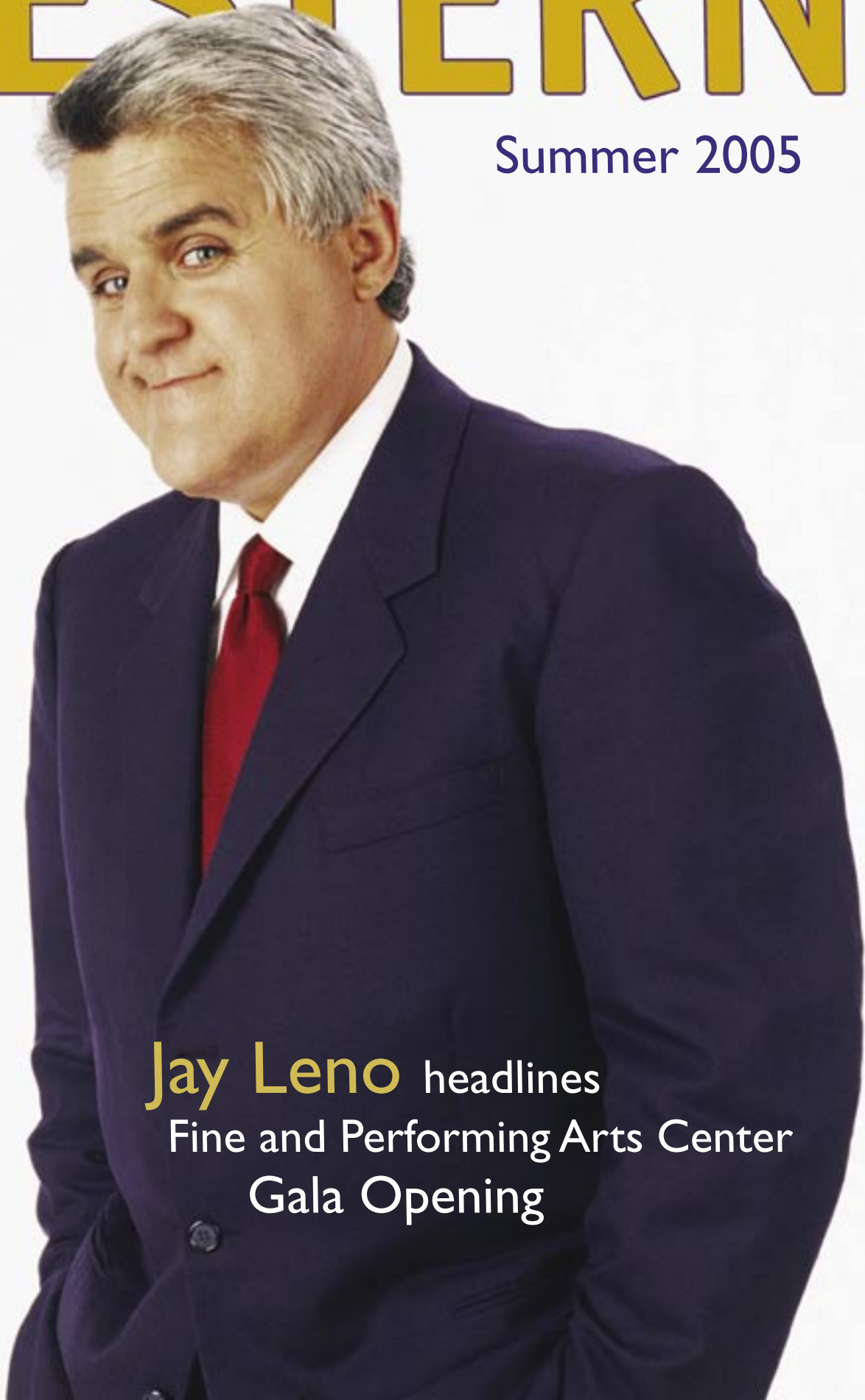


WESTERN

Summer 2005



Bob Buckner
Wins National
Music Awards

Ace O'vil
His Heart is
in His Studies

Jay Leno headlines
Fine and Performing Arts Center
Gala Opening





From the left:
 Brandon Smith
 Business Management
 Drew Anker
 Business Administration and Law
 Melissa Perry
 Interior Design
 Heather Koontz
 Elementary Education



From the Chancellor's Desk Student Focus: The Constant in an Evolving Western

Western's campus is filled with recently completed buildings and renovations, and work is ongoing on others.

If you haven't visited recently to see for yourself, I invite you to do so at your earliest opportunity. Be aware that Central Drive is being relocated so we can reclaim the center of campus as a gathering place where students can enjoy campus life. The first phase of relocation is nearly complete. All this construction is aimed at one goal: preparing Western Carolina University for the future.

As we look to the decade ahead, I see many more changes coming to our university. Enrollment will continue to grow; within a decade I anticipate that enrollment in Cullowhee will exceed 10,000 students with an additional 4,000 enrolled in distance education and at other sites in Asheville and elsewhere throughout the region. Simultaneously, we will continue to enroll students with progressively higher academic qualifications and sharpen significantly our focus on helping North Carolinians—especially Western North Carolina residents—regain economic prosperity and improve the quality of their lives.

This year, we kicked off the Millennial Initiative, an approach to education, research and outreach that I hope will increasingly define Western. The concept of engagement is critical to the initiative. Engagement refers to an approach to teaching, research and service that encourages students and faculty to link theory and practice, enabling the community to benefit and students to receive a significantly better education. Faculty can be rewarded for engaging in research projects that directly benefit state and regional residents. Western takes seriously its role in supporting the people of this state who have done so much for the University of North Carolina system.

Development of a Millennium Campus also is a key element of the Millennial Initiative. Western has

purchased 344 acres of land across N.C. Highway 107 from the current campus to permit program expansions and new public-private partnerships. Once the basic plan is completed, we will seek Board of Governors designation of the tract as a Millennium Campus. The designation will allow Western to encourage economic development on the tract in ways that support both a vibrant economy and broadened education and research.

I anticipate that over the next several years we will see increasing emphasis on research that can have a positive impact on people's lives. Among the most significant areas for development of research are biotechnology (especially botanical genomics and proteomics), forensic science, optical device development, and adaptive device development. Western's faculty are becoming increasingly competitive nationally in their ability to attract grants and engage in important research; this represents a significant growth capacity for the university.

As Western has gained stature, alumni and friends have increased their support of the university. Today, Western has the funding for 12 state-recognized endowed professorships. These professorships allow us to hire some of the most accomplished faculty members in the country in their respective disciplines to support high-quality teaching and research. At the same time, the number of students who qualify for merit-based scholarships has increased dramatically in recent years. As we go forward, Western will need to find ways to expand the number of endowed, merit-based scholarships and endowed professorships so we can continue to attract the best and brightest faculty and students to the university.

Thank you for your support of Western. I hope to see you soon in Cullowhee.



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Volume 9, No. 1

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Hearts

10 Meet Western's
First Provost

Features

Our Purple and Gold is experimenting with a magazine format in this edition. The publication is produced by the Office of Public Relations in the Division of Advancement and External Affairs for periodic distribution to more than 50,000 members of the university's key constituencies. Recipients include alumni and other benefactors across the continental United States; officers of the UNC system, state and national governments; leaders of regional businesses, governments, chambers of commerce, economic development, and other promotional organizations; faculty; and staff.

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Bob Buckner '67 receives national recognition



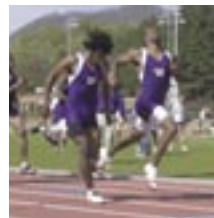
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Please address story ideas and suggestions to:
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Suite 420 H.F. Robinson Building
Western Carolina University,
Cullowhee, NC 28723



Bob Buckner

marches to beat of a different drummer

is designed to recognize music educators, music education advocates, political leaders, industry professionals and others who have contributed to music education.

Two days later, Buckner was inducted into the Bands of America Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to the BOA organization, the nation's band activity and music education in general, said Scott McCormick, president and chief executive officer of Bands of America, the nation's largest performing arts organization for high school bands. "Bob's fingerprints are all over Bands of America," McCormick said. "His contributions to the organization span four different decades."

Buckner is starting his 15th year as director of athletic bands at Western. Under his leadership, the university's marching band has grown from 88 members to more than 300 during the 2004 season. Western now boasts the biggest marching band in the Carolinas, with a membership larger than the bands at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, N.C. State University and Clemson, said **Matt Henley '93, MA '95**, assistant director of athletic bands.

The band continues to grow, and membership is expected to reach 340 musicians this fall. In fact, so many incoming freshmen are interested in joining the Pride of the Mountains that Buckner and Henley are auditioning applicants to ensure they enroll the best.

The Pride of the Mountains Marching Band has performed twice

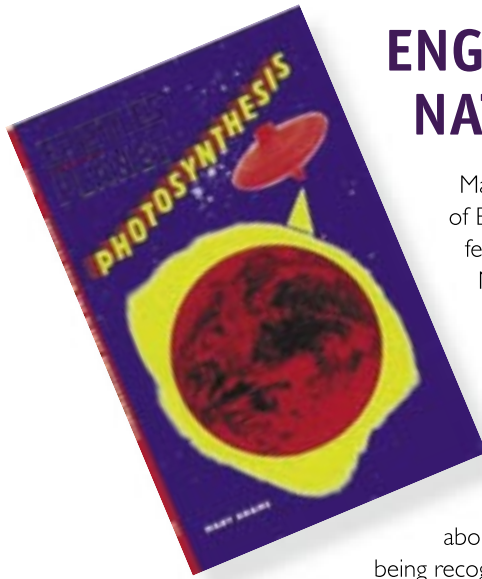
as an exhibition band at the prestigious BOA Grand National Championships, a showcase for the nation's top high school marching bands. Western's own Tournament of Champions, an invitational competition that brings 25 of the East Coast's top high school marching bands to campus every year, attracts some 10,000 musicians and spectators. This year's tournament is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15.

Often called the world's largest funk-rock band, the group performs a crowd-pleasing medley of up-tempo pop tunes, with electric guitars, singers and other musical elements not typically associated with marching bands. The 2005 show, "Flirtin' With Disaster: A Celebration of Southern Fried Funk," will feature the music of Blackfoot, the Charlie Daniels Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Molly Hatchet, ZZ Top and .38 Special.

For more information about Buckner and the band, go to:
<http://prideofthemountains.wcu.edu>



ENGLISH PROFESSOR RECEIVES NATIONAL POETRY FELLOWSHIP



Mary Adams, associate professor of English, has received a poetry fellowship award from the National Endowment for the Arts for 2005. Adams teaches creative and professional writing. She is one of only two North Carolina writers to receive the fellowship for 2005.

"One of the best things about getting the fellowship is being recognized by such a distinguished company of poets," said Adams, a member of the

Western faculty since 1995. "Poetry has a pretty small audience, so lots of good poets languish for want of a little external validation. The NEA fellowship is one of the few big awards available to poets at many stages of their careers."

The agency received 1,590 applications for its Creative Writing Fellowships in Poetry, awarding 45 grants of \$20,000 each. "Through these grants and fellowships, the National Endowment for the Arts is providing critical investments in the American arts," said Dana Gioia, NEA chairman of the Arts Endowment. "From preserving our cultural heritage through regional folklife festivals,

to providing young people with their first visit to live theater; to writing fellowships that allow writers the time to produce their best work, these projects bring arts of the highest quality to communities across the country."

Literature Fellowships represent the National Endowment for the Arts' most direct investment in American creativity by encouraging the production of new work and allowing writers the time and means to write or translate, Gioia said. Literature Fellowships give writers national recognition – often for the first time – and invaluable validation of their talent to peers, agents, publishers and presenters around the country, he said.

"It's just great that Mary has won one of these," said North Carolina poet laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer, former poet-in-residence at Western and a past NEA poetry fellowship recipient. "This is a fiercely competitive grant process and to be selected from the thousands of applicants is a huge validation of one's work. I myself am not surprised that Mary received one. She richly deserves it, as she is one of the most gifted and technically accomplished poets now writing. So many good poets go through their careers without this sort of recognition. It's heartening to see a deserving one be recognized."

Adams' first book of poems, "Epistles from the Planet Photosynthesis," was published by UP Florida in 1999.



