

the Reporter



News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University

Seeger Concert Highlights Women's History Month

Legendary singer-songwriter Peggy Seeger will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 19, as part of Women's History Month events.

Seeger will be on stage in the Grandroom of the University Center. Admission is free, but a love offering will be taken.

A member of the acclaimed Seeger family of folk musicians, Peggy Seeger plays six instruments and performs both traditional Anglo-American songs and songs of activism. She has recorded 19 solo albums and has participated in the recording of more than 100 others. Seeger previously lived in England for 35 years with the late singer-songwriter Ewan MacColl but now lives in Asheville and tours worldwide.

The concert is being sponsored by Western's Women's Center, Women's Studies Program, and Department of Political Science and Public Affairs.

Other Women's History Month events planned include the REEL Girls Film Series at 7 p.m. on three Mondays—March 15, 22, and 29; and "Delving Within, Daring to be Powerful: A Weekend of Revisioning and Renewal for Women," Friday through Sunday, March 19–21.

A "Women in Politics" brown bag lunch will be held from noon until 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, in the Multipurpose Room of Hinds University Center. A panel of women, including local office holders, will discuss the challenges and aspirations of women in politics.

For more information about the Seeger concert, film series, or renewal weekend, contact Rebecca Caldwell, director of the Women's Center, at 227-3982. For information about the brown bag lunch, contact Marilyn Chamberlin, assistant professor of anthropology and sociology, at 227-3839.

Gender Conference Addresses Broad Scope of Women's Issues

"Gender Equity: Gains, Losses, and Accomplishments," a daylong conference showcasing research into gender issues, will be held Wednesday, March 24, at Western.

The conference, sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, was postponed from the originally scheduled date due to weather. All conference sessions will be held at the University Center and are free and open to the public.

Following the welcome at 8:45 a.m. in the University Center Grandroom, the conference keynote address will be delivered by Sybil Mann, a Haywood County attorney. Mann will speak on "Changes in Family Law: The Differential Effect on Men and Women."

A paper presentation, "Women as Saviors: The Psychology of Purebred Rescue," will take place at 10 a.m. in the University Center Cardinal Room. Poster displays will be held in the Grandroom from 11 to 11:50 a.m.

Lunch will be available at noon in the University Center Multipurpose

Room at a cost of \$9 per person. Reservations are required.

Concurrent paper presentations will be held from 1 to 1:50 p.m., with sessions addressing "The Sense of Self: Coping Styles and Adaptive Mechanisms Among Elderly Bereaved Women Experiencing Loss," "Healthy Lives for Life: A Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for 10- to 12-Year-Old Females,"

"A Life in the House of the Devil," and "Yes, Your Grandparents are Doing It: Sex After 60."

More concurrent presentations are scheduled for 2 to 2:50 p.m., with "Gender Equity in Salaries: The Professional Rate," "Will More Female Superintendents Change Our Schools?," "What Are Children Reading Between the Lines? Gender (in)Equity in Children's Books" and "Child Sexual Abuse: A Replication of the Meta-analytic Examination of Child Sexual Abuse by Rind."

For more information or lunch reservations, contact Marilyn Chamberlin at 227-3839.



Pardon Our Mess

Killian Annex takes on a "new look" as a gaping hole replaces a section of wall that faces the quad. The hole will be the site of a new lobby addition and entry into the Student One Stop service area.

Included in the facility will be Student Support Services, Advising Center, Tutoring Center, Financial Aid, Career Services, Registrar, and CatCard offices.

Railsback Pens New Eco-thriller

The Darkest Clearing

When Western faculty member Brian Railsback traveled to New York City in 1993, he saw firsthand the destruction that occurs when individuals are inspired by their ideologies to commit violence against others.

During that business trip, Railsback visited the World Trade Center site—two days after the first terrorist bombing at that New York landmark.

Now, 11 years later, the central character in Railsback's new fiction book, *The Darkest Clearing*, also is a man driven by his beliefs to commit extreme violence against others.

Railsback, head of the Department of English, has written short stories and is a nationally recognized scholar and author on the works of John Steinbeck. *The Darkest Clearing*, his first novel, was released in January by High Sierra Books, an Oregon publisher, and the book has since garnered favorable reviews in publications such as the *Charlotte Observer*, *Booklist*, and *Midwest Review*.

The book's 326 pages tell the story of a character named Eldred Spell, a New York stockbroker who, on the same day, experiences the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and learns of the death of his sister, the only person he has ever cared for, in a fictionalized Yosemite Valley. Spell is compelled to head to the valley to undertake a violent campaign, by the point of a

rifle, to rid the valley of the clutter of modern tourism and restore its natural beauty.

The name Eldred Spell is a familiar one on campus, as there is a real Eldred Spell who teaches in the university's music department. Railsback received permission to borrow the name of his friend and colleague.

The novel's other primary character is Eli Ware, a female park ranger in the valley. Ware is struggling to define herself, torn between her desire to work as an interpretive ranger and to be a good wife and mother, and other forces that compel her to work as a ranger who provides law enforcement.

