scores Faculty Award “Three-Peat”

By BILL STUDENC

By the time **Scott Philyaw '83** made his way to the stage after hearing his name called for the third time in a single afternoon, some audience members had come up with a new label for Western Carolina University's General Faculty Meeting and Awards Convocation—the Scott Philyaw Invitational.

An associate professor of history and newly named director of the university's Mountain Heritage Center, Philyaw chalked up the WCU faculty version of the soccer world's hat trick when he collected three major awards presented at Western's annual campus gathering. He received the Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award for Faculty, was part of a team that won the Integration of Learning Award, and was acknowledged as WCU's recipient of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Teaching.

“It is quite an accomplishment for a faculty member to win any one of these significant university honors, but to receive three of these awards in a single year is unheard of,” said Clifton Metcalf, vice chancellor for advancement and external affairs. “We're pleased that Dr. Philyaw's peers have chosen to recognize him for his teaching and scholarly achievements, and for his service to the university and surrounding community. We're doubly proud that he is a Western alumnus, because these awards are proof positive of the caliber of education the university offers to students—a tradition of high-quality teaching and research that Dr. Philyaw experienced studying here as an undergraduate history major, and a tradition he is now continuing as a faculty member.”

In announcing Philyaw as the winner of the Reid faculty award, Chancellor John Bardo praised him as a professor “who emphasizes critical thinking and its constant companion, clear

communication, in his courses; who makes his classes relevant by stressing the advantages of collaborative learning in the workplace; and who strives to give his students real-world experience.” A faculty member at WCU since 1996, Philyaw received the Integration of Learning Award along with Kathleen Brennan, assistant professor of sociology; Michael Despeaux, career services coordinator; Jubal Tiner, assistant professor of English; and Josh Whitmore, assistant director for outdoor programs. Their winning proposal, “Adventure Sports in the Mountains,” will bring together WCU's outdoor sports programming organization; the Mountain Heritage Center; and faculty in English, sociology and history to enable students to explore adventure sports as a part of Western's community and culture.

The Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence, established in 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to reward good teaching, is among the university system's top faculty awards. **Brandon Alexander Robinson '05**, who first met his future professor and adviser as a high-school participant in a summer academic enrichment program hosted by WCU, called Philyaw “eminently qualified” to receive recognition from the Board of Governors. “I have long believed that the best teachers are also mentors. Dr. Philyaw has not only broadened my mind, but has helped shape my character,” said Robinson. “Looking back on the seven years I have known Dr. Philyaw, I am truly amazed at the extent to which he seeks to unify all the drives of his life, and to enlist like-minded persons. He has truly been what I hoped I would find in the university faculty—the scholarly expert, the gifted teacher, the insightful adviser, and the inspiring role model.”

The World Is Our Classroom

WCU Expands Travel Abroad Program

By JONI KENYON

It's an early November morning in Cullowhee, but Elyse Jardine is already dreaming about life on the other side of the world. “I picture China as a place that is different from anything that I have ever known,” Jardine said. “I want to go because it is a place that has always been a curiosity to me.”

Jardine, a junior majoring in communications, will finally get a chance to visit the country June 2-23 as WCU for the first time offers its “China Abroad” program. It's just one of many countries on the itinerary this summer through the university's annual Summer Abroad Program, with a growing number of students taking advantage of a growing number of opportunities.

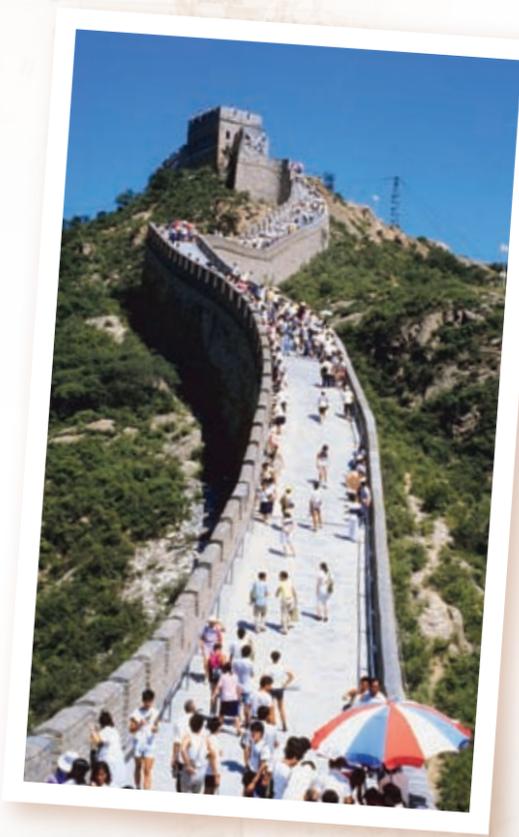
Students who participate in the China trip will stay at Fudan University in Shanghai as a part of three courses: “Basic Survival Skills in China,”

“Principles of Marketing” and “Modern Asian History.”

Trip leaders Steve Henson, assistant professor of marketing and business law, and Gael Graham, associate professor of history, have made a special effort to open the program to all students in the University of North Carolina system. “My personal goal for the trip is to establish a framework that will allow dozens, and eventually hundreds, of North Carolina students to visit China,” Henson said.

Sarah Wong, a sophomore biology major at North Carolina State University, is happy to take advantage of the course. “I think it's wonderful that college can open so many doors to opportunities like this,” Wong said. “I only wish that more students knew about these programs.”

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China

Munich

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Several courses next summer, including “German Civilization” and “Special Topics: German Language and Cultural Immersion,” also are open to students outside of WCU. Students in these courses will explore Munich, have a picnic at Englischer Garten, learn about the history of Dachau (the notorious German concentration camp), and visit the BMW museum and the Bavarian Department of Education. Students wishing to sign up for the German courses must have some prerequisite courses in German, said instructor Donnie Stepp Jr., who himself did undergraduate study abroad in Munich and completed a doctorate program in Bamberg, Germany.

Instructors Erin Tapley, associate professor of art education, and Masafumi Takeda, Asian studies coordina-

tor, will lead a trip to Japan from May 7-21. Tapley will discuss traditional and modern art of Japan while Takeda will cover Japanese language, daily life, customs and education as a part of “Topics in Art” and “Special Topics: Japan Past and Present.”

Students will explore the Ueno area to visit museums and national parks; take a bullet train to Osaka to visit classes at Osaka Kyoiku University; and visit temples, shrines, museums and workshops to study Japanese art. Students also will experience the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.

The main objective of the class is “to cultivate students’ sensitivity to differing values and viewpoints that exist in other cultures,” Tapley said. “This course will be an eye-opener for students who have never been to Japan

before, and will encourage students who have been to Japan to further their understanding of the Japanese language and culture.”

Other international programs offered during summer 2007 are well-established parts of WCU’s summer sessions. For the third year, the university will offer a trip to Quito, Ecuador, where students work with the local population as a part of “Special Topics: International Missionary and Volunteer Nursing,” led by Judy Mallory, assistant professor of nursing. Dates for the trip are May 27–June 5.

“Students can study about other cultures and disparities in health care, but to experience it first hand is life-changing,” Mallory said. “It is an awesome experience to work with a student as he or she assesses a child who has never received ‘formal’ health care before.”

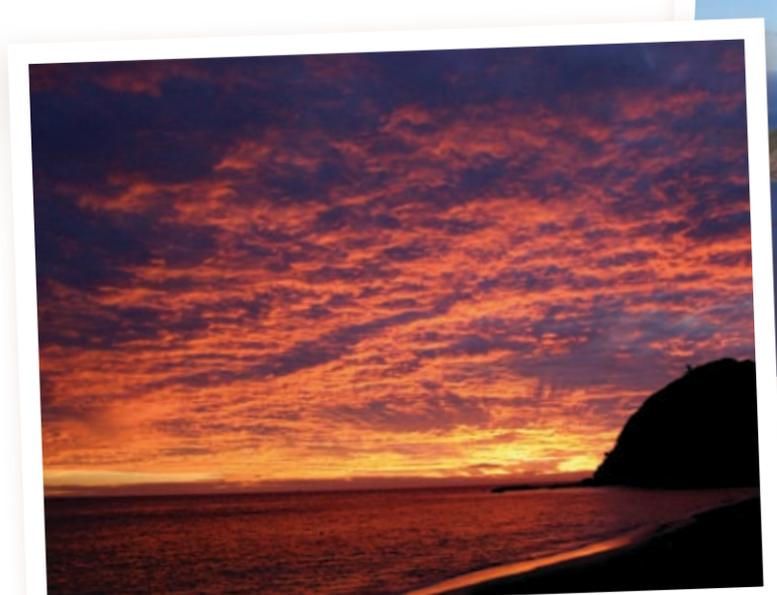
Lee Rule, a senior RN-to-BSN Capstone nursing major who participated in the course last year, agreed. “The enrichment gained from these experiences is immeasurable and definitely far exceeds the credit hours earned for the class,” Rule said.