O. HENRY, WHERE ART THOU Ron Rash Racks Up More Writing Awards

At the rate he's been collecting awards lately, Ron Rash, the Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western, is going to need a bigger display case.

Rash, who teaches in the department of English, received three major awards during the 2005 spring semester, including a prestigious O. Henry Prize for short fiction. Rash received the award for his

short story "Speckle Trout," published in the spring 2003 edition of *The Kenyon Review*. His is one of 20 stories selected for the prize from more than 1,000 submitted by magazine editors from across North America.

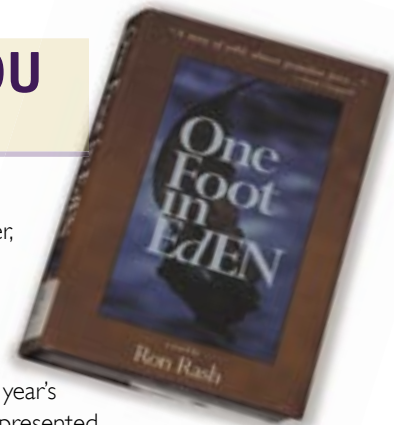
The *Atlantic Monthly* says that O. Henry Prizes are "widely regarded as the nation's most prestigious awards for short fiction." Among past winners of the O. Henry Prize are such influential writers as Ernest Hemingway, Dorothy Parker, F. Scott Fitzgerald, James Thurber, James Baldwin, Woody Allen, Mary McCarthy, Alice

Walker, Chaim Potok, J.D. Salinger, Philip Roth, Joyce Carol Oates, E.L. Doctorow, Andrea Barrett, John Irving and Stephen King.

In addition to the O. Henry Prize, Rash also is winner of this year's Weatherford Award for Fiction, presented by the Appalachian Studies Association and Berea College, and the 2005 Thomas and Lillie B. Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing, presented by Morehead State University in Kentucky.

Rash is author of two critically acclaimed novels based in the Appalachians – his debut novel "One Foot in Eden," which was Western's freshman summer reading selection for 2004, and "Saints at the River." "One Foot in Eden" won the 2003 Appalachian Writers Association Book of the Year Award and *Foreword Magazine's* Gold Medal for Best Literary Novel of 2002. The Fellowship of Southern Writers presented Rash the James Still Award for Writing of the Appalachian South in November 2004.

Rash came to Western in 2003 from the University of South Carolina, where he served as visiting writer in the graduate creative writing program. At Western, he has helped set up a series of performances, readings and lectures that highlight mountain culture.





Christa McAuliffe photo courtesy of NASA

TEACHER PARTNERSHIP A FINALIST FOR CHRISTA MCAULIFFE AWARD

Western's School-University Education Partnership is one of only six finalists across the nation for the Christa McAuliffe Excellence in Teacher Education Award, presented annually by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The award is named in honor of Christa McAuliffe, the school teacher who died in the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia shortly after liftoff in January 1986.

"At Western, we embrace the viewpoint represented by Christa McAuliffe's famous quote, 'I touch the future. I teach,'" said Michael Dougherty, dean of the College of Education and Allied

Professions. "We and our public school partners truly believe that we do, indeed, touch the future through the preparation and continuing development of high-quality teachers for North Carolina's public schools."

Established in 1997 and one of 14 such partnerships in North Carolina, Western's SUTEP works to improve the academic achievement of students of all grade levels by providing assistance to educators at each step in their development as teachers – when they are student teachers, when they first

enter the teaching profession, and when they are in the midst of their careers and are seeking additional professional development.

AASCU focused on the pre-service component of Western's teacher education program – a "partnership for performance" designed to enhance teacher candidates' preparation through insights offered by professional educators in pre-kindergarten to 12th-grade classrooms, Dougherty said. Those teachers serve as clinical faculty who co-teach selected teacher preparation courses, helping to blend theory and practice.

Finalists must submit final proposals to the awards committee. Recipients will be notified of the committee's decision on Sept. 30.

"We...touch the future through the preparation and continuing development of high-quality teachers for North Carolina's public schools."

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

One year after coming in second to Harvard University, Western's Master of Entrepreneurship Program claimed first place in a nationwide competition, sponsored each year by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. The USASBE is regarded as the oldest and most prestigious organization for entrepreneurship education in the country. UNC-Chapel Hill placed second in this year's event.

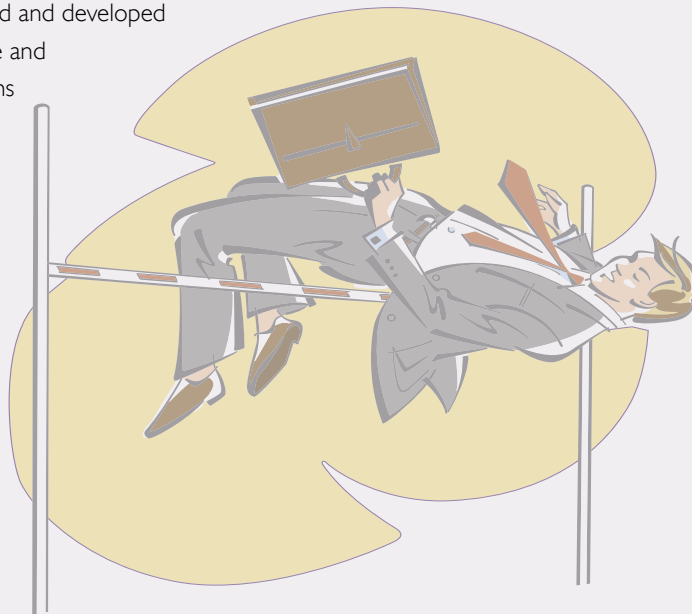
Representing Western at the competition were **Jim Carland MBA '77** and **JoAnn Carland MAEd '78**, the husband-and-wife team who envisioned and developed Western's undergraduate and graduate degree programs in entrepreneurship.

"The Carlands had an outstanding submission. It was very innovative, yet comprehensive, detailed and well thought out," said Robin Anderson of the University of Portland and vice president of the USASBE entrepreneurship education division, who presented the award in 2005.

"Rather than just adapting an MBA program to accommodate entrepreneurship students, Jim and JoAnn did extensive work in creating an entire master's program focused

on how best to educate graduate students preparing to begin entrepreneurial activities," Anderson said. "The judges selected this program as a national model for universities that are developing graduate programs in entrepreneurship."

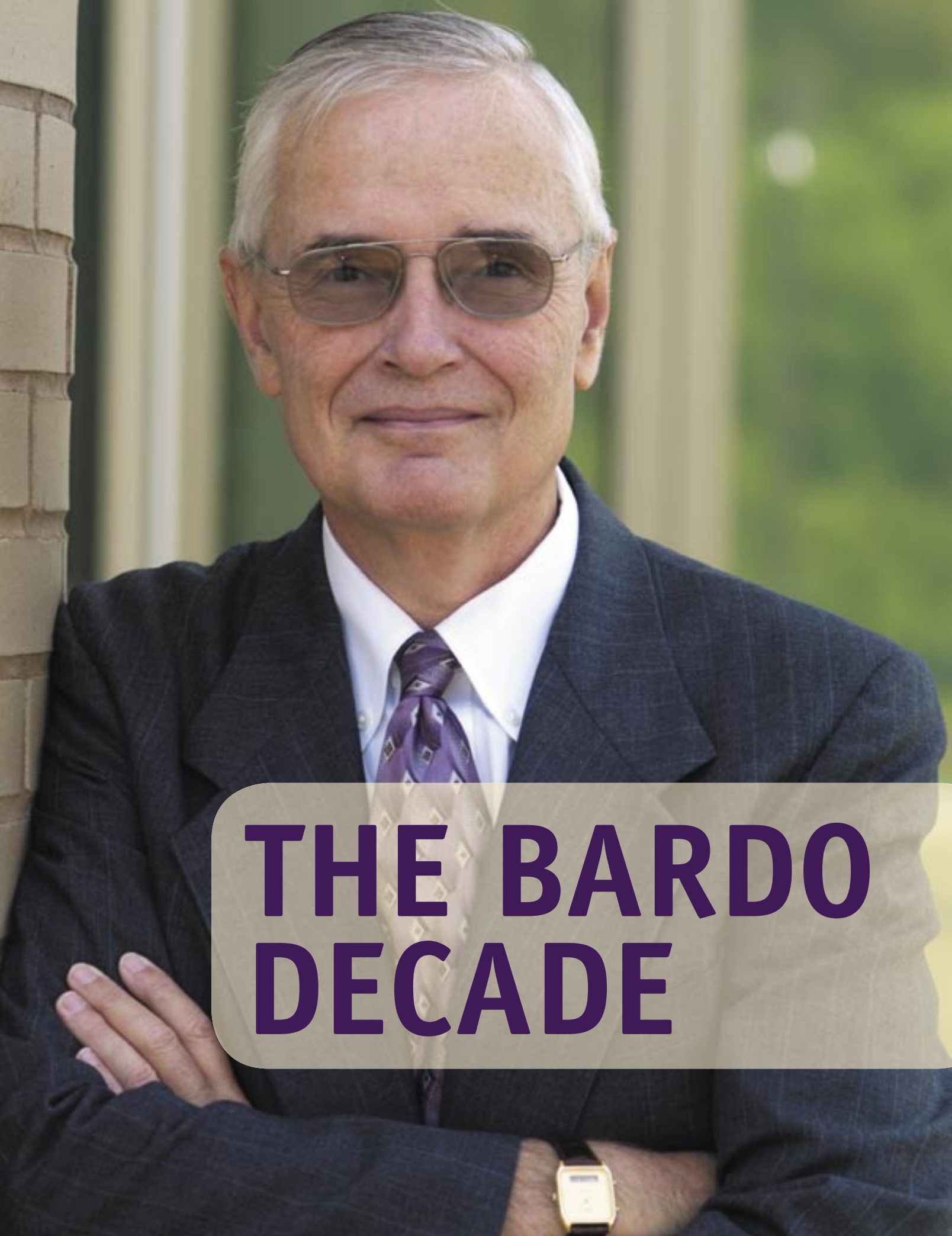
Western offers its Master of Entrepreneurship program, the first in the nation, as an Internet-based distance education program and as a traditional residential program. The university also offers an undergraduate program in entrepreneurship, the first in North Carolina.



Abe Inikidar ME '05 got pointers for his motorcycle business in Waynesville.



The lessons she learned in Western's entrepreneurship program helped **Cyndylou Baird ME '05** start up her new business of making and selling emergency backup power units in Flat Rock.



**THE BARDO
DECADE**

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY BECKONS, BARDO DECLINES

Chancellor John W. Bardo, recruited for the top spot at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., has chosen to stay at Western. Bardo, who recently was honored for a decade of service at Western, said that, after much soul searching with his wife, he decided to withdraw his name from consideration by Marshall's search team. "We've been here [at Western] for 10 years. That's a long time to be in this job, and people around here have become our family. You don't just walk away from your family all that easily," he told one reporter.

In a prepared statement, the chancellor said, "North Carolina is currently engaged in thoughtful consideration of how our own universities might further contribute to the well-being of our citizens, in expanded access to higher education and as a catalyst to economic development. Helping North Carolina achieve those goals is at the core of Western Carolina University's mission, and all of us at the university look forward to continued discussion of how best to achieve them."



Central Drive Residence Hall opens with ribbon cutting by (left to right) Sam Hyde, Western student and resident assistant; Robert Caruso, vice chancellor for student affairs; Phil Walker, chair of the board of trustees; Chancellor John Bardo; and N.C. Sen. Robert Carpenter.

Making a Difference

C.D. Spangler Jr., then-president of the University of North Carolina system, provided very clear directions for Western's future as John W. Bardo was selected chancellor in 1995. "Make it better, make it bigger and reach out to the region," Bardo remembers.

In 10 years, that's just what he has accomplished. At a recent campus celebration of "The Bardo Decade," **Steve Warren '80**, speaking on behalf of Western's Board of Trustees, said the campus began to learn a new language with Bardo's arrival. The new language, Warren said, was empowering, dynamic and uplifting. "Dr. Bardo brought an uncommon vision, never seen before.. with talents equal to anything the state and nation had to offer," Warren said. As a result, student enrollment has soared 21.8 percent, from 6,891 in 1995 to 8,396 last fall; average SAT scores of entering freshmen have risen by 62 points by fall of 2004; fund raising and development increased with the university soon to announce its 12th endowed professorship; and student retention rates are higher than ever before.

