



## WCU Again Named to President's Honor Roll for Service-Learning Achievements

Western Carolina University's service-learning achievements once again have been recognized as exemplary by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

For the second consecutive year, WCU has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, the highest level of federal recognition for commitment to service and civic engagement.

"This is very good news," said WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo. "And it speaks to the importance and efficacy of our Quality Enhancement Plan."

Bardo and Provost Kyle Carter congratulated the faculty, students and administrators on this achievement.

"At Western Carolina, we have long embraced service learning as a way to enhance the educational experience of our students while helping solve problems for the people of the region," Bardo said. "We are glad to see that our emphasis on service learning and civic engagement continues to receive national recognition. Although we don't do this for the awards, being named to the honor roll with distinction helps reinforce the importance of what we are trying to do."

Institutions are selected for recognition on the honor roll based on such factors as scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the institution offers academic service-learning courses.

During the service period considered for this year's recognition, 4,550 WCU students participated in voluntary or co-curricular community service, and 4,200 students engaged in course-based service-learning projects, said Glenn Bowen, director of the Center for Service Learning. "In all, more than 7,000 students – nearly 80 percent of WCU's student body – were involved in service-learning activities. Together, they provided 53,000 hours of service primarily in the areas of education, social services and community development," Bowen said.

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## Nominations for Service-Learning Awards Due by March 26

The Center for Service Learning has issued a call for nominations for the 2010 Service-Learning Awards. Nominations will be accepted in 10 categories, which include Community Service, Outstanding Achievement and Partnership.

The Leading Light Award will go to an academic department in recognition of significant integration of service learning into the curriculum. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, March 26.

The sixth annual Service-Learning Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 29, in the Grandroom of the A. K. Hinds University Center, beginning at 7 p.m. Awards in the form of plaques, pins and certificates will be presented to faculty, staff, students and community partners.

A total of 28 major awards were presented during last year's ceremony. Guests at the event included Maurice Moody, then Sylva Town Board member who was recently elected as mayor of Sylva; WCU Student Affairs Vice Chancellor Sam Miller; and Richard Beam, chair of the WCU Faculty Senate.

## Service-Learning Award Categories

### COMMUNITY SERVICE (Individual)

To individual students for outstanding participation in volunteer/community service projects.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE (Organization)

To student organizations for outstanding participation in volunteer/community service projects.

### SHINING STAR

To student leaders for outstanding contributions to peer education and demonstrated commitment to promoting the Service-Learning Program.

### MERITORIOUS SERVICE

To WCU staff members for meaningful support of the mission, goals and programs of the Center for Service Learning.

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT (Students)

To individual students for academic excellence in the service-learning component of a course, based on evidence of the effects on their academic learning, community awareness, civic commitment and personal development.

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT: TEACHING

To faculty members for demonstrated excellence in using service learning as a teaching and learning strategy.

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT: RESEARCH

To faculty members for notable research (including publications or presentations) on or related to service learning.

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT: SERVICE

To faculty members for direct, significant participation with students in a service project in the community.

### PARTNERSHIP

To agencies or representatives of agencies for effective collaboration with faculty/staff and students to achieve community service and service-learning goals.

### LEADING LIGHT

To an academic department for exemplary integration of service learning into the curriculum.

## from the Chancellor: "Your Efforts Do Not Go Unnoticed"

In 2009, Western Carolina University employees came together as a community and "made a difference in our world," Chancellor John W. Bardo said in an end-of-year message Dec. 14.

"The Western Carolina University community has faced many challenges with the economic downturn, but despite those challenges – or perhaps in some cases because of them – you truly have come together as a community and have made a difference in our world," Bardo said.

Explaining that the difference was "evident in our service," Bardo added, "Among the many efforts this year that originated on our campus was the 25th annual Tuckaseegee River Cleanup, the largest single-day river cleanup

project in the nation. Also, many of you joined me in reaching out to the people of the nearby municipality of Dillsboro to begin assisting them however we can as they rethink the town's economic strategies in light of changes to tourist traffic and businesses.

"Your efforts do not go unnoticed. In 2009, the Corporation for National and Community Service named WCU to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for 'exemplary commitment to service and civic engagement.' Thank you for participating in and involving our students in the many service-learning efforts at WCU that benefit not only our students but also our neighbors in need."

## PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL RECOGNITION: Cause for Celebration

Western Carolina University was among 115 institutions nationwide named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for 2009 with distinction.

More than 700 colleges and universities were recognized for exemplary, innovative and effective community service programs. Of those, six won special recognition.

Carol Burton, assistant vice chancellor for undergraduate studies at WCU, said such national external affirmation of the work of WCU's faculty, students and staff is cause for celebration. "The honor roll salutes colleges and universities that are intentional about their mission to integrate community engagement with academic preparation," Burton said. "WCU's inclusion on the honor roll, with distinction, for the second year in a row, is a testament to our commitment and capacity in this regard. I congratulate all members of our university community and our partners at large, who have contributed to our achievement."

Significant contributions were made by the WCU Teaching Fellows. The 146 students enrolled in the Teaching Fellows Program provided more than 4,700 hours of service through a variety of community projects across Western North Carolina, including many in nursing homes and food banks. "The Teaching Fellows demonstrated compellingly how it is not too difficult to balance commitment to high academic achievement with commitment to community service while in college," declared Glenn Bowen, director of the Center for Service Learning.

In addition, a "Survival Spanish" service-learning project was cited as exemplary. WCU students assisted deputies with the Macon County Sheriff's Office in learning and practicing basic Spanish phrases that could help them on the job by overcoming language barriers when dealing with a growing Hispanic population.

In other examples of service-learning activities, as part of the America Reads/America Counts program, 23 students



WCU ceramics students, with faculty member Joan Byrd (front row, second from left), taking part in last year's Empty Bowl project at Jackson County's Community Table. ON THE COVER: WCU student Alysha Grogan helps Billy Ramirez, a kindergartner at Cullowhee Valley School, with his English skills.

served as teaching assistants and mentors in Jackson County public schools; more than 500 students participated in the 25th annual Tuckasee River Cleanup project in April, contributing 3,000 hours of service; and the Empty Bowl project at Jackson County's Community Table received support from ceramics students and faculty at WCU. The ceramics group donated 95 handcrafted bowls, helping the nonprofit organization raise \$8,000 to combat hunger and food insecurity.

"Without sustained student involvement and support by dedicated faculty, WCU would not have achieved this level of national recognition," said Bowen, adding that there is still much to be done at WCU to foster faculty commitment and increase student engagement in the community. "Next academic year, we will shift our emphasis from breadth to depth. Although we will embrace opportunities to collaborate

with more communities across Western North Carolina, we will focus on deepening student engagement in existing community-based projects."

The Corporation for National and Community Service oversees the honor roll in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education. Patrick Corvington, the corporation's chief executive officer, said: "Congratulations to Western Carolina University and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities. Our nation's students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service."

## WCU Volunteers Join Make a Difference Day Effort

A group of WCU volunteers assisted with the Alzheimer's Association Mountain Area Memory Walk on Make a Difference Day in October. The six-member group helped with registration and check-in as well as food service and trash disposal. The walk in downtown Asheville began and ended at the Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Mary Shirley, Alzheimer's Association development manager, thanked the WCU volunteers for contributing to the success of the event. "You really are making a difference," she told the group. "The Mountain Area Memory Walk raised \$84,116.81, and the volunteers from WCU were such a tremendous help!"

John F. Whitmire Jr., an assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, and his wife, Heather, were among the walkers.

The MLK Park in Asheville was one of eight sites for projects on Make a Difference Day, Oct. 24. By the end of the day, 76 volunteers – university staff, students and family members – had contributed more than 250 hours of service.