“Many of the Ecuadorians educated us on their customs and beliefs and, in this way, we were able to enter into a dynamic relationship that promoted collaboration and mutual respect with the people we met,” he said. “This, I feel, is the purpose of international learning experiences.” The course is open to WCU students, with nursing students having first priority.

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*Top right: Nursing student Rebecca Miller
Above: Nursing professor Judy Mallory*



A.J. Rowell '05 visited New Zealand (above) and Fiji (left) as part of his WCU travel-abroad experience. Images from Rowell's travels grace a calendar he is selling to raise money for several charities. For information, visit www.whyriride.com



London



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A "British Design Experience" course is open to interior design majors at WCU who have completed their sophomore-level design courses. Marc Yops, associate professor of hospitality, tourism and interior design, has offered the course several years running. Students travel to London in July for a multi-faceted experience with a focus on historical perspective, including exploration of the furniture industry, tours of design centers, visitations to design showrooms, studio and factory tours, and a visit to an English interior design education program.

"Environments of the Bahamas" will be offered May 7-21, led by Blair Tormey, visiting instructor of geosciences and natural resources management, and Patricia Hembree, assistant professor of science education, geosciences and natural resources management.

A geology course offers a hands-on approach to investigate the geologic and biologic aspects of carbonate environments, while a related science education course is operated as part of the College of the Bahamas Gerace Research Center on the island of San Salvador. Students will examine methods in field-based learning and science education. Both are open to students from all majors and non-WCU students. Both courses require well-fitted snorkeling gear.

Most trips cost between \$1,600 and \$3,000, in addition to tuition and personal expenses such as food and admission fees to temples and museums. Participants must be admitted to the university before registering for a course. For more information, contact the Division of Educational Outreach at (828) 227-7397 or (866) 928-4723.



Students experience the Bahamas both by land and by sea.

Bahamas



Horse Sense

Equestrian Club Unites Equine Enthusiasts

Western's Equestrian Club may be small, but the tight-knit group of a dozen or so horse lovers say the experience—horse showing, equine-related service, fundraising and just plain everyday horse care—is very rewarding. Intercollegiate horse show judges agree: Last year, **Lauren Allen '06** won her class and placed fourth over fences at this year's show sponsored by Wake Forest University. **Elizabeth Munday '06** left a St. Andrews Presbyterian College horse show with back-to-back high point rider awards, having placed first or second in both horsemanship and reining classes. Brooke Mercier placed first and second in her novice classes at a double-header at Virginia Tech. Maria Aponte earned enough points to qualify for a year-end regional finals show. Katie Evans won an advanced walk-trot-canter class at Virginia Intermont. The list goes on.

The club began when a student and a prospective student started exploring the idea with club adviser Nory Prochaska, a lifelong rider who also directs the Mathematics Tutoring Center and coordinates the University Experience course for first-year students. They recruited through word-of-mouth and a sign-up table at Valley Ballyhoo, WCU's annual back-to-school celebration. "It grew from there," said Prochaska.

Unlike schools that have large, established equestrian programs, the WCU team depends on riders who bring horses to the area while in school, or local horse lovers willing

to allow their horses to be used by the team for practice. The hunt seat team worked with a professional coach, Cathy Schwartz of Smokey Hollow Farm in Candler.

The team also participated in IHSA-recognized western horsemanship events, something new for the IHSA region. "With limited riding opportunities, our competitive efforts are pretty low-key," said Prochaska. "But, the beauty of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association program is that it has a place for riders of all levels to compete, and the large programs provide all of the horses, so it's remarkably accessible, financially, for college students."

Members of Western's Equestrian Club find the extra-curricular activity indispensable. Munday, who is from Kernersville, said she realized when she got to Western that she had to be around horses. "I was too far away from our farm or my horse trainer to be able to ride every day like I was used to," she said. And riding was so important to Allen that she met with Prochaska to learn more about the Equestrian Club before deciding to transfer from Salem College. The Sylva native went on to compete for three years, served as captain for two and club president for one. "My teammates quickly became some of my best friends," said Allen.

Team member Becky Howard, who grew up riding and showing horses in Hayesville, has high hopes for the future of Western's Equestrian Club. "I hope to see the team one day grow and have a barn of its own for a large, diverse team," said Howard. "It has a lot of potential."



Members of Western's Equestrian Club share their love of horses through riding in shows, caring for horses and service projects. Pictured at left with a horse named "Chance" are club members, left to right, Maria Aponte, April Greene, adviser Nory Prochaska, Nicki Heim, Lauren Allen '06, Ashley Bordner, Brooke Mercier, Becky Howard and Elizabeth Munday '06.



WCU Athletics

PITCH PERFECT

New Skipper at the Helm for Softball Cats in '07

By DANIEL HOOKER '01

Western's softball team was scrambling for someone to fill Cinderella's coaching shoes when first-year head coach Megan Smith unexpectedly took a position at Louisiana State after a storybook season that saw the squad claim the Southern Conference championship in its first year of existence.

Well, the clock did not strike midnight for Catamount softball fans. After helping Virginia Tech to its first two NCAA regional tournament berths over the last two seasons as the top assistant coach for the Atlantic Coast Conference program, former collegiate pitching standout Christine Hornak is now on the job in Cullowhee as the second head softball coach of the fast-pitch era for Western Carolina.

"I am very excited to be the next head softball coach at Western Carolina University," Hornak said. "I feel privileged to continue developing tradition and a history for this young program. I look forward to being part of the Catamount athletic family and working with such talented athletes."

Hornak takes over the reins of a program that posted a 41-20 overall record, including a 16-4 league record, and featured six All-Southern Conference picks while setting a SoCon season record for home runs by a team (81). Among the returning starters are the SoCon Pitcher of the Year (Mendy

McKenzie) and the SoCon Freshman of the Year (Jenny Jackson). Also back on the diamond in 2007 are two Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-Region selections (McKenzie and Ashley Adams, who belted a SoCon season conference record 21 homers) and six All-Southern Conference picks.

"Christine is a great fit for Catamount softball," said Chip Smith, director of athletics. "This is a team that has quickly earned the reputation of a quality program. We are pleased that we now have a coach with her experience and background who is committed to helping us take the next step."

While at Virginia Tech, Hornak was responsible for the Hokie pitching staff, as well as conditioning, recruiting and coordinating all travel plans. Under her tutelage, pitcher Angela Tincher became the first softball All-American at Virginia Tech, being named Louisville Slugger/NFCA second team All-American. Tincher, who was named to the United States World University Team, was also tabbed 2006 Atlantic Coast Conference Pitcher and Player of the Year as well as second team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America. During her own playing days, Hornak was a star pitcher at Campbell and UNC Greensboro, earning all-conference honors at both schools.

Christine Hornak is Western's new softball coach.



Jason Hedrick shows his Special Olympics medals to Josh Dees (left) and Kyle Greathouse (right).



GOING FOR THE GOLD

Basketball Players Make Special Olympics Even More Special for Local Athlete

By BESSIE DIETRICH '06

Three young men, all with a passion for athletics, created a lasting bond this past summer. Josh Dees and Kyle Greathouse of the Catamount men's basketball squad spent time during the off-season as volunteer coaches for Jason Hedrick, a Special Olympics athlete. With their help, Hedrick won a gold medal in track and field at the Special Olympics USA National Games.

"Jason and his mom came to our basketball games, and we got to know them," said Dees. Hedrick would wait after each game to shake the hands of the players. After basketball season, Dees and Greathouse decided to stay on campus for summer school and to hone their basketball skills. Meanwhile, Hedrick had placed high enough in the state Special Olympics competition to qualify for the national event in Ames, Iowa.

"Jason needed to continue his training for running," said Hedrick's mother, Pat Beasley, coordinator for the Special Olympics program in Jackson County. Remembering the connection her son had made with the basketball players, she asked Dees and Greathouse to train her son, and they accepted.

Each practice session incorporated exercising, running and timing Hedrick. "We asked WCU track athletes about training," said Dees. "Then we started training Jason with different techniques, like helping him start faster and run through the finish line." The three trained almost every day for approximately six weeks, and they developed a plan. "We worked out at different times during the day," said Greathouse. "We wanted to vary his runs from the afternoon heat to the cool of the evening."

The WCU athletes were always positive with Hedrick, urging him to do his best at the competition, said Beasley. "They

respected him and took his training seriously," she said. On the last day that the trio worked together, Dees and Greathouse presented Hedrick with a stopwatch on which they had clocked his final practice run. They told Hedrick to keep the timepiece with him for good luck during the races because it held his best time from all summer.