At the same time, with the help of citizens and corporations throughout the region, Bardo campaigned strongly for passage of the state's Higher Education Bond Referendum of 2000. When it passed, Western received nearly \$100 million for construction and renovation projects on campus. They include the new \$30 million Fine and Performing Arts Center, scheduled to open with a gala evening featuring comedian Jay Leno on Oct. 22 (see story on page 16).

In February, the university announced that it has acquired 344 acres of land as part of the Millennial Initiative. More than doubling the size of the Cullowhee campus, the \$2.84 million acquisition will enable the university to engage in public-private partnerships that enhance educational opportunities for students in high-tech programs and increase the ability of faculty to conduct cutting-edge research, while simultaneously promoting economic development through a mixture of academic buildings, research facilities, locations for business and industry, and housing.

"Now there are academic programs, construction, students the likes of which we have never had before, and endowed professorships..."

With so much going on, Newt Smith, professor English and chair of the Faculty Senate, said at the April celebration, "This campus has no trouble believing that you have been here for 10 years! We had a quiet little place. We were comfortable as 'just Cullowhee,'" he said. "Now there are academic programs, construction, students the likes of which we have never had before, endowed professorships, and our name in the paper," among other things.

"I'm stickin' around," Smith concluded, to see what is coming next.



UNIVERSITY GROWTH PROMPTS MOVE TO PROVOST SYSTEM

Kyle Carter, who came to Western from Central Missouri State to become Western's first provost in November 2004, describes his new role broadly as a combination of chief of operations and head of academic affairs. That kind of overview is necessary, Carter says, because rapid growth is transforming the university and forcing Chancellor John Bardo to focus much of his attention off-campus.

While Carter is second-in-command and officially authorized to act on the chancellor's behalf when Bardo is away, the provost's day-to-day mandate is much broader than that. He is responsible for operations and systems that cut across division lines and must see that they're working well.

"I'm a systems person," he says. "I like to see a smoothly functioning structure in place. When I find ambiguity, organization gives me clarity."

Carter believes it will give the campus community clarity as well, and has put in place the teams that are working on the university's strategic plan. "I like to know where we're going, why we're going there, and how we're going to get there. That's what strategic planning is. So much

depends on what the university's vision is," he says. "This plan will give us a nice set of marching orders that will affect budgeting and how our limited resources are used. We can't do everything, so a plan will help us to evaluate opportunities and make choices for the future."

On the academic side, it is Carter's responsibility to take the lead in ensuring that Western continues to offer high-quality academic programs and outstanding learning opportunities for students. He oversees the process of selecting students for admission, to make sure they are sufficiently prepared to succeed and take advantage of programs that are offered, and he has put in place a new team to work on enrollment management. He also works with the deans to create new academic programs when they are necessary and the time is right, and to evaluate the performance of Western's faculty.

Carter said he was pleased to find Western's faculty "the most cooperative and collegial group that I've ever worked with. They are very receptive to ideas and open to change." He also is delighted with the degree to which faculty are

engaged in their disciplines and take seriously the performance evaluation that is necessary for promotion and tenure.

"We are truly transforming the culture of Western with a new emphasis on faculty as teacher-scholars who are learning more themselves," he says, "along with a continuing commitment to students who are engaged in research and learning."

Carter invites alumni to see for themselves. "If you haven't been back to Western recently, come back. It's an exciting place. You will see many new academic buildings and academic programs, students excited about learning, and interesting and creative faculty who are experts in their disciplines. The students who come to Western truly will become the leaders of tomorrow."

Finally, Carter grins widely when he compares the work of a provost with that of a duck – calm and moving in a certain direction for academics on the surface and paddling like crazy underneath to make sure that supporting structures are in place for progress.

GEOLOGY PROFESSOR AND STUDENTS DEVELOP NATIONAL PARKS MONITORING GUIDE

The U.S. Department of the Interior has awarded a \$118,000 grant to a Western geologist to develop a systematic process that will guide monitoring of the vast variety of geological resources found in the nation's parks, from Acadia National Park in Maine to Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska.

The grant allows Rob Young, associate professor of geology, and students in the department of geosciences and natural resources management to team with scientists from across the country to develop methods for tracking changes in geological assets within the National Park System.

Young and his students also will be summarizing the "vital signs" and scientific protocols that researchers use when monitoring geological features. It is an effort to provide resource managers in the National Park Service with a baseline to help detect subtle environmental changes that may impact the health of the parks.

"This will be a great project," Young said. "I'll be dragging students to national parks all over the country, but it won't be just to see the sights. They'll actually be contributing valuable scientific information that can be used to track changes in the state of the ecosystems within our country's national parks."

The work is beginning this summer as a team of experts familiar with the wide variety of geological attributes within the National Park System meet in Cullowhee. The project could be completed by the summer of 2006, including a comprehensive geologic monitoring manual in print and electronic format. The digital version, available online, would be created by Western students.



The project is an outgrowth of ongoing partnerships between the National Park Service and Western's department of geosciences and natural resources management. Young spent much of the fall semester studying the impact of the nation's largest dam removal project on water quality in Olympic National Park in Washington.

Over the past few years, Young has led students to Cape Lookout National Seashore to investigate coastal changes caused by hurricanes, and he has worked with students on trying to solve the mystery of the origin of heath balds—peculiar treeless areas located high in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He has taken students to Channel Islands National Park in California to work on wetland restoration, and has guided students in a project along the Blue Ridge Parkway to establish an environmental management plan for rare mountain wetlands.

Professors and students from the department of biology also have been involved in the All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, an effort to document the wide variety of living species that call Great Smoky Mountains National Park home.

"We are very pleased to have Western Carolina University and Rob Young on board to prepare the geologic resources monitoring manual for the National Park Service," said Lisa Norby of the NPS geologic resources division. "Rob Young has done quite a bit of work in the past with the NPS and is well respected for his work. His affiliation with the Geological Society of America was also a plus because it will help us to identify the geologic experts we need on the expanded project team. Rob is gaining an excellent reputation with the NPS, and we hope he will continue to assist us with meeting our geologic challenges in the Park Service."



Mountaintop

GIFT FUNDS PROFESSORSHIP AND CLEANER CREEK

Developers of a new lakeside resort south of Cullowhee are leaving a \$1.5 million mark on the campus with funds for both an endowed professorship and a creek restoration project.

Mountaintop Golf and Lake Club near Cashiers recently donated \$500,000 to Western, which the university will combine with state funds to create the new \$1 million Mountaintop Distinguished Professorship in Advanced Optics Manufacturing. At the time of the gift, it marked Western's 10th distinguished professorship and the fifth at the million-dollar level. In addition, Mountaintop is contributing another \$500,000 to restore part of Cullowhee Creek to its natural condition.

About 400 geology students got their feet wet – literally – this spring when a class assignment sent them into that part of the creek that flows through campus to collect preliminary data for the stream remediation project. When complete, the project is expected to improve water quality and conditions for aquatic life, especially trout.

"I think it says a lot about WCU to be able to take undergraduate students and make them feel like they are needed and important to this university," said Sarah Kimsey, a freshman from Franklin.

Creating a more **home-like** atmosphere



Community Focus Drives Construction

by Amy E. Davis

Beneath the disturbance and inconvenience that new construction brings to Western, lies the promise that it also contributes to the growth of the campus as a community. For example, the most recent projects – a new residence hall, a pedestrian-friendly traffic flow, and finishing touches on the One Stop Student Support Center—will help create a more home-like atmosphere.

The new residence hall is the third new student housing facility in two years at Western. All three were designed to meet students' expectations for more home-like

housing. Where students once were expected to share rooms, most incoming students had their own rooms at home and didn't share even with a sibling, much less a stranger, says **Keith Corzine '82**, director of residential living. Students these days say they want more privacy in their bedrooms and fewer people sharing bathrooms. And Western is listening.

"We have continuously tried to evaluate what students like and dislike," Corzine says, "and, when it is feasible, to implement it in our designs."

With 290 beds and eight wings, the new residence hall off Norton Road will have a 50-50 ratio of single and double rooms with semi-private bathrooms. Western also will provide a wireless network for computing as well as adjustable furnishings, so

that students can arrange their loft beds, wardrobes, chests, desks and chairs as they wish. Each of the eight wings will have a common study area, multipurpose living room, and small kitchen area. Some wings and floors will have theme-based communities such as a career exploration community so that freshmen who are undecided about their majors can explore different careers together.

Exploring the center of campus is going to be easier once the bulldozers and paving machines are gone. Centennial Drive, which used to run between the Alumni Tower and Dodson Cafeteria, is being routed around the center of campus instead of through it. That will ease congestion and improve traffic flow, says John Austin, project manager



One Stop Center



Village and Residence Hall



Centennial Drive Project

in Western's Office of Facilities Management.

Over the next 10 years, plans call for removing Centennial Drive altogether and converting the area between Reid Gym, the University Center, Coulter Building and Dodson Cafeteria into a road-free corridor that is open and safe for pedestrians. "The new 'pedestrian quad' will bring a whole new look and feel to the campus," Austin said.

Already in place is the new One Stop Student Support Center in the recently renovated Killian Annex. There, students can conduct a variety of personal business in one convenient place. Offices that once were scattered in four buildings are now centrally located, says Allen Lomax, director of advising and student success and chair of the task force that planned One Stop.

Clustered in One Stop are financial aid, registration, cashier, Cat Card, advising, career counseling and student support services. Staff at the Express Center help students with most

of their questions and specialists are available to handle in-depth issues, if necessary.

Sophomore Anna Clair Sims used One Stop recently and found it an improvement. "Before, I've had business where I was running around, being sent to different offices in different buildings," she said. But at the new centralized location, "everything was handled at the front desk. It was much quicker, much more convenient and in a much better location."

Helping students to avoid the campus run-around is the purpose of One Stop, said Fred Hinson, senior associate vice chancellor of academic affairs. "Students will enter that building, and, by the time they leave, they should have any question answered about their status on campus," he said. "It's the central point of campus, and it's the center for any student who wants to do business with the university."

Chancellor John Bardo, as he describes plans for future growth, stresses that the university will continue to maintain the sense of community that faculty, staff and students have come to love at Western. The recent changes are certainly a part of that overall goal.



CAMPUS WELCOMES TOP COP

Tom Johnson, former chief of police at Mississippi State University, has been selected as Western's new director of police, effective July 1. He is filling a vacancy left by the retirement of Gene McAbee, who led Western's police force for 18 years.

Johnson, who visited the Cullowhee campus in mid-May with his wife, Melissa, says he is impressed with the growth he sees at Western and is excited about becoming a part of that.

He has no sweeping changes in mind for Western's police department right away; instead, he intends to assess the department's needs and capabilities by talking with officers and staff and listening to members of the university community.

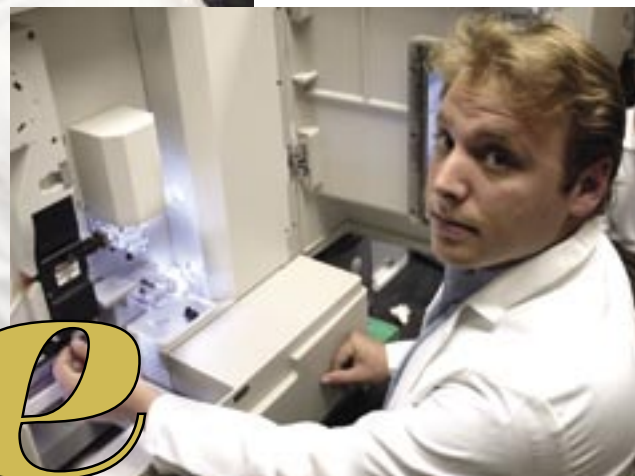
"I have a vision for where I think the department should be in a few years, and that requires a deliberate assessment of what needs to be done and a strategic plan with goals and objectives in order to move forward," he said.

