In his newly published book, a veteran Western professor provides an intimate look at the inner workings of regional comprehensive universities, which provide a college education to an increasing percentage of Americans but have traditionally been neglected by scholars of higher education.

Bruce B. Henderson, professor of psychology, draws on his nearly 30 years of experience in such smaller regional institutions for "Teaching at the People's University," published by Anker Publishing Co. A member of the psychology faculty at Western since 1978, Henderson contends that state comprehensive universities (also known as SCUs) traditionally and unfortunately have been held in lower esteem than the nation's major research institutions.

"In many ways, it is the state comprehensive universities that have made college degrees possible for children of the lower and middle classes," Henderson said. "These universities have been willing to provide practical, job-oriented degrees in many fields, from education to the health sciences. The state comprehensive universities have been, in effect, the people's universities."

In his book, Henderson attempts to shatter some of the myths about such institutions.

The book also serves as a roadmap to young professors and administrators who are going to work in increasing numbers at SCUs, many of which, including WCU, have their roots in normal schools and teachers' colleges and have evolved over the years to provide a wide array of academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Among the logistical questions that have to be answered is who will lead the new and the reclustered academic units, and Carter addressed the question at a standing-room only academic forum this month.

Currently, in anticipation of the reorganization, three of Western's deans are serving on an interim basis, and a fourth, Leroy Kauffman in the College of Business, plans to step down this summer to return to teaching. Under the reorganization, one of those interim dean positions (Applied Sciences) would disappear, and the university would hire deans for the remaining three (Research and Graduate Studies, Arts and Sciences, and Business).

The reorganization creates new deans to lead the Kimmel School of Construction Management, Engineering and Technology, a new College of Fine and Performing Arts, and a new College of Health and Human Sciences.

Provost Kyle Carter expects Western to hire six deans in the next nine months, if the University of North Carolina Board of Governors approves in November the university's proposed academic reorganization.

That's a lot of leadership shoes to fill at a university that has seven dean jobs now and would have nine under a reorganization that could take effect as early as July 1. "We have an unusual number of dean positions to fill at one time, a condition that resulted from retirements, resignations and the reorganization," Carter said. "Although having this many openings challenges the campus, it is a great opportunity to find leaders that will help the campus move toward the vision of the chancellor and board of trustees."

The proposal creates two new colleges (Fine and Performing Arts, and Health and Human Sciences) and a school (Kimmel School of Construction Management, Engineering and Technology); eliminates, in name, an existing college (Applied Sciences) through reassigning its programs and departments; and strategically reassigns and clusters other academic programs.

"The magnitude of this reorganization dwarfs any similar reorganization in the history of this university," Carter said. "This is huge."

Provost Kyle Carter speaks at a standing room only academic forum this month.

Continued on page 2
Body Talk: Documentary, Events Encourage Healthy Self Image


Too many college students let standards of beauty from the movies or models define them in unhealthy ways, and Beth Walden wanted to do something about it. So, the international student adviser volunteered to be recorded for this year’s installment of The Body Project documentary. The video of personal, candid discussion from people at WCU about body image will be shown in classes and at a Love Your Body Day event Tuesday, Oct. 24.

“Love Your Body Day, simply put, is about loving your body as it is right now,” said Sara Stoltenburg, director of the Women’s Center.

Other events include a round-table discussion about women, disabilities and body image; and a fashion show.

“We are aware of the standards, and they are so engrained in the media culture that it is very difficult for women to participate in the fashion show, including faculty and staff,” Stoltenburg said. “Participants are asked to wear an outfit that makes them feel comfortable, powerful or sexy.”

Part of the goal is to raise awareness of the standards of beauty projected in the media, and then encourage people to realize they can set their own standards of what beauty is.

Tanisha McClain, an intern in the Women’s Center in charge of The Body Project this fall, said talking about the issues so many women struggle with at Love Your Body Day events or through The Body Project’s radio show or documentary is enlightening and empowering.

Walden said she wasn’t nervous about participating until the lights dimmed in a room called the “Photo Booth” in the Women’s Center, and she was alone with a video camera and a list of questions: How do you feel about your body? What do you think of the fashion ads in magazines? Do you like to work out? Do people treat you differently depending on what you wear?

