

the Reporter

News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University

GROUNDS AND POWER CREWS KEEP GOING IN THE COLD

Grounds Supervisor Clifton Fisher vividly remembers the blizzard of '93.

"The wind chill factor was about 19 below zero, and we had to keep the roads clean to get to the buildings," said Fisher, a 25-year Western veteran. "I went to work on a Friday morning and went home at noon the following Sunday.

"Working in the cold and winter weather is one of the hardest parts of the job, but it's part of the job."

A strong sense of responsibility drives the two dozen members of the grounds crew and five employees from the university's electric utility company who work outside year-round, even when the temperatures dip below freezing.

Sidewalks and especially storm drains have to be cleared of leaves. There is litter and recycling to be gathered, and trees to be pruned or removed. More than 80 miles of power lines that serve campus and more than 3,000 nearby businesses and residences have to be maintained and repaired.

"We have a lot of people who would be in real trouble if they lost heat for an extended period of time," said Bill Manware, director of operations and maintenance. "The power line technicians are available 24/7, regardless of the weather, whether it's snow, storms, sleet and hail, or balmy spring and fall days. They are all outstanding, dedicated



Winter warriors Clifton Fisher and Josh Dills prepare the snow plows for the winter at Western. They are part of the grounds crews that work outside even when the weather turns cold.

employees that enjoy their work and take pride in doing it."

The grounds staff members stand ready to respond as needed to remove ice or snow, which tends to average about four times a year.

"Whether students are here or not, we have to keep the campus open and safe for access and operation for campus police, emergency medical services and maintenance personnel," said Roger Turk, grounds superintendent. "When students are here, the crews also work to clear sidewalks, steps and paths.

"We have thousands of steps on campus we can't get a machine on, so we have a lot to do manually,

which wears people down. That's when they are most tired and cold."

The secret is to stay dry and overdress—wear too many layers, he said. Oh, and coffee. "We go through a lot of coffee. That's for sure," Turk said. "This is a group of people that if there has to be something done, they get it done. They take their responsibility very seriously."

For Fisher, it's a matter of safety.

"We have places we try to get to first, such as the health services area," Fisher said. "It's just about looking out for the students and people who work at Western."

—by TERESA KILLIAN

New Banner Software Adds Users; Meeting Scheduled

The rollout of the new Banner system marks another milestone this month when the last major department—Human Resources—goes live. The pace of the Banner implementation has been so rapid that Bil Stahl, associate provost for information services, describes it sometimes like laying track with the train approaching. "We brought the majority of Banner modules up in nine months when it took many of our counterparts 18 months to do the same," Stahl said.

The journey began in earnest about four years ago when Western and 12 other campuses in the University of North Carolina system agreed to install the Banner suite of software as a way to streamline administrative services and upgrade essential systems.

The previous "legacy" systems, though

highly customized, had many limitations. "If you wanted to compare enrollment with budgetary allocations, which were on different systems, it was almost impossible to do without printing out paper spreadsheets and manually comparing," Stahl said.

Between February 2005 and August 2006, advancement, admissions, financial aid, student services, graduate school and finance functions moved to the new linked software in the Banner system.

The transition has not been simple. Equipment installation, software upgrades, training, data cleanup and interface development has taken countless hours. Incorrect and duplicate



Bil Stahl

Mark Your Calendar

Information Technology will provide a campus update at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, in the University Center Multipurpose Room.

records from different departments for student and faculty had to be resolved for consolidation into one Banner "general person" record.

University employees are beginning to see some of the benefits, Stahl said. The Financial Aid Office started using Banner in February and, as a result, worked more quickly and effectively with applicants, said Nancy Dillard, director. "The office was able to award 39 percent more students by April

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SACS Update

Off-site Review Process Reveals Significant Progress Has Been Made

The results from a recent off-site examination by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools are in, and the findings indicate that Western is making significant headway in its bid for reaccreditation. That is the word from Carol Burton, director of Western's SACS review process.

