

# the Reporter

August 16, 2004



News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University



## Getting IT Started

Change is an ongoing process at Western. Many of the changes are very evident with construction on roads and buildings all over campus. Not as obvious are some changes that have been under way for some time.

In this issue of the *Reporter*, there is a special section from the Division of Information Technology that outlines some new initiatives to enhance the campus.

"The IT division spent much of last year assessing the technology needs of the university," said Tom Franke, chief information officer. "We tried to focus on initiatives that provide real direct benefits now and looked at the big picture now and for later."

This fall several immediate programs will be put into place while others are just the first steps in new directions. One of the priorities has been streamlining students messaging, according to Franke. The system being implemented will be a lot more friendly and usable, Franke said, and is an intervening step to an overall better system.

The IT division received suggestions from faculty and staff, as well as the University Advisory Council. The council investigated and recommended improvements in the student messaging system.

"We are trying to be responsive to needs of the campus," said Franke.

## Record Enrollment Sees Largest Freshman Class

If you let students know that Western is a great place to get an education, they will come—and they are coming, with 1,600 new first-year students expected to hit campus this weekend. Western is looking at another record-shattering fall semester, part of an enrollment surge that includes a nearly 31 percent rise in the size of the freshman class since 2002.

The university stands poised to welcome about 8,100 students this fall – a 15 percent increase in overall enrollment in just two years. To help accommodate more students, this year finds two new campus housing facilities coming online, providing more than 550 additional beds for 2004.

Projections based on net deposits paid indicate about 1,600 new freshmen will arrive next week for the 2004-05 term, said Troy Barksdale, director of university planning. That compares to a 2003 freshman class of 1,495 and a 2002 class of 1,224.

Projections also indicate increases in the number of returning students, new transfer students, and graduate students, for a total enrollment of about 8,100, Barksdale said.

In addition to a larger freshman class, Western also expects to see an increase in the academic qualifications of its incoming students. The class includes 10 high school valedictorians, three National Merit Finalists and 175 new members of Western's residential Honors College who boast an average SAT score above 1225, said Phil Cauley, director of admissions. The Honors College is expecting about 1,000 students this fall.

## New On-Campus Shuttle Service to Begin Soon

Students, faculty, and staff at Western will have a new way to get around Cullowhee this fall as the university launches a free shuttle service designed to help improve transportation on a growing campus and make it easier for students to get to class on time.

"The university's master plan calls for the relocation of the main road from the center of campus in 2005, part of an effort to move toward a more pedestrian-oriented campus," said Gene McAbee, director of University Police. "With the growth in student enrollment and the amount of construction taking place on campus, we felt it was a good time to get a shuttle service up and running and get the university community used to the concept of park-and-ride."

The main shuttle service, called CAT-TRAN, will run during the busiest traffic hours of 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and during such major campus events as move-in day and spring commencement. The route will begin at the

parking lot at Hennon Baseball Stadium, making 21 stops on a three-leaf-clover-shaped course through campus.

The crosswalk at Dodson Cafeteria in the center of campus has been designated CAT-TRAN Central, with the shuttle making three stops at the location during the route, which takes about 28 minutes to complete. With two vehicles in use concurrently, a shuttle should be stopping at CAT-TRAN Central about every five minutes, McAbee said. The maximum wait at any stop will be 15 minutes.

In addition to CAT-TRAN Central, stops are the Ramsey Center, Jordan-Phillips Fieldhouse parking lot, Fine and Performing Arts Center, H.F. Robinson Building, Helder Residence Hall, Central Drive Residence Hall, Forsyth Building, University Bookstore, The Village, A.K. Hinds University Center, Hunter Library, Buzzard's Roost, Joyner Plaza, Reynolds Residence Hall, water tower parking lot, and Bird Building.

*continued on page 2*

# MountainRise Provides Outlet for Faculty

For faculty interested in publishing articles on teaching and learning, the Coulter Faculty Center's *MountainRise*, an electronic journal dedicated to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, provides an outlet.

The publication, begun in 2003, now has a new mission. With the fall 2004 issue, it becomes an open, peer-reviewed, general SoTL e-journal accepting submissions from anyone, anywhere, with the goal of becoming a significant national, perhaps even international, vehicle for SoTL work and reflections, said Alan Altany, director of the Coulter Faculty Center and editor of the journal. "It can be a ready vehicle for anyone seeking to publish qualitative or quantitative research and reflections about teaching and learning and about SoTL as a foundation for professional faculty development."

Other Western faculty and staff involved in the project are John Habel, associate professor of psychology and managing editor; Jane Kneller, office manager, Coulter Faculty Center and technical editor; and review board members Heidi Buchanan, reference librarian/coordinator of library instruction; Karen Lunnan, associate professor of physical therapy;

Dixie McGinty, associate professor of educational leadership and foundations; Terry Nienhuis, professor of English; Lisen Roberts, assistant professor of human services; and Pam Vesely, visiting assistant professor of human services.