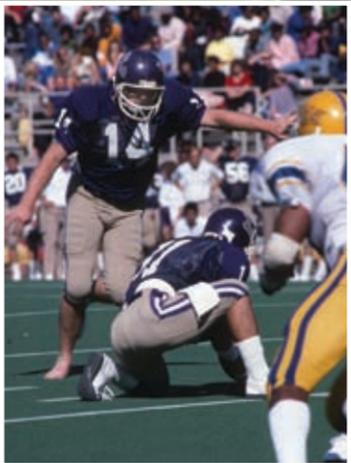
That is, it represented his best time until he took to the track for the national Special Olympics meet, where Hedrick won the gold medal in the 4x100 race. "Jason shaved off three more seconds at the competition," said Beasley. He also ran in the 100- and 200-meter races, placing fifth and earning the silver medal in those events, respectively. "We brought competitiveness to it for Jason," said Greathouse. "It was definitely his time to shine."

The WCU athletes said they gained great insight from the experience, and both found it extremely rewarding. "I realized how big of a deal it was. It was one of the best experiences of my life," said Greathouse. Dees agreed. "It was rewarding because Jason was a lot of fun. As athletes, Kyle and I like to see improvement, and Jason worked really hard. It was a good situation all around."

During an era when many athletes seem to care only about game stats or the highlight reel, it was refreshing to watch Dees and Greathouse work with Hedrick, his mom said. "They helped Jason because they cared for him, not to get recognition for doing it. It was just so special," said Beasley. "Both young men were faithful to Jason. They showed up, and they had a plan. They were organized, kind and truly good sportsmen."



Former bare-footed kicker Kirk Roach and his family enjoy his jersey retirement ceremony with Chip Smith.



JUST FOR KICKS

Record-breaking Booter Kirk Roach Sees Jersey Retired

By MIKE CAWOOD

Already the most honored player in Catamount football history, place-kicker **Kirk Roach** racked up yet another accolade earlier this year when he watched as his No. 14 jersey was officially retired.

A member of the Southern Conference's 75th Anniversary Football Team and a 1996 WCU Athletics Hall of Fame inductee who owns numerous WCU, Southern Conference and NCAA records, Roach holds the distinction of being the Catamount taken highest in the NFL draft, going in the fifth round to the Buffalo Bills in 1987.

"Having my jersey retired is an amazing honor that I will forever cherish, and I am overwhelmingly flattered to have this accolade bestowed upon me. I truly believe that this honor is an absolute reflection of the support and encouragement given to me by my teammates, coaches and family," said Roach, Western's and the Southern Conference's first three-time All-America selection (1984, 1986 and 1987). "I am grateful that WCU took a chance on me—when no other school would—and gave me the opportunity to play college football. The lessons and values that Coach (Bob) Waters instilled into me have undoubtedly helped me on a day-to-day basis, in both my professional and personal life."

Roach was the first player in league history to be a four-time, first team All-SoCon selection (1984-87), an accomplishment that has since been duplicated just three other times. The Doraville, Ga., native and current Cumming, Ga., resident is WCU's all-time scoring leader with 302 points. Roach still owns NCAA records for most field goals attempted in a career (101), most field goals of 50 yards or more made in a season (seven) and career (11), most games kicking two or more field goals (25), longest average distance of field goals attempted (40.5), and highest percentage of field goals made in a season from inside 40 yards, as he connected on all 17 attempts in 1986.

"Kirk's football career is an important part of the heritage of Western Carolina football, and he has continued to be involved with the athletic program since that time," said Chip Smith, WCU director of athletics. "He is a true Catamount. I am delighted that we are able to honor him by retiring his jersey."

A marker honoring Roach's retired jersey now stands adjacent to the current marker honoring the retired numbers of Art Byrd (No. 54) and Jerry Gaines (No. 23). Roach now works for a computer software company near Atlanta.

SWING SHIFT

Catamount Golfer Atop the Collegiate Leader Board

Western Carolina junior Matt Cook was rated as the top male golfer in NCAA Division I, while teammate Andres Cuenca is rated 35th in the nation, according to rankings released in October by Golfstat.com. A native of Murphy, Cook also was featured on the Golf Channel's "College Central" for moving up from 10th in the previous ranking to his current spot at the top.

"To have the top-ranked collegiate golfer, as well as the 35th ranked collegiate golfer, in the NCAA Division I rankings speaks very highly of the direction that our program is heading," said head coach **Gorham Bradley '04**. "Cook's development in our program has been very exciting for all of those involved with WCU golf. Personally, I feel that we are just beginning to see the ability that Cook has to play the game of golf and, as he continues to mature mentally, expect him to continue to be successful."



Matt Cook sinks the putt.



Dianne '66 and Dale Hollifield '65 and their grandson visit the renovated football locker room.

Football Locker Room Named in Honor of Dale, Dianne Hollifield

The recently renovated football locker room in Western's Ramsey Regional Activity Center now bears the name of a husband-and-wife team who helped lead the fundraising effort that made the \$225,000 upgrade possible.

Dale Hollifield '65, who played guard for the Catamounts from 1962 to 1964, and wife **Dianne Hollifield '66**, have contributed \$85,000 toward the renovation. The longtime members of Western's Catamount Club are retired and live in Kings Mountain.

In recognition of the Hollifields' gifts, the executive committee of Western's board of trustees bestowed on the expanded

facility the name the Dale and Dianne Hollifield Locker Room. The action came during a specially called meeting in September.

"This project is both a significant enhancement of the football facilities and a visible demonstration of the Hollifields' loyalty to the university," said Chip Smith, director of athletics at WCU. "We are deeply gratified by their support of Catamount athletics in such a generous manner."

A ceremony officially dedicating the Dale and Dianne Hollifield Locker Room came as part of Western's Athletics Hall of Fame weekend, when the Catamounts knocked off nationally ranked Eastern Kentucky University.

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

Former WCU Dance Squad Member Makes NFL Cheerleading Squad

by LOYD VAN HORN '02

When **Tara Mull '05** walks into a room, the energy level of everyone around her increases by about 1,000 percent. So it only makes sense that you would find her on the sidelines of Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium, helping to increase the energy level of more than 70,000 screaming Carolina Panthers fans by about 1,000 percent.

A Waynesville native now living in Charlotte, Mull was chosen from a field of about 200 candidates to be one of the 35 "TopCats" for the 2006 season. The social work major and dance teacher now finds herself on the field along with **Brad Hoover '00**, the bruising fullback in his seventh year as a Panther.

Mull has been dancing and performing most of her life. She competed in dance in middle school, was a cheerleader at Tuscola High School, and was a member of the dance team at Western. "When I finished dancing at WCU, it was like someone pulled the carpet out from under me, when I thought of all that had come to an end," she said. "But I knew I wasn't finished performing. The closer TopCat try-outs got, the more it became apparent that it was my golden opportunity to continue doing what I love."

Mull says the commitment of being a TopCat is pretty demanding. On non-practice days, many of the Charlotte-resident TopCats will meet up to do ab and cardio exercises before working on their cheer routines. "We motivate each other, which is what keeps us all going," said Mull. On practice days, the team meets at the stadium and works with the team choreographer.

In addition to practices, outside rehearsals and game day, the TopCats volunteer to make appearances around town. "They ask that we do at least 15 appearances throughout the season so that we do our part to help out and represent the team throughout the community," Mull said.

Mull says that her experiences with Western's dance team began to prepare her for life as a TopCat. "We were very close knit, much like the TopCats, and we were expected to be professional in and outside of dance time, as are the TopCats," she said. "WCU had a great group of fans, too."

While Mull, an admitted "small-town girl," continues to adjust to Charlotte life, she hopes she can achieve some longevity with the team. "We have 10-year veterans on our team, so the sky is the limit. I love it," she said. "It's not

work for me because this is my dream, so of course I think it is fabulous. It is an honor to see little girls look up to you because they want to be just like you when they grow up. That is a feeling that warms your heart and never gets old."



Tara Mull '05 is now a TopCat.

Printed in edited form with permission of The (Waynesville) Mountaineer with photo by Dwayne Woodard

WHISTLE BLOWER ACTS

Retired Educator's Favorite Football Team Wears Stripes

A veteran of 25 years in the National Football League, **Gerald D. Austin '64 MAEd '69** has officiated three Super Bowls and numerous playoff games, and is coordinator for football officials for Conference USA. A retired public school administrator with more than 30 years experience in leadership, Austin has been an associate superintendent, high school principal, and program associate at an international leadership training center. Head of a leadership development group specializing in strategic planning, leadership training and team building, he recently agreed to a question-and-answer session with the North Carolina Career Network Magazine at www.careernetworkmag.com.

How did you get into officiating?

AUSTIN: The process started when I was in the 10th grade. My basketball coach asked for volunteers to officiate the seventh- and eighth-grade teams, and I volunteered. I guess I've never really stopped since then. In 1981 I applied for the NFL. I was selected to officiate in 1982. I have been officiating for the NFL 25 years and am currently ranked as the official with the most experience. Not the oldest, just the most experienced.

