



Genomic Conference Addresses Issues

North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper will deliver the keynote address at a daylong conference examining ethical and social implications of genomic research and other biotechnology issues Thursday, April 3, in Asheville.

Cooper will speak on the subject "DNA Technology" during the conference, to be held at the Asheville Civic Center and hosted by Western Carolina University's Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

"The attorney general's talk will focus on the critical need to expand the use of new technology and DNA analysis to catch and convict criminals," said Gordon Mercer, associate dean of Western's Office of Research and Graduate Studies. "He will explain why he believes North Carolina must expand its DNA database of convicted offenders and analyze thousands of untested sexual assault kits that sit on police department shelves across the state."

Joining Cooper at the conference, titled "Genomic Research—The Science, the Law, Ethical and Social Implications," will be some of the nation's top researchers in the fields of genomics and biotechnology. Among those expected to attend are leaders in

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Western To Create Engineering Degree Programs With UNC-C

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has authorized Western Carolina University to pursue new joint degree programs in electrical engineering and computer engineering in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Western and UNC-C could begin offering new programs to engineering students as early as the fall semester, which starts in August. The UNC Board of Governors will review details of the new programs for final approval at its meeting in May.

Western, which is currently working with UNC-C in the areas of photonics and opto-electronics, is moving quickly on details of the initiative, said Chancellor John Bardo. Western and UNC-Charlotte also are partners, along with Clemson University, in the Carolinas MicroOptics Triangle, a research alliance designed to develop fiber optic communication capacity.

"UNC-Charlotte has shown itself to be an excellent partner, and these joint degree programs in electrical and computer engineering will increase the strength of that relationship," Bardo said.

UNC-Charlotte's College of Engineering and Western's existing programs in engineering technology are certified by the Accreditation Body for Engineering Technology. The new courses would be reviewed by ABET for the same prestigious recognition.

Western and UNC-C are working out details of the new degree programs, which would allow faculty to offer classes through a combination of distance education and traditional classroom and laboratories in both Cullowhee and Charlotte. Degrees awarded to students would carry the names of both institutions.

"This initiative is a very important step in our efforts to promote the economic vitality of the region," Bardo said. "UNC President Molly Broad and the Board of Governors understand that this region and the eastern part of North Carolina are both critical to the future economic vitality of the whole state. While engineering is not a 'silver bullet' with regard to the economic future of Western North Carolina, it is certainly a major component in an integrated, strategic approach to regional economic prosperity."

Bipartisan support from Western North Carolina's legislative delegation and from the business community helped to underscore the need for the expansion of engineering programs, Bardo said. "The leaders of the region see the local availability of engineering degrees as critical to the future of the region, and we're grateful for their strong, continuing support for this proposal."

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Kehrberg Appointed Dean Of College of Applied Sciences

Noelle L. Kehrberg, who has served in a variety of teaching and administrative positions during a twenty-four-year career at Western, has been appointed dean of the College of Applied Sciences.

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors approved the appointment March 21 on the recommendation of Chancellor John W. Bardo and approval of Western's board of trustees.

Kehrberg had served as interim dean of the College of Applied Sciences since July 2002. She succeeds Dennis R. Depew, who left Western to take a position at Purdue University.

Kehrberg joined the faculty at Western Carolina in 1978 as assistant professor in the Department of Home Economics, now known as human environmental sciences. Over the years, she held numerous positions within the department, including coordinator of graduate programs, associate professor, and department head. She also served one year as acting head of Western's Department of Criminal Justice.

From 1989 to 1996, Kehrberg served as associate dean of the College of Applied Sciences and professor of health sciences. She also assumed the position of strategic planner in 1994, a post in which her primary duties were to coordinate strategic planning for the university and chair Western's Strategic Planning Committee.

From 1996 to 2002, Kehrberg served as director of



University Planning, leading the university office responsible for planning, assessment, and institutional research. She has been the university's liaison to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 2001.

Kehrberg earned doctoral and master's degrees in human nutrition and foods at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and her bachelor's degree in food research from the University of Minnesota.

The College of Applied Sciences includes the criminal justice, engineering technology, health sciences, human environmental sciences, nursing, and physical therapy departments.