### Make A Difference Day

The national day to help others October 24, 2009, the 19th annual Day



- A group of students partnered with volunteers from the Jackson County Greenways Project to repair, clean and evaluate the Drew Hamilton Memorial Trail at Smokey Mountain Elementary School. Teachers and other school personnel plan to use the trail for wellness programs and science classes this spring.
- Volunteers went to the Community Garden in Sylva, where they helped with weeding and related tasks to prepare the garden for winter.
- Another group helped with landscaping at the domestic violence shelter run by REACH of Jackson County and also lent a hand at the agency's resale store in Sylva.
- A group of students assisted with a beautification project at Cullowhee Valley School, where they repainted a hallway.
- At Franklin's annual PumpkinFest event, volunteers supervised a variety of children's games and helped judge entries in the pumpkin roll competition. "It was wonderful to see how much enjoyment the children got from participating in the Halloween games and showing off their costumes," said Julia Konish, an AmeriCorps VISTA member at WCU. "The volunteers had a great time working with the kids and loved judging the pumpkin roll competition and seeing the excitement of the competitors."
- Students went to Webster to help decorate Mountain Trace Nursing Center for Halloween and to spend time with the residents.
- A group of volunteers assisted with the Jackson County Recreation and Parks Department's annual Pumpkin Patch Trail trick-or-treating event.

## Staff Senate Food Drives Benefit Community Table

Western Carolina University's Staff Senate sponsored two food drives recently to support food security efforts at the Community Table in Sylva. The first food drive in the fall 2009 semester yielded about 450 pounds of food for the Community Table's Backpack Program, which provides easy-to-prepare food for schoolchildren to take home on weekends and holidays.

The Staff Senate kicked off that community service project on Employee Appreciation Day in October and ended it in November.

That effort spurred two WCU student psychology groups, the Psychology Club and the honor society Psi Chi, to dedicate their annual food drive to the same cause, said Mickey Randolph, professor of psychology and service-learning liaison. "The response was overwhelming," Randolph said. "We

had more than 50 bags or boxes of food donated."

Together, the donations from the food drives filled a truck from the bed to the backseat, said Brenda Holcombe, chair of Staff Senate and financial aid counselor.

A follow-up effort by the Staff Senate supported a University of North Carolina Staff Assembly statewide service project.

Assisting Holcombe in spearheading the food drives were Staff Senate vice chair Eric



Amy Grimes McClure (left), executive director of the Community Table, accepts food from WCU's Staff Senate chair Brenda Holcombe and vice chair Eric Margiotta. The food was collected at WCU as part of a University of North Carolina Staff Assembly statewide service effort.

Margiotta and two members, Laura Simons and Donna Welch.

# MLK Day of Service Prompts Flurry of Projects

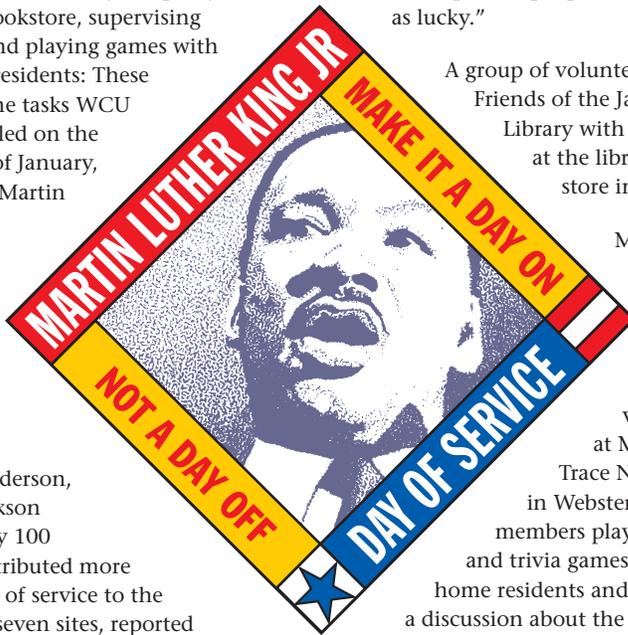
Painting a building to serve as a transitional shelter for pregnant teenagers, spring cleaning at a bookstore, supervising craft projects and playing games with nursing home residents: These were some of the tasks WCU volunteers tackled on the third Monday of January, designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

WCU students, staff and community members took part in service projects in Henderson, Macon and Jackson counties. Nearly 100 volunteers contributed more than 440 hours of service to the community at seven sites, reported Center for Service Learning Assistant Director Jennifer Cooper, a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee.

Members of the Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity and the WCU Intensive English Program were among the volunteers at the Connections Center in Hendersonville. Apart from working on a ditch for a water main and cleaning up the premises, the volunteers helped to paint a building to serve as a transitional shelter for pregnant teenagers. Executive director Thomas Jackson thanked the volunteers for their "very valuable assistance" to the nonprofit agency. He was particularly impressed with the group of Chinese students who participated – Ya Hou, Tingting "Mandy" Liu, Rui Ma, Shengjun Su, Yang Zhang and Min Zuo.

Volunteers at REACH of Macon County included members of the Asian Student Association and Civic Place. Their projects included painting and cleaning at the domestic violence shelter in Franklin. "Volunteering there made me realize how fortunate I am," said Catamount Student

Service Corps member Ben Rutz. "It meant a lot to help other people who haven't been as lucky."



A group of volunteers assisted the Friends of the Jackson County Library with spring cleaning at the library's used-book store in Sylva.

Meanwhile, members of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority volunteered at Mountain Trace Nursing Center in Webster. Sorority members played bingo and trivia games with nursing home residents and helped lead a discussion about the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader whose birthday this year was observed Jan. 18.

In addition, several residents and staff members from the Hawthorn Heights Children's Home in Bryson City traveled to Sylva to lend a hand at REACH of Jackson County. The group helped with cleaning and sorting donations at the REACH Resale Store.

Across town, members of Sigma Chi and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternities visited with residents at Skyland Care Center in Sylva and helped with craft projects.

Students volunteering at the Appalachian Homestead Farm and Preserve in the Tilley Creek community included members of Project C.A.R.E. (Committed to African-American Retention in Education) and the Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma fraternities. Yolany Gonell, assistant director of multicultural affairs at WCU, joined the volunteers, who cleared and fertilized a garden plot, fed and groomed livestock, cleaned a barnyard, prepared fallen trees to be split into firewood and cleared a trail on the property.



## WCU Community Pitches in to Help Haiti Quake Victims

WCU students involved in PeaceJam supported efforts by Stop Hunger Now to send one million meals to Haiti in the wake of a massive earthquake there. PeaceJam is an international education program supported by Nobel Peace laureates. Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger-relief organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid around the world. WCU student mentors from the elementary and middle grades program in the College of Education and Allied Professions, along with Di-Ga-Li-I, the Native American student organization, are assisting PeaceJam clubs at Tuscola High School and Waynesville Middle School with this project. They designated Feb. 20 as "Pack the Boxes Day," when high-protein and high-vitamin meals were scheduled to be packed in the Waynesville Middle School cafeteria.

The senior nursing class raised \$261, which was donated to the American Nurses Foundation to support the nursing infrastructure in Haiti. Jean Hill, assistant professor, reported that the 42 students supported the fund-raising drive. Social work students are planning a similar fundraising drive on campus.

Meanwhile, the Cullowhee Daybreak Rotary Club collected funds for ShelterBox USA "to address the immediate need of shelter in Haiti," according to Regis Gilman, WCU associate dean of educational outreach, who is president of the club. Collection boxes were set up across campus. Rotary International sponsors ShelterBox and communicates with the seven Rotary Clubs in Haiti to ensure that the boxes are distributed to those in greatest need. ShelterBox partners with other relief organizations providing food and medical supplies, Gilman said.



