

the Reporter



News for the Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University

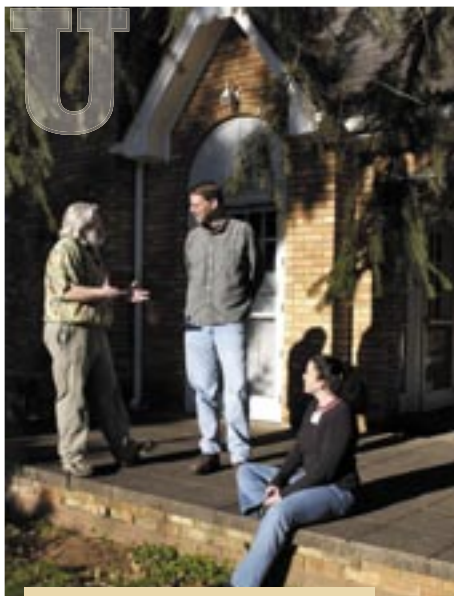
Campus Camaraderie, Collaboration Grow Out of University Club

The brick house across from Harrill Residence Hall comes alive each week with what faculty member Lisen Roberts describes as the “true Western spirit.”

It’s the University Club, better known as the U Club, and a few dozen of the group’s more than 100 members get together there on Friday afternoons to catch up and unwind.

“Faculty and staff socialize together about both university-related things and just our lives in general,” said Roberts, associate professor of counseling. “It’s a positive, friendly atmosphere. I value so much the chance to connect with colleagues from all over campus.”

The club’s goal is to offer a variety of free or low-cost events in a social and intellectual setting, and the TGIF gatherings are for “philosophizing, socializing and conspiring.” That’s the description on the club’s online calendar, which also marks such days as the “vernal equinox” and St. Patrick’s Day, with an online green-garbed leprechaun dancing,



Tom Martin (left), assistant professor of biology, talks to Sean O’Connell, University Club president, and Kristie Coggins, club secretary and TGIF coordinator.

on Friday, March 17.

U Club President Sean O’Connell hopes you won’t miss it in person, either. St. Patrick’s Day will be the club’s monthly “special event” for March with Irish music and a potluck dinner. The event has become a U Club tradition, much like the fall Chili Cook-off, Oktoberfest and the Robbie Burns Supper, recently dedicated in memory of Malcolm Loughlin, associate dean of distance and continuing education who passed away in January.

In the past, U Club also has hosted a Midsummer’s Night Concert and Cookout, Mardi Gras Dinner and wine tastings as well as slideshows, reading clubs and discussion forums.

“The U Club is a great place to meet new people, catch up with friends and acquaintances and also to conduct some business,” said O’Connell, assistant professor of biology. The relaxed atmosphere helps new staff and faculty feel welcome and promotes collaborative work among members of different departments.

The club began in 1989 as a project of the Coulter
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Western Joins Researchers From Ohio, Wisconsin In \$1.8 Million Study of Changing Dialects

Words in the same language sure do sound different sometimes, especially in terms of how different speakers say vowel sounds. For example, when visitors to Western North Carolina hear residents say the word “bite” they often hear something that almost sounds closer to the word “bat.” Ohioans may think Wisconsinites who say “bag” are talking about a dog asking for food – “beg.” To study how dialects differ from region to region and evolve from generation to generation, Western is collaborating with researchers at The Ohio State University and the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

The National Institutes of Health funded a \$1.8 million five-year research project led by Ohio State that will document and research variations in dialect in Ohio, Wisconsin and the

Appalachian area of Western North Carolina. The findings could help improve standardized tests for speech and hearing or improve voice recognition systems that understand spoken commands such as “voicemail” or “yes.” Another benefit is simply the historical preservation of how people speak in a region, the researchers said.

“The participants will be helping document their culture,” said Martin Fischer, professor of communication sciences and disorders at Western. “We are going to focus on the Cullowhee and Sylva area, as well as East LaPorte, Waynesville and Franklin. There is very little data collected on this population at the level we are going.”

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Martin Fischer, professor of communication sciences and disorders at WCU (right), monitors sound waves as part of a collaborative dialect research project while Robert Fox, professor and chair of speech and hearing science at Ohio State, helps a volunteer with a headset and microphone.

March 18 Conference at WCU to Explore Social History

Western's first "Social History in the Mountains Conference" will spark discussions on topics from black apprentices and orphans after the Civil War to "dying traditions," figuratively and literally. Evolving grave-digging practices in Tennessee is the subject of one research project to be presented, while others explore vanishing aspects of society and the way people live.

