

the Reporter

News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University



Western's Production Studio Comes to Life With Faculty, Student Creative Collaboration

Western faculty members have launched an experimental filmmaking project that not only takes students behind-the-scenes but also before-the-scenes.

The project entails producing a film based on a Western professor's short story and a documentary about how to do it. Students are involved in every step.

"The creative method usually takes place behind closed doors," said Jack Sholder, professor of digital motion pictures and video. "We are opening those meetings. Students and viewers get to see something they wouldn't normally get to see."

Last fall, classes did everything from plan lighting to operate cameras in order to gather footage of the earliest discussion of converting a narrative into a script.

At an office-like set built by the theatre department under Assistant Professor Luther Jones, Sholder met with Terry Curtis Fox, an associate professor who teaches screenwriting, and Ron Rash, Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies, who wrote the short story, "Chemistry."

The three men brought a range of experience to the table. Sholder directed such movies as "The Hidden" and "Nightmare on Elm Street 2." He won an Emmy Award for his editing work on "3-2-1



(L to R) Western's Terry Curtis Fox, an associate professor of English who teaches screenwriting; Ron Rash, the Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies; and Jack Sholder, professor of digital motion pictures and video, prepare to discuss a collaborative filmmaking project.

Contact." Fox is a screenwriter whose credits include "Hill Street Blues," "Diagnosis Murder" and "Stargate SG-1." Rash, a two-time novelist, has won awards such as the O. Henry Prize for short fiction, but he has never written a screenplay.

The trio tossed around ideas at the first meeting for the project and asked questions about "Chemistry," Rash's story of a man struggling with depression and death while scuba diving as told

continued on page 2

On-Campus Memorial Service Scheduled Jan. 21 To Remember Western's Malcolm Loughlin

An on-campus memorial service for Malcolm John Loughlin, associate dean of distance and continuing education at Western, is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, in the Coulter Building recital hall.

Well-known around the world as a leader in international education and widely admired as a member of the university community, Loughlin died Wednesday, Jan. 4, after a battle with cancer.

Loughlin came to Western in 1977 from Aberdeen, Scotland, and held a number of positions during his 28 years with the university.



Malcolm Loughlin

Loughlin helped implement collaborative programs between Western and the University of Wales at Glamorgan, the University of Galway in Ireland and the nation of Jamaica. His association with Jamaica and love for Jamaican students was particularly strong, and he was especially proud that Western has "literally trained thousands of Jamaican teachers." Loughlin would often remind listeners.

During his time in Cullowhee, he coached swimming and men's soccer; taught in the department of administration, curriculum and instruction; worked with The Cullowhee Experience, Western's summer enhancement program for gifted and talented students; and served as an adviser in the Counseling, Advisement and Placement Center.

He joined the administrative staff of Western's Division of Summer School and Continuing Education (now Distance and Continuing Education) in 1988, serving as associate director, interim dean, acting dean and associate dean.

In recognition of his support for international education throughout his career, Western's Delta Zeta chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars bestowed honorary membership onto Loughlin last semester.

A scholarship fund has been established in honor of Loughlin's memory. Contributions to the Malcolm J. Loughlin Scholarship Fund should be sent to the Western Carolina University Foundation, 401 H.F. Robinson Building, Cullowhee, NC 28723.



Tyler Ferguson, a senior from Charlotte, works a state-of-the-art camera in Western's studio.



Western students prepare the set for recording a discussion about adapting Ron Rash's short story "Chemistry" into a film. The footage will be used in a documentary.

through the eyes of his son.

"It really spoke to me, and it felt very cinematic," Sholder said. "There's a humanity to the story that I found very moving."

Meanwhile, Pat Acheson, assistant professor and director of studio operations in the Center for Applied Technology, orchestrated students who operated cameras and sound to tape the hour-long meeting.

"Camera one, I want you to drop to the right," Acheson said into the headset. "Hold your shot."

Arledge Armenaki, visiting associate professor in communication, described the taping, the first full-blown production effort, as the "inauguration" of the studio in many ways.

The facility, which opened two years ago, features high-tech equipment such as the type of TV switcher that NBC used for the Olympics and the type of high-definition video camera that George Lucas and others use to produce digital motion pictures.

Western students are using state-of-the-art equipment to cultivate their technical skills

while also witnessing the genesis of the short film project.

Rash said he learned a lot from listening to the different ideas for developing a script. "It's interpreting the written word into a language of images," he said. "They helped me see it in ways I had not thought about before."

Rash will work on a draft to be discussed at another meeting this year, which will be used in a new "Elements of Motion Picture Production" class that invites students to walk through the steps of a producer and director.