# Alternative Fall Break 2009

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

# SENTINEL snapshots

PHOTOS BY CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING STAFF



# WCU Hosts State Campus Compact Student Conference

Nearly 200 students representing 24 colleges and universities attended the 17th annual North Carolina Campus Compact Student Conference, hosted by Western Carolina University on Nov. 6-7.

Addressing the opening session, WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo said the participating colleges and universities were “doing the most important work that institutions can.” He said civic engagement would have an impact on the community, region, state and nation, and would improve quality of life.

Bardo told students they would learn from being engaged in the community. “Your educational experience is much richer, you become a better citizen, your life will have meaning,” he said.

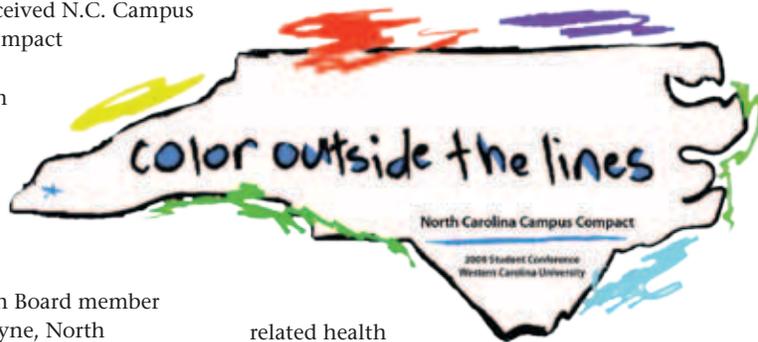
Bardo also spoke about initiatives at WCU and highlighted the Quality Enhancement Plan, which promotes purposeful, intentional learning. “Engagement is the core of who we are,” he said, adding that WCU’s efforts to promote civic responsibility among students were based on the concept of “Jeffersonian democracy.”

North Carolina Campus Compact is a coalition of higher education leaders focused on promoting civic engagement by uniting campuses, empowering students and impacting communities. WCU became a member of Campus Compact at the state and national levels in 2005.

A total of 27 students received N.C. Campus Compact’s Community Impact Award in recognition of outstanding service. Each winner also received a volunteer certificate of appreciation from Gov. Beverly Perdue and a congratulatory letter from U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler. Sylva Town Board member Stacy Knotts and Lisa Keyne, North Carolina Campus Compact’s executive director, presented the awards.

Conference attendees had the opportunity to network and gain the knowledge, skills and tools to create or expand their own campus civic engagement efforts through 32 workshops.

A workshop presentation on the “Fundred Dollar Bill Project” by Marie Cochran, an assistant professor in the WCU School of Art and Design, was recognized as the “most innovative” at the conference. Conceptual artist Mel Chin introduced his Fundred Dollar Bill Project, a nationwide effort to highlight the issue of lead-contaminated soil in New Orleans, to WCU faculty and students last year. The project encourages students, artists and concerned citizens to each design a “fundred” dollar bill. Chin plans to collect three million bills to deliver to Washington, where organizers will request an even exchange of money and services from Congress to support solutions to lead-



related health and quality-of-life issues challenging New Orleans.

WCU graduate student Bessie Dietrich Goggins, a member of the Service Learning Center’s advisory board, delivered the closing address. She spoke about her “life-changing experience” as a WCU Alternative Spring Break participant in Chicago as well as her teaching experience and the inspiration service learning provided for her students. Dietrich Goggins, who graduated in December with a master’s degree in English, said the “positive impact” of service learning was evident in her decision to accept a position as executive director of the Literacy Council of Highlands and as public relations manager of the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor.

“Think of your time in college as more than just four years of service learning,” Dietrich Goggins told students. “Think of it as the starting point for a lifetime of

## University Group, State Organization Discuss Engagement Challenges

A WCU group of faculty, administrators and students discussed civic engagement challenges and achievements with North Carolina Campus Compact executives Nov. 6 in the A.K. Hinds University Center.

Lisa Keyne, executive director, and Leslie Garvin, associate director of the state organization, heard about several civic engagement and service-learning initiatives at WCU. These included projects being implemented through the Quality Enhancement Plan and the American Democracy Project, a civic engagement

initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. They mentioned challenges related to limited monetary resources as well as transportation and liability issues affecting community-based assignments.

Keyne commended WCU on its achievements in service learning and civic engagement. “This is what an engaged campus looks like,” Keyne declared. She also announced that social entrepreneurship would be the focus on the organization’s Civic Engagement Institute in February.

Garvin spoke primarily about NC-ACTS, a program sponsored by AmeriCorps and N.C. Campus Compact.

North Carolina Campus Compact became the 26th state organization of its kind in 2002. National Campus Compact currently consists of 46 state organizations.

Participating in the discussions were Carol Burton, assistant vice chancellor for undergraduate studies; faculty members Kathleen Brennan, associate professor of sociology and associate dean of the

## STUDENT SELECTED FOR CAMPUS COMPACT STATE BOARD

civic engagement.” She urged students to stay engaged in the community after they graduate and to “make the world a better place while enriching your life.”

Events at the 2009 conference, themed “Color Outside the Lines,” included a panel discussion about “Canton Connections,” a WCU initiative that benefited the Haywood County town through post-disaster revitalization projects. Panelists were Bill Richmond, associate professor of computer information systems; Frank Lockwood, associate professor of entrepreneurship; Glenn Bowen, director of the Center for Service Learning; and Al Matthews, the Canton town manager.

At the conference, students Meghan Adams, Lauren Hardison and Sarah Withrow made a presentation on “Service-learning Initiatives in Western Carolina’s MBA Program: Promoting Business Sustainability within the Region.” The presentation was designed to encourage instructors and administrators to implement service-learning projects at their respective universities. It also demonstrated to students the benefits associated with involvement in service-learning projects as part of their academic coursework.

Students Ramona Dowdell, Carlyn Wright and Janet Carothers presented “Life-Long Service: The Power of Reflection,” in which they discussed various pre-, mid- and post-service reflection activities. Meanwhile, a third student group, consisting of Ashley

Leserra, Johnathan Devor and Christopher Govan, made a presentation on “Improving the Ironstone Grill.”

WCU’s Aaron Camp and 10 other advisory board members performed a skit emphasizing the need for students and youth to “color outside the lines.” They depicted Martin Luther King Jr.; Susan B. Anthony and the Wright Brothers, among others, who colored outside the lines in their own ways.

A conference highlight was a blanket-making service project Nov. 6 in the Grandroom of the A. K. Hinds University Center, which resulted in 53 “no-sew” blankets donated to United Christian Ministries of Jackson County.

Preceding the conference was a canned food drive, which began on conference participants’ campuses in October. Cans collected at WCU were donated to the Community Table in Sylva.

Carol Burton, assistant vice chancellor for undergraduate studies, represented the Office of the Provost at the conference. Other N.C. Campus Compact representatives at the conference were Leslie Garvin, associate director; Jonathan Romm, program coordinator; and Kara Brown, AmeriCorps VISTA/MLK program coordinator.

The 2010 N.C. Campus Compact Student Conference will be hosted by Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte on Nov. 6.

Sophomore Lee Roddick has been named WCU’s representative to the student advisory board of North Carolina Campus Compact. She has replaced Aaron Camp, who served on the board

from late 2007 until December 2009, when he graduated from WCU.

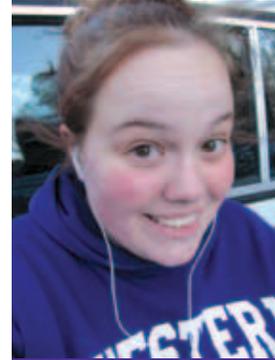
The board was formed in 2007, and Garrett Richardson was WCU’s first representative.

As part of a dual

appointment, Roddick also will serve on the advisory board of the Center for Service Learning.