The social history conference, which is free and open to the public, will be held in McKee Building from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 18.

Western's history department and Graduate School designed the event not only to explore social history, but also to strengthen ties among history faculty and graduate students in the region.

"As history faculty, we tend to be connected to people within our particular fields," said Laura Cruz, assistant professor of history and conference organizer. "This event will help us connect also with history faculty and graduate students at nearby colleges and learn what they are doing."

The conference focus is social history – a field that, in itself, is evolving, Cruz said. Research in the name of "social history" has ranged from studies of conjoined twins to medical practices to pineapples. Cruz said some describe it as the history of society, social groups or social rules. "Social history is a wide-open field – an exciting type of history to study," she said.

The subjects Western faculty and graduate students will present at the conference include informal bookselling networks in the early modern Netherlands; women and white supremacy; social capital and activism in the new urban South; service learning and the Keener Cemetery; and land disputes in the Little Tennessee River Valley. Presentations will be followed with time for discussion.

Michael Paul, visiting assistant professor of history and a conference organizer, said the event is a way to help bring together the university faculty, students and community residents with an interest in local history, particularly the history of "everyday people."

For more information, contact Laura Cruz at (828) 227-3909 or lcruz@wcu.edu.

WCU Presenters

- Laura Cruz**, assistant professor of history, "Ruled Up: Informal Bookselling Networks in the Early Modern Netherlands"
- Elizabeth McRae**, assistant professor of history, "Women and White Supremacy"
- Joseph Hurley**, graduate student, "A Vision of Progress: Social Capital and Social Activism in the New Urban South"
- Amanda Epperson**, visiting assistant professor of history, "The Keener Cemetery: History and Service Learning"
- Robert Gilmer**, graduate student, "Conflicting Claims on the Land: Cultural Resource Disputes in the Little Tennessee River Valley"

Fund-Raising Campaign, Video Win Top Awards from



A video produced by Western's Office of Public Relations and a special project by the Office of Development recently won recognition from a national higher education organization.

The awards were presented as part of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's District III conference held Feb. 5-8 in Nashville, Tenn. CASE is the leading educational association for professionals in the field of institutional advancement.

The video "Construction Management" received a Special Merit Award in the films and videotape category. The video is used by the Kimmel School of Construction Management, Engineering and Technology as part of efforts to recruit new students to the construction management program.

John Kenyon, information and communication specialist at Western, served as primary videographer and producer, wrote the script, and edited

the video. Additional video of highway construction and earth-moving equipment was provided with permission from Park&Co. The voice-over was provided by Donald Connelly, assistant professor in the communications, theatre and dance department at Western.

The "Share the Experience Change a Life" Loyalty Fund campaign, which included a brochure, Web site and other materials, received an Award of Excellence in the fund-raising category. The annual fund-raising campaign was developed to solicit contributions for merit-based scholarships and other Western initiatives.

The campaign was a collaborative effort involving Brett Woods, director of annual and special gifts; Casey Carter, program assistant; Jim Miller, associate vice chancellor for development; Rubae Sander, director of publications; and Mark Haskett, WCU photographer.

University Club *continued from page 1*

for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to enhance the sense of community at Western among full- and part-time faculty, retired faculty, staff members and some community members.

Governed democratically by a board of directors and constitution, the club is incorporated under the laws of the state of North Carolina and is a sanctioned organization within the university.

Dues of \$30 per semester help cover rent and utilities for the clubhouse, which can be used for departmental day retreats or small group orientations. Other events are free or low-cost. Club members pay for some beverages and special events, though admission often can be paid instead with a covered dish (as long as food is in the dish, of course).

"Come on by on Friday, find someone to talk to, and peruse the membership application," O'Connell said. "We'd love to have you as our guest."

For more information, call 293-5367, e-mail Sean O'Connell at soconnell@wcu.edu or go to www.wcu.edu/uclub.

–by Teresa Killian

Dialects *continued from page 1*

Researchers recorded the first volunteers from the Sylva area in late February as they read sentences and lists of words such as "heed," "hid," "head" and "hide." The goal of the project is to record the speech of 120 lifelong residents of each region from a range of ages. Ideally, participants will include members of the same family such as a child, her mother and grandmother. Researchers will listen to the recordings and study the sound waves, measuring such characteristics as the "initial voiced consonant stop burst/release spike" and "final stop closures." The study also will explore speech from more-relaxed, informal conversations.

