

the Reporter



News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University

Student Affairs Initiates \$1,000 Learning Award

To encourage faculty involvement in enhancing learning opportunities for students, the Division of Student Affairs has created the Integration of Learning Award.

Any Western faculty member may propose a project that promotes the integration of teaching with activities in the Division of Student Affairs to achieve jointly identified student learning outcomes. One award of \$1,000 will be granted to support the faculty member. Funds for the project will be available for the fiscal year beginning July 1 after the award is announced.

Eligible proposals should include a concise description of the integrated activity with student affairs, including the student learning outcomes. The awards selection committee consists of students, student affairs administrators, and faculty. Deadline for proposals is March 28.

For further information, contact Robert Caruso, vice chancellor for student affairs, at 227-7234.

Housing Name Change Reflects Living, Learning

The placard on the door to what has long been known at Western Carolina University as the Department of Housing now reads Department of Residential Living, and the change means more than just a few extra letters on the nameplate.

“The department name change, along with other initiatives currently under way and coming in the future, reflects a new emphasis on bringing academically oriented programming into the place where most students spend a majority of their time—their residence halls,” said Robert Caruso, Western’s vice chancellor for student affairs. “It’s not just a place to sleep anymore. We’re trying to bridge the gap between our students’ in-class and out-of-class experiences.”

One example, Caruso said, is the formation of an Academic Residential Community for students living in Helder and Leatherwood halls. Called A.R.C., the program is an effort to encourage social, cultural, and academic interaction and activities for students with similar interests or common academic focus, he said.

“The A.R.C. is laying the foundation for an academic approach to residential living, where students create clusters based on majors or special interests,” said Angie Munkholm, resident director. “From freshmen to seniors, the A.R.C. allows students who are studying the same things to live and learn together.”

As the program develops, Western faculty members will become part of the residential community as they interact freely with residents, teach classes in two classrooms located in the adjoining residence halls, and take part in “study buddy” group sessions held in the halls, Munkholm said.

Encouraging faculty and student interaction outside of the classroom is a major part of the university’s new living-learning emphasis, Caruso said.

A 300-bed residence hall currently under construction will include a “faculty-in-residence” program in which a Western faculty member will actually live alongside students, working with staff members to promote the integration of the curriculum into the residence halls, he said.

The new hall, a \$14.7 million project, is being built through funds approved by North Carolina voters in the 2000 higher education bond referendum. Another bond-funded project still on the drawing boards is a new Living-Learning Center to be located in the Graham Building, currently home to University Health Services.

When Western’s health care staff members vacate the Graham Building, the facility will be converted into a small residence hall for about forty-five students, with classrooms, seminar space, and offices for a new service learning program that will link community service opportunities to the university’s academic programs.

Employees Asked to Demonstrate Generosity Toward Numerous Charitable Organizations

Employees of Western Carolina University are being offered the opportunity to join their fellow state employees in Jackson County and across North Carolina in charitable giving through the annual 2002 State Employees' Combined Campaign.

Western's campaign kicked off recently with donations of nearly \$5,000 during the first week. Statewide, the first week brought in donations and pledges of more than \$112,000.

This annual fund-raising effort, which continues through Friday, November 8, provides an opportunity to assist nearly 1,000 charitable organizations that provide valuable community services.

Last year, WCU faculty and staff, retirees, and students contributed \$34,634, the largest amount ever raised on the Western campus, which was more than \$1,000 over goal. This year's goal is \$34,000.

The SECC was established nearly twenty years ago to consolidate fund-raising efforts in state offices. SECC charities are listed in the brochure

recently distributed to all employees.

Gene McAbee, director of University Police, is coordinator of Western's 2002 campaign. A network of campaign solicitors is helping collect pledges across the campus.

Contributions by permanent employees can be made by payroll deduction, and all employees, retirees, and students may contribute by check or cash. All contributions are tax deductible.

"In times of economic uncertainty, it is more difficult for us to think about giving," said McAbee. "But this is exactly the time when the needs of our brothers and sisters are at their greatest. They have lost their jobs. They cannot afford basic health insurance. They cannot afford medical and dental care. They may have lost their homes. They have been victims of disasters that have broken the foundations of their lives."