What motivates you to excel as an official?

AUSTIN: Like anything you do, you want to do it the best you can. I want to be the best at whatever I do. I keep officiating because, when I walk on that field on Sunday afternoon, there is no other place I want to be. I have a sense of comfort that my crew and I will be able to handle any situation. I love being there. In some ways it's like I am still a kid and still competing.

We see what you do on the football field, but what is involved in being an official?

AUSTIN: You have to prepare yourself for three hours a day on Sunday and be ready to concentrate 165 times for seven seconds. That is how long each play is. Some people think we are responsible for concentrating the entire game, but there are different degrees of concentration. We have to execute any play properly. In a good ball game for officials, we have the same euphoric feeling and adrenaline going as players when they win. When you screw up, it is a bad feeling and you can't wait to the next game to get rid of it.

Being the head official, how do you differ from the other officials on the field?

AUSTIN: I have the responsibility for the preparation of the six guys on my crew. My job is to set the tone. I am responsible for previous games that may not have played well. I am also responsible for making the call on replays, looking under the hood. I will officiate 20 NFL games. Outside of the NFL, I assign Conference USA officials and will attend 12 to 15 college football games.

What advice would you offer anyone going into this field?

AUSTIN: Anyone that feels like they want to officiate needs to know three things... the rules, the mechanics (where you are supposed to be and when you're supposed to be there), and don't insert yourself into the game. Let the players play and you make the calls. In reality, our job is to manage the ballgame. When one team or player gets unfair advantage, then it is our job to step up and the make the call. The rest of the time we simply manage the flow of the game.

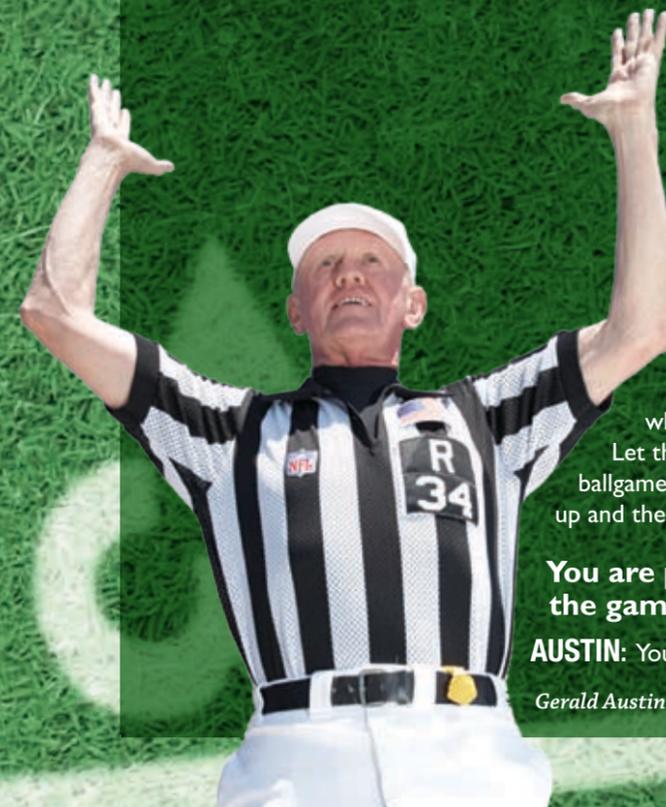
You are probably the first person I have ever met that loves the game of football, but doesn't have a favorite team.

AUSTIN: You're right. I love the game, but my favorite team wears stripes.

Gerald Austin '64 MAEd '69 makes the call.



The interview is reprinted in edited form with photos by Bo Caillong.





Breaking Barriers

A Pioneer of Integration Recalls the Summer of 1957 By RANDALL HOLCOMBE

The arrival of **Lavern Hamlin Allen** at Western Carolina College on June 11, 1957, did not generate a lot of buzz on campus, despite the fact that the 21-year-old was bringing integration to Cullowhee as the institution's first African-American student. Allen's trek from her hometown of Roanoke, Va., to enroll in a nine-week graduate school summer session was low-key, at most.

"I left home very early and arrived at Western about 3 o'clock in the afternoon," she said. "I was hot, tired, and had cramps in my feet and legs from the long drive, and lots of anxiety. I persevered. I went directly to the office of the director of summer session, registered for three classes, paid my fees and was assigned a room."

And thus Western entered a new era.

Allen had already earned a bachelor's degree in speech correction and English in Virginia and was working as a speech therapist in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools when she enrolled at Western with the goal of earning nine hours of credit in special education to obtain an advanced North Carolina teaching certificate.

Allen's arrival in Cullowhee came three years after the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court

decision, which ordered an end to racial segregation in the public schools. All-white Southern colleges were just beginning to receive applications from African-American students. Some schools, including Western, granted admission, but many students won admission only with a court order.

Allen says she found out much later that her first days in Cullowhee were carefully planned to avoid complications. She arrived the day following regular registration, avoiding reporters, and the institution's director of public relations interviewed her and released the story to the press.

"My instructors had been chosen," she said. "They appeared eager to have me as a student. A black family with a daughter about my age called to offer assistance if I needed it. We became friends. They were my lifeline to understanding this new and different culture and a source of comfort."

Overall, the situation remained quiet in Cullowhee. "There might have been some residents who feared change, but it appeared to me that most resigned themselves to the fact that change was coming," she said. "While they did not welcome it with open arms, there was no violence, no fight, no mass resistance.

"When I reflect on that summer, I wonder why," Allen said. "There had been a tremendous amount of violence in several states, and more was to come. However, it never happened in Cullowhee."

Allen went on to earn master's degrees at the University of Maryland and George Washington University. She retired in 1992 after working as a speech pathologist in Washington, D.C.-area schools for 25 years. Currently a resident of Silver Spring, Md., she served Western as a trustee from 1987 through 1995.

Although Allen's 1957 arrival in Cullowhee was quiet, her August 2006 visit to Cullowhee came with a lot of fanfare as the university honored her with an honorary doctorate in humane letters in recognition of her contributions to society as a pioneer of integration and social change, and for her service to the university.

"I always knew that the summer of 1957 was special," Allen said as she accepted the honorary degree at the summer commencement ceremony. "I accept this honor with the love and dignity in which it was presented."

In a recent return to campus, Lavern Hamlin Allen re-creates her 1957 visit to Hunter Library.

Wary Potter

Cherokee Artist Strives to Keep Traditions Alive

By TERESA KILLIAN

Cherokee potter **Joel Queen '05** dug 6 feet into muddy, soggy earth near a pond to mine for scarce blue clay. The mica-rich material gets harder and harder to find on undeveloped land, but Queen refuses to give up the search. He seeks permission to retrieve bucketfuls from private property and then dries, grinds, rewets, strains and works with the temperamental material to help him feel a connection with the past. Nine generations of his family worked with blue clay. "Before that, the records are fuzzy," he said. "My grandmother was Ethel Bigmeat. I did not get to work with her, but she was an excellent potter. She was using blue clay when she died."

His story is one of many in the community of Cherokee artists faced with depleted supplies of once-common materials their ancestors used. Helping them is the Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources initiative, funded by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and operated by Western Carolina University's Cherokee Studies Program. RTCAR has awarded about half a

million dollars in grants to entities from businesses to universities that agree to step forward with plans to search for, grow or study ways to revitalize needed natural resources. David Cozzo, RTCAR project director, said many projects have focused on mapping and planting rivercane.

"It's probably the signature material of Cherokee basket makers," said Cozzo. "Rivercane is not an endangered species, but it is considered an endangered habitat."

Vicki Ledford, manager of Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual in Cherokee, said artists are having to go farther to find what they need, whether it's across state lines to acquire rivercane or deep into the mountains to find the plants used for dyes. Honeysuckle is fairly available, but hickory is getting scarce, she said. "Basket weavers are buying a lot of white oak from a local gentleman who works with construction and goes to different states," Ledford said. "You can't go out on your property anymore and find your white oak tree. Nowadays, you can run down to the hobby shop and get stuff and assemble it, but that's what we try to stay away from. We have a tag on our pieces that tells the craft worker, the date, the materials and the dyes."

Supporting Queen's quest for blue clay is a prestigious \$15,000 Wingate Fellowship. The funding helps him locate traditional blue clay sources in the region and experiment with ways to use the bluish gray tint to produce high-fired functional art, such as pots that could be used for baking. "It's hard work, though fortunately, the rain has made everything muddy and soggy," said Queen. "The fellowship will allow me to bring a functional piece out that people will be able to use—pots to serve and bake in. Luckily, there are still a few places where you can mine this clay."



Joel Queen '05 shows one of his traditional Cherokee pots.



Kathy Boydston '67 MAEd '79 EdS '83 stands outside the Bird Alumni House she helped restore.