“What was really interesting was noting what questions I chose not to answer or did not want to answer. I sat down afterward and thought about why I wasn’t comfortable with this or that question, especially things like ‘When you go bathing suit shopping, how do you feel?’” said Walden. “A person’s body is something they should have a healthy relationship with, whether that’s drinking enough water or physical activity. Your body is different and special, and you should be proud.”

— by TERESA KILLIAN

WCU Physical Ed Professor Honored by State Association

Bob Beaudet, associate professor of health and human performance at Western, has been named the university physical education teacher of the year by the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Beaudet earned his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree at the University of South Florida, and his doctoral degree at Florida State University. He joined Western’s faculty in 2002.

“I’ve had the opportunity to observe Dr. Beaudet in all aspects of his job as an associate professor in my department. First of all, he is an outstanding teacher. He has an excellent relationship with his students,” said David Claxton, head of the department of health and human performance. “He sets challenging goals for his students and then helps his students reach them.”

Beaudet’s main focus is to teach college students how to work with elementary and high school students. His favorite part is having his students work with children who have disabilities.

“Working with students who have disabilities has double benefits,” said Beaudet. “It’s rewarding to the students with disabilities because they get one-on-one attention to help with their movement skills. It’s also rewarding for the college students, who have a whole new world of physical education presented to them.”

Beaudet said he is honored to be recognized with the award. “It was a big surprise for me,” said Beaudet. “It’s quite an honor to be recognized by my peers.”

This marks the second consecutive year a WCU faculty member received the NCAAHPERD award. Danny Grube, associate professor and director of the physical education program, received the award last year.

— by BESSIE DIETRICH
October

Monday, Oct. 23
Open forum—Quality Enhancement Plan. Refreshments 1:30 p.m.; meeting 2–3 p.m. Theater, UC. (227-7497)
Art workshop—mosaics. 7 p.m. Room 150, FAPAC. (227-3458)

Tuesday, Oct. 24
“Telling Mountain Stories” folk life series—Kathi Smith Littlejohn, Cherokee storyteller. 5:30 p.m. Auditorium, MHC. (227-7129)
Lady Catamount volleyball—vs. Wofford. Southern Conference game. $7 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Wednesday, Oct. 25
Phi Beta Delta Honor Society brown bag lunch—“Power of the People: Bottom-up Solutions to Hunger.” Ted Coyle, anthropology and sociology. Noon–1 p.m. Catamount Room, UC. (227-7494)
Roundtable—“Building a Stronger Bridge Between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.” 2:30–4 p.m. Cardinal Room, UC. (227-7184)
Meeting—Faculty Senate. 3–5 p.m. Room 104, Killian Building. (227-7495)
Love Your Body Fashion Show—an all-around loving-your-body-as-it-is-right now event. 7 p.m. Illusions, UC. (227-2627)

Thursday, Oct. 26
Concert—WCU Concert Choir and Early Music Ensemble. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

Friday, Oct. 27–Saturday, Oct. 28
Competition—2006 North Carolina Theatre Conference High School Play Festival regional event. FAPAC. (227-2092)

Sunday, Oct. 29
Lady Catamount soccer—vs. Elon. Southern Conference game. Senior Day. $2 p.m. CAC. (227-7338)
Lady Catamount volleyball—vs. Georgia Southern. Southern Conference game. $2 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Exhibit reception—for “Transformations: Cherokee Baskets in the Twentieth Century.” 3–5 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Monday, Oct. 30
Presentation—“Own the Room: Keeping Students Awake and Engaged in the Liberal Studies Classroom,” Leah Hampton, winner of the Excellence in Teaching Liberal Studies Award. 12:15–1 p.m. Multipurpose Room, UC. (227-2093)

Tuesday, Oct. 31
Seminar—“Export Controls Compliance,” David Lombard Harrision, associate vice president for legal affairs, UNC General Administration. 9–11 a.m. Multipurpose Room, UC. (227-7398 or 227-7116)
Catamount Concert Series—guest artist Michael Lowenstein, bass clarinet. 8 p.m. RH. (227-7242)

November

Wednesday, Nov. 1
Appalachian Cultural Luncheon Series—George Ellison, naturalist and writer. 12:15–1 p.m. MHC. (227-7129)

Thursday, Nov. 2
Master class—for actors, presented by Terrence Mann, Phillips Distinguished Professor in Musical Theatre. 7 p.m. Nigglie Theatre. (227-3726)

