

the Reporter

News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University



Collings Named New President of Wayne State

Richard J. Collings, vice chancellor for academic affairs at Western since 1996, is leaving that position to become president of Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska.

The Nebraska State College System's board of trustees announced Thursday, February 5, that it will officially appoint Collings as the 11th president of Wayne State at its regular board meeting February 12. Collings will assume the college's presidency in May.

"The board was very impressed with the quality of candidates for the presidential position, and we want to congratulate the search committee on its excellent work," said NSC board chair Sheryl Lindau. "It was a difficult decision, but in the end, we all agreed that Richard Collings was the right person for Wayne State College."

Collings, 57, has been vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of political science and public affairs at Western Carolina since 1996. At Western, he led many academic and administrative initiatives, including creating a residential Honors College, developing technology partnerships with other institutions throughout the nation, and implementing a strategic planning process.

"Rick Collings has played an integral role in Western Carolina's push to increase academic quality," said Chancellor John W. Bardo. "Under his leadership, faculty members have embraced the concept of 'raising the bar,' and the university is reaping the benefits through enrollment growth, higher SAT scores, and an enhanced reputation as a place for student learning. He and his wife, Marilyn, have

been wonderful for this campus and community, and they will be a great asset to any place they go."

Prior to joining the administration at Western, Collings served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Kutztown (Pennsylvania) University for five years and as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Kutztown for two years. There, he helped create a center for the



Richard J. Collings

enhancement of teaching to assist with dialogue among faculty members and expanded the honors programs.

A volunteer on many professional and community committees, Collings is a member of the E-learning Council of the University of North Carolina and the Academic Administrators Group of the American Political Science Association. He also was a member of the Mountain Area Health Education Center board of directors and the town of Webster's planning council.

An author of numerous publications and presentations, he received an award for best faculty paper from the Midwest Association for Latin American Studies. He also earned a Ford Foundation Fellowship and National Science Foundation Traineeship.

"While I am excited about the prospect of leading Wayne State.

Marilyn and I are saddened to leave the many friends we have made here at Western Carolina University and in Western North Carolina," Collings said. "We have had eight wonderful years here, both professionally and personally."

Collings was one of four finalists who met with the Nebraska State College System board and with faculty, staff, students, and community members at Wayne State in late

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—Richard Collings

January. Selection of Collings came after NSC administrators visited Western Carolina to meet with his colleagues, faculty, staff, and students.

At Western, a campus committee chaired by Noelle Kehrberg, dean of the College of Applied Sciences, has been appointed to conduct a national search for a new chief academic officer, working with the Academic Search Consultation Service, a national search firm. The university is reorganizing the administrative structure of its academic division and moving to a "provost system." The provost, when appointed, will serve as chief academic officer and the senior vice chancellor authorized to act for the chancellor in the chancellor's absence.

The Arts Take Center Stage

Tibetan Monks to Create Sand Mandala, Perform Native Music, Dance

The world-famous multiphonic singers of Tibet's Drepung Loseling Monastery will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 24, as part of their international tour of "Sacred Music and Sacred Dance for World Healing."

The Drepung Loseling monks, whose sold-out performances in Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center received national acclaim, will perform in the Ramsey Center as part of Western's Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series for 2003-04.

While in Cullowhee, the monks also will create a mandala sand painting, painstakingly laying millions of grains of sand into place in an ancient spiritual art form designed to purify and heal the environment and its inhabitants. When finished, the mandala is destroyed to symbolize the impermanence of all that exists, and the colored sands are swept up and poured into a nearby river or stream, where the waters carry the healing energies throughout the world.



The process of constructing the mandala will begin with an opening ceremony at noon Monday, February 23, in the atrium of University Center. A closing ceremony will be held at noon Thursday, February 26.

The monks also will share some of the sacred traditions of music and dance from their native Tibet. The February 24 performance will feature a unique style of multiphonic singing in which the monks simultaneously intone three notes of a chord. They also utilize traditional instruments such as 10-foot-long dungchen

trumpets, drums, bells, cymbals, and gyaling horns, and they wear rich brocade costumes and elaborate masks. Admission to the February 24 performance is \$10 for the general public, \$5 for non-WCU students and for university faculty and staff, and free to Western students with valid identification cards. Tickets can be purchased at the information desk of the University Center or the Ramsey Center box office. For information, call 227-7206.