WCU Wonder Woman

Boydston Shares Energy, Enthusiasm

By TERESA KILLIAN

Involved and energetic, that's how Kristian and Morgan Buckner describe their grandmother, **Katherine Abbott Boydston '67 MAEd '79 EdS '83**. Boydston spends time with them, and takes them places such as the WCU campus to take photos for a county fair competition.

"Miss Everything," that's how Chancellor John Bardo describes her. Boydston's resume of Western involvement is long: current chair of the Council for the Advancement of the College of Education and Allied Professions, chair of the WCU Foundation Board, president of the WCU Alumni Association, leader of the Bird Alumni House restoration, key fundraiser for the Alumni Tower, founder and chair of an alumni association presidents group, founder of the University of North Carolina system alumni association presidents council, and the list goes on and on. "If it's for Western, her answer is 'yes,'" Bardo said. "She gave and gave and gave to this university, and still does."

Western recently honored Boydston for her decades of service with the Distinguished Service Award for the initiatives she has led and aided to unify WCU alumni and enhance the quality of education.

She traces her ties to the university to her family and growing up in Cullowhee in the house next door to Bird Alumni House. Despite earning a full scholarship to another university, she had no question about where she would

attend college—not that she simply "attended." As a freshman at Western, she was presented the Most School Spirited Award. Boydston edited the Catamount yearbook, was a member of Delta Zeta sorority and wrote a column for the Western Carolinian. She graduated—the first time—in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in business, marketing and retailing. The second time, she earned a master's degree in middle grades education and the third time an education specialist degree.

During her 35 years teaching in North Carolina—33 of those in Haywood County—she has amassed numerous teaching awards, including North Carolina DARE Educator of the Year, Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher of the Year and Outstanding Elementary Mathematics Teacher of the Year. She has twice been named both Teacher of the Year and Conservation Teacher of the Year. Today, she is the water curriculum coordinator for Haywood County Schools. "Kathy became the consummate educator," Bardo said.

In addition to building her career and raising her family, she continued to volunteer countless hours to efforts to improve Western and help students achieve their academic goals, including helping raise money for a Haywood County scholarship fund that still gives scholarships today. "It was just a natural thing to give back, and I have just begun," Boydston said. "There is much to be done."

Songbird Takes Flight

Vocalist Soars from Cullowhee to Carnegie

By TERESA KILLIAN

Jeanne Jolly '01 sat on a stool at Carnegie Hall in June for sound check before a sea of red velvet chairs—empty except for her biggest fans in the third row. (Her parents said they had to keep pinching themselves.) "I never would have thought that I would have been able to perform in Carnegie Hall this soon—if ever," said Jolly, featured vocalist with the band of Chris Botti, a multiple Grammy Award-winning jazz trumpet player.

For 10 panic-stricken minutes the day of the concert, though, the Raleigh native feared she still might not get to perform in Carnegie Hall: A search for warm water for tea left her locked in a stairwell, banging on every door. "As I began to imagine scenarios of Chris calling me to the stage and not being there, someone finally heard me," Jolly said.

Not long after, she was giving life to music from Botti's album "To Love Again" and enjoying a standing ovation from a sold-out auditorium. "What a dream come true," said Jolly, 2006 winner of Western's Young Alumna Award.

The dream was born before Jolly could talk, mimicking Beethoven's Fifth while riding in a car seat. "You'd have to ask my mom if I was in tune or not," Jolly said. At age 11, Jolly auditioned and was selected to perform the national anthem at a Carolina Mudcats baseball game. In the summers, she would sing with youth musical theatre programs. A 14-year-old Jolly landed the role of the 60-something mother abess in "The Sound of Music" because she could pull off "Climb Every Mountain," said her mother, Jeanne S. Jolly. At Saint Mary's School in Raleigh, she developed her classical voice.

Jolly was recruited to the music program at Western, where she was a Fletcher Music Scholar. "Jeanne has a very pure quality in her voice," said Robert Holquist,



Jeanne Jolly '01 is hitting all the right notes in her singing career.

WCU professor of music and director of choral activities, "She also has a warm, down-home personality and a stage presence so engaging that when you watch her, you will be drawn to her and her beautifully clear voice."

Holquist encouraged Jolly to sing it all, she said. "I tried out opera workshop, concert choir, early music, technology ensemble, jazz and big band. I really just had a wonderful time performing with my classmates, being creative, and buckling down and really getting inside the music," said Jolly. "Western was the perfect place for me."

Jolly then earned her master's in music from the extremely competitive New England Conservatory and had the chance to perform with the Boston Philharmonic and at Opera in the Ozarks. In Los Angeles, she worked as a sales and marketing coordinator at a music produc-

tion company, where she did voiceover work for movies, commercials and television shows including NBC's "West Wing" and Showtime's "Sleeper Cell."

Botti heard Jolly's voice on a demo recording and invited her on the day of a show to sing with the group. The next day, Botti invited her on a 10-day bus tour that grew into an invite to a Canada tour and performances in more than 30 states. In Honolulu, the orchestral musicians wore Hawaiian shirts. In Florida, a crowded rained-out show moved into a Rotary clubhouse. A performance with the Pacific Symphony inspired a man in the audience to tell her he cried thinking about his daughter when she sang "What'll I Do," Jolly said. "That is what it is all about—creating music to reflect on memories, to bring joy, to heal and to communicate in ways you can't otherwise."

classNOTES

The Class Notes section features news about personal or professional accomplishments of Western graduates. Alumni are listed in the year in which they earned their first degree at Western. City and county names not otherwise identified are in North Carolina.

3...2...1... Alum Takes off at NASA

Jenna Mills '05 boarded the now-retired KC-135 plane three years ago wondering what weightlessness would feel like. The plane soared, and Mills suddenly began to float and turn in the air. "It's hard to describe. Some people say it's like riding a roller coaster, but, to me, it's completely different. It's the coolest feeling in the world," she said.

The fledgling journalist returned to Charlotte after completing her mission of taking video and documenting North Carolina students' participation in the Reduced Gravity Student Flight Program. Then, she launched a mission of her own—to work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "I just completely fell in love with Johnson Space Center," said Mills. "Everyone who worked there was so nice and willing to help in any way, and I thought 'I'd love to work for NASA,' which was a surprise for somebody who wasn't strong in science and math."

The Waynesville native gave two weeks notice at the independent TV station where she worked, moved home and returned to Western to finish her degree in communication. She shifted her concentration from broadcast journalism to public relations, where she learned such skills as putting together public relations plans. "Jenna has what it takes to be successful—good organizational and analytical skills, attention to details," said Debra Connelly, assistant professor of public relations. "She is hard-working and self-motivating."



Jenna Mills '05

Mills contacted the NASA Cooperative Education Program, applied for one of 150 competitive positions and wrote the coordinator weekly until she got the job. "When people say persistence pays off, persistence pays off," she said.

At NASA, she helped market a series of short videos, "NASA Brain Bites," which answer frequently asked questions such as how an astronaut goes to the bathroom in space. She conducted a hometown publicity campaign that promoted stories about the people who work with the International Space Station to publications in their hometowns. The internship and co-op experiences at NASA developed into a full-time position as a public affairs specialist.

"She's a jack-of-all-trades," said Debbie Nguyen, public affairs specialist who works with Mills. "She brought a lot of experience from different areas to the team, has a great attitude and works hard."

Mills now writes for NASA publications, fields media calls during shuttle missions, develops publicity campaigns and arranges events, such as a hurricane preparation briefing. She has produced press kits, interviewed NASA officials and written press releases. The Western student who took time off to figure out her future has landed a job she loves.

Houston, we have lift-off.

classNOTES



1939

The memoir **Vera Jones Stinson** (left) wrote about her life, "Stumbling Blocks Were Stepping Stones in Appalachia," is in its third printing. Stinson, who is 97, shared memories of survival skills such as smoking hams, canning, dispensing herbal medicine, operating a still, making footballs from hog bladders, curing snakebites, and making clothes and quilts. Her intention

was to show that no matter how poor a person is, one can have a loving, fulfilling life and be extremely proud of this area in North Carolina. Completing her degree at Western Carolina Teacher's College took a decade, and among her jobs was teaching 40 students in a one-room schoolhouse in Cedar Mountain.

1974

Joseph Crocker was appointed to the board of directors of Bank of Granite Corp. Crocker, a native of Kings Mountain, spent nearly 32 years in the banking industry. He is the director of operations at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem, a private, philanthropic, grant-making organization.

classNOTES

1976

Two alums were selected to be featured in the new book "Firestarters: 100 Job Profiles to Inspire Young Women." **Beverly Davis Setzer MS '77** and **Michelle Triggs Owen '95** are two of 100 women whose career achievements can offer inspiration to girls and young women exploring career options. Setzer, principal of Rugby Middle School in Henderson County, emphasizes the importance of each person finding her niche. "Women need to decide what's important to them and follow that, but they need to have passion for what they're doing. If you don't have a passion for it, don't do it." Owen, a graphic designer whose company is temporarily inactive while she pursues other interests and obligations, enjoys not being tied down to a desk. Design projects require research, giving her a certain amount of freedom. Her advice includes the importance of education for designers: "Learn everything about everything because it all comes into play in design."

