

the Reporter

News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University



University Center Expansion Opens

“Prepare me a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.”

These words resonated throughout the new addition of the A.K. Hinds University Center as Western’s Inspirational Choir performed Monday, January 12, to celebrate completion of work on a building that provides sanctuary for Western’s increasingly diverse student body. A new two-story glass atrium served as the architectural centerpiece for the grand opening of a \$6.8 million expansion of University Center.

The Inspirational Choir is just one of 20 student organizations, ranging from a Native American student group to an adult learners association, that received keys to brand new office space located in the 34,000-square-foot addition that had been under construction since April 2001.

The expansion features a 160-seat multipurpose meeting room, 170-seat auditorium for movies and lectures, student mail center with more than 4,000



Spectators use both levels of a two-story atrium in the newly expanded A.K. Hinds University Center to watch ceremonies marking completion of work on the \$6.8 million project that added 34,000 square feet to “the campus living room” of Western.

mailboxes, 3,500 square feet of retail space, and expanded food court. Also in the new section are a multicultural center, women’s center, and work space and conference rooms for student groups.

“The University Center is now poised to truly become the hub for student life at Western,” Robert Caruso, vice chancellor for student affairs, said during the grand opening. “It will now provide us with the opportunity to effectively build upon what the staff has tried to do for years—engage our students in active learning; help them forge educational partnerships with other students, faculty and staff that advance

student learning; and assist them in developing coherent values while supporting the university’s efforts to build a supportive, inclusive learning community at Western.”

Evidence of that philosophy of inclusiveness can be found in the fact that Western students played a major role in helping plan and design the new space, Chancellor John W. Bardo said.

“What we see today is the result of the university’s effort to create a tangible living community based upon our students’ ideas for what really will become their living room,” Bardo said. “This facility reflects what our students asked us to put in it. It’s not our idea. It’s their idea of what they wanted their living room to look like.”

Phil Walker, chairman of Western’s board of trustees, told the crowd assembled for the grand opening that he was present at the dedication of the original A.K. Hinds University Center in 1968, when he was president of the freshman class. Walker, who has gone on to a career as a banking executive, said he spent much time in the University Center, both for recreational activities and as part of the Student Government Association.

“When folks ask me why the university keeps providing facilities like this one, I’m proud to reply, ‘Look what it did for me.’ Think about what it will do for the generations of students to come,” Walker said. “Remember, we are preparing the future business, political, and community leaders.”

The grand opening was marked by a ribbon-tying ceremony instead of the standard ribbon-cutting ceremony. “We want to symbolize the uniting force that



Western art major Joel Queen of Cherokee unveils traditional Cherokee masks as part of the grand opening.

New Fund-raiser and Publications Director Join Staff

A professional fund-raiser and a director of publications are the newest staff members to join the Division of Advancement and External Affairs at Western.

Brett L. Woods, formerly director of development at Brevard College, is Western's director of annual and special gifts, which is part of the Office of University



Brett Woods

Development. In his new role, Woods is responsible for the planning and implementation of Western's annual fund-raising campaigns, including the Loyalty Fund, that provide support for the university's academic programs. He also manages a student "phonathon"

center and supervises direct mail and personal solicitation activities.

A member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Woods worked previously as a development officer for Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. Prior to joining the staff of Spring Hill College, he served as a systems administrator for U.S. District Court and as property and procurement administrator for U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Mobile.

Rubae C. Sander, formerly manager of creative services at Conexant Systems Inc. in Newport Beach, California, is director of university publications in Western's Office of Public Relations. Sander oversees designers and writers who produce Western's informational and promotional publications, including



Rubae Sander

student recruitment materials, departmental brochures, print advertisements, billboards, displays, and newsletters for alumni, faculty, and staff.

At Conexant, Sander managed design and production of corporate printed materials for customers and employees, including product catalogues (in print and compact disc formats), annual reports, advertising, and audiovisual displays. She managed the company's corporate identity to ensure proper use of logos and wordmarks. Prior to Conexant's spin-off from Rockwell International, she co-managed the creative services staff for Rockwell Semiconductor Systems. Sander was employed by Conexant and Rockwell for 15 years before moving to Clyde.