Roddick majors in English education with a minor in leadership. She is an executive board member of the Leadership Institute and a resident assistant in Norton Hall.

“My all-time favorite quote is by Eleanor Roosevelt: ‘The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams,’” Roddick said. “This directly relates to service because my dreams of being a teacher have always involved encouraging my students to be involved with community service and maintaining it through their lives.”



WCU Graduate School; Enrique Gomez, assistant professor, chemistry and physics and facilitator of the Faculty Learning Community for Civic Engagement; John Habel, associate professor of psychology; Paul Jacques, associate professor of management and leadership and facilitator of the Faculty Learning Community for Service Learning; Niall Michelsen, associate professor of political science and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and William Richmond, associate professor of computer information systems and a member of the Center for Service Learning advisory board.

Service-learning faculty fellows Robert Anderson, Jamel Anderson-Ruff, Marie Cochran, Theresa “Teri” Domagalski and Glenn Kastrinos contributed to the discussions.

Mike Corelli, associate director for the Center for Leadership, Ethics and Civic Engagement, attended as well. So did undergraduates Shawna Higgs, president of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity; Joe Kieffer, a member of the Catamount Student Service Corps; Lee Roddick, a Leadership Institute participant; Amanda Smith, an NC-ACTS member; and Bessie Dietrich Goggins,

then a graduate student and federal work-study participant assigned to the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor.

Center for Service Learning staff members Jennifer Cooper, assistant director; Julia Konish, program coordinator; and Brendan Braaten, project coordinator, joined Glenn Bowen, director, who chaired the meeting.

Burton, Bowen, Brennan, Cochran, Habel and Michelsen are members of the steering committee for the American Democracy Project at WCU.

# SENTINEL

# Snippets



*As part of a service-learning activity, Melissa Berry (left), a physical therapy student at Western Carolina University, works in an aquatic setting with a Cullowhee Valley School student.*

**NEW PUBLICATIONS:** The Center for Service Learning, in collaboration with the Office of Creative Services, is preparing a new set of publications this academic year. The first publication is a booklet titled “Exemplary Service-Learning Projects,” which was issued in November. The booklet summarizes the best examples of service-learning activities at WCU since 2003, when the Service Learning Department (the original name) was established in the Student Affairs Division. WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo praised the “impressive” publication and commented on the diversity of projects it showcases. Forthcoming publications will include a brochure featuring the programs and services offered by the center, a series of fact sheets on the benefits of service learning, a revised service-learning faculty handbook, and information cards. A \$10,000 Academic Support Program of Excellence Award won by the center last year is funding the publications.



**SURVEY:** The Center for Service Learning completed Campus Compact’s annual membership survey for 2009. The survey focuses on community service/service-learning programs and administration at Campus Compact member institutions. WCU became a Campus Compact member institution in 2005. Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents – representing some six million students – dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement and service learning in higher education. Two WCU service-learning projects are among those featured in scrolling pictures at the national Campus Compact Web site, [www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org).

**SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP:** Carol Burton, assistant vice chancellor for undergraduate studies, was the WCU team leader at North Carolina Campus Compact’s Civic Engagement Institute on Feb. 9 at Elon University. The institute focused on social entrepreneurship. Participants discussed social entrepreneurship models, perspectives and “best practices,” and models designed to address social and community issues in sustainable ways. WCU team members included Bill Richmond, associate professor of computer information systems; Jane Nichols, assistant professor of interior design; Glenn Bowen, director of the Center for Service Learning; and Cindy Goode Martin, a graduate student assisting with the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor.



**CAMPUS VISIT:** Tony Cerise, senior program manager for academic seminars at the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, recently visited Western Carolina University to meet with administrators, faculty and students. He met with administrators of Career Services, the Registrar’s Office and the Financial Aid Office as well as political science faculty and students. The Center for Service Learning organized the campus visit.

**BOARD APPOINTMENT:** Jennifer Cooper, assistant director of the WCU Center for Service Learning, has been appointed to the board of Jackson County Neighbors in Need. A voluntary organization, Neighbors in Need brings together community organizations and residents “to promote effective collaboration to assist Jackson County citizens in need of adequate warm shelter during the cold weather months.” Major goals of the organization are the weatherization of homes, providing cold-weather shelter, and providing funds to help with heating and shelter needs.



**WINTERIZATION:** The WCU Equestrian Team recently winterized the Campus Kitchen Garden. Team members spread manure and covered the garden beds with a layer of leaves and then with a tarpaulin. “This will fertilize the garden over the winter months and simultaneously prevent weeds from growing during the off-season,” said Julia Konish, Center for Service Learning program coordinator. Equestrian Club adviser Nory Prochaska donated the manure, and student Krista Robb oversaw the winterization project.

# What They're Saying...

*"Western Carolina is indeed among universities with excellent service-learning programs. You will find one of WCU's exemplars ["Rural Murals as Public Service," by Erin Tapley, associate professor of Art Education at Western Carolina University] ... in Community Works Institute's archive of higher education curriculum exemplars and research studies at [www.communityworksinstitute.org/exemplars/exemphghed/index.html](http://www.communityworksinstitute.org/exemplars/exemphghed/index.html)."*

– Joe Brooks, executive director, Community Works Institute., Claremont, Calif.

*"I learned how to not judge people too quickly based on the area where they live."*

– Hannah Yarborough, senior, criminal justice major, Alternative Fall Break participant

*"I am so thankful to have WCU nearby and for all the support we receive from the folks there – food drives, volunteer help and other donations and events. We can only carry out our mission with the help of our community."*

– Amy Grimes McClure, executive director, Community Table, Sylva

*"This is just a brief note to compliment your students on the professional manner in which they conducted themselves while working on a documentary for a school project. Jay Barber, Adam Morris and Zachary Johnson were very courteous to our staff and to the recipients of Meals on Wheels as they worked hard to complete the short film. The rough cut has been shown to [us], ... and we are pleased with the film. Thank you for your work with these students and for their work with Haywood County Department of Social Services and our Meals on Wheels program."*

– Ira Dove, director, Haywood County Department of Social Services, in a December e-mail to Arledge Armenaki, visiting associate professor of cinematography

*"All of them agreed it was an amazing experience which they enjoyed so much! I am so proud of their commitment to this project. One student actually changed her major to social work upon her return from the trip."*

– Rebecca Lasher, assistant professor of social work, writing about four students (including Davis, McEwan and Yarborough) who participated in the 2009 Alternative Fall Break as part of her Introduction to Social Work course

*"My service experience definitely made me realize how many people there are in our community who struggle through different problems every day. Young and old need our help, not just in schools and hospitals, but in their daily lives too."*

– Elizabeth McEwan, sophomore, major undeclared, Alternative Fall Break participant

*"Personally, I feel that the Jackson County Department of Social Services is doing great at meeting the needs of Jackson County and part of the Qualla Boundary. JCDSS and Swain County DSS are unique in that they serve an indigenous group of people and a rural area where employment is hard to come by. ... I was unaware that individuals make reports because they are in a custody battle or because they are seeking retaliation. This was an eye-opener for me. It has also made me realize that there are children out there who truly need our services, and no one is reporting the abuse/neglect. I realize that we cannot help every child in need, but I would like to try."*

– Monica Wildcatt, NC-ACTS (AmeriCorps program) member and participant in a 2009 Jackson County DSS community service project

*"I enjoyed being able to go out in my community and to do something I've never done before. Knowing that what I did to help get donations for the less fortunate has really improved my self-awareness. The work was difficult, but in the end it was definitely worth it."*

– Kelly Davis, sophomore, psychology major, Alternative Fall Break participant

# Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Opens Eyes of Volunteers

Western Carolina University marked National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week on Nov. 15-21 with a series of events coordinated by the Center for Service Learning.

Events included a film, two community service projects, a guest presentation and a potluck dinner.