1979

Brenda Kay Ledford MAEd returned for the second summer to the Keith House at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown for a reading of original stories and poems. She won the 2005 Paul Green Multimedia Award for her chapbook "Patchwork Memories." A member of the North Carolina Poetry Society, the Tennessee Mountain Writers and the Georgia Mountain Writers' Club, Ledford has had work published in *Our State*, *Carolina Country*, *Asheville Poetry Review*, *Pembroke Magazine*, *Main Street Rag* and other publications.

1980

Chief of police in Grand Rapids, Mich., and internationally known leader in the field of law enforcement management, **Harry P. Dolan** served in March as instructor in the management and leadership seminar at Southwestern Community College in Sylva. He has trained thousands of police officers, supervisors and managers throughout the country in the field of community policing and police leadership. In 2005, Dolan was invited to Budapest, Hungary, to provide training to law enforcement practitioners from five eastern European countries on the topic of traffic stop data collection in America. Last fall, he was in Russia to provide similar training. Dolan

began his law enforcement career as a deputy for the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department in Asheville and also has worked in law enforcement in Raleigh and Lumberton.

1982

Owner of the Mountaineer Publishing Co. of Waynesville, **Jonathan Key** recently completed a term on the North Carolina Press Association Board of Directors. Key also is president of the United Way of Haywood County, president of the Haywood County Schools Foundation, and a member of the Haywood Community Connection Board and Haywood County Chamber of Commerce education committee. He and wife Barbara have two sons — Jonathan, 13, and Thomas, 10.

1983

Among the new Lenoir-Rhyne College Alumni Board members elected for 2006-2007 is **Becky Roof Gladden MAEd**. A media specialist at Banoak Elementary School in Catawba County, she is a member of Sardis Lutheran Church. Gladden and husband Jonathan live in Vale with their children: Sarah, 17; Caroline, 15; and Meredith, 12.



The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has selected **Robert Jumper** (above) to manage its Cherokee Bottled Water enterprise. Jumper, an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, had previously been the marketing and public relations coordinator for the tribe since 2002. As part of the Cherokee travel and tourism promotion team, he helped organize and promote events including the Cherokee Indian Fairs, the inaugural Festival of Native Peoples and the Cherokee Rod Runs. Jumper has 20 years of product management experience with Georgia-Carolina Radiocasting, the Childress Broadcast Group, Altria/Philip Morris USA and the



Jim Rodgers '96

Wing Man Growing WCU Community Brings Alum Home

Western football alumnus **Jim Rodgers '96** began his search for the right place to open a Zaxby's restaurant in South Carolina but ended it to the north, close to his college home. "I couldn't have a better place to have a business," said Rodgers, a lifelong chicken finger fan who lives in Georgia. "Western North Carolina is a great part of the country. Sylva's Main Street has a lot of traffic. The university and the community are growing, and it means a lot to me to return to the WCU community. It was just a perfect fit."

His search for property and agreement to occupy a former Hardee's site in Sylva took six months, and the restaurant opened earlier this year. Zaxby's created 38 jobs and boosted the community through the remodeling and landscaping completed in concert with the investment of **Kole Clapsaddle '80**, who constructed new shops nearby, said **Julie Spiro '98**, executive director with the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and Travel and Tourism Authority. "The building itself went from an old, outdated structure to an attractive new restaurant," Spiro said.

In addition, Zaxby's has supported community events from a battle of the bands to the chamber's annual fundraiser. "Jim and his father saw the potential for a business like Zaxby's to thrive in Jackson County," said Spiro, who noted state labor statistics show the population grew 17 percent to 35,369 and the workforce nearly 40 percent to 20,593 in the last decade. "We appreciate their enthusiasm and their investment. Welcome home Jim Rodgers!"

Gaston/Lincoln Club Issues Challenge

Group Raises \$30,000-Plus for Student Scholarships

Berry Mauney '68 admits attendance was pretty slim when he and **Betty Allen '68** were trying to get the Western Club of Gaston/Lincoln Counties off the ground. "There were times we had meetings that turned out to be just the two of us, but we still wrote up the meetings in the local paper to report what we discussed," Mauney said. "It grew from there."

They drew new members with social activities and meetings at area restaurants, but Allen says what really brought them together was a decision to raise money for scholarships – a common goal that they all cared about. To date, the club has raised more than \$30,000 for scholarships for WCU students, including \$14,000 for an endowed scholarship that will generate money every year for students.

The fundraising efforts began the same year WCU adopted a requirement that all students have a computer. **Chris Packer '84** suggested hosting a golf tournament to help Western students from their community with the cost, and Allen said club members rallied to the cause. "Working on an annual golf tournament turned out to be a lot of fun," Allen said. "Without that, I'm not sure we would have lasted the past 11 years."

The club found corporate sponsors and golfers to enjoy some friendly competition as well as barbecue and all the trimmings, cash prizes for winners (including \$4 for the last place team), beverages, hot dogs, snacks and door prizes. "Everybody walks away with something—a ball cap, a stadium seat, an umbrella, a Western shirt or other item," Allen said. There are even some non-purple and gold prizes for participating golfers from rival ASU. "We have discovered their money is green just like Western's," Allen said.

The club also has hosted raffles. One year, it sold tickets for a chance at four tickets to the Western/Appalachian football game with four meals at a local restaurant, two rooms at a local motel, a voucher for the school store and spending money. "I actually sold the winning ticket in that raffle," Allen said. "The winner was a young grad from the early '90s and



Members of the Gaston/Lincoln club include, left to right, **Marshall Gunter '78**, **Chris Packer '84**, **Paul Faris '66**, **Vicky Faris '65**, **Jack Spady '65** and **Betty Allen '68**.

now, whenever I'm in Cullowhee at a football game, we'll talk for a bit. It's been so great to meet alumni from across the spectrum and all the years through the Western Club."

And though the Gaston/Lincoln Western Club has met the goal of creating an endowed scholarship that will generate revenue to help students every year for years to come, members are not through yet. They're ready to issue a challenge to other Western clubs who might be interested in a little friendly fundraising competition. "For us, to be able to contribute to a student from Lincoln County and Gaston County, where we know there is a need and where we know there are good students, is phenomenal in the way it makes you feel," Mauney said. "It feels great to be able to do that because we all have a love for Western, and because of that, we love to give back."

To find out more about a Western Club near you, call **Marty Ramsey '85** at (828) 227-7335 or check out alumni.wcu.edu/WesternClub.htm.

Alumni Association Scholarship Contributors

The Western Carolina University Alumni Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to WCU students with close family ties to Catamount alumni or whose parents work for the university. For information on how to contribute, contact Brett L. Woods, director of annual and special gifts, at (828) 227-7124 or bwoods@wcu.edu.

Becky Abernethy '69
Betty Allen '68
Lesley Andrew '88
& David Andrew '83
Carla H. Bailey
Shirley Bateman
& Floyd Bateman MAEd '77
Bonnie W. Bell '76 MA '78
Mark A. Benge '86
Bill Boydston '68
Kathy Boydston '67 MAEd '79
EdS '83
Lila Buchanan '87
Bobby Byrd '74
Jack A. Calloway Sr. '69
June Causby '69
& Jim Causby '67 MAEd '70
Sarah Chadwick '04
Christine S. Cook '79
& Phillip R. Cook '79
Billy Cooper '89

Country Classic Real Estate
Cullowhee Cafe
The Design Center
Dillsboro Smokehouse
Nicholas W. Dockery Jr. '67
Brian S. Edlin '97
Gerald E. Edlin '67
Pat E. Daniels '81
Vicky Faris '66
& Paul Faris '66
Kay Folsom
& Bob Folsom '66 MAEd '68
Susanne C. Goethals MS '04
Leslie Greer '90
Robert J. Griffin '69
Brent D. Hall '82
Marsha Harris '83
& Charles F. Harris
Richard L. Harrison '74
Tammy Haskett '84
& Mark Haskett '87

Mike Hill '72
Tucker Hopper '68
& Max Hopper '69
Jack Hudson '82
Howard B. Hyatt '56
Laura Leatherwood '93 MS '96
William A. Linn '88 MBA '90
Cindi Magjill
Mail Management Services
Berry Mauney '68
Julia McManus '90
& Phillip McManus '88 MBA '91
Teri G. Meeks '81
Jayne O. Miller
N. Andrew Miller '48
Herman W. Mizzell MA '68
Alice R. Morton '42
William H.M. Nelson III
Billy Overcash '84
Thomas G. Parker
John C. Peden
Eric Powell '91
Juanita Proffitt '39
& Brank Proffitt '42

Marty Ramsey '85
Joanne Reid '68
& John Reid '66 MA '68
Robin Schaeffer '71
& Dan Schaeffer '79
Kirstin Schlenker '97
& Christopher Schlenker '96
Gwyn Smith '70
Darnell P. Spann '39
State Farm Insurance
Van Stayton '65
Mr. Don B. Still EdS '74
Elysia B. Versen MAEd '04
Edna Waldrop '84
& David Waldrop '70 MAEd '71
Western Club of Lincoln/
Gaston County
Mike Wilmoth '90
B. Neil Wilson '57
Jim Woodard '68 MPA '89
Brett Woods
Bryan D. Woosley '92
June F. Wynne '62
Zaxby's of Sylva

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Nationwide Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
SAKS Incorporated
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Jack Eckerd Corporation. Cherokee Bottled Water has been in business since 1998 and was the 2001 Gold Medal Winner of the prestigious Berkeley Springs International Festival of Waters tasting contest. Jumper and his wife, Vickie, are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. They reside in Clyde.