Linda Beja Named Western Controller

Helping with the finances of Western is the new controller in the Division of Administration and Finance, Linda Beja, accountant. Beja has been with Western since 1994.

Before her promotion, Beja was Western's accountant in charge of capital improvements, payroll, travel, and accounts payable. She also worked with tax research and compliance; accounting for investment pools, fixed assets, and depreciation reports; and assisted in the preparation of financial statements. As controller, Beja will additionally assume responsibility for student accounts, loans, electric resale, and financial reporting.



Linda Beja

Prior to coming to Western, Beja was a staff accountant for Crisp, Hughes and Co., a Sylva accounting firm, where she prepared tax returns and performed governmental and not-for-profit financial statement audits.

Beja is a certified public accountant and is a 1991 Western graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and National Association of College and University Business Officers.

University Center Opens *continued from page 1*

the University Center provides to this community," said Julie Walters-Steele, University Center director. "This signifies the connection between the past and the present; between the older facility and the new facility becoming one facility; between students, faculty, and staff; between parents, alumni and visitors; and between the many cultures that are part of the university community."

Also, as part of the event, university representatives unveiled artwork created by Western student Joel Queen, a senior art major from Cherokee. Queen's dual display of traditional Cherokee masks hangs at each end of the new atrium. One set of masks represents traditional methods of craftsmanship and design, while the second set incorporates the same traditional designs and spiritual symbolism with the use of modern tools and materials.

The University Center expansion project, financed through a self-liquidating bond issue funded through student fees, follows a \$4 million renovation effort completed in 1997 that modernized the original 62,000-square-foot building, which is named in honor of the late Anthony Keith Hinds, former dean and professor of mathematics at Western.



Students check out some of the 4,000 new mail boxes that are part of the student mail center in the University Center expansion.

Monday, January 19

Holiday observance of
Martin Luther King Jr Day
Campus Closed

Tuesday, January 20

Workshop—"Van Safety,"
required for all university
employees to be eligible to
drive 15-passenger vans.
Registration required.
2:30-4:30 p.m., Cardinal
Room, UC. ([http://
www.wcu.edu/hr/training/
special.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training/special.asp))

MLK Week event—Unity
March and Candlelight Vigil,
6 p.m., Harrill Hall to
Alumni Tower, UC lawn.
(227-2276)

Catamount Concert Series—
Faculty Showcase, 8 p.m.,
RH. (227-7242)

MLK Week event—Jazz
Night, 9 p.m., multipurpose
room, UC. (227-2276)

Wednesday, January 21

MLK Week event—Dr.
Robyn Render, Chancellor's
Speaker, 7 p.m., multipurpose
room, UC. (227-2276)

Thursday, January 22

MLK Week event—Puppet
show, 10 a.m., Kneeder
Child Care Center, UOC.
(227-2276)

★ Now Showing ★

Mountain Heritage Center

Migration of the Scotch-Irish People (permanent exhibition).

The People of the Land. Through May.

All Things Iron: Practical and Decorative Ironware. (227-7129)

Chelsea Gallery

Mapping Terra Incognita, artist Lynette Miller's continuing exploration of knowledge systems, including how personal maps influence perceptions of reality. Through February 19. (227-7206)

WCU Calendar

January 19–February 2, 2004

Look for regular updates on the university's Web site at www.wcu.edu/cal.html

Student Leadership Training—
TIPS (Training for Intervention
Procedures), 6–9 p.m.
Cardinal Room, UC.
(227-7206)

MLK Week event—Semi-
formal dinner, 7:30 p.m.,
multipurpose room, UC.
(227-2276)

MLK Week event—"A Walk
Thru Time," 8:30 p.m.,
multipurpose room, UC.
(227-2276)

Friday, January 23

MLK Week event—Communi-
ty service/volunteering,
Mount Zion AME Church,
Cullowhee. (227-2276)

Saturday and Sunday, January 24 and January 25

Trip to Atlanta—sponsored by
Friends of Western's Hunter
Library. Limited to first 40
registrants. \$ (227-7307 or
www.wcu.edu/library)

Monday, January 26

Catamount basketball—vs.
The Citadel, Southern
Conference game, 7 p.m.,
RRAC. (227-7338)

Tuesday, January 27

Lady Catamount basketball—
vs. Davidson, Southern
Conference game, 7 p.m.,
RRAC. (227-7338)