Burton says that the off-site review team's preliminary report based on the university's response to the SACS "principles of accreditation" found only five areas out of compliance with standards, out of a total 74 areas examined during the assessment. That news

has university administrators smiling as the reaccreditation process that began in December 2004 hits the home stretch going into spring 2007.

"For an institution of Western's size and complexity, receiving so few recommendations is truly a testament to the diligence and competence of the members of our university community," Chancellor John Bardo said. "I would like to express appreciation to all members of the SACS compliance committee and to those individuals who supplied the necessary information and support that resulted in a successful compliance audit."

Areas in need of further attention by the university include providing additional information on the qualifications of a limited number of faculty; presenting a clear linkage between assessing outcomes for student learning and making improvements to programs and services based on those assessments; outlining how the university's student support activities directly enhance learning; and providing evidence that WCU adheres to established channels for resolving student complaints. The review team also found the university out of compliance in the area of financial resources, a finding due to the fact that an official audit of university finances for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, was not complete at the time of the review. The university will be able to submit the requested documentation by the deadline established by the SACS Office, Burton said.

The next steps in the review process will be the development of a focused report that addresses the issues raised by the off-site team, and the completion of the Quality Enhancement Plan that is due to SACS in February.

The on-site review will take place April 2-4, and preparations are under way to host the team. The review will entail an examination of the five areas for which Western received recommendations and an evaluation of the QEP.

The preliminary report of the SACS off-site review team is available on the university's SACS Web page at <http://www.wcu.edu/SACS/index.html>.

— by BILL STUDENC

"I would like to express appreciation to all members of the SACS compliance committee and to those individuals who supplied the necessary information and support that resulted in a successful compliance audit."

Chancellor John W. Bardo



Banner Update

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15 using Banner when compared to the previous system," Dillard said. "As with any implementation, the road has been rocky in spots, and we continue to learn new things about the system every day. The process has taken a lot of hard work and long hours by the entire staff, and I am very grateful for their dedication to making sure Banner works for the students."

Gibbs Knotts, associate dean of the Graduate School, said the software has given the office an opportunity to rethink business practices and improve internal processes. A report needed to produce grade-related letters that used to take several days to generate now takes less than an hour, he said.

The next step for Banner implementation involves adding "work flow." Instead of physically passing documents that need review or approval from multiple people, the system will allow for electronic routing and approvals, and permit multiple people to simultaneously review a document such as an application or budget authorization.

"It's a new way of doing business," Stahl said. "The Banner software is very powerful and will do a lot more for us."

— by TERESA KILLIAN

FYI

WIRELESS SERVICE

The campus has more than 115 wireless access points enabling wireless Internet service in common areas of all residence halls and parts of buildings including Belk, Brown, Camp, CAT, Coulter, Dodson, Field House, Forsyth, H.F. Robinson Administration, Hunter Library, Killian, Killian Annex, McKee, Ramsey and the University Center. Coverage will be expanded in buildings listed above as well as to Moore, Fine and Performing Arts, Stillwell, Hoey and Natural Sciences.

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKING

University employees, such as admissions staff members, are beginning to use virtual private networking. VPN enables a person to use a computer linked to the Internet as if sitting at his or her office computer.

E-MAIL

Faculty and staff e-mail will be upgraded this semester to a newer version of Outlook Exchange. "We anticipate the migration will occur pretty transparently for most people," Stahl said.

WCU NewsFile

► **Anna Fariello**, visiting associate professor and project leader for Hunter Library's Craft Revival Project, recently presented a guest lecture at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem. Her talk, "Regarding the History of the Object," was presented with the exhibition "Craft: Tradition and Use."

► **Michael Smith**, assistant professor of management, recently conducted a seminar in Toronto. The seminar, "Strategic Leadership for Supply Management Professionals," was part of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada's efforts to better prepare supply management professionals.

Smith will be featured again as a presenter in Ottawa in April and as a pre-conference workshop presenter for the association's national conference in June. Smith also is a reviewer for new training materials that support the association's redesigned professional certification program.