Even before there's a strategic plan in place, Johnson knows that he will work toward accreditation of Western's police department by the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. "To earn accreditation is a mark of professionalism. It's all about 'best practices' in law enforcement," he said. His team at Mississippi State earned CALEA accreditation, making it the only accredited university police department in the state.

Johnson served as chief of police for nearly eight years at Mississippi State, a leading research university where he has completed all but his dissertation for a doctorate in technology with a concentration in instructional systems and student development. He holds a master's degree in psychology from the University of West Florida and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Troy State University. Before taking his post in Mississippi, he worked as chief of police at Marshall University and police lieutenant at the University of West Florida. He has a total of 30 years of experience in law enforcement, and extensive experience teaching criminal justice and psychology classes at the junior college, police academy and university levels.



photo by Bill Sanders, Asheville Citizen-Times



Ace

WESTERN SENIOR WORKS ON POSSIBLE HEART FAILURE REMEDY

by Michael Flynn

The idea came to Western senior Ace O'vil while dissecting a cow heart in anatomy lab – what if smooth muscle in the human heart could be useful in treating congestive heart failure?

Two years of inquiry and research later, O'vil continues to work on his project, which calls for a pacemaker to stimulate the aortic smooth muscle to take over for a weakened left ventricle. Failure of that ventricle or chamber to pump properly can lead to heart failure. Although it's too soon to tell if the approach will pan out, it has drawn interest from professors and practitioners with decades of expertise.

"We're creating an auxiliary heart," O'vil said. "We're using a completely different muscle to help it do its work."

Researching a novel treatment for a heart condition that affects millions and has challenged physicians for years might not be typical fare for undergraduate students, but O'vil, 25, is not brand new to the topic.

"I've been thinking about heart medicine for a long time," said O'vil, whose father is a cardiac surgeon in South Africa, where Ace worked as the manager of an emergency medical unit. "I've seen lots of congestive heart failure," he said. O'vil is extraordinarily dedicated, said Western chemistry and physics faculty members who are familiar with his work.

"He's got a great deal of determination and drive," said assistant professor Wes Bonds, who previously managed a

genomics lab at Yale University and for whom O'vil has worked as a research assistant. "I don't think I've ever quite seen a student with that level of commitment to a project."

O'vil also is in contact with Virginia Commonwealth University professor George Ford, a smooth muscle specialist and assistant dean of medicine for Sponsored Programs Research at the Medical College of Virginia at VCU. A 35-year veteran in his field who is not ordinarily involved in undergraduate work, Ford said O'vil's enthusiasm appealed to him. "I like to see people excited about doing research," he said.

Both O'vil and Ford agree the project is still in the theoretical stage, but goals include providing an alternative to transplants or mechanical hearts for people who are experiencing severe heart failure, as well as offering early intervention to ward off the disease in less advanced cases.

In addition to his research, the recently married O'vil has plenty of other items on his plate. He plans to graduate from Western with a chemistry degree in December, apply to medical school and prepare for the med school entrance exam. Although he said his primary goal is to work with patients, he may try to combine M.D. and PhD. programs in order to continue his research.

"I can't drop this right now – I'm too far in," O'vil said. "And if this research pans out, I'll be able to make an impact on the lives of more people. I'm willing to gamble."

western joins oak ridge consortium

Western is the newest associate member of Oak Ridge Associated Universities, a consortium that leverages the scientific strength of major research institutions to advance science and education by partnering with national laboratories, government agencies and private industries.

Established in 1946, ORAU consists of 91 doctoral-granting institutions and 11 associate members. Members are found in 28 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom.

As a partner and contractor with the U.S. Department of Energy, ORAU operates the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education to provide operational capabilities and conduct research, education, and training in the areas of science and technology, national security, environmental safety, and health and environmental management.

Tom McClure, director of regional affairs at Western, will be the university's official representative to ORAU.

"Students and faculty alike will benefit from our membership through access to a multitude of opportunities for study and research, such as international scientific symposiums, or graduate student and faculty fellowships that are sponsored by ORAU. Western looks forward to forging collaborative partnerships with our country's national laboratories and to pursuing major science initiatives in

technology and the biological sciences," McClure said.

"The selection of Western to join the ORAU consortium is confirmation of the growth of the university's stature in its graduate and research programs," he said. "It is a testament to the significance of work that our engineering and technology department has been doing in the area of optoelectronics and rapid prototyping, and to the importance of our existing partnerships with research institutions in the Southeast and across the country."

With a \$420,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy through Oak Ridge National Laboratory, faculty and students from Western and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College are working on developing a new type of energy-efficient water heater. The project recently attracted the attention of President George W. Bush, who called the effort an example of the "creative technologies" the nation must utilize to decrease its dependence on foreign energy sources.

Western is a partner with Clemson University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the Carolinas MicroOptics Triangle, a research alliance designed to develop fiber optic communication capacity. The university also is working with the University of Southern California and Stanford University on a U.S. Department of Defense-funded project seeking to bring high-speed fiber optic capacity to the consumer.

CHEROKEE ELDERS EASE TRANSITION FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS

Freeman Owle '76, MAE '78 was one of the lucky ones. An enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Owle ventured onto Western's campus in 1974 as a young Native American and found a safety net of support to help him make the transition to being a successful college student.

"There was no designated place on campus for Cherokee students to gather, and so we began to gather in the social work department and a faculty member there became our unofficial counselor," Owle said. "We all made it through simply because someone cared enough to tell us we could really do it."

Owle left Western four years later with bachelor's and master's degrees.

Now, three decades later, he finds himself in a position to help present-day Native American students discover their place on Western's campus and achieve academic success. Since January, Owle and Tom Belt, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, have been working as "elders-in-residence" on the campus through the university's Cherokee Studies Program.

The part-time positions allow Belt and Owle to serve as mentors, advisers and friends to the approximately 150 Native American students at Western. The positions are funded through the Cherokee Studies Program's Sequoyah Initiative, a three-year project designed to increase the participation of Cherokee scholars, artists and leaders in the university's intellectual and cultural life. The Sequoyah Initiative is being funded in its first year through a \$200,000 grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation.

Western's elders-in-residence program is one of just a handful of such programs in the nation, and the Cherokee Studies staff believes it is the only one in the Southeast.



Tom Belt and student talk with Freeman Owle

The population of Native American students on Western's campus includes about 100 students who are members of the Eastern Band. For those students, and many other Native American students, making the transition to college can be a difficult maneuver, Owle said.

"The Cherokee community is very close-knit," he said. "Everyone knows everyone else and there's a certain amount of security there. Once you leave that community and come to a university, you begin to search for that community and, in most cases, you don't find it. It's a cultural shock. Students can fall through the cracks."

Owle is an accomplished storyteller, Cherokee historian and stone carver who lectures throughout the eastern United States. His duties on Western's campus also include serving as a guest lecturer in various academic departments and helping student teachers learn about the ways and beliefs of the Cherokee people.

OPENING FANFARE

PLANNED FOR THE NEW FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Dust off your tux and dig out your dazzling gown! You're invited to a gala evening of elegance and entertainment October 22 for the grand opening of Western's magnificent new Fine and Performing Arts Center. Appearing as part of the formal, black-tie event will be Jay Leno, star of NBC's "The Tonight Show."

The glitz and glitter will launch the Fine and Performing Arts Center not only as the "signature" building on Western's campus, but also as a showcase for the arts, art education and first-class performances by faculty, students, guest artists and performers for years to come, said Bob Vartabedian, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who was a major force behind the planning and development of the new center.

With a price tag of \$30 million and a size of 122,000 square feet, the center is the largest of the 17 projects at Western funded by the university's portion of the higher education bond issue, which was approved by voters in November 2000.

Although groundbreaking for the facility was held in March 2001, the dream that inspired it had begun many years earlier, when the center was listed as the university's top capital improvement priority for 1995. And that dream

continues to shape the center's mission.

The center's fine arts wing opened in November 2004 and immediately began to hum with the activities of faculty, students and guest artists at work in state-of-the-art teaching and learning laboratories, classrooms, studios, galleries and support space. This wing supports not only the College of Arts and Sciences' ongoing undergraduate arts programs but also the new Master's of Fine Arts program.

Martin DeWitt, formerly director of the Tweed Museum of Art at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, came to Western in October 2003 as founding director of the museum of art within the Fine and Performing Arts Center. "Offering a vision with sleeves rolled up is just the kind of development process in which I want to be a partner, linking the museum to the local community and the region," DeWitt said.

DeWitt is putting the pieces together for a stunning new Fine Art Museum, which will



MAJOR GIFT FROM HARRAH'S HELPS LAUNCH FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER WITH GALA GRAND OPENING

FINE AND PERFORMING arts CENTER

include four separate art galleries comprising nearly 5,000 square feet. He plans for individual galleries to hold Western's permanent collection, along with rotating displays of contemporary art, drawings and student work. The Fine Art Museum also will feature a large lobby leading to the galleries.

Paul Lormand, former executive director for the Sequoyah Institute of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., came to Western in August 2004 as founding director of the performance facilities for the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

"Few things work as beautifully as the arts to bring people together, raise spirits and elevate a community's quality of life," Lormand said.

"When patrons enter the doors of the Fine and Performing Arts Center, they will experience a place to celebrate life, touch the hearts, challenge the minds and reach the souls of all who enter," he said.

In addition to the appearance of Leno and two other preview shows, a full schedule of eight main stage performances is open to subscribers in the 2005-2006 performing arts season. (See page 19. For further details, call 828-227-2479 or go to fapac.wcu.edu)

As Chancellor John Bardo has said, "We have the capacity in our arts program and in the kinds of activities that arts programs spawn to create a true destination at Western."

Now, along with excitement of a public opening for this new facility, it is clear that the combination of an outstanding 1,000-seat performance hall, recital halls, classrooms, gathering places and public galleries will serve the campus, the community and the region as an inviting and inspiring destination for scholarly research, interactive art education and lifelong learning for people of all ages and backgrounds.

A \$100,000 gift from Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Hotel will help Western launch its new Fine and Performing Arts Center in style, with a grand opening that includes a black-tie gala featuring Jay Leno, in October.

"Western Carolina University has had a long relationship with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee, through its commitment to preserve the historic value of the site where the university is located, to consultation with the tribe on the disposition of materials recovered at that site, to the development of a Cherokee studies program," said Principal Chief **Michell Hicks '87**.

"Western has also reached out by creating a satellite campus in Cherokee to better serve our students and the academic community. We are thankful that we are in a position to make such an important contribution to the Fine and Performing Arts Center, and I look forward to continuing such a successful relationship," Hicks said.

Graham Gund, the architect who designed the spectacular center, added details to honor the Cherokee nation, including signage in Cherokee and English and a lobby floor design with ceramic tiles in the form of a seven-point star representing the seven Cherokee tribal clans.

"We are very proud to make this contribution to support the grand opening series of Western's Fine and Performing Arts Center," said Tom O'Donnell, general manager at Harrah's Cherokee. "This facility will provide excellent educational enrichment opportunities in the arts, and will do so on a grand scale. This center also will serve as a venue to bring nationally known artists and performers to Western North Carolina, which will in turn attract additional visitors to the region and increase the length of their

Continued on page 18

HARRAH'S GIFT continued from page 17

stays in our beautiful mountains.”

Although citizens of North Carolina approved funding for construction of the facility as part of the \$3.1 billion state higher education bond package in November 2000, the gifts of sponsors such as Harrah's will help to bring the building to life, said Western Chancellor John W. Bardo.

“We believe that Western and the Fine and Performing Arts Center will become a true destination for the tourists in search of cultural arts and entertainment-based activities,” Bardo said. “But the university cannot do it alone. We need the support of corporate and business partners and individual patrons of the arts, and we are thankful for the generosity of Harrah's to help us with our opening events.”

For more information on how to contribute to programming for the Fine and Performing Arts Center, contact Terri McDermott, director of major gifts, at (828) 227-3052.