“The Pursuit of Happiness” was screened in the theater of the University Center on Monday. Based on a true story, the 2006 drama is about a struggling salesman (played by Will Smith) who takes custody of his son as he is about to begin a life-changing professional endeavor. During an intermission, Kevin Hughes, volunteer coordinator and kitchen manager at the Community Table, led a brief discussion on hunger-related issues.

“As I was watching the film, it made me reflect on my own life, and how I take so much for granted,” said Ashley Anzaldi, a freshman psychology major. “Every day I know I will have someplace warm to sleep, and I know I will have food available to me. This awareness week inspired me to be more actively involved in this matter.”

Eleven staff members of units under the Office for Undergraduate Studies volunteered at the Community Table in Sylva earlier that day. Participants included Carol Burton, assistant vice chancellor; Mardy Ashe (Career Services), Glenn Bowen (Service Learning), Nory Prochaska (Mathematics Tutoring Center) and Chesney Reich (Academic Tutoring Center), directors; and Michael Despeaux and Jill Woodruff (Career Services), Jennifer Cooper (Service Learning), Glenda Hensley (Undergraduate Studies) and Maryann Peterson (Writing Center). They helped prepare and serve meals, clean the facility, organize the pantry and do various chores.

The Community Table, which celebrated its 10th anniversary last August, offers dinner to those in need, free of charge.

“I was thankful for the opportunity to get to know some of the regular volunteers at the Community Table and to talk with members of our community who benefit from this important service,” said Reich. “The experience has afforded me a new perspective that I can share with my



PHOTO BY JENNIFER COOPER

From left, student Ben Rutz and faculty members Paul Jacques, Glenn Kastrinos and Robert Anderson help sort and pack potatoes for distribution at MANNA FoodBank in Asheville.

students the next time we participate in a service project together.”

A representative group of service-learning faculty, staff and students visited the MANNA FoodBank in Asheville on Thursday. The 12 faculty, staff and students who participated included Bowen; Jennifer Cooper, assistant director; Robert Anderson and Glenn Kastrinos, service-learning faculty fellows; Paul Jacques, facilitator of the Faculty Learning Community for Service Learning and a former service-learning faculty fellow; Lexi Glista, Joe Kieffer and Ben Rutz, Catamount Student Service Corps members; Samantha Moss, a Civic Place member; and Amanda Smith and Monica Wildcatt, NC-ACTS (AmeriCorps program) members.

The volunteers spent two hours sorting and packing food for distribution to people in need. MANNA acquires and distributes 6.7 million pounds of food to 315 nonprofit agencies throughout a 16-county Western North Carolina region.

Jeanne Naber, coordinator for the Haywood County Meals On Wheels, came to campus that same day and gave a presentation to more than 50 students, the majority

of whom came from professors Jeanne Dulworth’s and Tonya Westbrook’s social work classes. Naber provided information about Meals On Wheels and answered questions about food insecurity and hunger.

Meals On Wheels serves some 332 meals to elderly, disabled and/or visually impaired people on 24 routes throughout Haywood County.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week events culminated Friday with a potluck dinner hosted by the Wesley Foundation at Cullowhee United Methodist Church. The WCU Brassy Five, a student brass quintet, played during the meal. More than 25 attendees tested their knowledge of hunger and homelessness by participating in a quiz, received a handout on ways to help, and listened to students and staff members read testimonials from Keith Wasserman, known for choosing to live homeless in different parts of the country. Among other subgroups, impoverished children were a focus of the discussion.

“The potluck dinner really opened my eyes to the realities of hunger and homelessness,” said Bailey Blake, a visiting senior engineering major from Ohio



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Northern University. “I was shocked to find out how many children are affected by these issues.”

A Hunger in America study in 2006 found that more than 70 percent of Western North Carolina households with children were “food insecure” while 53 percent of households facing hunger must choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel. In Jackson County, roughly 42 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch at school.

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is scheduled for the week before Thanksgiving. With more than 100 participants, WCU events were very successful. “Our participation in the week’s events helped us face the stark reality of hunger and homelessness across the nation and right here in our own communities,” said Glenn Bowen, director of the Center for Service Learning. “Furthermore, it served as a catalyst for concerted action to assist our neighbors who are experiencing these poverty-related conditions.”

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*Story by Brendan Braaten, project coordinator in the Center for Service Learning. Braaten managed the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week event, participated in the two service projects and attended all major activities.*

**TITLE:** *The Measure of Service Learning: Research Scales to Assess Student Experiences*

**AUTHORS:** Robert G. Bringle, Mindy A. Phillips and Michael Hudson

**PUBLISHER:** American Psychological Association

**YEAR:** 2003 | **PAGE COUNT:** 230 pages

**PUBLISHER’S SYNOPSIS:**

The addition of service-learning courses on college campuses is growing rapidly. However, practitioners will benefit from a richer (or more complete) knowledge base that firmly establishes service learning as an effective pedagogy for students’ academic learning, personal development and civic participation. “The Measure of Service Learning” will be a valuable resource for program evaluators and researchers who want to inform the practice of service learning. This useful volume provides an extensive compilation of scales for use in studying students in service-learning classes. The scales measure a variety of constructs, such as attitudes, moral development and critical thinking. In addition, the text includes a primer on measurement theory.

*Lead author Robert G. Bringle, director of the Center for Service and Learning at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, was the lead presenter at the second annual WCU Service-Learning Symposium in 2006.*

## AAHE Monograph Series:

The American Association of Higher Education monograph series on service learning in the academic disciplines is available in the Center for Service Learning. Each of the 18 monographs, from accounting to women’s studies, focuses on why and how service learning can be implemented within a particular discipline. The discussions presented in the series are written by scholars in the discipline and are supported by research, course models, annotated bibliographies and program descriptions. Each volume includes both theoretical and pedagogical essays, and covers a wide range of interests and approaches.

## VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO SERVICE AT SOUP KITCHEN

Mardy Ashe, director of the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education, was among WCU representatives who volunteered at the Community Table Table, the Sylva-based soup kitchen, in recognition of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. The Community Table gives free dinners to those in need, and volunteers took orders for pulled pork, hot dogs, coleslaw, baked beans, red beans and rice, squash and cake; served food; and helped clean afterward.

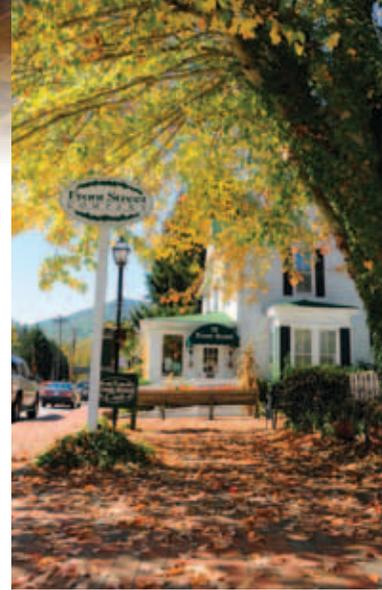
“I was impressed by how busy we were and the welcome feeling that was noticeable throughout,” said Ashe. “Several of the customers stayed the entire time we were

open, chatting with friends, drinking coffee and sharing stories. I left that night feeling that I had accomplished something worthwhile.”

Jill Woodruff, special events coordinator with the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education, said she also enjoyed her time volunteering at the Community Table and also has taken her children, William and Mary Grant, with her to help. “I want them to understand the value of giving back and to know we are never too young or too old to help others,” said Woodruff.