Throughout the book, the two characters' lives begin to weave together until finally they meet—and they want to kill each other, Railsback said. "In a strange way, they have created the only circumstances through which they will find out who they really are," he said.

Railsback said the original concept for the book came to him while he was attending a Steinbeck conference in Nantucket, Massachusetts. One of the conference participants told Railsback in conversation that he had been "spiking trees" to protest timber-cutting operations.

"I asked him about the danger that poses for people who process the lumber, and this very sophisticated, professorial, and well-dressed guy smiled and said, 'That's the chance I take, isn't it?'" Railsback said.

"It just hit me, and I spent that night walking the streets of Nantucket, thinking about the fact that this is our country's great unsolvable problem," Railsback said. "You have one group of people who want to use the land for recreation or to develop it and make money, and the other side wants to preserve it. I wanted to write about that. It's a battle of will over resources."



Brian Railsback

Railsback worked on the book periodically over the ensuing decade, balancing his fiction writing with his duties as a teacher and administrator.

"I meant to write a literary book that had to do with the environment, but once these characters came into play, they took over the novel and it didn't wind up at all like I expected," Railsback said. "It's being described as a literary thriller, or eco-thriller, and that's not what I thought I was doing when I started."

Railsback's book has garnered some good reviews. *Midwest Review* says *The Darkest Clearing* is "dark, dramatic, entertaining, and highly recommended for community library fiction shelves." A reviewer for the *Charlotte Observer* said the book "should satisfy readers looking for a thriller with meat on its bones, especially those passionate about wilderness and intrigued by the dark recesses of the human heart."

With one novel finished, Railsback is in the process of writing two others while continuing work on another longterm project, editing *The John Steinbeck Encyclopedia*.

LMP Hosts Michelle Branch, Virgin College MegaTour

Tickets go on sale Wednesday, March 17, for the only stop in the Carolinas by Grammy-nominated pop singer Michelle Branch, who is headlining the Virgin College Mega Tour coming to the Ramsey Center on Friday, April 2, at 7 p.m.

Guitarist and singer Branch, one of the most successful in a current wave of "rock 'n' roll chicks," is touring in support of her latest album, *Hotel Paper*, which includes the singles "Are You Happy Now" and "'Til I Get Over You."

Opening for Branch will be special guest Rooney, a band fresh from a cameo appearance on popular Fox television show "The O.C." Also on the bill are singer-songwriter Gavin DeGraw and Joe Firstman, an up-and-coming musician from Charlotte who formerly attended Western.

A six-week trek hitting college campuses from coast to coast, the Virgin College Mega Tour also will include an interactive kiosk village featuring product giveaways from tour sponsors Dentyne, Volvo, Rock the Vote, and Gibson and Epiphone guitars. New artists Tyler Hilton, Michael Tolcher, and Chris Grace will perform on the village stage.

Tickets for the Michelle Branch concert are \$17 for floor seats, and general admission seats are \$10 for students and \$15 for non-students. All tickets purchased at the door will be \$17. Tickets will be available at the information desk of the University Center and the box office of the Ramsey Center.

For more information or to order tickets by telephone, call Last Minute Productions at 227-7206.

Monday, March 15

REEL Girls Film Series—featuring *Senorita Extraviada* (Missing Young Woman), 7 p.m., Theater, UC. (227-3982)

Tuesday, March 16

Reception and Open Forum—featuring Howard Lee, chairman of the N.C. State Board of Education, 3:45–5 p.m., Grandroom, UC. (227-7056 or burton@email.wcu.edu)

Reading—Silas House, author of *Clay's Quilt*, reading from recent works. Book signing to follow reading, 7 p.m., MHC. (227-7129)

Catamount Concert Series—"Water Music," featuring a recital of music with water theme, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Wednesday, March 17

Meeting—quarterly meeting of Western's board of trustees, 9:30 a.m., Board Room, HFR. (227-7100)

Workshop—preparation for Graduate Record Examination, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Room 139, UOC. (227-7398 or 800-369-9854)

Brown Bag Lunch—featuring "Destination: Sud de la France," with Natalie Roberson, noon. Second floor lounge, Hunter Library. (227-7494 or 227-3433)

Public forum—"A Military and Political Perspective on the World Today." Information tables, 6 p.m.; forum, 7 p.m., Grandroom, UC. (293-0503 or md24568@wcu.edu)

Concert—Strings in Chamber Music, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

WCU Calendar

March 15–28, 2004

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

Thursday, March 18

Concert—Western's Symphony Band, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Friday, March 19–

Saturday, March 20
Annual Choral Clinic. Coulter Building. (227-7242)

Friday, March 19–
Sunday, March 21

Women's History Month event—women's retreat. Prior reservations required. UC. \$. (227-3982)

Friday, March 19

Open House—for prospective students and their families. Registration, 9 a.m.; information fair, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Grandroom, UC. (227-7317)

Women's History Month concert—Peggy Seeger, member of acclaimed Seeger family of folk musicians, 7:30 p.m., Grandroom, UC. (227-3982 or 227-3687)