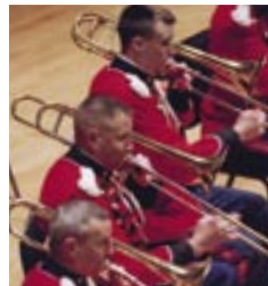
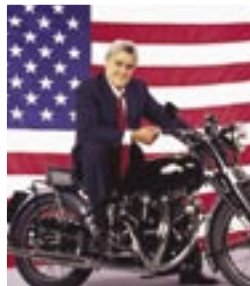


Alums Contribute Creative Talents

Photographs on pages 16 through 18 are images captured by **Will McIntyre '76** and **Deni McIntyre** for a limited-edition 2005 calendar to celebrate the Fine and Performing Arts Center. World-class photographers who met while students at Western, the McIntyres are members of the university's Council for the Fine and Performing Arts.



THE PREVIEW SERIES



JAY LENO

OCTOBER 22 AT 8 P.M.

A gala, black-tie grand opening celebration will feature comedy and laughter from nationally known comedian Jay Leno, “the king of late-night television,” with opening musical act jazz singer Kat Williams.

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MOVIES – BERNARD HERRMANN'S MUSIC

OCTOBER 27 AT 8 P.M.

Western's Bruce Frazier and the Asheville Symphony pay a musical and visual tribute to the mystery of Alfred Hitchcock and the musical mastery of composer Bernard Herrmann.

THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30 P.M.

Established in 1798 by an Act of Congress, the Marine Band is considered “The President's Own” and performs at White House ceremonies throughout the year. On tour, the band offers a unique blend of traditional band and contemporary wind ensemble music suitable for people of all ages and musical tastes.

ticket
INFORMATION

Contact Paul Lormand, director, at
(828) 227-2479 or e-mail lormand@wcu.edu
for details about the Preview Series.



2005-2006

THE SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

“IN THE MOOD”

OCTOBER 23 AT 3 P.M.

A Big Band theatrical review featuring the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Erskin Hawkins, The Andrew Sisters, Frank Sinatra and more.

THE ATLANTA BALLET

NOVEMBER 11 AT 7:30 P.M.

This vibrant company presents selections from Tchaikovsky's “Nutcracker” and other works.

RIDERS IN THE SKY

DECEMBER 1 AT 7:30 P.M.

A holiday spectacular with a Grammy Award-winning cowboy music group

“AN EVENING WITH GROUCHO”

FEBRUARY 2 AT 7:30 P.M.

Celebrate the comic madness and the music of Groucho Marx as portrayed by the award-winning Frank Ferrante.

THE VON TRAPP CHILDREN

FEBRUARY 12 AT 3 P.M.

A musical tradition continues as the great-grandchildren of Maria and Captain Von Trapp demonstrate their celebrated family's unique musical gifts.

LUMA – A TECHNOCIRCUS

APRIL 30 AT 3 P.M.

Luma uses the dark as a canvas and light as the brush to paint a story of how light occurs to humanity. A sure-fire crowd-pleaser!

CRAIG KARGES: EXTRAORDINIST

MARCH 2 AT 7:30 P.M.

Karges combines intuition, psychology and illusion with amazing facts about our potential as humans. You won't just watch this performance; you will experience it.

“THE PIANO MEN”

MARCH 31 AT 7:30 P.M.

Let this celebration of the songs of Billy Joel and Elton John take you on a musical journey through the decade of the '70s.

ticket

INFORMATION

Subscribe to the series for \$100

Call (828)227-2479 for details

Subscribe to the eight-show series (not including Jay Leno, Hitchcock-Herrmann, and the Marine Band) for \$100 and enjoy prime seating that you can renew for next year's subscription series. General admission tickets are \$20 apiece for each show.

MUSEUM SERIES

Inaugural Exhibition Series

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2005

“Worldviews: Selections from the Collection and New Acquisitions”

Premiering Western's growing fine art collection with new acquisitions by emerging and noted local, regional, national and international artists, and recent major gifts by generous donors.

“Contemporary Native American Artist Exhibition Series”

Funded by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, these exhibits will feature artists of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in addition to contemporary Native American artists from throughout the country, to reflect a reference to traditional art forms while offering new ideas and processes to the creative experience.

“Luzene Hill: New Installation and Mixed Media”

Noted contemporary artist from Atlanta, Hill exhibits a new installation exploring Mayan concepts of time, and her Cherokee heritage, in newly created book forms, drawings and collages.

“Lasting Impressions”

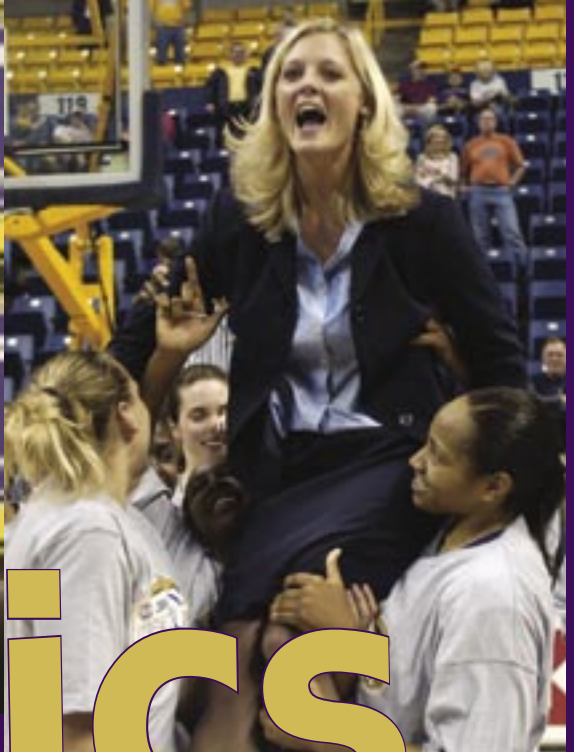
A limited edition print portfolio created by 15 noted Native American artists from throughout the country offers new views on traditional values. Published by Arizona State University Press.

“Joel Philip Myers: Black and White Installations and Dialogue Series”

Acclaimed studio glass artist from Denmark and Pennsylvania, Myers exhibits two provocative bodies of work that express a literary reference and personal metaphors for tolerance and well-being.

“Strange Beauty: New Perspectives”

Premiering a series of exhibits in a variety of media, this exhibit is a showcase of emerging and noted Western art alumnae who offer challenging viewpoints in response to complex contemporary culture, social, political and personal visions of nature, mind, body and spirit.



athletics

NEW FACES AND GREAT

MEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM READY TO REBOUND UNDER NEW COACH

New men's basketball skipper Larry Hunter has yet to coach his first game in Cullowhee, but he already has scored one big victory for the Catamount basketball program.

Hunter, who comes to Cullowhee after four seasons as associate head coach at North Carolina State University, has sealed a deal to bring the defending National Invitational Tournament champions from the University of South Carolina to Western for the 2005-06 home opener.

When the Gamecocks and Catamounts tip off in the Ramsey Center this fall, it will mark the first time ever that a Southeastern Conference team has set foot in the arena, said **Daniel Hooker '01**, director of media relations for Western's athletics department.

"It should be the biggest game at the Ramsey Center since the early days of the building, when we opened the arena with N.C. State in 1986 and followed that up with a visit from Kansas in 1987," Hooker said.

Scheduling an opponent from a major conference is just part of the process of re-energizing the men's basketball program under Hunter, who was named Western's 17th all-time head basketball coach earlier this spring.

Hunter is one of the National Collegiate Athletic Association leaders in coaching victories, amassing 509 wins during his 25 years as a head coach. He ranks as the 14th winningest active coach in the country, ranks 59th on the NCAA Division I all-time head coaching victories list, and is tied for 104th on the NCAA all-division list for head coaching victories.

During his time as a head coach, Hunter made 11 overall NCAA tournament appearances, while making seven as an assistant coach. His teams also posted winning records in 23 of his 25 seasons as a head coach.

Statistics like those have commentators from across the nation predicting big things for Catamount basketball.

"Larry Hunter is a winner," said ESPN analyst Dick Vitale. "His experience working in the ACC and with Herb Sendek will play a big role in his success at Western Carolina. Larry brings a wealth of basketball knowledge. He has an incredible ability to really break down a game. He understands the X's and O's and makes the necessary adjustments that usually lead you to the winners circle."

Duke University's Mike Krzyzewski, who coached against Hunter's N.C. State squad during four seasons of ACC play, agreed. "Western Carolina has made an impressive hire in Larry Hunter," Krzyzewski said. "He brings a depth of coaching knowledge and experience to their program. He believes in his system and has been successful with it throughout his entire career. Larry is a great fit for Western Carolina and I am confident he will do an outstanding job."

While Hunter is bringing in new assistant coaches, at least one long-time Catamount will be sitting alongside him on the sidelines. Former Western standout **Anquell McCollum '00**, who led the Cats to their only NCAA Tournament appearance, is back on the bench for a second season as assistant coach.

LADY CATS INTEND TO BUILD ON HISTORIC CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

Western Carolina's Kellie Harper, who guided the Lady Catamounts to their first Southern Conference basketball tournament title earlier this year, is back as head coach for the 2005-06 season.

Harper found herself a hot commodity in the world of women's basketball after she led Western's women to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in her debut season as a head coach. Her 18 victories

were the most by a rookie head coach in any sport in the history of the university.

Lady Cat fans held their breaths when the news broke this past spring that Louisiana Tech University was pursuing Harper as a finalist for its vacant women's basketball head coaching position. You could almost hear the collective exhale of relief when Harper informed Chip Smith, Western's director of athletics, that she

was staying put.

"I will not be going to Louisiana Tech," said Harper. "Louisiana Tech has one of the most-respected and successful women's basketball programs in the nation. But it would had to have been something very special to take me away from Western Carolina University. I am excited about our season next year, the returning players and incoming players."

ALUM IN DRIVER'S SEAT FOR MEN'S GOLF TEAM

Former Catamount golfer **Gorham Bradley '04** finds himself atop a different type of leader board these days, taking over the men's golf program when Catamount sports legend Johnny Wike stepped down as head coach in December.

An assistant golf professional at the Country Club of Sapphire Valley in Cashiers since 2003 and a member of the Catamount golf team from 2000-04, Bradley continues a recent trend of former Catamounts coming back to their alma mater.

In addition to Bradley, several former Catamount athletes are among Western's coaching staff, including four head coaches – baseball coach **Todd Raleigh '91 MAEd '94**, track and field and cross country coach **Danny Williamson '85 MAEd '86**, cheerleading coach **Kim Cherry '01** and football coach **Kent Briggs '79 MAEd '81**.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEW VOLLEYBALL COACH LOOKING TO SPIKE INTEREST

A new face will be prowling the sidelines of Ramsey Regional Activity Center when the Lady Catamounts serve it up for the 2005 volleyball season. Stephanie Dragan became the Catamount volleyball program's seventh head coach all-time this spring, assuming control of the program from former head coach **Angell Benson '93 MAEd '97**, who resigned in late March to devote more time to her family.

Dragan spent the past seven seasons as head women's volleyball coach of Centre College in Danville, Ky. She compiled an overall record of 159-107 (.597) with the Colonels' program, including five-consecutive 20-plus win seasons after finishing with 28 victories and an unblemished home record a year ago.

"I am extremely excited and honored to be hired at Western as head coach," said Dragan. "There is a strong nucleus of athletes returning and together we will work hard to become the best team we can possibly be."

PITCHING IN—SOFTBALL RETURNS TO WESTERN

Twenty years after Western's successful women's softball program was dissolved as part of a major realignment of the athletics program, a Lady Catamount squad will return to the diamond in 2005-06.

At the helm for Western's inaugural season of fast-pitch softball is head coach Megan Smith, a four-year starter and former assistant at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Smith, who previously served as head coach at Young Harris College, and her Lady Cats will be playing in a brand new softball facility currently under construction across Cullowhee Creek from Schrader Soccer Field.

"I feel very honored to be the first fast-pitch softball coach at WCU and am happy to be working at Western Carolina," Smith said. "I'm excited to start a great program and have the chance to win championships at Western. It's great what they are planning with the stadium and it's exciting to come in as a new coach in that environment."

Long-time members of the Catamount family say they are optimistic that Smith can quickly return the university to a position of prominence in women's softball. Western fielded a slow-pitch softball program from 1978-1985 and, under the guidance of coach Betty Peele, compiled a record of 190-103 for a .648 winning percentage. During the eight-year span, Western played in three regional tournaments and three national championship tournaments, finishing fifth in both national tourney appearances. The Cats won North Carolina State Invitational Championships in 1982 and 1984.