1988
A regional sales representative for PhyTest, **Dianne Cartwright** is married to **Tracy Jackson**, who works as assistant county manager with Iredell County. She also has a current connection to Western—her niece, Ashley Adams, was a starter last spring with the Catamount softball team.

1990
Atlanta resident **Toni Jackson Hannah** and husband, Marc, welcomed son Christian Marcellus, their first child, in April. Hannah is a senior human resources consultant for Georgia Power and Light.

1991
After serving as head baseball coach at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., for a year, in June **Bill Jarman MAEd** was named pitching coach at East Carolina University. "Our baseball program is excited about Coach Jarman joining the Pirate family," said ECU's head coach, Billy Godwin. "With his recruiting experience, knowledge of the game and ability

to develop players, we believe this addition is going to give us the best opportunity to compete at the highest level in college baseball." Much of that recruiting experience and knowledge of the game he gained at Western, where Jarman assisted with former East Carolina coach **Keith LeClair '89**, who died in July. When LeClair became Western's head coach, Jarman remained on staff as pitching coach and recruiting coordinator until 1995, when he went to Coastal Carolina University to work with pitching and recruiting.

1996
Patrick Neil Mecimore and wife **Kimberley '93** live

in Statesville, where he is plant engineer and also is in charge of environmental health and safety at the local Armstrong World Industries plant. His job keeps him busy traveling to other Armstrong facilities in the United States, and he is working on his MBA through the Gardner-Webb University campus in Statesville. Kimberley is an environmental health specialist with the Iredell County Health Department.

A faculty member at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, since 1997, **Beth Porter MA** has been promoted to associate professor of vocal music. Cedarville is an accredited Baptist university of arts,

sciences, professional and graduate programs.

1998
A detective from the West Palm Beach, Fla., Police Department assigned to the Violent Crime Unit, **A.J. Myers** was named Investigator of the Quarter in April. The honor resulted from a seven-month-long sexual battery investigation in which a 24-year-old man accused of abusing a 13-year-old fled to London. Through work with authorities from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Marshall Service and the Dutchess County (N.Y.), Sheriff's Office, the man was arrested in the Newark,

N.J., International Airport as he attempted to re-enter the United States and extradited to Florida to face charges.

1999
Assistant baseball coach at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., **Chris Moore** was named head coach at the university last Memorial Day. Drafted by the Colorado Rockies after receiving numerous honors during his career at Western, Moore played for the Asheville Tourists in the South Atlantic League for four years and made the all-star team in 2000. Prior to going to Lander, Moore served as assistant coach/recruiting coordinator at NCAA Division I

Davidson College. "I am very excited about being head coach. I am thankful for the opportunity," Moore told the Index-Journal. He and wife Aimee have a son, Carter, and a daughter, Lillee.

2001
She didn't study in the health care field while at WCU, but **Jerilyn Hammond Martin** (right) is drawing comparisons to one of the best-known names in the nursing game for resuscitating an ailing Arizona publication. Martin, who majored in print media with a minor in photography, is editor of Pinal Ways in Pinal County, Ariz. "After detailing the passing days in longer, more descriptive essays

for decades, the magazine was on life support, despite the yeoman



Lemon-Aide Stand

“I am here for you” Clown Helps Cancer Patients Around the World



Lemon-Aide with Sharon Herndon MAEd '78

Sharon Herndon MAEd '78 enlisted the help of a bright yellow porcelain clown named Lemon-Aide to make sure her friend Lesa Moser never went to cancer treatments alone. That small gift four years ago inspired a large initiative that today has raised money for and comforted thousands of cancer patients.

“Lemon-Aide would sit in the windowsill, reminding me that my friends were thinking about me” said Moser.

“I don’t know how you explain why that cheerful little face means a lot, but it does. He looks at you with a tear and a smile at the same time, and that’s kind of how you feel going through this.”

Less than a year later, Lemon-Aide was accompanying another patient to cancer treatments—Herndon herself. A Christmas Eve biopsy devastated Herndon’s spirits, and Moser knew just what to do. “Lesa went home, got Lemon-Aide and passed him back to me,” Herndon said. “He went to everything cancer-related, sitting in the chair beside me. The nurses knew him by name. I would mentally talk to him, tell him how I felt and what was going on.”

The more she thought about how important Lemon-Aide was to her and to Moser, the more captivated she became with the idea of sharing Lemon-Aide with other cancer patients in a way that would raise money to fight cancer. After researching how to create a nonprofit organization and develop a business plan, she and Moser contacted Minnesota-based Animal Adventures to develop an

11-inch tall, soft and cuddly Lemon-Aide for children and adults.

More than 3,000 Lemon-Aides have been purchased, and Herndon is preparing a second order. “We have been able to track Lemon-Aide to 37 different states and 17 countries including Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, France, Switzerland, Germany and Canada,” Herndon said. “It’s just been phenomenal.”

Today, the Lemon-Aide organization also produces bracelets and an inspirational calendar for cancer patients. A children’s book titled “Lemon-Aide, The ‘I am here for you’ clown” with a story by Sharon Herndon and artwork by Georgia artists Anna Carlton and 11-year-old Hanna Friedlander was printed this fall.

Herndon said they have donated \$8,000 for pain management for cancer patients, the area of need the doctors on their board identified. “Hopefully, this project is going to grow so that we can donate larger amounts of money to help cancer patients,” she said. For more information about Lemon-Aide, check out www.lemon-aidesfriends.org.



Terry Snyder '77

Snyder projects he’ll never get rich selling books, flags, bumper stickers, collegiate paraphernalia, lapel pins, garden flags, handmade puzzles, wooden toys from the mountains and Mayberry-type knickknacks. He says with pride that the shop, Kicks & Grins, broke even last year after reopening—a strange-sounding achievement for a man with a reputation for serving some of the most demanding clients in the financial industry. He has nearly 30 years experience selling financial and bank applications to customers including Wachovia, BB&T, SunTrust and PNC Bank.

But Kicks & Grins is just that for Snyder—kicks and grins. The store is more hobby than investment, and Snyder says buying the merchandise for the store is a whole lot of fun. “I just really believe in promoting the state, and I kind of opened the store to honor my mom and dad,” he said. His mom loved gift shops, and his dad, a lifelong North Carolinian, often used colloquialisms like “kicks and grins.” When Snyder took part in something his father considered

Carolina Pride

Salesman Opens N.C. Shop for Kicks and Grins

The farther successful salesman Terry Snyder '77 traveled from North Carolina, the more his pride grew for his home state. That’s partly why Snyder, who has a top sales job with Dallas-based eGistics, also owns a small North Carolina-themed store in Winston-Salem.

a waste of time, money or both, his dad would say, “He must be doing it for kicks n’ grins. I don’t know what else he’s getting out of it.” This time, Snyder says his father is right. “What we sell in the store is not something you have to have. It just puts a smile on somebody’s face—something they get for kicks and grins,” Snyder said.

That’s not the case at eGistics, which offers customers the technology to archive billions of images and support for critical payment applications. Snyder joined the company’s team earlier this year as vice president for strategic accounts. “His track record in delivering transaction processing and call center solutions and services to some of the most demanding customers made him an ideal choice to lead our strategic development efforts in Tier 1 banks,” said Gary Provo, executive vice president at eGistics. “Terry has deep relationships with the leaders of some of the nation’s largest banks—one of the primary targets for on-demand image and data archival, management and delivery. His leadership will be instrumental to our continued growth.”