"We need a script so we can then start to break it down into a movie," Sholder said. He compared the teaching method in the course to teaching a new cook a very complicated recipe — explaining why you have to put the sugar in after you beat the eggs, only using the ingredients of motion pictures.

Rash said he's excited about the project. "Usually when we think of movie adaptations, we think more of novels," he said. "I am certainly honored and delighted they believe the short story could be a short film."

Book Edited By Blethen Wins Award



"High Mountains Rising: Appalachia in Time and Place," a book co-edited by Western history professor H. Tyler Blethen, is the 2005 winner of the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award from the Western North Carolina Historical Association.

Blethen collaborated on the book with Richard A. Straw, a history professor at Radford University. Consisting of 14 essays written by top scholars in Appalachian studies, the book is considered to be the first comprehensive volume to unite Appalachian history and culture.

The first half of "High Mountains Rising" deals with historical issues such as Native Americans, pioneer settlement, industrialization, migration and modernization, while the second half of the book focuses on cultural

issues such as stereotypes, music, folk life, language, literature and religion.

The WNC Historical Association presents the Thomas Wolfe Award to outstanding publications that promote the history and culture of the region, or publications that were written by regional residents. Previous recipients of the award include Wilma Dykman, John Ehle, Charles Frazier, Gail Godwin and John Parris.

The association's awards committee found "High Mountains Rising" to be "an important reference for understanding Appalachia for both longtime residents and newcomers to the region, as well as an excellent text for students of Appalachia."

Earlier this year, "High Mountains Rising" received the 2005 Appalachian Book of the Year Award for nonfiction from the Appalachian Writers Association.

WNC NewsFile

► **Benjamin Coulter**, director of instructional technology/assistant professor of educational leadership and foundations; **John LeBaron**, Jay M. Robinson Distinguished Professor of Educational Technologies; **Beth Rodgers Coulter**, director of Western's Adventure of the American Mind Program/assistant professor, birth through kindergarten, elementary and middle grades education; and **Anna McFadden**, department chair, educational leadership and foundations, authored a paper titled "A Passage to Online Scholarship: One Institution's Struggle with High Stakes Change" that was published in the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE) E-Learn 2005 conference proceedings. Coulter presented the paper at the AACE International Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, in October.

► **Brett Woods**, director of annual and special gifts, recently completed the Duke Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management from Duke University. The core program consists of more than 50 classroom hours of education taught by real-world practitioners. Course topics included fund-raising, marketing, leadership and management, information technology, finance, legal issues, public relations, board relationships, organization development and human resource issues. More than 9,000 people have taken courses in the program and 1,600 currently hold the certification from Duke.

AND THE WINNER IS...



Michael Dougherty, dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions, and Renee Corbin, 2005-06 coordinator for the State Employees Combined Campaign at Western, draw the names of winners of a contest sponsored as part of the annual fund-raising effort. Dougherty donated use of his reserved parking spot at Killian Building as incentive for faculty and staff in his college to contribute to the SECC. Winners of the parking-space-for-a-day contest were Sandra Tonnsen, associate professor of educational leadership and foundations; David Strahan, Botner Distinguished Professor of Education; Tracie Rice, human services clinical instructor; and Winford Gordon, assistant professor of psychology. The real winners in the SECC are the charitable organizations that will benefit from the generosity of Western's faculty, staff and retirees, said Corbin. Campus contributions totaled \$39,452, the highest in the campaign's history, she said.

WCU JANUARY '06 Calendar

16-29

Monday, Jan. 16

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—town of Sylva Prayer Breakfast. Terry Bellamy, mayor of Asheville, speaker. 8:30 a.m. Golden Age Center, Sylva. (227-2276)

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“A Day On, Not A Day Off,” Day of Service. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Community Table, Sylva. Reception, 5 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-2276)

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—Candlelight Vigil and Unity March. 6 p.m. Theater, UC. (227-2276)

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Georgia Southern. Southern Conference game. Inspirational Choir to perform at halftime. \$. 7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Tuesday, Jan. 17

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.,” Marie T. Cochran, visiting lecturer, art department. 5 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-2276)

Catamount Concert Series—Pavel Wlosok & Friends. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Wednesday, Jan. 18

Meeting—Faculty Senate. 3 p.m. 104 Killian. (227-3966)

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. UNC Greensboro. Southern Conference game. \$. Noon. RRAC. (227-7338)



James Ammons

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“Celebration of the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” James Ammons, Chancellor, North Carolina Central University. 7 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-2276)

Thursday, Jan. 19–Sunday, Jan. 22

Mountain Dulcimer Winter Weekend—refresher classes, jam sessions and other activities. \$. Lambuth Inn, Lake Junaluska. (828-227-7397 or 800-928-4968)