Concert—WCU choral ensembles, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Saturday, March 20

Youth assembly—fourth annual American Youth Congress, Asheville Civic Center. (227-2086)

Concert—Western's Choral Clinic, 4 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Monday, March 22

Workshop—"Safe Zone," Part 3, 3–5 p.m. or 6–8 p.m. Multipurpose Room, UC. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

REEL Girls Film Series—Title to be announced. 7 p.m. Theater, UC. (227-3982)

Concert—Yukimi Kambe Viol Quartet, internationally renowned Japanese ensemble. *Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions Series* and Women's History Month event, 7:30 p.m., RH. \$ (227-7206)

Tuesday, March 23

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

Recital—guest artist George Pope, flute, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Wednesday, March 24

Women's History Month conference—"Gender Equity: Gains, Losses, and Accomplishments." 8:45 a.m.–4 p.m. Presentations throughout day. UC. (227-3839 or 227-3359)

Workshop—"Conflict Management," 9–11 a.m. or 2–4 p.m. Room 404, Belk Building. (<http://www.wcu.edu/hr/training/professional.asp>)

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

Appalachian Speaker Series—Damming of Lake Keowee, by Isabel Zuber. 12:15–12:45 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Mountain Folklore Series—featuring Wayne Erbson, author of *The Rural Roots of Bluegrass*, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, MHC. (227-3900)

Thursday, March 25

Visiting scholar—"Social Class and Mental Health in American Indian and White Youth in the Great Smoky Mountains," by Jane Costello of Duke University, 3:30 p.m., theatre, UC. (227-3360)

Recital—Trumpet Studio, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Friday, March 26

Recital—music students, 2 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Catamount baseball—vs. Davidson, Southern Conference game, 7 p.m., CF/HS. (227-7338)

Saturday, March 27

Catamount baseball—vs. Davidson, Southern Conference game, 4 p.m., CF/HS. (227-7338)

Banquet—College of Business Scholarships and Awards annual spring banquet, 6 p.m., Grandroom, UC. (227-7402)

Sunday, March 28

Catamount baseball—vs. Davidson, Southern Conference game, 1 p.m., CF/HS. (227-7338)

Concert—artist-in-residence orchestra (Western students and faculty with members of Asheville Symphony Orchestra), 4 p.m., RH. \$ (227-7242)

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

Ken Leslie: Space + Time. An exhibition of unique artist-made books and mixed media paintings by Ken Leslie, professor of art and chairman of the Visual Arts Center at Johnson State College in Vermont. (227-3591)

Chelsea Gallery

Women's Lives: Receiving, Sharing, Offering. An installation of bowls honoring women and women's issues by intermediate and advanced ceramics students. Through April 6. (227-7206)

Mountain Heritage Center

Mama's Aprons. More than 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. More than 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.

▲ **John Williams**, professor of anthropology and sociology, was invited to participate as a peer reviewer for the National Institute of Justice. The board of directors of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences made the recommendation.

▲ **Jim and JoAnn Carland**, professors of entrepreneurship, submitted Western's master of entrepreneurship program curriculum to a United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship competition in January. The program finished second to Harvard University.

▲ **Linda Culpepper**, visiting lecturer in history, received the 2003 Church History Writing Award presented by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Ethel Taylor Crittenden Collection in Baptist History at Wake Forest University. "Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree: The History of Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Church" chronicles the history of a small church founded by African Americans in 1867 in Henderson County. Culpepper was honored at the Baptist State Convention held in Winston-Salem.

▲ **Debra Burke**, professor of marketing and business law, presented a paper titled "Self-Regulation of Faculty in Higher Education" at the College Teaching and Learning Conference in Orlando, Florida, in January. Her paper received a Best Paper Award certificate.

▲ **Jim DeConinck**, associate professor of marketing and business law, received notice that his article "An Analysis of Turnover among Retail Buyers" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Business Research*. He also will be presenting a paper, "The Influence of Moral Intensity and Ethical Control Systems on Sales Managers' Ethical Perceptions and Behavioral Intentions," at the Marketing Managers Association conference in Chicago in March.

▲ **Paul Jacques**, assistant professor of management, is co-author of the paper "Exploring the Career/Achievement and Family Orientations Difference between Entrepreneurs and Non-Entrepreneurs: The Impact of Sex and Dependent Status," which was accepted for presentation at the Small Business International Directors Association's Conference this month.

Former A & S Dean To Be Installed at UNCW

Western will have a connection with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington when Rosemary DePaolo is installed as the new chancellor of UNCW on Friday, April 16, at 10 a.m. in Hoggard Hall.

DePaolo served as dean of Western's College of Arts and Sciences from 1993 to 1997.

A week of festivities, including lectures, tours, and concerts, will precede the installation. Through Noelle Kehrberg, dean of the College of Applied Sciences, and UNCW university relations, DePaolo has invited all her friends and former colleagues from Western to attend the installation ceremony.

For a schedule of activities and more information on the installation, visit www.uncw.edu/chancellor/installation.

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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