"I am excited about Western getting a softball program again," Peele said. "I'm sure Megan will do a good job with the program and will be able to continue the winning tradition."

athletics

CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

CHANGES AFOOT FOR WOMEN'S SOCCER

Amidst the spring showers, budding trees and shifting sprays of pollen, the Western Carolina women's soccer team is undergoing a metamorphosis of its own.

For the first-time in the six-year history of the program, a new captain is guiding the troops during off-season drills. And, when the Lady Catamounts strap on the shin-guards and cleats this fall, they'll be competing on a new home field at the university's new soccer/tennis/track and field complex.

First-year head coach Tammy DeCesare took over the reins when former head coach Debbie Hensley vacated the position earlier this year to pursue an assistant coaching job at Louisiana State University with her former mentor. Hensley had led the program from its inception in 1999, also assuming the role of senior women's administrator in 2003.

Mere weeks into the job, DeCesare seems pleased with the way things are heading. "The team is working extremely hard, taking everything I've thrown at them in stride," said DeCesare, whose squad loses only one senior. "I really like their work ethic and work habits and the way they're taking to some of my adjustments. They surprise me every day."

DeCesare is stressing three major focal points during the off-season workouts – physical conditioning, game-play techniques and getting acquainted. "Every day is different, but those three components are visible every time we take the field," she said.

The Lady Cats are gearing up for their first-ever night soccer match in Cullowhee, as Western opens its home schedule with a 6 p.m. contest Sept. 2 against Campbell University beneath the lights of the new soccer/tennis/track complex.

EYES ON THE CATAMOUNT CLUB

The Catamount Club is hoping to score big points with a new program called I-CATS, which stands for "I Contribute Annually to Success," said Bill Richter, executive director of the club.

"Members who promise to contribute \$5,000 annually for five years will receive special privileges," Richter said. "As members of I-CATS, they will be invited to meet twice a year with our athletics director and me to discuss ideas, suggest strategies for success, and show their support for our student athletes."

"We are offering this opportunity to people who have a deep affection for Western's athletics program and want to help," Richter said. "They deserve to be more involved on a regular basis. Their generous contributions, combined with their enthusiasm and ideas, will shape the future of Catamount athletics. We're deeply grateful to the people who have already pledged their gifts and look forward to welcoming even more I-CATS members."

Richter is currently visiting Western alumni throughout the Southeast to talk with them about the Catamounts and to show how supporters can match their own interests with the needs of the university's athletics program.

He invites Catamount Club members and other friends of the university to call him at (828) 227-2530 to discuss the I-CATS initiative and other membership options.

I-CAT and Catamount Club details also are available at

www.wcu.edu/catamountclub/

NEW FUND ALLOWS ATHLETES TO HIT BOOKS AND WEIGHTS

About 20 Western student-athletes are able to train while taking additional classes this summer, thanks to a new scholarship fund designed to help them be competitive within the Southern Conference and stay on track to graduate.

Charlotte businessman **Tobe Childers '61**, a former member of the Catamount football team and president-elect of the Catamount Club, made an initial contribution of \$2,000 to start the fund in honor of former Catamount Club director **Marty Ramsey '85**, who is now Western's director of alumni affairs. The gift was matched by Childers' company, TransUnion Settlement Solutions of Charlotte.

David Dingler '69 and **Cindi Dingler '71** of Brentwood, Tenn., and **Rob Sales '69** and **Jane Sales '70** of Savannah, Ga., then kicked in \$5,000 per couple, helping push the scholarship fund to nearly \$20,000 just a few months after it was established.

"We gave because of the immediate need for our athletes to be competitive in the Southern Conference," said David Dingler. "I was amazed to learn that we were the only conference school without a summer program for our athletes. The gifts that we have provided will help, but much more support is needed right away."

"The fund will allow Catamount student-athletes to return to campus over the summer, focus on academic class work, and participate in off-season conditioning and training programs," said Bill Richter, executive director of the Catamount Club.

"Some of our rivals in the conference have as many as 70 student-athletes registered for summer school classes."

The university's athletics fund-raising organization, the Catamount Club has more than 3,200 members.

For more information about the Catamount Club, contact Bill Richter at (828) 227-2530 or via e-mail at brichter@wcu.edu.



NEW TRACK AND FIELD COMPLEX EARNS HIGH MARKS

While finishing touches are still being added to Western's new \$3.3 million soccer/tennis/track and field complex, it was in fine shape for the 2005 Southern Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships held in Cullowhee on April 30 and May 1.

The new complex is part of the university's \$14 million upgrade for athletic facilities, which will be of value not only to student athletes who are practicing and competing, but also to non-athletes who will use them, says Fred Cantler, associate director of athletics.

Critical for great competition at the new track facility, Cantler says, is not only the state-of-the-art track surface, but also an overall design that allows as many as seven events to take place simultaneously. For organizers and athletes alike, that means less time wasted waiting for one event to end so another can begin. "We now have one of the top-ranked tracks in the Southeast, in terms of the number of activities that can go on at the same time," Cantler says.

The design also is perfect for spectators, he says. From the new 1,200-seat grandstand, they can see everything. "You can sit in one spot and watch every event," he said. That includes sprints and distance running, the pole vault, long jump, triple jump, discus, hammer, javelin, shot put and high jump.

After the championships in May, **Danny Williamson '85 MAEd '86**, Western's head track and field coach, said, "In my 19 years of coaching in the Southern Conference, this was the largest and loudest crowd of fans ever. Not only the home team athletes, but athletes from other schools were in awe and amazed by the size of the crowd and all of the cheering and roars from the grandstand. That made these kids feel special, and it elevated their level of performance," Williamson said.

And their performances were impressive, indeed. Senior Laura Tieszen was named the women's Field Performer of the Year after scoring 29 total points on the weekend. Sophomore Mike Malone was named men's Field Performer of the Year as he led all SoCon performers with 36.5 points. Western's Zeb Johnson and Raquel Ramseur took Freshmen of the Year honors. The Catamounts finished second overall, behind Appalachian State.

The facility itself also earned high praise. "The best thing about it is seeing the glow on our athletes' faces," Cantler said. "They are competing in a facility they can be proud of, one that is the envy of other Southern Conference schools. This will enhance the quality of the student athletes we can recruit."

Still ahead are major improvements to the tennis side of the complex and completion of a new softball field nearby.

ALUMNI *achievements*



Paul Johnson '79, head football coach at the U.S. Naval Academy, received one of the coaching profession's most prestigious honors in March as the Bobby Dodd National Coach of the Year award was presented to him in front of hundreds of family members, friends and associates

The award is given annually to honor the NCAA Division I football coach whose program represents the highest ideals, on and off the field. The winner is determined through a vote by all previous winners and a blue-ribbon panel featuring a "who's who" in college football.

A native of Newland, Johnson took over a Navy football program in 2002 that had posted a combined record of 1-20 the previous two years. After a two-win season in his first year as head coach, Johnson led the team to an 8-5 record in 2003 and a

10-2 mark in 2004, equaling the most football victories at Navy over a two-year span in almost a century.

Johnson's team also has been to back-to-back bowl games (Houston Bowl in 2003 and Emerald Bowl in 2004), something that has happened just one other time in the 124-year history of Navy's football program. The Midshipmen defeated New Mexico in the Emerald Bowl, giving Navy just its fifth bowl win in school history.

Navy's 2004 campaign included victories against Air Force and Army, giving the Midshipmen their second-straight Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. Johnson and his team made an appearance at the White House Rose Garden in April for a presentation ceremony with President George W. Bush.

Johnson earned his bachelor's degree in physical education at Western and received his master's degree in physical education at Appalachian State University in 1982. He began his career as an assistant football coach at Avery County High School and went on to offensive coordinator assignments at Lees-McRae Junior College, Georgia Southern University, the University of Hawaii and Navy. As head coach at Georgia Southern from 1997 to 2001, he posted a 62-10 record, won two straight Division I-AA national championships and five straight Southern Conference championships, and was named Division I-AA National Coach of the Year four times.

Johnson and his wife, Susan, are the parents of a daughter, Kaitlyn.



Floyd H. "Ski" Chilton '80 wants to know: **ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF**

"INFLAMMATION NATION?"

Many who suffer from asthma, arthritis, allergies, diabetes or other common inflammatory diseases are members of that unlucky group and will benefit from following one of the eating plans outlined in "Inflammation Nation: The First Clinically Proven Eating Plan to End Our Nation's Secret Epidemic," says Chilton, professor of physiology and pharmacology at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

Chilton hasn't been on "Oprah" – yet – but his book, released in January, was the focus of a major publicity campaign by his publisher, Fireside, a division of book giant Simon & Schuster. To give sales a boost, Fireside made the book its lead title for January and Chilton went on a media tour across the county that resulted in his appearance on more than 30 television programs and 70

radio programs, and sent him to 40 book signing events. Fireside also advertised the book in USA Today and other publications.

National book chains Barnes & Noble, Borders and Walden Books featured "Inflammation Nation" in January, and it was one of a select few books chosen for display status in Wal-Mart stores throughout the country.

Drawing a link between diet and inflammation, Chilton believes many inflammatory diseases can be controlled, or reversed, by diet.

"Many of the foods we've been led to believe are the healthiest may actually be making us sick," Chilton said. "We eat too many of the foods that cause inflammation and not enough of the ones that offer protection. Certain types of fish, such as farm-raised salmon, or meats

TEACHING IS HIS BUSINESS



LeVon Wilson '76, professor of business law, has been named one of the best teachers in the University of North Carolina system, drawing acclaim from students and faculty colleagues for his enthusiasm, energy and effectiveness in the classroom.

A faculty member at Western since 1991, Wilson is among 16 recipients of the UNC Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Winners receive a commemorative bronze medallion and \$7,500 cash prize.

Wilson teaches graduate and undergraduate courses focusing on business law and the legal environment of business. His students have praised him as "a gentleman and a scholar, but above all, a friend" and as a professor who "inspires thought and creativity and a greater desire to learn well the subject of law."

"I do not believe that students should be 'spoon-fed.' I am of the opinion that learning can actually be fun," Wilson said. "Getting students to think and develop an awareness of the availability of information is an important aspect of what I do. Throughout my career, and particularly most recently, I have engaged in those pedagogical activities that are designed to foster creative thinking in students."

Wilson's scholarship addresses the teaching of law and ethics, the use of case methodology, the introduction of multicultural perspectives into legal education, and law-related education for higher education administrators. He involves students in his research and also sponsors student participation in Western's annual undergraduate and graduate research conferences and at professional conferences.

An alumnus of Western, Wilson received his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1976 before earning his law degree at N.C. Central University in 1979 and doctorate of education from N.C. State University in 2001. He returned to his alma mater after teaching at N.C. A&T State University and serving as assistant county attorney for Guilford County.

Established by the Board of Governors in April 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to reward good teaching across the university, the awards are given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Some 840 Western students joined the ranks of university alumni during a May 7 commencement ceremony in which two longtime university benefactors received honorary doctorates and a noted public education administrator was recognized with a major alumni award.

Western Chancellor John W. Bardo bestowed honorary doctorates of humane letters upon Blanton J. Whitmire and Margaret S. "Peg" Whitmire, a husband-and-wife team noted for their gifts to education, environmental concerns and urban beautification in St. Louis.

The Alumni Award for Academic and Professional Achievement was presented to James F. Causby '67, '68, MAE '69, who earned three degrees at Western and currently serves as executive director of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators.

Three other illustrious alumni were honored at Homecoming 2004 – the late Curtis Lee Wellmon '58, owner and chief executive officer of the Charlotte-based General Bonded Warehouses Inc.; Wanda Nelson Fowler '80, MPA '91, MSA '98, principal of White Oak Elementary School in Carteret County; and Tracy Keith Bridges '98, chief magistrate judge for North Carolina's 24th judicial district. Members of Wellmon's family – wife Brenda, daughter Michelle and son Scott, pictured below – accepted the Distinguished Service Award, while Fowler received the Alumni Association's Professional Achievement Award and Bridges was the recipient of the association's Young Alumnus Award.



like turkey, often promote inflammation."