A Funny Thing Happened ... Features Opening Toga Party

A funny thing is about to happen on campus as the musical comedy *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* hits the stage February 26-29.

The University Players and Western's new musical theatre program will present the hit play featuring music by Stephen Sondheim in Hoey Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, February 26-28, with 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, February 29, matinee performances.

In keeping with the classical Roman theme of the show, the February 26 opening performance will be Toga Night and a fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society, with a portion of the first night's box office proceeds going toward cancer research.

"Anyone attending opening night wearing a toga will have \$2 of his or her ticket purchase donated to the American Cancer Society," said Robert Vartabedian, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, which is co-sponsoring the special Toga Night performance with the Division of Student Affairs.

"In addition to having a good time for a good cause, audience members who show up in togas will be eligible to compete in a best toga contest."

A panel of judges will select five best male and female toga-wearers, who will be acknowledged on stage during intermission on opening night. Winners will be announced at a reception after the performance, with prizes of \$100 each for best female and best male toga.

Written by Larry Gelbart and Burt Shevelove, the play features several well-known songs, including "Comedy Tonight."

The play tells the story of a Roman slave named Pseudolus and his efforts to win his freedom. When owners Senex and Domina leave town for an extended holiday, their amorous son Hero promises Pseudolus his independence if the slave can help him win the love of the beautiful girl in the house next door. The problem is, the house next door is a house of prostitution run by Marcus Lycus, and Philia, the girl who has won Hero's heart, has been promised to Miles Gloriosus, vain commander of the Roman army.

Dennis Jackson, distinguished professor in musical theater, is stage director of the joint production by Western's programs in theatre, dance, and music. Bradley Martin is music director and conductor, Amy Dowling is choreographer, Susan Brown-Strauss is costume designer, and Luther Jones is set designer.

Tickets for the production are on sale now. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12.50 for senior citizens, and \$6 for students. For reservations or more information, call 227-7491.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum



Brown Bag Preview

February 24, noon, Recital Hall, Coulter

WCU Calendar

February 16–29, 2004

Monday, February 16

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

Tuesday, February 17

Training Tuesday—"Building the Budget," 3:30–5 p.m., Room 186, Hunter Library. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

Ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house—for new headquarters of Western's nursing department, 4 p.m. Haynes Center, Enka campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. (227-3039)

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

Catamount Concert Series—WCU Jazz Ensemble concert, featuring pianist Pavel Wlosok, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Wednesday, February 18

Brown Bag Lunch—featuring "Africa and International Food Day," with Nyaga Mwaniki. Sponsored by Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. Noon, second floor lounge, Hunter Library. (227-7494 or 227-3433)

Training Tuesday—"Building the Budget," noon–1:30 p.m., Room G57, Stillwell Building. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

Presentation—"We're From the Government and We're Here to Help You," by retired congressmen Lloyd Meeds of Washington and William H. Zelif Jr. of New Hampshire, participants in the Congress to Campus program, 7 p.m., RH. (227-7475)

Mountain Folklore Series—featuring Amanda Wright, discussing and demonstrating mountain fiddle styles, 7:30 p.m., MHC. (227-3900)

Saturday, February 21

Catamount baseball—vs. Wright State (doubleheader), noon, CF/HS. (227-7338)

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

Sunday, February 22

Catamount baseball—vs. Wright State, 1 p.m., CF/HS. (227-7338)

Monday, February 23

Workshop—"Safe Zone," Part 2. Series designed to improve support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered students and employees. Choose 3–5 p.m. or 6–8 p.m. Hospitality Room, RRAC. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

Tuesday, February 24

Brown Bag Preview—"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," noon, RH. (227-3725)

Training Tuesday—"Preparing the Proposal," 3:30–5 p.m., Room 186, Hunter Library. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

LCE Concert—multiphonic singing and dance by monks from Drepung Loseling monastery in Tibet. 7:30 p.m., RH. \$ (227-7206)

Wednesday, February 25

Training Tuesday—"Preparing the Proposal," noon–1:30 p.m., Room G57, Stillwell Building. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

Mountain Folklore Series—featuring Reggie Harris, blues music scholar, discussing and demonstrating blues music styles, 7:30 p.m., MHC. (227-3900)

Thursday, February 26

Women's History Month conference—"Gender Equity: Gains, Losses, and Accomplishments," 9 a.m.–4 p.m., UC. (227-3839 or 227-3359)