Friday, Nov. 3
Conference—“Mountains of Adventure,” 14th annual Adventure Education Conference. $8 a.m.–3:30 p.m. UC. (227-3844)
Soccer—semifinals round of Southern Conference Championship. $4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. CAC. (227-7338)
Master class—for singers, presented by Terrence Mann, Phillips Distinguished Professor in Musical Theatre. 7:30 p.m. RH. (227-3726)

Saturday, Nov. 4
Open auditions—for WCU’s Feb. 2007 production of Meredith Willson’s “The Music Man.” 2 p.m. RH. (227-3726)
Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Mars Hill. Exhibition game. 4 p.m. RRAC. (227-7338)

Sunday, Nov. 5
Soccer—finals round of Southern Conference Championship. $1 p.m. CAC. (227-7338)
Arti-Facts!—“Corn Shuck Dolls.” 2:30–3:30. MHC. (227-7129)

Exhibits

Mountain Heritage Center


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

Fine Art Museum
Fine and Performing Arts Center
“WORLDVIEWS. Selections from Western Carolina University’s Permanent Collection and New Acquisitions.” Continuing exhibit.

Fine Art 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. (227-3591 or http://fapac.wcu.edu)

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–Whitney Stadium/Bob Waters Field.
Liz Simmons-Rowland, assistant professor of nursing, and Charles Tucker, assistant professor of nursing, recently participated in the annual Mountain Area Health Education Center “Health Careers Educational Awareness Conference” in Asheville. Simmons-Rowland assisted with registration and served as moderator for two sessions—health career success, and planning and preparation. Tucker, Simmons-Rowland, and three senior nursing students represented the WCU nursing program at an exhibition booth to provide information to high school students considering nursing as a career.

Chief Tom Johnson and Officer Tom Walawender of the University Police Department recently completed the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program and successfully passed the statewide examination for certification as law enforcement officers in North Carolina. The BLET curriculum is designed to prepare entry-level individuals or officers transferring from other states with the cognitive and physical skills needed to become certified law enforcement officers in North Carolina. The course is composed of 35 separate blocks of instruction to include topics such as firearms, driver training, motor vehicle law, and arrest, search and seizure.

John LeBaron, Jay M. Robinson Distinguished Professor in Educational Technologies, delivered a keynote address titled “Seismic Patterns in the Communication Patterns of Youth: What this Means for Schooling” to the EcoMedia 2006 Conference in Wolfsberg, Austria, on Oct. 8. The conference inaugurated a series of annual symposia of the European Socrates Comenius 3 Project, a communications network of schools and universities dedicated to the advancement of information communications technology through institutional partnerships across Europe. It is jointly supported by the European Union and the Austrian Ministry of Education and Culture as part of a larger EU program involving 19 countries.

Mario Gaetano, professor of percussion, has received a 2006-07 ASCAPLUS Award in the concert music division from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Awards are granted by an independent panel based upon the unique prestige value of each writer’s catalog of original compositions, as well as recent performances. This year’s panel for the concert music division was Judith Clurman, director of choral activities, The Juilliard School; H. Robert Reynolds, professor emeritus, University of Michigan; and Steve Smith, classical music editor for Time Out New York. Gaetano also published the article “2006 Composition Contest Winners” in the October edition of Percussive Notes Magazine.

The first 50 copies of a manual about Western’s innovative approach to helping students with eating disorders quickly sold out, and the second edition is at the printer with a waiting list 100 copies long and counting.

Initial copies were made available to health professionals at the March 2005 Southern College Health Association conference, where WCU staff gave a presentation about eating disorders. Conference attendees passed the information on to other universities, and interest in the manual has continued to grow.

“The response has been truly unbelievable,” said June Wytock, a staff psychologist in the Counseling and Psychological Services Center who edited the publication. “I never expected this manual to be so popular. We had a waiting list of more than 50 universities from around the country and as far away as Wales and Canada that want copies.”

The manual, “Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Students with Eating Disorders in a University Setting,” details how Western’s Health Center, Counseling and Psychological Services Center, Fitness Center, Athletics Department, Office of Residential Living, Wellness Center, and Division of Student Affairs work together to reach out to students who may have an eating disorder. Topics range from how to conduct a caring intervention to examples of the forms students sign to accept or refuse services.

“I have found that it is fairly common for large universities to have this type of collaboration, but not so common for midsize or smaller sized universities,” said Wytock, who founded WCU’s Eating Disorders Treatment Team in 1991. “I am delighted with the response.”

— by TERESA KILLIAN

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