Engineering Degrees, *Continued from page 1*

Duane Dunlap, head of the department of engineering technology at Western, called the creation of new engineering programs a development with ramifications extending beyond WNC.

"In today's technology-driven economy, engineering is vitally important to American society. It is a key to continuous improvement in the quality of life locally, regionally, and statewide; to the nation's economic development; and to sustaining the nation's security," Dunlap said. "Maintaining U.S. innovative capacity is heavily dependent upon the recruitment and further educational development of our creative talent in engineering."

For more information about the programs in electrical engineering and computer engineering, contact Duane Dunlap at 227-2159, or via e-mail at ddunlap@wcu.edu

Genomic Conference, *Continued from page 1*

the fields of health sciences, economic development, law enforcement, business and industry, nonprofit organizations, and government, as well as members of the general public, Mercer said.

In addition to Western's Wes Bonds, the assistant chemistry professor who is leading WCU's biotechnology studies, professors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, California State University, Oregon State University, the University of British Columbia, and other institutions are expected to participate.

Discussion sessions will cover the latest developments in genomic research and

will examine some of the legal, ethical, and social questions arising in the wake of the rapid pace of scientific advances.

"Society will have to deal with questions of policy in genomics, biotechnology, DNA testing, tissue engineering, genetic testing, property rights, privacy and confidentiality issues, stem cell research policies, legal issues, and many other policy and ethical concerns," Mercer said. "These are becoming increasingly important issues worthy of discussion not just by scientists, but by all members of society."

A steering committee—composed of

university and college representatives, business and industry leaders, and state and local government officials—has called biotechnology and related fields "the next wave" in the world of science and has identified biotechnology as strategic to the economic future of Western North Carolina.

The April 3 conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. Cost of the conference is \$25, including lunch. For information or to register, contact Western's Office of Research and Graduate Studies at 227-7398.

Sunday, April 6
Daylight Saving Time
Begins.
Spring Forward
One Hour.

WCU Calendar

March 31–April 13, 2003

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

Monday, March 31

Recital—voice studio students performing a variety of solo selections from classical vocal music, 6 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Panel Discussion—"Perspectives on the War in Iraq," 7 p.m., NSA. (227-3940)

Concert—music of Benjamin Britten, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

April

Tuesday, April 1

Training Tuesday—"Travel Policy Update," 9–11 a.m., Room 404, BB. (227-2388)

ACE Challenge—series of simulations allowing participants to experience variety of disabilities, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., lawn, UC; rain location, Club Illusions, UC. (227-2178)

Spring Literary Festival reading—emerging talents Jennifer Brice and Thorpe Moeckel, 7 p.m., Grandroom, UC. (227-7264)

Wednesday, April 2

Spring Literary Festival event—"Writings That Influence Writers," panel discussion, 2 p.m., RH. (227-7264)

Lecture—Spring Literary Festival/LCE Series—Sherman Alexie, Native American writer and filmmaker

speaking on "Killing Indians: Myths, Lies, Exaggerations," 7:30 p.m., HA. \$ (227-7206)

Thursday, April 3

Conference—*Genomic Research/The Science, The Law, Ethical and Social Implications: A Policy Modeling*. Asheville Civic Center, Asheville. Keynote speaker Attorney General Roy Cooper. \$ (227-7398)

Spring Literary Festival reading—Kathryn Stripling Byer, former poet-in-residence at Western, and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Maxine Kumin, 7 p.m., Grandroom, UC. (227-7264)

Friday, April 4

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

Concert—Honor Band Festival, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Saturday, April 5

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

Concert—Honor Band Festival, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Friday, April 4– Saturday, April 5

Conference—Southeastern Indian Conference, 1-4:45 p.m., Friday; 8:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m., Saturday. NSA. (227-3838)

Sunday, April 6

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

Arti-Facts!—cultural arts program for children ages six through twelve features "Rocking Around," with Ginnie Peterson. No admission charge but reservations required, 2:30–3:30 p.m., MHC. (227-7129)

Event—"Take Back the Night" rally and safety walk, 7 p.m., lawn, UC. (227-3982)

Tuesday, April 8

Contest—fourteenth annual high school computer science programming contest, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Stillwell Building and selected electronic classrooms. (227-7245)