Visiting Scholar—"Social Class and Mental Health in American Indian and White Youth in the Great Smoky Mountains," by Jane Costello, Duke University Medical Center professor of medical psychology, 3:30 p.m., Room 315, UC. (227-3360)

Reading—Silas House, author of *Clay's Quilt*, will read from recent works, 7 p.m. MHC. (227-3900)

Thursday, February 26–Sunday, February 29

Theatre—The University Players present *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday with 2 p.m. weekend matinees, HA. \$ (227-7491)

Friday, February 27

Public forum—"Creating Community in a Distance Learning Environment," 2 p.m., Catamount Room, UC. (227-2135)

Workshop—"Van Safety," required for all university employees who drive 15-passenger vans. Registration required, 2:30–4:30 p.m., Room 404, Belk Building. (<http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training/special.asp>)

Saturday, February 28

Catamount baseball—vs. Wagner (doubleheader), noon, CR/HS. (227-7338)

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Appalachian State, Southern Conference game, 4 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

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

Sunday, February 29

Catamount baseball—vs. Wagner, 1 p.m., CF/HS. (227-7338)

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.

★ Now Showing ★

Belk Gallery

OPENING FEBRUARY 26: *Ken Leslie: Space + Time*. An exhibition of unique artist-made books and mixed media paintings by professor of art and chairman of the Visual Arts Center at Johnson State College in Vermont. Gallery talk and opening reception February 26, 4 p.m. (227-3591)

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)

Mountain Heritage Center

Mama's Aprons. Over 60 aprons chronicle the apron's place in the past and present. Through July 6.

The People of the Land. An introduction to Cherokee heritage sites in the Cullowhee Valley. Through May.

All Things Iron: Practical and Decorative Ironware. Over 200 iron items dating from the 1600s to the 1900s, including implements, blacksmith and farrier tools, and lighting devices. Through December.

Migration of the Scotch-Irish People (permanent exhibition). (227-7129)

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.

WCU Newsfile

▲ **Bill Haggard**, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, **John Ritchie**, director of counseling and psychological services, **Jackie McHargue**, director of student judicial affairs, and **Elizabeth Shelly**, associate director of residential living presented the program "On-Campus Suicide Attempts: Staying Afloat in the Riptide of Legal Issues" at the annual conference in November of the Southern Association of Student Judicial Affairs held in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

▲ **Leigh Jackson**, outdoor recreation coordinator of Base Camp Cullowhee, was a co-presenter of "Partnerships Between Academic Departments and Outdoor Recreation Programs" at the November International Conference on Outdoor Recreation and Education in Orem, Utah. This roundtable discussion focused on the multiple opportunities that exist for partnering between academic departments and outdoor recreation and the success of these partnerships.

▲ **Stan Hammer**, a database administrator in the Division of Information Technology, gave a presentation on November 13 in Wilmington at the UNC CAUSE fall conference. The presentation was titled "WCU's Web, Internet, and E-commerce Development Utilizing Microsoft's .NET." The presentation focused on solutions developed at Western using .NET and the beginning development and utilization of Web services and service-oriented architectures in future Western software development.

▲ **Robert Kehrberg**, professor and head of the music department, was recently notified that his course "Introduction to Jazz" was nominated as an outstanding distance learning course offered through the multi-institutional Self-paced Study Online program administered by UNC-Chapel Hill, through the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education.

▲ **David Shapiro**, professor of communication disorders, has been elected a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, a professional organization of more than 110,000 audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists.

Theatre Group to Record Hate Crime Opinions

A Western theatre troupe will be recording individuals' opinions on hate crimes and intolerance during a videotaping session Thursday, February 19, in preparation for a production of *The Laramie Project*. The taping will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the University Center.

Faculty, staff, students, and local residents will be asked to respond on camera to a five-question survey. The videotaping is being done in conjunction with the University Players' upcoming spring production of *The Laramie Project*, which concerns the beating death five years ago of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in Laramie, Wyoming.

The taped responses will be put together, but not edited, and shown before the show and during intermission. *The Laramie Project* will be staged April 16-18, and again April 22-25, in Hoey Auditorium.

Participation in the taping session does not guarantee use in the show. For more information about the videotaping project, contact Claire Eye at 227-3961.

The Reporter is published by the Office of Public Relations. Debie Connelly, editor. Mail faculty/staff notes, events, notices, and changes of address to *The Reporter*, 1601 Ramsey Center, or send them via e-mail to Reporter@email.wcu.edu.
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