For Nory Prochaska, director of the Mathematics Tutoring Center, the experience strengthened her desire to serve the

community. Prochaska said initially she was not looking forward to volunteering at the Community Table – a feeling she expects many WCU students have when first asked to participate in a service-learning project. Once she arrived, however, she had a great time with the other volunteers from WCU, realized that the little they did made a big difference, and left energized. “A horse rescue (effort) I’m familiar with just put out a call for help in anticipation of an increase in abandoned animals this winter, and I found myself making an extra effort to collect some resources for them,” said Prochaska. “I’m confident that my experience Monday at the Community Table is part of the motivation.”



## Service Learning Center Offers Expertise to Dillsboro Project

The Center for Service Learning is participating in the partnership being developed between Western Carolina University and the town of Dillsboro, and service-learning projects will be an integral part of the initiative.

The center will serve as a clearinghouse for community service opportunities for students, and its staff will provide expertise in connecting community-based projects to the curriculum. In addition, the center's advisory board will provide feedback on projects implemented.

The partnership took a major step forward Nov. 30 when town merchants and leaders visited campus to tour laboratories and other facilities, and to discover how WCU students are engaged in assisting the region. Tour stops included the Center for Service Learning, in the Belk Building.

On the tour were about two dozen Dillsboro representatives, who were accompanied by WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo and his wife, Deborah Bardo. The campus visit began with a general orientation session in the Admission Office and ended with a dinner in the Courtyard Dining Hall, where the visitors met with various university representatives.

The tour was a follow-up to an October meeting held in Dillsboro, during which the town's residents and university administration, faculty and staff began discussing in detail what the university can do to assist the municipality boost its tourism economy. The discussions came in

the wake of the decision by the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad to cease operations in the town.

"What can we do to help the people of Dillsboro create the town you want?" Bardo asked at a packed meeting held Oct. 6 in a conference room in Dillsboro's Applegate Inn. "We are trying to understand what you want your town to be so we can identify what resources we have to help," Bardo said. "Why will people stop here in larger numbers? Why will they stop here on their way to Cherokee and Great Smoky Mountains National Park? What will they find in Dillsboro that is different from other towns?"

Joining Bardo were WCU faculty and staff members who expressed interest in sharing their expertise and discovering opportunities in Dillsboro for students to apply their education in ways that will assist the town. The faculty and staff represented academic programs in business and entrepreneurship, communications and public relations, political science and public affairs, fine and performing arts, service learning, and hospitality and tourism.

Bardo noted that some of the projects would be implemented through the Center for Service Learning, and the center's advisory board has since submitted a list of recommendations for the Dillsboro initiative.

On Jan. 28, the project took another step forward when approximately 50 people,

including 15 WCU representatives and a handful of students, gathered again at the Applegate Inn for a presentation outlining 10 objectives meant to strengthen the town's economic position.

Dillsboro representatives arrived at the objectives, with Farmer facilitating by identifying WCU staff, faculty members and students to assist.

The objectives are realistic and measurable and a good place to start, Farmer said. These objectives are the "what," Farmer said, with longer-term objectives and details on how to achieve them to come.

Among the objectives are having Dillsboro merchants work with WCU's Small Business and Technology Development Center; administering surveys; creating a cohesive marketing strategy and/or branding approach for Dillsboro; distributing an electronic newsletter; and increasing the town's use of online social media sites.

*Dillsboro community members tour the WCU campus as part of a university-town partnership. Campus hosts included (from right) Chancellor and Mrs. Bardo; Betty Farmer, special assistant to the chancellor for the Dillsboro Project; and Jennifer Cooper, assistant director of service learning. The tour was a follow-up to a meeting in Dillsboro, where discussions centered on ways to assist the municipality in shoring up its tourism-based economy.*

*Story by WCU News Services, Office of Public Relations.*

## Displays, Seminar Highlight Community Service-Learning Fair

Forty community agencies and campus organizations participated in Western Carolina University's fifth annual Community Service-Learning Fair on Jan. 26 in the A.K. Hinds University Center.

Highlights of the fair were displays by community agencies and campus organizations, and a seminar focusing on the principles and practice of service learning.

A diverse group of community agencies participated in the four-hour event. The agency displays focused on such areas as children and youth, environmental issues, food and hunger, health and wellness, disability issues and elder care.

Carol Burton, assistant vice chancellor for undergraduate studies, thanked the community partners for their participation. "WCU's partnership with our community members is a critical element of our mission to prepare students who desire to make a difference in their world. This mission was developed last year as part of our university brand, and I don't think it could fit us any better," she said.

Burton said a commitment to service learning means "we have institutionalized practices of community engagement that show alignment among mission,

culture, leadership, resources and practices. We will continue to work on developing mechanisms that foster mutual understanding and open communication."

Two department heads attended the fair to talk with community agency representatives. Kevin Schilbrack, professor of religion and head of the Philosophy and Religion Department, saw the fair as an opportunity to gather information about ways to involve students meaningfully in community-based assignments. Santiago García-Castañón, professor of Spanish and head of the Modern Foreign Languages Department, said the fair offered many ideas for service-learning experiences in the community.

The main topics covered during the seminar portion of the event were Center for Service Learning structure, programs and services; student involvement in the community and the role of the community partner; differences between service learning and other community-based approaches; principles of good service-learning practice; course goals and learning outcomes; and characteristics of good service-learning sites.

Community agencies learned more about the goals of service learning and civic engagement in relation to the university's Quality Enhancement Plan.

Four service-learning faculty fellows and two other faculty members talked with community partners about typical student-learning outcomes across each college when students are assigned to course-based community service. Participating were George Ford, assistant professor, representing the Kimmel School of Construction Management and Technology; Theresa Domagalski, associate professor and faculty fellow, College of Business; Glenn Kastrinos, assistant professor and faculty fellow, College of Health and Human Sciences; Jamel Anderson-Ruff, curriculum specialist and faculty fellow, College of Education and Allied Professions; and Arledge Armenaki, associate professor, with Marie Cochran, assistant professor and faculty fellow, representing the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Burton, who made a brief presentation at the seminar, noted that it provided an opportunity to discuss faculty expectations for students who are engaged in service learning in their classes and served to build understanding of the pedagogy.

Jennifer Cooper, assistant director of the Center for Service Learning, coordinated the fair. Director Glenn Bowen conducted the seminar.



From left, Sonja Hines, a representative of GRIP, the Greenways Invasives Partnership, shows students the area covered by her organization's work. GRIP focuses on invasive plant management along the greenway system in Macon County. Bessie Dietrich Goggins, executive director of the Literacy Council of Highlands, talks with students about service-learning opportunities offered at her agency. Dietrich Goggins, a WCU alumna, is a member of the advisory board of the Center for Service Learning.

## Education Students Support Paper Crane Project

Education students and faculty at Western Carolina University supported a “paper crane” project through which \$1,000 was raised recently as a donation to a Cullowhee Valley School student who has been ailing for some time.

Diagnoses indicated that Madison Hornbuckle, a fifth-grade student at Cullowhee Valley School, has brain tumors. She has been hospitalized several times for surgery, radiation and chemotherapy.

Lori E. Scott, fifth-grade language arts/social studies teacher, explained that she had Madison’s classmates read “Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes” to introduce them to the Japanese belief that cranes lived for a thousand years. “According to legend,” Scott explained, “if you were sick and you folded one thousand cranes to give as a gift to the gods, you would be healed. Because Sadako was suffering from a form of cancer, I thought this would help them to make a connection between the text and what was happening with one of their classmates.”

“The project grew from the classroom, to the school, and then to WCU,” Scott said. “The

students at CVS folded over 1,800 paper cranes. Each crane represented a wish for Madison to get better.”

William Dee Nichols, professor and head of the Elementary and Middle Grades Education Department, was at Cullowhee Valley School to help celebrate the completion of the 1,000th crane and was interviewed by WLOS-TV about WCU’s involvement in this project. It was the

idea of his eldest daughter, Annalyse, to collect money to assist her classmate.