Chilton's research has focused on the role that diet can play in human disease. As founder of Pilot Therapeutics, he developed an over-the-counter medical food to manage asthma attacks. The product was designed to reduce the production of leukotrienes, substances known to cause asthma attacks.

In April, Chilton was named to head the Wake Forest and Harvard Center for Botanical Lipids, one of five national centers created to study plant-based supplements. Based at Wake Forest, the center is being financed through a \$7.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The center will study the anti-inflammatory properties of

some plants and herbs, as well as their ability to treat diseases such as atherosclerosis and asthma, Chilton said.

An estimated 38 million Americans use non-vitamin herbal products for a variety of reasons ranging from weight loss to managing blood circulation. However, the Food and Drug Administration has not approved most of those supplements, and few scientific studies show whether they actually work.

Chilton formerly served as a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and director of molecular medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He earned his doctoral degree at Wake Forest University after receiving his bachelor's degree at Western in biology.



ALUMNA DIRECTS CRITICAL RE-ACCREDITATION EFFORT

Burton Seeks Ideas for SACS Self Study

As director of Western's Teaching Fellows Program for the past 13 years, **Carol Burton '87, MAEd '89** has faced her share of challenges, but none as daunting as her new assignment as director of Western's effort to earn re-accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, better known as SACS.

"It's a tremendous honor to be chosen for this assignment, and a tremendous responsibility," Burton said. "It's also a great opportunity to serve my alma mater."

Burton earned her bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics from Western in 1987 and stayed for a master's degree in counseling. She went on to become director of Special Programs in the College of Education and Allied Professions and, later, director of Western's Teaching Fellows Program.

The current SACS review process is different from the most recent one, a two-year effort that culminated in 1996, Burton said. While universities still have to meet stringent standards, they also are required to show how they are getting better. The reviewers will be

looking for improvements that show measurable results in student learning and outcomes, Burton said.

As part of the process, Burton is seeking ideas from current and former students, faculty and staff who may have suggestions for improvements that will go into the university's Quality Enhancement Plan, called the QEP.

"Our graduates have a unique point of view they could contribute to the QEP," she said. "They've been through our doors as students and have strong feelings about the things they might want to see improved. They can say, from a student's perspective, how well their Western experiences prepared them for whatever they are doing now." Burton welcomes suggestions by email to burton@wcu.edu.

"Instead of an external review body determining who we are and how well we're doing, the new process gives Western an opportunity to define our own mission, to show SACS how we're accomplishing our goals and how we intend to make the institution better."

The review process, which lasts for two years, culminates in a decision regarding Western's continuing accreditation for the next 10 years. "It will have an impact on Western, on our students, and on our region in the next decade and beyond," Burton said. Additional information is available at www.wcu.edu/sacs.

•CLASS NOTES•CLASS NOTES•CLASS NOTES•CLASS NOTES•CLASS NOTES•CLASS NOTES•

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

CLASS NOTES

1961

In Smyrna, Ga., **Thomas L. Smith** retired last year at age 65 and says he is "Living well—healthy and happy. Not employed."

1964

Last June, **Gail Cassady Pallotta** received the Atlanta writer of the year award from the American Christian Writers Association at the organization's annual conference in Atlanta. Her Christian book, "Now Is the Time," was published by Publish America in Frederick, Md., and released in January 2004. It can be ordered from most book stores and is available on Amazon.com and BN.com. Pallotta lives in Marietta, Ga.

1965

Pete Peterson, son of Skip and **Karen Sanders Peterson** of Augusta, Ga., was selected a member of the U.S. Tennis Association Italian Cup team (men's 35) for international play in Antalya, Turkey, last April. The U.S. team placed fourth out of 18 competing nations. In individual play, Pete and his partner from Canada won the International Tennis Federation World Championship Doubles 35. He is a teaching tennis pro in Boise, Idaho.



1972

In January, **Doug Tallent** was elected senior vice president by First Citizens Bank. Based in the branch located at 108 Patton Ave. in Asheville, he is a market executive.

1973

In October 2004, **Dennis Lee Howell** was sworn in as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, with chambers located in Asheville. A life-long resident of Yancey County, he lives in Burnsville with his wife, Marilyn; they have two sons and one grandchild.

Last July, **Karen Hurd** celebrated 30 years at First Citizens Bank in Madison, where she is a teller.

1976

Melbourne, Fla., resident **Sharon Scarborough Glisson** retired last October as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Divorced last March, **Milton Staton** still owns his own detailing business in Orlando, Fla.

Memoir and mystery writer **Sharon Wildwind MAEd** has published her second book based on her year in Vietnam when served with the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Her first book, "Dreams That Blister Sleep," is based on the journal she kept and the photographs she took during her time in Vietnam. The second, her first mystery, is "Some Welcome Home," which tells the story of a nurse who returns from Vietnam to serve as head nurse at an Army hospital in Fort Bragg. Before she can report for duty, though, the dead body of a soldier appears in her hotel bed. Wildwind lives in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and is working on a second series, set in a remote nursing station in northern Alberta.

1978

After being elected by the General Assembly of Tennessee in March 2004 to serve the remainder of the unexpired term of the retired state treasurer, **Dale Sims** was re-elected in January 2005 to a two-year term as state treasurer. As the state's banker, Sims is charged with various responsibilities and duties relating to the financial operations of state government. One of his major responsibilities is administration of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, recognized as one of the best-funded pension plans in the nation. He, wife Debbie and daughter Jessica live in Williamson County.

1979

Virginia Tech's assistant athletic director for athletic performance, **Mike Gentry**, was named the second annual Samson Strength & Conditioning Coach of the Year in the March issue of American Football Monthly. Under his tutelage, Hokie athletes have earned a reputation as some of the best physically conditioned and most explosive performers in the nation. In 2003, the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches honored Gentry, naming him a Master Strength and Conditioning Coach. One of only 36 coaches in the country to have received the CSCC's highest award, he has been at the Blacksburg campus since 1987.

Health coordinator for Cherokee County Schools, **Sue Lynn Ledford** was named 2004 School Nurse Administrator of the Year by the North Carolina Nurses Association and the School Nurse Association of North Carolina. Before Ledford's entry into the school system, Cherokee County Schools had neither nurses nor health policies and procedures. As a result of her efforts, Cherokee County has become a role model for school health services in the state of North Carolina.

1980

Asheville banker **Bob Tuck** was elected senior vice president at First Citizens Bank in January. He is a relationship banker based in the 108 Patton Ave. branch.



1981

The Bouncing Bulldogs Rope Skipping Team, coached by **Ray**

Fredrick Jr., not only won the 2004 U.S.A. Amateur Jump Rope Federation's National Championship at Disney World, but they also dominated the World Rope Skipping Championships in Brisbane, Australia, a month later. "To think that one club from within the United States organization could win almost 50 percent of the total medal count is awesome," said Ray. "This is the most rewarding year we have had in the team's 18-year history." The team garnered the most points of any of the 63 teams competing for the national title and won a record 72 medals. In the international competition, the Bulldogs, who made up a third of the U.S. National Team, won 103 of 221 medals earned by the U.S. team.

Last December, **Susan Morris** and husband Michael Carter adopted their first child, Liane Yang Yun, age 11 months, in Changsha, Hunan Province, China. Liane is the first granddaughter for Dr. and Mrs. Gene F. Morris. Dr. Morris retired from Western's chemistry department.

1982

Promoted last summer to market executive with First Citizens Bank in Robbinsville, **Yvette Carringer** oversees the four branches in Graham and Swain counties and is based in the branch located in Robbinsville.

1984

Mark Carswell recently was appointed to the Board of Directors for Court Appointed Special Advocates, a not-for-profit agency whose mission is to look out for the best interest of abused and neglected children involved in the court system. He also serves as president of the Kiwanis Club of McKinney, Texas, located just north of Dallas. Carswell and wife Lisa are busy keeping up with their children: Lindsey, age 16; Andrew, 11; and Jana, 9.

1985

Sandra Byrd MAEd, assistant professor of education and director of UNC Asheville's social studies teacher licensure program, in

June 2004 received UNC Asheville's Ruth and Leon Feldman Professorship. The award recognizes outstanding scholarship and university service. One colleague wrote, "Sandra Byrd has done much to make the community she works in, and the university she tirelessly serves, better—better educated, more humane, and more just."

In a special activation ceremony at Camp Zama, Japan, last May, Lt. Col. **Michael K. Godfrey** assumed command of the Military Intelligence Battalion-Japan (Prov.). His other duty assignments include Fort Ord, Calif.; Berlin, Germany; Fort Polk, La.; and Fort Lewis, Wash. He and wife Sharon have two children, Adam and Megan.

Former senior vice president of sales and distribution at Miramax, **Mark Lindsay** recently was named president of Kimmel International, the foreign sales division for Sidney Kimmel Entertainment. The division, based in New York, oversees the international licensing, marketing, and distribution of SKE film properties. "All of us at the company are extremely pleased that Mark is joining us. We are confident that he will bring great vision and success to the company," said Sidney Kimmel, CEO and president of SKE.

1986

During his second year of teaching, **Peter Freer** was frustrated in his efforts to help a student with severe attention problems. Remembering some flight-simulation technology used by NASA to help pilots improve their ability to focus, which he had encountered in computer classes at Western, he went on to develop Play Station, a computer program that is an alternative to traditional attention deficit disorder treatments. "I thought if I could actually show a child his attention in real time, I could teach the skills that were missing," Freer said. So successful was the test for the technology in 1996 that the program can now be found in places such as Singapore, China, Denmark, and school systems across the United States. In spite of international acceptance, Freer plans to keep his company, Unique Logic and Technology, in Asheville because of "the vast amount of talent" in the area.

Married and living in Columbia, S.C., for 18 years, both **Drew** and **Renee Bumgarner Royall** recently took new jobs. Drew, who earned master's degrees in social work, business administration, and health administration after leaving Western, is director of case management for Palmetto Health, the largest healthcare provider in South Carolina. Renee, Unisource Worldwide specification sales manager for South Carolina, started the specification program for the state. She works closely with advertising



FROM OUTBACK TO OBSTETRICS

For **Dr. Janine L. Keever '96**, the journey has been a long and rewarding one, taking her from a waitressing job in Asheville to her current position as a practicing physician in obstetrics and gynecology in Sylva. Keever joined Dr. Gwang Soo Han on the medical staff at the Sylva Women's Clinic last August.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to work here in Sylva with Dr. Han. I loved my time here when I attended WCU and I loved the people," Keever said.

After earning her bachelor's degree in biology at Western, Keever went on to receive her medical degree at the East Carolina University School of Medicine. During her time at Western, Keever racked up a long list of honors and accolades, including membership in the Phi Kappa Phi Interdisciplinary Honor Society and serving as president of the Biology Club. She also was awarded the biology department's Distinguished Graduate Award, the Ramsey Family Scholarship and C.F. Dodson Award for Leadership in the Field of Biology.

Keever made the dean's list throughout her Western career, and even found time to play a role in the university's production of "Guys and Dolls."

At ECU, Keever was president of the class of 2000 and received the Malene G. Irons Award for Leadership in Women's Health, in addition to serving in leadership capacities for several student organizations. During her residency at the University of Maryland, Keever was voted "Teaching Resident of the Year" by students enrolled in the university's medical school.

Keever and her husband, Jay, a former Buncombe County deputy sheriff who now coaches baseball at Smoky Mountain High School, live in Sylva with three German shepherds, two cats and three horses.

Keever worked her way through Western as a waitress at Outback Steakhouse, and she also has worked as a preschool teacher and restaurant manager. She currently also serves as a captain in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve.

"My father once told me that when I grew up, I should find a job that I love. I've found that job," Keever said.

agencies, marketing firms, and marketing/corporate communications departments within companies located in the state.