In 2003 Western joined the Carnegie/American Association of Higher Education Campus Program and specifically the Cluster on Organizing to Foster the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, led by Illinois State University.

*MountainRise's* new mission is reflected in the editorial review board now consisting of people from most of the member schools in the Carnegie/AAHE Campus Program Cluster, including Buffalo State College, Dominican University, Illinois State University, Purdue University Calumet, St. Olaf College, South Dakota State University, Southeast Missouri State University, and Western. All submissions undergo a blind review process.

Information on the editorial process and the submission of manuscripts is included on the journal's Web site at <http://mountainrise.wcu.edu/>. Deadline for submission for the fall issue is October 15.

## Shuttle Service *continued from page 1*

A second service, called the CAT-MOBILE, is designed to provide evening transportation to students who park in lots on the perimeter of campus. A "call-for-ride" service providing point-to-point transportation, it is the result of security and safety concerns voiced by students who have to walk on campus at night, McAbee said.

"The daytime shuttle service will address the transportation needs both of commuting and resident students and will focus on moving students from residence halls and commuter lots to the center of campus," he said. "The CAT-MOBILE will specifically focus on getting freshmen and residents from the outlying parking lots to their residence halls after dark, but it also may be used for transportation to the library, food services locations after dark, the University Center, the Ramsey Center, and all other buildings on campus."

The CAT-MOBILE is available by request from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Members of the campus community needing a ride via the CAT-MOBILE service should call 227-3200.

All CAT-TRAN vehicles will be equipped with police radios. The radios will be used to dispatch the CAT-MOBILE at night and also will allow drivers to report problems and incidents to police dispatchers, supplementing police patrol coverage of the campus.

Both CAT-TRAN and the CAT-MOBILE are campus-only services, McAbee said. "They may not transport students off campus. But Jackson County Transit provides transportation to key locations in Sylva, and the combination of the services will greatly improve the availability of mass transit services for the campus."

Official CAT-TRAN buses, which will be equipped to provide service to people with disabilities, are on order and should be delivered in late October or early November. Until the vehicles arrive, CAT-TRAN will use the University Center Shuttle and a motor pool bus during the daytime and a minivan at night.

Long-range plans call for the installation of shelters at shuttle stops.

More information about CAT-TRAN is available by calling the Office of Auxiliary Services at 227-7322, or online at <http://www.wcu.edu/cattran>.

## Agency Celebrates 40 Years



*Western photo by John Ashcraft*

Hoyt Ponder, former director of Western's Children's Developmental Services Agency, joins (left to right) Liz Mainwaring, program supervisor; Gloria Lockman, assistant director; and Jane Minor, director, at an open house celebrating 40 years of service to children and families of Western North Carolina.

Through the agency, experienced child development professionals evaluate the health, growth, development, and learning of young children by assessing their development in the areas of thinking skills, speech, hearing, vision, nutrition, motor skills, and ability to interact with others.

## Monday, August 16

Orientation—for new faculty, "Focus on Hunter Library," 9 a.m.–5 p.m., 186 Hunter Library. (227-7495)

## Tuesday, August 17

Orientation—for new faculty, "Focus on the Vision for WCU, Faculty Responsibilities and Other Essentials," 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m., MHC. (227-7495)

## Wednesday, August 18

Orientation—for new faculty, "Focus on Student Disabilities, Counseling, Student Support Services, and Sexual Harassment," 8:30–11 a.m., RRAC. (227-7495)

Deans' meetings with department heads, 9 a.m.–noon.

## Thursday, August 19

Fall General Faculty Meeting—reception 8:30 a.m.; faculty meeting, 9 a.m., RH. (227-7100)

Conference—Academic Integrity, featuring nationally recognized speakers Donald McCabe, professor of organization management, Rutgers University; Gary Pavela, director of judicial programs, University of Maryland—College Park, and editor of *Synthesis: Law and Policy in Higher Education* and *Synfax Weekly Report*; and Karen Boyd, senior associate dean of students, Georgia Tech, and specialist in student judicial affairs, noon–5 p.m.; dinner 5–7 p.m., grandroom, UC. (227-7147)

## Now Showing

### Exhibitions:

#### Mountain Heritage Center

**Caledonia Pottery.** A selection of handmade pottery focusing on wood-fired functional stoneware and porcelain by George Rector. Through October 11.

**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.

# WCU Calendar

August 16–29, 2004

Look for regular updates on the university's Web site at [www.wcu.edu/cal.html](http://www.wcu.edu/cal.html)

Registration for fall semester in Asheville, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Karpen Hall, UNC–Asheville campus. (227-7423 or 828-251-6642)

## Friday, August 20

College faculty meetings, 9–11 a.m.