“The overall project was a big success,” said Nichols. “As Madison’s diagnosis has worsened, the family used the funds to redecorate her room and get her the things she needs to be comfortable and hopefully make progress toward a recovery. She remains in all of our thoughts and prayers, and we were humbled to do our part and help her family meet financial needs.”



*Cullowhee Valley students take part in the paper crane project.*

## Communication Students Support Christmas Gift Drive

Western Carolina University communication students helped to raise more than \$1,000 at the Jackson County Motorcycle Association’s third annual toy parade Nov. 21. Proceeds went to benefit the Jackson County Christmas Store, which offers community members in need an affordable opportunity to acquire holiday gifts for their families.

The WCU Communication Student Organization implemented marketing strategies to attract people to the event and to raise money. The strategies targeted several counties in the area and included grant research, creating a Facebook event and a radio commercial, as well as distributing fliers and developing a press release.

According to Jessica Reed, a senior communication major and vice president of the Communication Student Organization,

her press release for the event was sent to 15 new markets.

While advertising for the event, the students also coordinated the day’s entertainment. With the help of Annie’s Food and Spirits’ owner, Dewayne Ward, the band the Handtrucks played at the event for free.

“I am thankful for the Communication Student Organization and many others in our community for their support and giving to help other families in Jackson County,” Ward said.

WCU communication faculty and staff helped with the event. They included Teresa Killian, a writer in WCU’s Office of Public Relations; William Dulaney, assistant professor of communication and an expert on outlaw motorcycle clubs; Debra Connelly, visiting assistant professor

of communication; Justin Caudell, a junior communication major from Cashiers and editor of the Western Carolinian newspaper; Brian Graham, a senior communication major from Chapel Hill and president of the Communication Student Organization; Lauren Gray, a junior communication major from New London and a student-leader with Last Minute Productions; and Garrett Richardson, a senior communication major from Winston-Salem and a host with WWCU-FM Power 90.5, the broadcast service of WCU. Communication major Daniel Dornfield joined the Handtrucks and played for three hours.

In addition to the live entertainment and the parade, the event included free food, raffles and auctions. The 45-minute parade route was from the vicinity of U.S. Highway 23/74 at Exit 85, through Sylva, to WCU and then back to the starting point.



Cindy Goode Martin, with WCU faculty member Chris Blake, co-chair of the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor, at the WCU Community Service-Learning Fair on Jan. 26.

## Student Assists with Cullowhee Project

Graduate student Cindy Goode Martin has joined the student staff of the Center for Service Learning and has been assigned to the Cullowhee Revitalization Endeavor, also known as CuRvE. She replaces Bessie Dietrich Goggins, who graduated in December.

Goode Martin is pursuing a master's degree in English. She received a bachelor's degree in history from WCU in May 2008.

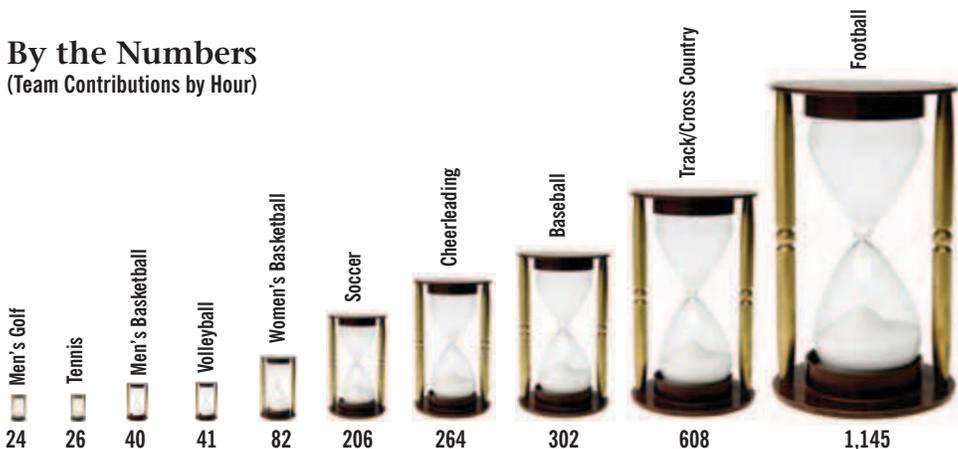
"I became interested in CuRvE's mission while volunteering for the organization in 2009 and am currently serving as the public relations coordinator," Goode Martin said. "I am also entering my fifth year as a tutor at the University Writing Center, and I am interning at the Literacy Council of Highlands this spring."

## Student-Athletes Volunteer in Community

WCU student-athletes logged 2,738 hours of service to the community during the fall 2009 semester, volunteering at sites and events including the Jackson County Christmas Store and a 5-K Breast Cancer Awareness Run. The football team recorded more than 1,000 hours of service.

"They enjoy giving back to the community," said Jennifer Brown, associate athletics director and senior woman administrator, as well as liaison to the Center for Service Learning.

### By the Numbers (Team Contributions by Hour)



## Fresh Faces on Service-Learning Advisory Board

Recent student graduations have prompted a number of changes to the membership of the advisory board of the Center for Service Learning.

Bessie Dietrich Goggins, who served on the board as a graduate student, will continue to serve in her new role as a community partner. Dietrich Goggins, who graduated last December, is now the executive director of the Literacy Council of Highlands. The new graduate student on the board is Joe Kieffer, a member of the Catamount Student Service Corps.

Sophomore Lee Roddick has replaced Aaron Camp as a board member after being named to the N.C. Campus Compact Student Advisory Board (see story on page 9). At the same time, Maggie Chandler, a political science major, has filled another undergraduate position on the board.

## Health Sciences Students Collect Food for Community Table



Western Carolina University's organizations for students majoring in athletic training, emergency medical care and health information administration together collected 582 food items for the Community Table in Sylva during the last month of the fall 2009 semester.

The fifth annual School of Health Sciences Food Drive was organized by Jeremiah Nichols and Cortni Bazzle, junior athletic training students.

"We recognize that the economic downturn over the past year has resulted in an even greater need to support organizations like Sylva's Community Table," Nichols said. "Collecting food items for the holidays is one small way we can give back to the local community."

# fresh perspective:

## WCU Helps Spread the PeaceJam Message

By Victoria Faircloth and Russell Binkley

PeaceJam is an organization begun in Denver in 1996 by folks with a heart for disadvantaged youth and a weariness of continued gang activity in their neighborhood. Reaching out to these youth, Ivan Suvanjiëff soon turned a dream into a reality: connecting youth with Nobel Peace Prize winners. Currently, 11 Nobel Peace laureates, through the PeaceJam Foundation, work around the globe empowering high school youth to change their world.

Who better to become the heroes of our youth than the the Dalai Lama of Tibet, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and Mayan Rigoberta Menchú Tum? Eight other prize winners also participate.

Now, Western Carolina University has begun its work with PeaceJam in public schools in our region, including this past fall with Waynesville Middle School eighth-graders and two Cullowhee Valley School kindergarten classes. Students learned about the Nobel Peace laureates through the PeaceJam curriculum, taught by WCU students enrolled in a social studies methods course. In the spring semester, these public school students will apply to their personal world what they have learned from the lives of the Nobel Peace Prize winners.

PeaceJam's Global Call to Action covers 10 critical world issues that frame service-learning projects: equal access to clean water; ending racism and hate; halting the spread of global disease; eliminating extreme poverty; social justice and human rights for all; rights of women and children and their role as leaders; restoring Earth's environment; controlling the proliferation of weapons; investing in human security; and breaking the cycle of violence.