WCU 2007 Calendar

January 8-21



The Lipizzaner Stallions perform in the Ramsey Center arena Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 8

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

Concert—UMass Saxophone Quartet. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Meeting—open faculty caucus. 3–5 p.m. Room 104, Killian Building. (227-7495)

Thursday, Jan. 11

Campus Meeting—Information Technology updates progress on various projects. 3 p.m. Multipurpose Room, UC. (227-7487)

Friday, Jan. 12

Concert—Randy Brecker, jazz trumpet, with Pavel Wlosok Trio. 8 p.m. FAPAC. (227-7242)

Saturday, Jan. 13–Thursday, Jan. 18

Annual Martin Luther King Jr.

celebration—“Social Justice in the 21st Century: What Would Dr. King Say Now?” “Build the Dream” wristbands, \$3, available daily in A.K. Hinds University Center; proceeds benefit the Washington, D.C., Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation. See daily listings for other activities/events. (227-2276)

Saturday, Jan. 13

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“Freedom Ride: From Cullowhee to Atlanta,” trip to King Center in Atlanta, Ga. \$. (227-2276)

Concert—Trumpet Festival, featuring professional, university and high school ensembles. 5 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Concert—Vladislav Lavrik, guest trumpeter, with Lillian Pearson, piano. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Sunday, Jan. 14

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—Town of Sylva Unity March & Candlelight Vigil. Rev. Charles Lee, Liberty Baptist Church, guest speaker. 5 p.m. Mill & Main Restaurant. (227-2276)

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“Poetic Justice,” MLK spoken word and poetry slam. Prizes awarded to best poets. 8 p.m. Illusions, UC. (227-2276)

Monday, Jan. 15

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—Town of Sylva Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast. Alfred Wiggins, former WCU professor, guest speaker. \$ 9 a.m. (227-2276)

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“A Day On, Not a Day Off,” day of service. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Reception, 4 p.m., Multipurpose Room, UC. (227-2276)

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“An Evening of Arts,” performances and presentations. 6 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-2276)

Catamount Concert Series—Michael Lowenstern, bass clarinet. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Meeting—Faculty Senate Planning Team. Noon–2 p.m. Mary Will Mitchell Room, Brown Cafeteria. (227-7495)

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“Social Justice and You,” panel discussion. 3:30 p.m. Theater, UC. (227-2276)

Thursday, Jan. 18

Old-time Music and Bluegrass Jam series—jam for all interested musicians. 7–9 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Dr. King,” WCU Unity March, 6 p.m., Alumni Tower; guest speaker, Tonya Williams, general counsel for Sen. Marc Basnight; 6:30 p.m. FAPAC. (227-2276)

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions

Series—Harlem Gospel Choir, gathering of the finest musicians from various black churches in Harlem. 7:30 p.m. FAPAC. (227-7206)

Performance—world-famous Lipizzaner Stallions perform equestrian ballet. \$ 7:30 p.m. RRAC. (227-7722)



Photo by WCU student Liz Goettee

Submissions: Send news items and calendar notices to WCU Calendar, 1601 Ramsey Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 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.

Key: \$—Admission fee; BB—Belk Building; CAC—Catamount Athletic Center; CAT—Center for Applied Technology; CCB—Cordelia Camp Building; CSC—Catamount Softball Complex; FAPAC—Fine and Performing Arts Center; HA—Hoey Auditorium; HFR—H.F. Robinson Administration Building; HS/CF—Hennon Stadium/Childress Field; MHC—Mountain Heritage Center; NSA—Natural Sciences Auditorium; RH—Recital Hall, Coulter Building; RRAC—Ramsey Regional Activity Center; UC—A.K. Hinds University Center; WS/BW—Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field.

Exhibits

Mountain Heritage Center

Gallery A:

“Migration of the Scotch-Irish People.” Permanent exhibit.

Gallery B:

“Cherokee Baskets in the Twentieth Century, Part II.” Through April 30.

Gallery C:

“After the War: Conflict and Domestic Change in the North Carolina Mountains.” Through December.

Lobby:

“People of the Land,” and “Mountain Heritage Day Award Winner.” Ongoing exhibitions.