Thursday, Jan. 19

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—“The Civil Rights Movement: Where It’s Been and Where It’s Going,” panel discussion and movie “From Montgomery to Memphis.” 4 p.m. Theater, UC. (227-2276)

Traditional dance gathering—bands and callers provide music. 7 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-7129)

Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions—Judy Richardson, civil rights leader and co-producer of the films “Eyes on the Prize” and “Malcolm X: Make It Plain.” 7:30 p.m. Performance Hall, FAPAC. (227-7206)



Judy Richardson

Friday, Jan. 20

Martin Luther King Jr. celebration—spoken word and poetry slam. 9 p.m. Illusions, UC. (227-2276)

Saturday, Jan. 21

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Furman. Southern Conference game. \$. 5 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Monday, Jan. 23

Catamount basketball—vs. College of Charleston. Southern Conference game. \$. 7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Tuesday, Jan. 24

Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions—“My Soul Is a Witness,” drama presenting retelling of crucial moments in civil rights movement. \$. 7:30 p.m. Performance Hall, FAPAC. (227-7206)

Catamount Concert Series—Faculty Showcase. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Wednesday, January 25

Seminar—“Podcasting and Blogging in Education.” Registration required: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41281>. 9 a.m.–noon. Multipurpose Room, UC. (227-2667)

Thursday, Jan. 26

Artist Gallery Talk—Jeff Oestreich. 4 p.m. Opening reception 5 p.m. FAPAC. (227-3591)

Saturday, Jan. 28

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Wofford. Southern Conference game. \$. 5 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

EXHIBITS

Fine Art Museum, FAPAC

- *Worldviews*. Selections from Western Carolina University’s art collection. Continuing exhibit.
- *Jeff Oestreich*: New Ceramics. Opens **Jan. 26**. Through March.
- *Pivot Points*: Six Painters Six Poets. Opens **Jan. 26**. Through March.
- *Strange Beauty*. Showcasing Western Carolina University art alumni works. Continuing series.

Fine Art Museum hours:
Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
(227-3591 or <http://fapac.wcu.edu>)

Mountain Heritage Center

Gallery A: “Migration of the Scotch-Irish People” (permanent exhibition). Includes text panels, illustrations, artifacts and vibrant murals that trace Scotch-Irish Appalachian settlers from Ulster to Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley, and into Western North Carolina.

Gallery C: “After the War: Conflict and Domestic Change in the North Carolina Mountains.” Portrays how wars and their aftermath have shaped the lives of people and communities in Western North Carolina. Through May 2007.

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

Slideshow Spotlight. MHC

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

Key: \$—Admission fee; BB—Belk Building; CAC—Catamount Athletic Center; CAT—Center for Applied Technology; FAPAC—Find and Performing Arts Center; HA—Hoe 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; UOC—University Outreach Center; WS/BW—Whitmore Stadium/Bob Waters Field.

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.

Western Delegation Presents at N.C. Campus Compact Conference



A student/faculty delegation from Western attended the 13th Annual North Carolina Campus Compact Conference at Appalachian State University on Nov. 5. With more than 240 students and faculty in attendance from colleges and universities from throughout the state, the event marked the largest Campus Compact conference in the program's history.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 950 college and university presidents – representing some 5 million students – dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement, and service-learning in higher education by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility.

The North Carolina Campus Compact, headquartered at Elon College, coordinates the state conferences for students and faculty, and provides resources and

training for faculty seeking to integrate civic and community-based learning into the curriculum.

Western students Garrett Richardson, Jason Eckard, Will Goode and Crystal Belch accompanied Vera Guise, Faculty Fellow for the College of Arts and Sciences in the department of service learning and a visiting lecturer in the department of political science and public affairs. Their workshop, titled “Citizenship — Have Americans Lost Their Swing?,” challenged participants to work to re-institutionalize civic service as an effortless component of living and climbing the success ladder in America.

“The 9-11 attacks and the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes have put human tragedy before Americans on a scale they have not seen, but busy schedules, tight budgets and civic and political apathy cramp our instinctive urge to reach out to others in

North Carolina | **Campus Compact**

a shared and frictionless motion,” said Guise, in her opening statement.

Richardson, Eckard and Goode elaborated on hot political topics and issues such as voter apathy and the social security debate, and Belch summed up with a discussion of the results of a community and campus research project conducted at Western last year by students in one of Chris Cooper’s political science classes.

The project revealed aspects of the relationship between the university and surrounding community, and identified methods for augmenting the region’s successful growth through an improved partnership between the university and the community at large, Belch said.

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