Last year, after careful surveys of their community's needs, students selected service-learning projects. The Waynesville Middle School eighth-graders chose six of the 10 Call to Action issues as the focus of their projects. With WCU social studies students working alongside the eighth-grade students, five projects have been completed. A kindergarten class literacy project featured the children's book "I Call My Hand Gentle." "Stop Bullying in Schools" was a sixth-grade project. Meanwhile, some eighth-grade students were involved in a "Renew a Recycling Program." Other students collected various items needed by children and adults living at two shelters – one for victims of domestic abuse and the other for low-income families.

While these students were hard at work in Haywood County, students from the Randolph Learning Center, an Asheville City

alternative high school, began their PeaceJam work by building solar panels. These students had completed an energy audit of their school and were prepared to envision not a few but many solar panels generating

power for their school. They chose the global call to action of restoring Earth's environment.

What a wonderful way for students to learn the content needed to pass an end-of-grade test and learn presentation skills for adult audiences!

WCU students enrolled in a science methods course donated many hours on Saturdays to help the students build the solar panels. WCU volunteer instructors met with the students to help them with developing professional presentation skills.

The biggest highlight last year for all the PeaceJammers – professors, college students,



Students from the Randolph Learning Center participate in PeaceJam by building solar panels.

public school teachers and youth – was the PeaceJam Conference at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla. They spent two days there learning from Nobel Peace Prize winner Betty Williams of Northern Ireland.

The students already had practiced their presentations repeatedly in various venues. In Tallahassee, they were amazingly calm, poised and effective as they spoke before the audience of 300 youth plus all their adult sponsors. Two WCU students demonstrated what they had learned about educating and motivating youth to be peacemakers.

Our excitement with the success of PeaceJam's first year at WCU (and in North Carolina) led us to create a special-topics course in peace studies for our Jamaican students who were on campus last summer for the completion of their undergraduate program in education. After teaching numerous times in Jamaica, we were convinced that the PeaceJam fire would light quickly among these students, who are teachers in that island nation.

After studying the Nobel Peace laureates, the Jamaican teachers were given a list of needs in our local community, and they selected projects for service in Cullowhee and in the larger Western North Carolina community. The Jamaican students worked with students in the summer program at Jackson County's alternative school, The HUB; students donated time at Full Spectrum Farms and at Fairview School; and some even traveled to Asheville to interview students at Randolph Learning Center, where they prepared immersion lessons in topics identified by the students as areas of need in their academic lives.

Of course, we hoped that PeaceJam would travel back to Jamaica with our students and that we would see its imprint on the

# THE CONFERENCE HALL

lives of youth in that country. The initial response was “Soon come!,” an assurance that things will work out and a subtle appeal for patience. We Americans sometimes are not so patient!

In January, we received the exciting news that PeaceJam has officially begun at a primary and junior high school in Kingston, the Jamaican capital. The WCU graduates, in their roles as teachers in Kingston, plan to bring high school youth, who will complete a major service project in their local community, to meet Menchú Tum, a Mayan indigo from Guatemala who has spent her life fighting for Mayan civil rights.

PeaceJam’s Global Call to Action has inspired an international movement of young people who have decided to work together to solve the most pressing issues of our time. PeaceJam provides participants with the knowledge that, together, we can cross cultural borders and live lives of purpose. At the heart of PeaceJam is service learning, an approach to civic engagement that helps to make us good citizens. We should all be grateful for the opportunities we have to serve and learn from one another.

In small groups and clubs, in cities and in villages, PeaceJam participants are tackling important problems facing our planet – and are making a difference.

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*Victoria Faircloth is associate professor and Russell Binkley is assistant professor of elementary and middle grades education at Western Carolina University.*



*A Jamaican teacher supervises a student participating in PeaceJam.*

## Faculty and Students Make Presentations

Seven graduate students and faculty member **Georgia Hambrecht**, professor of communication sciences and disorders, presented a poster session at the National Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in New Orleans last November. The poster was titled “Examples of Service Learning Imbedded within a Professional Preparation Effort.” The participating students were **Nicole McRight, Tyra Minton, Lauren Rhein, Jordan Simmons, Michael Taylor, Rhian Vanderburg** and **Caroline Workman**. The poster was a product of a grant-funded project, “Improving Speech-Language Pathology Services to Children with Severe Disabilities through Preprofessional and Professional Training,” sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Hambrecht co-authored the grant with professors **Bill Ogletree** and **David Shapiro** of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department. They are in their second year of this four-year grant.

**Marie Huff**, associate dean, and **Linda Seestedt-Stanford**, dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, presented a paper titled “Implementing Service Learning across the Curriculum: A Catalyst for Change” at the 27th annual Academic Chairpersons Conference. They identified the multiple benefits of service learning for students, faculty and the community. They also discussed how faculty can be supported “to design and implement service-learning activities within various disciplines to encourage intellectually stimulating learning environments that help prepare students for lifelong service and civic engagement.” Themed “A New Generation of Accountability,” the conference was held Feb. 10-12 in Orlando, Fla.

**Glenn Kastrinos**, assistant professor of physical therapy, made a presentation on “Service Learning from New Zealand to Western North Carolina” at North Carolina Campus Compact’s 12th annual PACE (Pathways to Achieving Civic Engagement) Conference on Feb. 10 at Elon University. The presentation explored the commonalities and differences between service-learning experiences at two institutions far removed from each other.

At the same conference, **Tracy Bochnak Kirchmann**, a Master of Fine Arts candidate, and **Marie Cochran**, an assistant professor of art, made a presentation titled “The Jackson County Green Energy Park and Western Carolina University: Powering the Arts and Economic Development with an Artisan Crafts Incubator Model.”

**Glenn Bowen**, director of the Center for Service Learning, and **Paul Jacques**, associate professor of management, made presentations at the Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education in March. “Promoting Local and Global Collaboration for International Service Learning” was the title of Bowen’s presentation. He joined Jacques for another presentation, “A Meta-Analysis Examining the Effects of Service Learning on Critical Thinking and Social Justice.” In addition, Jacques presented a poster titled “The Impact of Instructor-Leader Behavior and Student Personality on Performance in Service Learning.” A former service-learning faculty fellow, Jacques now facilitates the WCU Faculty Learning Community for Service Learning, one of the learning communities sponsored by the Coulter Faculty Center. John Garger, a consultant with Metronome Computer Services, supported the meta-analysis research project as well as the study depicted in the poster. The University of Georgia hosted the summit March 3-5 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel in Athens.



# LOOKING AHEAD >>>

## Civic Engagement Symposium Set for June 10

“Pursuing an Engagement Agenda: Pathways and Perspectives” is the theme of Western Carolina University’s sixth annual Symposium on Service Learning & Civic Engagement, scheduled for Thursday, June 10. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the A.K. Hinds University Center.

accepted from faculty, administrators and students of colleges and universities across the Southeast and other regions. The proposal submission deadline is April 9 and the symposium registration deadline is May 14.

Higher education faculty, researchers, administrators and upper-class or graduate students who have an interest in service learning and civic engagement are the primary audience for the symposium. Presentations to be scheduled for two 45-minute concurrent sessions are being

The Center for Service Learning has organized and hosted a service-learning and civic engagement symposium since 2005. The one-day event provides a forum for scholarly discussion of issues, perspectives and best practices in service learning. It also facilitates the exchange of information and ideas on innovative and creative civic engagement strategies and programs.

## the SENTINEL

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### WANT TO GO?

“Pursuing an Engagement Agenda: Pathways and Perspectives”  
Symposium on Service Learning & Civic Engagement

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thursday, June 10, 2010

A.K. Hinds University Center | Western Carolina University

Session proposal deadline . . . . . April 9  
Early-bird registration deadline . . . . . April 23  
Final registration deadline . . . . . May 14  
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## <<< LOOKING BACK

Each year the symposium features a nationally recognized civic engagement and service-learning expert as lead presenter. Last year’s lead presenter was Amy Driscoll, a consultant to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and coauthor of “Assessing Service Learning and Civic Engagement: Principles and Techniques.”