"All languages change naturally," said Robert Fox, professor and chair of speech and hearing science at Ohio State, where he works with the project's principal investigator Ewa Jacewicz. For instance, hundreds of years ago the word "I" was pronounced more like a long "e" sound. "We are looking for reasons for dialect changes," said Fox, who suggested factors changing language today could include mainstream media or the words mothers emphasize in front of their children. "A child may adopt the pronunciation of the vowel in an emphasized word to their other vowels," he said.

Rounds of recordings will take place every few weeks with the second round to begin in mid-March. For more information about the project or how to participate as a paid volunteer, contact Martin Fischer, professor of communication sciences and disorders, at (828) 227-3289.

WCU '06 Calendar

MARCH 13-26



Monday, March 13

Reception—to recognize College of Education and Allied Professions for receiving the 2006 Distinguished Program in Teacher Education award. 4:30 p.m. Room 104, Killian. (227-7311)

Tuesday, March 14

Career Services and Cooperative Education event—Career Week: Summer Jobs and Internships Fair. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-7133)

Catamount Concert Series—music composed and performed by women. Women's History Month event. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Women's History Month—International Women's Day Film Series: "All About My Mother." 9 p.m. Multipurpose Room, UC. (227-2627)

Wednesday, March 15– Thursday, March 16

Women's History Month—"Women Travel!" Student Abroad Programs information table. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Atrium, UC. (227-2627)

Wednesday, March 15

Career Services and Cooperative Education event—Career Week: Spring Corporate Career Expo. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-7133)

International Phi Beta Delta

Brown Bag Lunch—"Living and Studying in China," James Zhang. Noon–1 p.m. Second Floor, Hunter Library. (227-2175)

Lady Catamount softball doubleheader—vs. Siena. \$. 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. CSC. (227-7338)

Meeting—Faculty Senate. 3–5 p.m. Room 104, Killian. (227-3966)

Concert—Symphony Band. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Women's History Month—International Women's Day Film Series: "Fire." 9 p.m. Multipurpose Room, UC. (227-2627)

Thursday, March 16

Competition—24th annual Foreign Language Contest. 9 a.m. Awards ceremony, 1:30 p.m. RRAC. (227-7241)

Career Services and Cooperative Education event—Nonprofits, Public Service, and Government Career Day. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Grandroom, UC. (227-7133)

Women's History Month—"Global Women and Health," Tracy Zontek and Michelle Scifers. Also, "Women on Weights!" fitness class. 1 p.m. Catamount Room, UC. (227-2627)

Panel discussion—"Factors Affecting Student Learning." 3:30–5 p.m. Multipurpose Room A, UC. (227-2274 or 227-2088)

Films That Matter—"Shoot the Piano Player" (Francois Truffaut, 1960). 6 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-2324)

Old Time and Bluegrass Music Jam—7–9 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Concert—Jazz Combo. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Friday, March 17

Open House—for prospective students and their families. 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. UC. (227-3168)

Lady Catamount softball—vs. UNC–Wilmington. Best Western Catamount Classic. \$. 7 p.m. CSC. (227-7338)

Saturday, March 18

Conference—"Social History in the Mountains." 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. McKee Building. (227-3909)

Catamount baseball doubleheader—vs. Princeton. 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. \$. HS/CF. (227-7338)

Lady Catamount softball—vs. Alabama A&M, 2 p.m.; Charleston Southern, 7 p.m. \$. Best Western Catamount Classic. CSC. (227-7338)

Sunday, March 19

Catamount baseball—vs. Princeton. \$. 1 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

Spring into Summer—"Making a Compass and Orienteering." 2:30–3:30 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Monday, March 20

MFA artist talk series—Kathryn Temple and Sarah Noble. 4:30 p.m. Room 223, FAPAC. (227-3597)

Tuesday, March 21

Workshop—"WNC Saves," new personal savings initiative. Registration required. 9:30–10:30 a.m. Room 203, Field House. (www.wcu.edu/hr/training/personal.asp)

Catamount baseball doubleheader—vs. Hartford. \$. 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

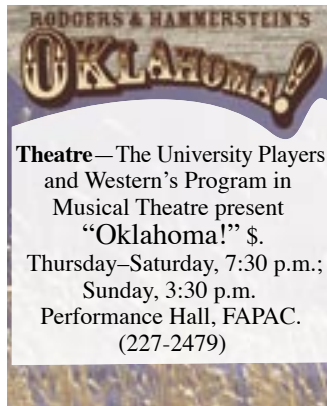
Workshop—Low-Speed Vehicle Training. 4:10–4:40 p.m. Room 203, Field House. (227-2388)