Wednesday, January 28

Cultural series—Gary Carden,
author, storyteller, and
newspaper columnist, will
speak on the history of Sylva
and remember an earlier time
at Western, 12:15 p.m., MHC.
(227-7129)

Seminar—second annual
Seminar on the Linking of
Teaching and Research.
Presenters: Sean O'Connell,
biology department, winner of
2003 Faculty Teaching
Research Award; and David
Butcher, chemistry and
physics department, winner of
2003 Departmental Teaching-
Research Award. Reservations
required before January 21,
3–5:30 p.m., Room 104,
Killian Building.
(ehaynes@wcu.edu)

Thursday, January 29

Chancellor John W. Bardo's
State of the University
address, 2 p.m., main arena,
RRAC.

Friday, January 30

Workshop—"Van Safety,"
registration required,
2:30–4:30 p.m., Cardinal
Room, UC. ([http://
www.wcu.edu/hr/training/
special.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training/special.asp))

Orientation—of new faculty,
3:15–5 p.m., Room 143, UOC.
(227-7495)

Saturday, January 31

Lady Catamount basketball—
vs. College of Charleston,
Southern Conference game,
4 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

Catamount basketball—vs.
East Tennessee State, Southern
Conference game, 7 p.m.,
RRAC. (227-7338)

February

Sunday, February 1

Arti-Facts!—series designed for
children ages 6 through 12 to
explore our natural and cultural
heritage, presents "Tie Your
Own Apron." No admission
charge, but reservations
required, 2:30–3:30 p.m.,
MHC. (227-7129)

Submissions:

Send news items and calendar notices to
WCU Calendar, 1601 Ramsey Center,
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee,
North Carolina 28723 or
e-mail to Reporter@email.wcu.edu.

Submit items for the university's online
calendar at least one week prior to the event.

Key: \$ - Admission fee; HA - Hoey Auditorium; HFR - H.F. Robinson Administration Building; HS/CF - Hennon Stadium/Childress Field; MHC - Mountain Heritage Center; NSA - Natural Sciences Auditorium; RRAC - Ramsey Regional Activity Center; RH - Recital Hall, Coulter Building; BB - Belk Building; UC - A.K. Hinds University Center; UOC - University Outreach Center; WS/BW - Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field; SSF - Schrader Soccer Field.

Celebration To Honor Martin Luther King Jr.

Robyn R. Render, vice president for information resources and chief information officer in the office of the president of The University of North Carolina system, will deliver the keynote address as the Western community holds special events January 20-23 to honor the memory of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The theme for the week is "One Nation...One Dream: The Dream Is In Our Hand." Scheduled activities include a unity march, candlelight vigil, jazz performance, puppet show, semi-formal dinner, and community service day.

Among the highlights of the week will be an evening program Wednesday, January 21, sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor. The program will feature the address by Render, titled "Celebrating MLK in the 21st Century," at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room in the A.K. Hinds University Center.

Render, who served as chief information officer at N.C. Central University prior to joining the UNC system staff, serves on the board of directors for EDUCAUSE, a non-profit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use



Robyn Render

of information technology. She also is an active participant in the Advanced Networking with Minority Serving Institutions (AN-MSI) initiative and has co-authored articles on quality improvement in teaching and learning with technology.

Leading off the four days of activities is a unity march beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 20. The parade will begin in the upper parking lot of Harrill Residence Hall and proceed down Centennial Drive to the Alumni Tower, where a candlelight vigil will take place to honor those who have died in the fight for racial and social justice. The day's activities will conclude with Unity Jazz Night at 9 p.m. in the multipurpose room in the UC.

Events on Thursday, January 22, will begin at 10 a.m. with a puppet show at Western's Kneedler Child Care Center. A semi-formal dinner will be held in the multipurpose room of the University Center at 7:30 p.m. At 8:30 p.m., the six historically African-American fraternities and sororities at Western will present "A Walk Thru Time," a presentation on the role Martin Luther King Jr. has played in the development of these organizations.

The celebration will conclude on Friday, January 23, with a community service day at the Mount Zion AME Church.

All events are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Dwaun Warmack, director of multicultural affairs, at 227-2276.

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