Departmental faculty meetings, 1–2:30 p.m.

Meeting—Open faculty caucus, 3–5 p.m., NSA. (227-7495)

## Saturday, August 21

Residence halls open to freshmen only, 9 a.m.

## Sunday, August 22–Wednesday, August 25

Orientation—for new and transfer students. (227-7087)

## Sunday, August 22

Orientation—Freshmen, check-in 8:30–10:30 a.m., concourse, RRAC. (227-7087)

Computer training—Jumpstart for freshmen, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., various locations on campus. (227-2258)

Residence halls open to all students, 10 a.m.

Advising and registration for freshmen, 2:15–5 p.m.

## Monday, August 23

Advising for transfer students, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Jumpstart computer training for freshmen, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., various locations on campus. (227-2258)

Registration for transfer students, 11:30 a.m.

Honors College reception, 5:45 p.m., Forsyth; cook-out following at Reynolds. (227-7383)

## Tuesday, August 24

Computer training—Jumpstart for freshmen, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., various locations on campus. (227-2258)

Registration and drop/add in Cullowhee, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Orientation—new faculty, panel of first year faculty, 10:30 a.m., theatre, UC. (227-7495)

Luncheon—Coulter Faculty Center hosts for new and continuing faculty, "Faculty Development and the Spirit of Transformation," noon–1:30 p.m., grandroom, UC. (227-7196)

Department open houses—freshmen meet with advisers, 2:30–4:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, August 25

Orientation—new graduate students, 8:15 a.m., RH; luncheon, noon, grandroom, UC. (227-7398)

Registration and drop/add in Cullowhee, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Workshop—graduate teaching assistants, 1:30–3 p.m., RH. (227-7398)

Freshman Convocation, 3:30–5 p.m., RRAC.

Valley Ballyhoo—annual festival to kick off fall semester, 5 p.m., lawn, UC. (227-7206)

**Thursday, August 26–Wednesday, September 1**  
Late registration and schedule changes in Cullowhee.

**Thursday, August 26**  
All classes begin.

Meeting—Faculty Senate, 3–5 p.m., Forsyth Auditorium. (227-7495)

**Friday, August 27**  
Orientation—for new faculty, "Focus on the Graduate School," 3:15–5 p.m., Hospitality Room, RRAC. (227-7495)

Welcome  
to Fall  
Semester  
2004

### 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](mailto:Reporter@email.wcu.edu).

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

# WCU Newsfile

▲ **Bill Studenc**, senior director of news services in the Office of Public Relations, has been elected to the board of directors of the College News Association of the Carolinas. CNAC is a group of higher education public relations officials from North and South Carolina. Founded in 1963, the organization includes members from public and private institutions from both states.

▲ **Debra Burke**, professor of marketing and business law, and Tammy Michele Head, a May business law graduate, published an article titled "Broadbanding: Legal and Policy Implications under the ADEA" in the *Seton Hall Legislative Journal*.

Burke's article "Self-Regulation of Faculty in Higher Education" was published in the *Journal of College Teaching & Learning*.

▲ **Mary Ann Nixon**, associate professor of management and international business, co-authored an article, "The Problem with Passwords," in the April/May issue of the *Journal of Information*

*Assurance, Security and Protection*.

▲ **Jeanne Dorle**, assistant professor of management and international business, has been selected as a UNC regional facilitator for MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching) for 2004-2005. She is the chairperson of Western's MERLOT committee and recently attended the MERLOT international conference in California, where she received training in stewardship and faculty development.

▲ **Bradford Sims**, program director of the construction management program, recently was invited, along with other construction management faculty from the Southeast, to visit the Interstate 4 project in Tampa, Florida.

The project includes more than two miles of I-4 relocation, sound barriers, on- and off-ramps and fountains being built by heavy construction contractor Gilbert Southern. The company's work has included the Interstate 26 excavation project in Mars Hill.

Construction management is a professional service that applies effective management techniques to the planning, design, and construction of a project from

beginning to end for the purpose of controlling time, cost, and quality.

▲ **Peter Koch**, education associate at the Mountain Heritage Center, recently attended the North Carolina Humanities Council's annual Teachers' Institute held at the William Friday Center at UNC-CH. *From Wilderness to Eden? The Place of Nature and Culture in North Carolina History* focused on the environment and the humanities and the interrelationships of culture and the natural world. The institute will assist the center in further developing exhibits, presentations, and educational programs related to the intersection of Western North Carolina's rich natural and cultural history. Currently the center is developing two new traveling trunks for regional schools. *Lines on the Landscape* will focus on early surveying and natural land forms in Western North Carolina and be available for middle and high school classes. *Bartram's Best* will be a nature-oriented trunk for grades one through three.

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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Office of Public Information  
Publications Unit  
1601 Ramsey Center  
Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723

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