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

Wednesday, March 22

Catamount baseball—vs. Gardner-Webb. \$. 7 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

Thursday, March 23– Sunday, March 26



Theatre—The University Players and Western's Program in Musical Theatre present "Oklahoma!" \$. Thursday–Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3:30 p.m. Performance Hall, FAPAC. (227-2479)

Thursday, March 23

Films That Matter—"Network" (Sidney Lumet, 1976). 6 p.m. Room 130, FAPAC. (227-2324)

Friday, March 24

Meeting—board of trustees quarterly meeting. 9:30 a.m. Room 510, HFR. (227-7100)

Catamount baseball—vs. Wofford. Southern Conference game. \$. 7 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

Saturday, March 25

American Youth Congress—sixth annual event for students in grades 7–12. Terry Bellamy, mayor of Asheville, keynote speaker. Civic Center, Asheville. (227-3863)

Lady Catamount softball doubleheader—vs. Furman. Southern Conference game. \$. 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. CSC. (227-7338)

Catamount baseball—vs. Wofford. Southern Conference game. \$. 4 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

Sunday, March 26

Lady Catamount softball—vs. Furman. Southern Conference game. \$. 1 p.m. CSC. (227-7338)

Catamount baseball—vs. Wofford. Southern Conference game. \$. 2 p.m. HS/CF. (227-7338)

EXHIBITS

Fine Art Museum, FAPAC

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

Mountain Heritage Center

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

Slideshow Spotlight, MHC

MARCH: "Streams of Life" tells the story of the revival of Hazel Creek, an Appalachian watershed, from prehistory to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), focusing on both human and natural history.

Key: \$—Admission fee; BB—Belk Building; CAC—Catamount Athletic Center; CAT—Center for Applied Technology; 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; UOC—University Outreach Center; WS/BW—Whitmire 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.

Book by WCU Professor Examines Student Activism in '60s

A new book by a WCU history professor examines the rise of student activism in U.S. high schools during the turbulent 1960s and investigates the lingering impact of teenage social and political protest on modern American society.

In "Young Activists: American High School Students in the Age of Protest," Gael Graham, associate professor of history at Western, discusses how the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and the anti-authoritarian spirit that was so pervasive on college campuses in the 1960s spilled over into American public high schools.

For the book, Graham draws upon the memories of students and teachers from that era, and analyzes education journals, court cases and news magazines. She finds that, in addition to debating larger social issues such as Vietnam and civil rights, student activists also had their own specific agendas, including relaxing dress codes, taking part in school



Gael Graham

governance and initiating changes to the curriculum.

"A monograph is a milestone in a faculty member's scholarly career, and this work places Gael among the foremost interpreters of the 1960s in American historiography," said Jim Lewis, head of WCU's history department.

A faculty member at Western since 1990, Graham earned her bachelor's degree at the University of California-Santa Cruz and master's and doctoral degrees from the

University of Michigan. She currently holds the Creighton Sossoman Professorship of History at Western and directs the university's graduate program in history.

"Young Activists" is Graham's second book. Her "Gender, Culture and Christianity: American Protestant Mission Schools in China, 1880-1930" was published in 1995. She also has published articles in the Journal of American History, Signs and Journal of Women's History.

WCU NewsFile

► The recent premiere of a new dance piece by Durham-based choreographer Laura Thomasson features video footage shot by a student crew in the studios of the Center for Applied Technology. **Arledge Armenaki**, visiting associate professor of communication, theatre and dance, served as director of photography; **Padraig Acheson**, visiting assistant professor of communication, theatre and dance, served as technical director, and **Scott Meeker**, interim digital media consultant in the Coulter Faculty Center, was assistant editor. Titled "Human Anatomy," the dance incorporates live dancing, video and still photography. The multimedia work was premiered at the Independent Dancemakers Concert Feb. 9-10 at Durham School of the Arts.

► **Bill Haggard**, associate vice chancellor for student affairs; **Walter Turner**, director of student judicial affairs; and **Jackie McHargue**, former director of student judicial affairs, presented a session titled "Involuntary Protective Withdrawal Policy: Responding with Integrity to Complex High Risk Cases" at the recent annual international conference of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs in Clearwater, Fla.