Catamount baseball—vs. UNC Asheville, 3 p.m., Asheville. (227-7338)

Spring into Summer—this month featuring "New Methods for Native Plant Survival," 7–8 p.m., MHC. (227-7129)

Concert—Percussion Ensemble, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Wednesday, April 9

Festival—annual International Festival, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m., lawn, UC. (227-7494 or 227-3433)

Catamount baseball—vs. UNC Asheville, 7 p.m., HS/CF. (227-7338)

Thursday, April 10

Contest—thirty-third annual high school mathematics contest, 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m., RRAC. (227-3946)

Last Minute Productions speaker—Chris Beckman, who spent four months in Chicago on MTV's *The Real World*, speaking to young people about his recent struggles and challenges. 8 p.m., RRAC. \$ (227-7206)

Saturday, April 12

Open House—for prospective students and their families. Registration 9 a.m., RRAC. (227-7317)

Lady Catamount tennis—vs. UNC Greensboro, Southern Conference match, 1 p.m., tennis courts, Reid Gymnasium. (227-7338)

Fourth annual College of Business Golf Tournament. Tanglewood Championship Golf Course, Clemmons. (227-7335)

Sunday, April 13

Lady Catamount tennis—vs. Davidson, Southern Conference match, 2 p.m., tennis courts, Reid Gymnasium. (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 ★★★

Exhibitions:

North Carolina Women Making History. The trials, triumphs, and changing roles of women during the past 400 years. Through December. MHC. (227-7129)

Migration of the Scotch-Irish People. (Permanent exhibition). Information, illustrations, artifacts, and murals. MHC. (227-7129)

Karl Michel and Patricia Bailey: New Faculty Exhibition. Through April 18. Belk Gallery, BB. (227-3591)

Cut To Size. By Anne Rowles, a Women's History Month exhibit. Through April 10. Chelsea Gallery, UC. (227-7206)

Over, Under, Around, and Through. Multicultural exhibit of baskets and their makers, examining the connections, crossovers, and cultural paths of Southern basketry. Opening April 10. Through August 31. MHC. (227-7129)

Annual Youth Art Month Exhibition. Featuring works from public schools and charter school of Jackson County. Through April 11. Belk Gallery, BB. (227-3591)

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 - Shrader Soccer Field.

Anderson Promoted to Police Chief

Western, just like any city, large or small, has professional people trained to ensure security and enforce all laws. As of March 1, Deloise Anderson is Western's new chief of police.

After earning an associate's degree in criminal justice from Southwestern Technical College in 1976, Anderson graduated from Western Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Anderson earned an Advanced Law Enforcement certification from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission. She has served as a police officer for the University Police Department since 1984 and most recently held the rank of lieutenant/shift supervisor. Her in-service training includes more than 1,000 hours of training in courses such as criminal law, search and seizure, campus law enforcement, evidence handling, accident investigation, criminal investigation, rape investigation, hate crime reporting, community policing, police management, investigation of violent crimes, first line supervision, domestic violence, stalking investigations, interviewing and interrogation, and sex crimes investigation.

As chief of police, Anderson holds the rank of captain and serves as assistant director of University Police and Traffic Services. She will be responsible for supervision of police operations, Traffic Office operations, and communications. Along with Gene McAbee, director of University Police and Traffic Services, Anderson will divide duties for special

events, operational planning, and community policing programming.

"Deloise Anderson has been a dedicated employee for the university for eighteen years. She has always been a stabilizing force in the department. She is well-respected among her peers in the police department and throughout the campus community. I am pleased that her longtime efforts could be rewarded through this promotion," said McAbee.

Before coming to Western, Anderson served as a deputy, a jailer, and a telecommunicator for the Jackson County Sheriff's Office from 1977 to 1984.



WCU Newsfile

▲ **Valorie Nybo**, assistant professor of health and human performance, **Irene Mueller**, assistant professor of health sciences, and **Debra Randleman**, instructional development consultant at the Coulter Faculty Center, presented "Strategies for Using MERLOT To Achieve Recognition of Digital Scholarship" at the International MERLOT Conference held in Atlanta last fall.

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