1988

Haywood County teachers **Mellie (Micky) Hamilton Cope MAEd '01** and **Sally Austin Hundley** received the 2004 DisneyHand Teacher Award for their innovative, unique classroom environment called Saoi (pronounced "see"), the Gaelic word for wisdom. Recognized for their success with non-traditional teaching methods to give students greater control and ownership of their learning, Cope and Hundley earned ongoing professional development opportunities from DisneyHand, worldwide outreach for The Walt Disney Co. and were featured on the nationally syndicated talk show "The Tony Danza Show." Because students chosen for their eighth-grade classrooms are at high risk to become dropouts, Cope and Hundley eliminated the use of textbooks, homework, and teacher-made tests and created a program focused on both service and experiential learning for the language arts, social studies, mathematics and science classes they teach as an interdisciplinary team. Praising the two educators, their assistant principal said, "Each year I'm amazed at what these students are learning. These teachers are facilitators. They have a way of telling students what to look for without telling them what to see." Both Cope and Hundley are enrolled in Western's doctor of education degree program.

J. Edward Kessler is working as a system analyst III for the Education Technology Services Department of the School Board of Broward County, Fla. He and wife Andrea have four daughters: Hayley, age 10; Shelby, 6; and twins Payge Elizabeth and Payton Emily, 2. The family lives in Coral Springs.

Having received his doctorate in July 2003, **Phillip McManus MBA '92** joined the faculty of Idaho State University as program coordinator and professor of culinary arts.

1989

Veteran Indiana University athletics director of equipment operations **Marty Clark** recently was promoted to assistant athletics director for team purchasing and licensing. He will be responsible for the development and implementation of the athletic department licensing and brand identity program, which includes working with vendors and licensees to comply with applications of wordmarks and logos, and overseeing the internal use of logos and wordmarks. Also, he will oversee the athletic department's equipment operations for 24 varsity sports. Clark joined the Hoosier athletic department as assistant equipment manager in 1989. At age 23, he became the youngest Division I equipment manager in the nation. Clark and wife Marianne live in Bloomington, Ind., with daughters Ashley and Brittany.

Pamela Hooks ("Tina") Griffin and husband Anthony of Sophia celebrated the birth of son Philip Nathanael last July. Also, the couple has opened a

10,000-square-foot decorating center for homes, businesses and churches.

Last year, **Sandra Wilson** received one of the 24th Annual "Nine Who Care" Awards from WSOC-TV in Charlotte for promoting health for children in Catawba County. Wilson and husband Mike have two sons: Mike is a student at Clemson University, and Jordan attends Tri-City Christian School. The family lives in Hickory.

1991

Married in April 2004 to Cissy Hensley, **Gardner M. Bridges MSA'01** has been principal of Johnston Elementary School in Buncombe County for two years. The couple lives in Leicester.

Married last April in Philadelphia, Penn., **Amy Goretsky** and husband David Seidel live in Wilmington, Del.

Mary Jennings and Bill Lanning were married in September 2003. They live in Cashiers.

1993

Married in October 2004, **Tina R. Ballard-Barber** and husband Alton T. Jr. live in Gibsonville, where she is band director at Eastern Guilford Middle School.

After three years as head volleyball coach at Western, **Angell Kirkpatrick Benson MAEd '97** resigned in March to spend more time with her family. She and Sam were married in 1998, and son Jett Harding was born last June.

William David Dalton and wife Ann announce the birth of son William Wade last May. Will's older brother is Calvin, age 7. The family lives in Charlotte, and Dalton is network administrator for Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill, S.C.

Son Daniel Cooper was born last February to Hendersonville residents **Bryan and Stephanie Fouts**. Their daughter Ashley will be 6 in October.

1994

Son Hayden Isaiah was born in August 2003 to Waynesville residents **Michele Miller Burris** and husband Dale.

Phillip Finley and **Sheremy Bradley** celebrated the birth of a baby girl last May.

Neil, son of **Ilona Ketting MS '00**, graduated from Western last year about the time she began a new job as regional trainer for North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

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Proud parents **Peter Kima** and wife Jennifer celebrated the birth of Cole Kima on Valentine's Day 2004. The family lives in Wake Forest.

Major **Tracee Putnam Ray, MD**, was recently awarded the prestigious 2005 Major General Archie Hoffman Award from the Air Force Chapter of the American College of Physicians, which recognizes excellence in day-to-day clinical practice, distinguished ability to render outstanding patient care, and significant contribution to the community and to Air Force medicine as a whole. In March, she was honored at a special awards ceremony in Dayton, Ohio, hosted by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The sister of Ann Putnam Johnson, associate dean of the College of Applied Sciences at Western, Ray is stationed in Italy, where she lives with husband Jason and their 3 children: Emelyn, Amelia and Silas.

Last May, **David A. Scott** received his doctorate in counselor education from North Carolina State University. Daughter Caroline Layton was born in July. Scott, wife Michelle, and daughters Taylor Grace and Caroline live in Greensboro.

1995

Married last July, **Fara Lynn Bullman** and **Philip Taylor Dellinger** live in Hickory, where he works as a data analyst for Western Piedmont Council of Governments, which serves a four-county region. He works with census data, school growth models, industry analysis, traffic counts for Department of Transportation projects, and air quality analysis. She teaches at North Lincoln High School.

An employee at New Advantage since 2001, **John Connolly** recently was named president of the company. Connolly, wife Cheri, and their two daughters, Kaylee and Jaycee, live in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Western's Public Policy Institute Summit "Renewing America: Restoring the American Community through Citizen Participation and Civic Engagement," held last November, was dedicated to **James Laurence Hutton Jr. MPA**, who received his master's in public affairs at the age of 72. He died July 21, 2004.

Last September, **Opie Chadwick Sands** married Mary Celia Topping in Rochester, NY, with **Steven Barnett** and **Tammy Howard** in the wedding party. The couple lives in Falls Church, Va., and he is the manager of ticket services with the Music Center at Strathmore, a new 2,000-seat concert hall and education center located just outside Washington, D.C.

1996
Terrell residents **Andy Cline** and wife **Ellen Fisher** celebrated the birth of William Austin last July.

Son Trevor Joseph was born to **Brian Hoek** and wife Robin last summer. The family lives in Silver Spring, Md.

1997
Nathan Ward and wife Cindy celebrated the birth of Colin Grant last September. Ward is an environmental health specialist with the Forsyth County Health Department in Winton-Salem. The family lives in Lewisville.

In Macon, Ga., **Anne Simons Wingler**, husband **Chris '95**, and son Drayton celebrated the birth of Julia Grace in October 2003.

1998
A member of Western's Accounting Advisory Board, **Jennifer M. Fisher MAc '04** passed the CPA exam last October. She is chief accountant for Drake Enterprises, Ltd. in Franklin.

On Saint Patrick's Day, **Jason M. and Lauren Ballard Fox** welcomed daughter Katherine Elaine, who was born shortly after her parents moved to Concord. He is athletic programs supervisor at Albemarle Parks and Recreation Department.

In July 2004, **Trinity Thompson Pokusa** and husband Tom celebrated the birth of their first child, Savannah Brooke. The family lives in Petaluma, Calif.

1999
Married in October 2003, **Tracy Fulbright** and **Adam Love** live in Kannapolis.

Dale W. Johnson's National Guard unit, the 105th Military Police Battalion, was deployed to Iraq in September.

Promoted to a financial services officer with First Citizens Bank in Franklin, **Cynthia Smathers** manages the Westgate branch.

2000
Admitted to practice law in Texas last year, **Jason Turner** is an associate in the Austin office of the international law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. He focuses on litigation and has worked on cases involving oil and gas, electric utility, environmental, trademark and health law issues.

2001
Hannah Crane and husband **Jeffrey Hayes Sykes '00** celebrated the birth of Carlton Hayes, their first child, in April. Married in 2001, they live in Reidsville, where Jeff is executive editor of a group of three newspapers in the area—the Reidsville Review, Eden Daily News and the Madison Messenger. Hannah taught as an adjunct instructor at several community colleges while working on her master's degree in English at UNC Greensboro, which she completed in May.

2002
Now attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky, **Tripp Spangler** married Angela Strahler in July. The couple lives in Taylorsville, Ky.

2004
Angela Dodson and Josh Edwards were married in May of 2005.



Deaths
Theodore L. Huguelet, former Western Carolina professor of English, Sept. 8; Cullowhee.
Leonard W. Adams '85, Jan. 24, 2005; Camp Bucca, Iraq.
William W. (Bill) Estes '49, Dec. 3, 2003; Barnardsville.
Roald D. Hedden '50 MA '58, Dec. 24, 2004; Hayesville.
Jo Vhenell G. Hyatt '52, Jan. 13, 2004; Brevard.
Alice Goodnough Lawson '58, Dec. 9, 2004; Fort Mill, S.C.
Christopher L. Massie '98, Jan. 18, 2005; Waynesville.

Steve Paduhovich '63, Sept. 23; Mount Pleasant, S.C.
Richard B. "Red" Parham '54, Nov. 30, 2004; Fort Myers, Fla.
Joseph Glen Shockey '86 MS '91, Dec. 2, 2004; Etowah.
Deborah Maltese Sizemore MME '90, March 18, 2005; Asheville.
Sherry M. Teeter '86 MAEd '88, July 9, 2004; Ozark, Ala.
Joe R. Turner Jr. '50, Dec. 23, 2004; Waynesville.
Jill J. Waddell '91, Jan. 29, 2005; Arden.
Sarah Ledford Waldroop '77, Feb. 7, 2005; Franklin.
Edna Dinkins Wilson '40, Aug. 7, 2004; Mount Olive.

KEEP THOSE CARDS AND EMAILS COMING!

Do you enjoy reading about friends and classmates in Class Notes? Why not return the favor and share news about your recent happenings? Are you newly married? Did you just land a new job or receive an award? We want to know about it.

Drop us a line at Our Purple and Gold, Suite 520, H.F. Robinson Building, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC, 28723, or send a message to the Alumni Association at our Web site, <http://alumni.wcu.edu/>



CALENDAR

AUGUST

Wednesday, August 3

Golf—Western Open Golf Tournament. Individual stroke play. Noon–2 p.m. tee times available. Waynesville Country Club, Waynesville. (800-492-8496)

Friday, August 5

Summer commencement. 7 p.m. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (828-227-7397)

Friday, August 19

Concert—Dwight Yoakam, with special guest Charlie Daniels. Tickets: \$39.50, \$49.50, and \$250. The \$250 seats are on the floor, with proceeds going to Jackson County Habitat for Humanity <http://ramseycenter.wcu.edu> (828-227-7722 or 866-928-3378)

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 24

Festival—31st annual Mountain Heritage Day, a combination old-fashioned mountain fair and showcase for authentic Appalachian folk arts, infused with the spirit of a big family reunion. (828-227-3193 or www.mountainheritageday.com)

Friday, September 30

Golf—Bob Waters Memorial Golf Tournament. Captain's Choice. Entry fee, \$115 per person; hole sponsor, \$500; corporate sponsor, \$500 or \$1,000. High Vista Country Club, Arden. (800-492-8496 or 828-495-7321)

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1

Open House—for prospective students. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (828-227-7317 or 877-WCU4YOU)

Catamount football—vs. The Citadel. Southern Conference game. Family Weekend. 6 p.m. E.J. Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field. 7 p.m. (828-227-7338)

Saturday, October 22

Open House—for prospective students. Ramsey Regional Activity Center. (828-227-7317 or 877-WCU4YOU)

Grand Opening celebration—gala black-tie celebration with 75 minutes of comedy and laughter from “the King of Late Night Television,” Jay Leno. Opening musical act, jazz singer Kat Williams. Call for ticket information. 8 p.m. Fine & Performing Arts Center. (828-227-2479)

Sunday, October 23

Musical review—“In the Mood,” a Big Band theatrical review featuring the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Erskin Hawkins, the Andrews Sisters, Frank Sinatra, and more. Call for ticket information. 3 p.m. Fine & Performing Arts Center. (828-227-2479)

Thursday, October 27

Musical tribute—“Alfred Hitchcock’s Movies, Bernard Hermann’s Music,” a musical and visual tribute to the mastery of Alfred Hitchcock and the groundbreaking work of composer Bernard Hermann by Western’s Dr. Bruce Frazier and the Asheville Symphony. Call for ticket information. 8 p.m. Fine & Performing Arts Center. (828-227-2479)

Saturday, October 29 *Join us for Homecoming!*

Catamount football—vs. Elon. Southern Conference game. Homecoming. 2 p.m. E.J. Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field. 7 p.m. (828-227-7338)



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