McAbee offers suggestions for giving:

- To put your donation to work at home, go to the SECC Web site at

<http://www.ncsecc.org>. SECC participating charitable organizations are listed by county.

- To donate to a specific cause, use the Web site to search for charities that match your interest.

- To find a common charitable interest with others in your office, choose a charity together and make a combined donation to that specific charity in the name of your office. In that manner, even small donations are multiplied and employees who may find the minimum \$10 donation burdensome still have an opportunity to help.

"As always, I am proud to be a part of this community where I see so many people giving so much to help make life a little better for those in need," said McAbee. "The people of Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, and Jackson County always demonstrate their concern and their compassion for their neighbors."

If you have not received a brochure and pledge form, please contact McAbee at 227-7301.

Nominations Sought for Top Teaching Award

The time has arrived for students and faculty to nominate outstanding Western faculty for the 2002–2003 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. Nominees must hold faculty status at the rank of instructor or above and be in at least the third year of teaching at Western. Faculty who have received the award during the past five years are ineligible.

Student and faculty nominations will help identify a pool of finalists from which a committee of students and faculty will select the recipient of this annual award for excellence in teaching. The committee's review will consist of observation of teaching and examination of materials submitted by each finalist. The recipient will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and an engraved plaque at the annual faculty awards convocation, as well as recognition at graduation and other campus events.

However, the primary reward is the recognition of the recipient's contributions to the university. Students are encouraged to nominate professors whom they have experienced as wonderful teachers. Faculty are encouraged to

nominate their colleagues who epitomize the profession of teaching.

The selection committee conducts a thorough review of the candidates who have received the highest combined numbers of faculty and student nominations. Thus, it is important for both students and faculty to submit nominations, said Alan Altany, director of the Coulter Faculty Center. The center coordinates the nomination process.

The period for students and faculty to make nominations is November 4–15. This year all nominations will be done electronically. To nominate up to three faculty members for the award, simply go to the Faculty Center Web page at <http://facctr.wcu.edu/> between November 4 and 15 for the link to the electronic nomination form. The nomination period ends at 4 p.m. Friday, November 15.

If you have any questions, contact any of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award committee members: Michael Hubble, (chair), Dan Grube, Beverly Little, Terry Nienhuis, and Charles Wallis.

WCU Calendar

October 28–November 10, 2002

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

Monday, October 28

Presentation—"The Role of Research and Sponsored Programs in The UNC System," by Russ Lea, vice president for research and sponsored programs/UNC Office of the President.

2:30–3:30 p.m. Reception,

3:30–4:30 p.m., MHC.

(227-7398)

Dance classes—for ballroom and shag dancing, 6–8 p.m. Mondays through November 4. Breese Gymnasium. \$ (227-7397)

Tuesday, October 29

Training Tuesday—"Strategic Retirement Solutions," for faculty within ten years of retirement on Optional Retirement Plan.

Registration required, 9–11 a.m. and 2:30–4:30 p.m., Room 404, BB. (227-2388 or www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

Concert—WCU Percussion Ensemble, 8 p.m., RH.

(227-7242)

Wednesday, October 30

Last Minute Productions event—information table for Operation Christmas Child, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Entrance, UC. (227-7206)

Fall Colloquium/College of Education and Allied Professions—"The Power of a Teacher through High Expectations," by Larry Bell, nationally recognized

authority on teaching and learning, 4–6 p.m., Room 104, Killian Building. (227-7056)

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

Thursday, October 31

Fall Colloquium/College of Education and Allied Professions—"Closing the Achievement Gap," by Larry Bell, 9–10:50 a.m., Room 104, Killian Building. (227-7056)

Workshop—Windows XP. Registration required. 10 a.m.–noon. Room 139, UOC. (227-7487 or <http://ccworkshops.wcu.edu/>)

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

November

Slideshow Spotlight, Mountain Heritage Center: "New Threads in Old Patterns" features coverlets and tells the story of the handicraft revival in southern Appalachia.