Slideshow Spotlight

FOR JANUARY: “Irons in the Fire” describes the role of blacksmithing in pioneer and Cherokee culture in the Southern Appalachians.

Mountain Heritage Center hours:

8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday
(227-7129 or www.wcu.edu/mhc)

Fine Art Museum

Fine and Performing Arts Center

“WORLDVIEWS. Selections from Western Carolina University’s Permanent Collection and New Acquisitions.” Continuing exhibit.

“Harvey K. Littleton + Friends: A Legacy of Transforming Object, Image, Idea.” Through March 3.

OPENING JAN. 11: “Three Lenses Abroad: Photography by Hilary Lindler, Michael Campbell and Liz Goettee.” Student art exhibit. Atrium Gallery. Through Jan. 31.

OPENING JAN. 23: “Albert Kresch: Painting the Provocative Landscape.” Through March 3.

Museum hours:

Tuesday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.;
Friday 11 a.m.–4 p.m.; first Saturday of each month 1–4 p.m.
Donations appreciated. (227-3591 or <http://fapac.wcu.edu>)

The Reporter

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WCU Professor Honored For Land Conservation

Joan Byrd, professor of art, purchased land in Bo Cove just south of campus more than 30 years ago for a home. The more than 150 acres Byrd, professor of art, and her husband, George Rector, acquired in the following years were for something else—the future of the environment in Jackson County.

“In order to preserve the habitat for plants and animals as well as to protect the water quality in perpetuity, we have already put 40 acres into a conservation easement held by the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee River,” said Byrd. “We plan to put the remaining land into an easement in the near future.”

The conservation easement ensures the land cannot be further subdivided nor developed, and, in honor of their efforts to conserve the Bryson Branch watershed in the Cowee Mountains, the Franklin-based land trust organization recognized the couple with the 2006 Ramsey-Brunner Land Conservationist of the Year award.

“We were deeply honored to receive this award,” said Byrd. “We are profoundly thankful for its presence in our region and for the land trust’s tireless work to protect our common natural heritage—our wild and working landscapes, our rivers and streams.”



Joan Byrd, professor of art, and her husband, George Rector, won the 2006 Ramsey-Brunner Land Conservationist of the Year award.

Western Honors Martin Luther King Jr.

Tonya Williams, general counsel for N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, will deliver the keynote address Thursday, Jan. 18, as Western Carolina University holds special events to honor the memory of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Williams will speak on King’s life as part of a program sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor. The program, to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Fine and Performing Arts Center, is open to the public and free of charge. The event is preceded by a Unity March and followed with a Harlem Gospel Choir performance.

A native of Greenville, Williams graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1995 with a bachelor’s degree in political science. She received her law degree from the UNC School of Law in 1999. She also has worked as a judicial clerk for Judge Loretta

C. Biggs of the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

“Build the Dream” wristbands will be sold for \$3 on the second floor of the University Center throughout the week with proceeds benefiting the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project.

Other events organized as part of Western’s “Social Justice in the 21st Century: What Would Dr. King Say Now?” include a freedom ride to Atlanta, unity marches, a candlelight vigil, a poetry slam, community service, dance and dramatic productions, and a panel discussion.

For more information, contact the Multicultural Center at (828) 227-2276. Western will be closed Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.



HARLEM GOSPEL CHOIR

Gurney Chambers Wins SACS Education Award



Gurney Chambers

Gurney Chambers, dean emeritus of the College of Education and Allied Professions, is recipient of the Dr. James H. Stiltner Distinguished Service Award presented by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

Chambers, who retired in 1998 after serving as dean at WCU for 17 years, was selected for the honor in recognition of his impact on the field of education on the regional, national and international levels. He is currently director of the N.C. SACS Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

During his tenure at Western, Chambers delivered keynote addresses to more than 400 groups in the United States and other countries. He received the Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award, Western’s highest honor for administrators; the Alumni Award for Academic and Professional Achievement; and the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. The university bestowed an honorary doctorate on him in 2004.

The Reporter is published by the Office of Public Relations.

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.