Snyder said his career began with a finance degree from Western that enabled him to enter the banking industry. His work ethic and people skills led to opportunities in sales of multi-faceted, complex products designed to aid financial services companies. The disciplinary habits he learned as a baseball player at Western and the ambition to win helped him along the way. “Anybody who is going to carry a sales bag has got to have a competitive spirit,” Snyder said. “I travel all over the country, call on some of the biggest industries in the country and the world, going up against guys who graduated from Ivy League schools. I have been successful, and I came out of Western Carolina. I am really proud of that.”

classNOTES

efforts of the previous editor, who had a growing second job of her own,” said Temple A. Stark, editor of the sister publication Eloy Enterprise. “Like the legendary nurse Florence Nightingale, Jerilyn Martin has come in to heal Pinal Ways magazine. It has the potential again to be a central focus of the county.” Named editor of the publication this spring, Martin says she is putting to use skills she learned at Western, including a student job working with university photographer Mark Haskett '87 and an internship with world-class photographers Deni and Will McIntyre '76 of Winston-Salem, and her first job with Granite Communications, owned by Ed Phillips '85. Martin’s magazine covers the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale metro area. She is married to Scott D. Martin '99, sales finance manager for the southwest and desert mountain division of Beneficial Credit Services.

Formerly general manager of WNCC/WFSC Radio in Franklin, Patrick Moore left the broadcasting business in December to become marketing director at Macon Bank. When he’s not busy marketing a financial institution with 10 locations across Western North Carolina and with more than \$900 million assets, Moore helps wife Laurel with their three children—Grace, 6; Garrett, 3; and Griffin, 2—at their home in Franklin.

A fourth-grade teacher at South Newton Elementary School, Brooke Simpson is the 2006-07 Newton-Conover City Schools Teacher of the Year. On the faculty at South Newton for five years, she has mentored beginning teachers, presented at International Reading Association conferences, served as the chairwoman of the South Newton School Improvement Teams review committee, participated in Schools Attuned training, attended Teacher Academy

in Balanced Literacy at Greensboro College, and presented at Marcy Cook Math Workshops for teachers in the city school system.

2002 In Lincoln, Kelly Richard Edwards MS '04 and husband Matt Edwards '03 celebrated the birth of daughter Ellery Lauren, their first child, in June. Kelly is a speech pathologist at Rock Springs Elementary School in Lincoln County, and Matt works as a network analyst at Timken Company.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Casey Rogers has been named head varsity men’s basketball coach at Freedom High School in Morganton. Last year, he served as assistant varsity coach at the school. Rogers also has served as an assistant coach at Mars Hill College, where dad Terry is head coach for men’s basketball. Terry Rogers coached at Freedom for 25 years, where son Casey played for him,

and then coached at Western—where Casey also played for him.

2005 In March, Master Officer Timothy Lominac, 11-year veteran of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, received his second award of 2006. At the Governor’s Conservation Achievement Awards banquet held in Raleigh, he was named North Carolina’s Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the Year. In January, Lominac was presented the Officer of the Year award by the N.C. chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. He lives in Murphy with wife Shannon and sons Cody, age 5, and Caleb, age 3.

As general manager and director of sales and marketing for Holiday Inn Express in Dillsboro, Rick McClendon works to attract visitors to the Jackson County area and to the newly opened property. McClendon’s previous experience includes a position as front office manager at the Comfort Suites



Merritt Johnson Sr. and granddaughter Merritt Tidrick

Crowning Achievement

Seventy years after Merritt “Mutt” Franklin Johnson Sr. lettered in football at Western, he returned to Cullowhee to watch his namesake, his granddaughter Merritt Tidrick, be crowned the university’s 2006 Homecoming queen. Between 1936 and 1940, Johnson studied business at Western during fall and winter semesters and worked spring semesters to earn money for school. Though he was called to serve in World War II before he could complete his four-year degree, he remained a loyal supporter of the university. Johnson’s son, Berry Johnson '68 MBA '75, and Berry’s

two daughters, Tracia Johnson Beasley '94 and Carolina Johnson Mullan '02, attended Western as well as his granddaughter Merritt, a senior from Marietta, Ga., expected to complete her degree in marketing in December. She will be the last of Johnson’s seven grandchildren to earn a college degree. “He is very proud of all of them,” said Mary Tidrick, Johnson’s daughter and Merritt’s mother. “However, he was very excited and proud when Merritt was crowned Homecoming queen at the same college where he played football so many years before.”

The future looks good, thanks to you!

Dan Gibson is just one of the hundreds of students that you help when you make a gift to the Loyalty Fund. Thanks to you, Dan's future is looking good!

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The Loyalty Fund

Dan Gibson,
Scholarship Recipient
Psychology Major, Senior
3.45 GPA, Hometown: Wake Forest, NC



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Your gifts make the difference.

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in Charlotte and an internship at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Asheville. Currently working on a master's degree in college student personnel at WCU, he is a member of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and Southern Association for College Student Affairs.

A senior information technology consultant with Lowe's Inc., **Melanie K. Morris MPM** recently received a master's degree in business administration from High Point University. She lives in Winston-Salem.

Formerly catering director for Lil' Harvey's Catering in Sylva, **Miranda "Mandee" Williams** recently became special events/activities manager for the Old Edwards Inn and Spa in Highlands. Involved in the hospitality business since 1998, Williams also founded her own seasonal decorating/event business called Tis the Season.

2006

In May, **Justin Brimer** joined the staff of The Hartwell Sun, in Hartwell, Ga., as a reporter. He covers county government and a variety of other topics. A kayaker, he is looking forward to tackling the nearby rivers. Brimer also is a music lover who plays the mandolin.

Weddings

Nicholas Iosue '05 and **Alexandra Bochynek '06**, Oct. 14; Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Alumni Deaths

C. Jack Arrington '50, former WCU trustee, July 23; Waynesville.

Lane Arrington Jr. '47 MAEd '67, Sept. 21; Waynesville.

Judy Kay Davidson MAEd '80, June 25; Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Herbert L. Hyde '51, Oct. 15; Asheville.

Ellis A. Johnson '68, March 16; Neptune Beach, Fla.

Jesse Robert "Bob" Law Jr. MA '67, May 1; Moore, S.C.

Lena Allison Maness '34, July 15; Bryson City.

Clair K. Olson '47, June 19; Hendersonville.

Janice L. Smathers '43, Aug. 27; Clyde.

Barbara Glasscock Southard '73 MAEd '78, March 25; Franklin.

University Deaths

Louis Watts Clark, chemistry professor 1960-78, Oct. 16; Tela, Honduras.

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Go to the Western Carolina University Alumni Association Web site (alumni.wcu.edu) to add a class note, update your information, or catch up on campus events.

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Office of Alumni Affairs, Suite 440, H.F. Robinson Building
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723

eventsCALENDAR

December 2006

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Legends on Stage—"A Holiday Special with the Legendary Lettermen," more than 45 years of musical memories. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Fall commencement. 2 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (828) 227-7495

January 2007

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series—Harlem Gospel Choir, a gathering of finest musicians from various black churches in Harlem whose performance theme is bringing people and nations together and giving something back. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-7206

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series—"Dar He: The Lynching of Emmett Till" chronicles the murder, trial and confession of the men accused of lynching the 14-year-old black Chicago youth in the Mississippi Delta. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-7206

February 2007

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Legends on Stage—"Ol' Time Religion," a history of the American Negro spiritual by the American Spiritual Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Open House—for prospective students and their families. Registration, 8:30-11 a.m., A.K. Hinds University Center. (828) 227-7317 or (877) WCU-4YOU; www.wcu.edu/admissions

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Theatre—The University Players present "The Music Man" by Meredith Willson. Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinee, 3 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27-SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Southern Conference basketball—women's championship tournament. Charleston, S.C. (828) 227-7338

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28-SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Southern Conference basketball—men's championship tournament. North Charleston, S.C. (828) 227-7338



March 2007

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Legends on Stage—"Cirque le Masque," a theatrical European Cirque stage show defying the laws of gravity. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Open House—for prospective students and their families. Registration, 8:30-11 a.m., A.K. Hinds University Center. (828) 227-7317 or (877) WCU-4YOU; www.wcu.edu/admissions

Legends on Stage—Woods and Strings Puppet Theatre Presents... "Out of the Mist a Dragon" and "An Ire-ish Tale." 3 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-2479

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series—evening of spoken word featuring Saul Williams, whose poetry represents an evolution of thought, artistry and spiritual consciousness delivered with the fervor of hip-hop and the grace and linguistic mastery of Shakespeare. 7:30 p.m. Fine and Performing Arts Center. (828) 227-7206

MONDAY, MARCH 26-THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Spring Literary Festival—featured writers include Charles Baxter, Fleda Brown, Catherine Carter, Gish Jen, Farnoosh Moshiri, Tanure Ojaide, Nick Taylor and others. (828) 227-7264

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series—Gish Jen, Asian American author of "Typical American," New York Times notable book of the year and finalist for National Book Critics' Circle Award. Spring Literary Festival event. 7:30 p.m. Theater, A.K. Hinds University Center. (828) 227-7206



Chief photographer **Mark Haskett '87**
captured this image of the full moon peeking
beneath the arch of the Alumni Tower
on a wintry evening.

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