Friday, November 1

Information session—new Supplemental Medical Plan available through NCFlex beginning January 1, 2003, 9–10 a.m. and 2–3 p.m., MHC. (227-2388)

Saturday, November 2

Catamount football—vs. VMI, 1 p.m., Lexington, Virginia. (227-7338)

Sunday, November 3

Arti-Facts!—cultural arts program for children. "Cornshucks." No admission charge but reservations required. 2:30–3:30 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Monday, November 4

Lady Catamount soccer—vs. UNC Asheville, 4 p.m., SSF. (227-7338)

Dance classes—for ballroom and shag dancing, 6–8 p.m., Breese Gymnasium. \$ (227-7397)

Recital—pianist Christopher Harding, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Tuesday, November 5

Training Tuesday—"Effective and Legal Interviewing." Registration required. 9–11 a.m., Hospitality Room, RRAC. (227-2388 or www.wcu.edu/hr/training)

Thursday, November 7

Lady Catamount volleyball—vs. Wofford, Southern Conference match, 7 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

Concert—University Chorus, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

Thursday, November 7–

Friday, November 8

Workshop—Sixteenth annual Pathways to Literacy Fall Language Arts Workshop. Registration deadline, October 28. Great Smokies Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Asheville. \$ (227-7397 or <http://cess.wcu.edu>)

Friday, November 8

Orientation—for new faculty, session 10, 3:15–5 p.m., Hospitality Room, RRAC. (227-7495)

Saturday, November 9

Women's Agenda Assembly—one of ten local assemblies throughout the state providing opportunity to increase the collective voice of women in North Carolina. Public invited. 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Hospitality Room, RRAC. (227-2086 or 293-1013)

Sunday, November 10

Lady Catamount volleyball—vs. Furman, Southern Conference match, 2 p.m., RRAC. (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 calendar online at least one week prior to the event.

★★★ Now Showing ★★★

Exhibitions:

Art Students League Exhibit. Through November 21. Chelsea Gallery, UC. (227-7206)

Deliberate Wait: The Photographs of Herman Goustin. Through December 6. BB. (227-3591)

North Carolina Women Making History. The trials, triumphs, and changing roles of women during the past 400 years. Through December 2003. MHC. (227-7129)

African-American Builders and Architects in North Carolina explores the extraordinary buildings constructed by enslaved and free black artisans and builders during the pre-Civil War era. Through November 22. MHC. (227-7129)

Migration of the Scotch-Irish People. (Permanent exhibition). Information, illustrations, artifacts, and murals. MHC. (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 - Shrader Soccer Field.

Wellness Program Receives Grant To Teach Cancer Self-Screenings

It's never too early to learn that early detection is crucial when it comes to cancer. Through a partnership grant of \$460.50 from the American Cancer Society and Western's Health Services' Wellness Program, students will learn how important and easy it is to regularly check for several types of cancer.

The grant provided funds to purchase models for use in the instruction of breast and testicular self-examination. It also made provisions for instructional videos, shower guides, and posters. "Testicular cancer is highest in males ages 18-36, so it is especially important for men to start self-exams now," said Josh Pierce, community cancer control manager for the American Cancer Society. One of the most prominent testicular cancer survivors is Tour de France-winning bicyclist Lance Armstrong.

The models feature life-like replication of the breast and testicles. Proper self-exam includes realizing how firm a touch is needed to find various-sized "knots"

embedded in the tissue and learning how to work the tissue to find them. Two University Health Services nurses—Danny Gibson and Norma Cowan—will be available to offer this instruction initially through health classes and enrichment programs in residential living facilities. "We hope to reach at least 300 students this semester and increase that to 600 students next semester," said Bill Papin, wellness coordinator at University Health Services.

"We want to reach out to people of all ages to let them know that the American Cancer Society is the place to go for any type of information regarding cancer. Information is our biggest resource," said Pierce. "Also, this is one example of how funds donated by the community are turned into information and services for the community."

ACS is also working with students on a campus-wide Relay for Life fund-raising effort slated for later in the year.

For additional information, contact

Papin at 227-3471. For information and questions regarding anything about cancer, treatment options, or the American Cancer Society, call 1-800-ACS-2345, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Mountain Heritage Day To Hit Statewide TV

Mountain Heritage Day, Western's annual celebration of Appalachian folk life, is the subject of a thirty-minute documentary to be broadcast in November on the state's public television system.

The program will air on UNC-TV at 10:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, and will be shown again at 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 5. It will include film footage from the 28th Mountain Heritage Day, held September 28, as well as interviews with festival organizers and local folk artists.

The Reporter is published by the Office of Public Information. 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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